

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star Courier

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

OCT. 2, SUNDAY 82nd Annual Sacred Heart CzechFest

It's that time again! Vitame Vas! That's Czech for "We Welcome You!" – Crosby's Sacred Heart Catholic Church continues its tradition of celebrating Crosby's Czech heritage with the 82nd Annual Czech Festival to be held on Sunday, October 2, 2022 at the Crosby Fairgrounds.

Come thirsty and hungry. Barbecue and sausage dinners will be sold and served beginning at 11:00 a.m. Kolaches and other homemade pastries will be available too. Entertainment includes live Czech music and dance. A giant auction – featuring handmade quilts and much more – begins at 1:00 p.m., ending the event with the Raffle winners! There is also bingo, booths and games for all ages throughout the day. Free admission, free parking at the fairgrounds parking lot on Church Street and handicap parking is also available. For information please call 281-328-4871 or visit www.shcrosby.org

OCT. 4, TUESDAY National Night Out Highlands

The public is invited to the Pct. 2 Highlands NATIONAL NIGHT OUT at the Community Center. 5:00 - 7:00pm.

Enjoy games, food, meet your first responders police and fire departments, 12 business booths and meet your neighbors.

BIRTHDAYS

Sep 29–Monica Barnett
Elizabeth Epperson
Sammy Yarbrough
Sep 30–Tammy Veach
Oct 1–Krista Essen
Brian Fikes
Lauren Slovak
Venita Smith
Oct 2–Reecie Bobalik
Jana Creel
Debbie Zadrava-King
Taylin Woodall
Oct 3–Besta Boullion
Mellisa Owens
Oct 4–Missy Kwapick
Shelia Townsend
Oct 5–Willie Drew
Oct 6–Ann Dunks
Marie Estrada
Kristina Curtis
Marley McKethan
Oct 7–Alicia Engle
Anna Lois Mattingly
Oct 8–Benjamin Abbott
Patricia Meiss
Jim Van Schuyver
Thomas R. Stanley

ANNIVERSARIES

Oct 4–Wilky & Ann Carlisle
Oct 5–J.C. & Olga Aylor
Oct 6–Fred & Helen Dunks
Randy & Tammy Veach
Oct 8–Robert H. & Patricia E. Sparks

THEME: FALL IN LOVE WITH HIGHLANDS!

Jamboree Parade, Fair, Pageant Saturday

HIGHLANDS – The Highlands/Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce is busy this week preparing for the 65th Annual Highlands Jamboree, held every year since 1955 except for the Pandemic in 2020 and one other year in 1956.

According to Chamber director Jessica Woods, the event has returned to its traditional schedule of the first Saturday in October. Last year it was moved back to the end of October due to COVID, and combined with an Halloween event.

The theme this year is "Fall in Love with Highlands," a bow to the return date of October 1.

The Jamboree will have most of the usual events this year, including a Parade on Main



One of the highlights of the Jamboree every year is the Childrens Pageant. Seen above are participants in the 2021 Children's Pageant categories of Little Mister and Little Miss with their trophies, after the pageant.

Street starting at 10am, and a Crafts fair with booths of food and memorabilia, as well as crafts made by area artisans. There will also be a silent auction. The Jamboree benefits the Chamber activities.

Starting at 12 noon in the Cafetorium of the Elementary School, the Little Miss & Mister Pageant will be held, with children ages 0-12 competing in six categories. The Pageant is under the direction of Linda Gwaltney, and benefits the Cristen Bickerstaff Scholarship fund. Entry fee is \$30, contact Linda at 281-468-8593.

The parade floats will compete in six categories: Best of Theme;

Continued. See Highlands Jamboree, Page 2

Message from the Crosby Superintendent

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families,

We will soon leave behind the summer sizzle and enter the fresh air of October. My favorite season is spring, but more and more, I've come to appreciate the autumn. The colors of fall are beautiful; as the seasons change, earth tones come into focus. Fall naturally feels like a time of reflection. The sunsets are earlier, temperatures are starting to cool, and the hot drinks feel cozier. Whether you're a coffee person like me or prefer hot chocolate or pumpkin spice everything, this is the time for you. Happy Fall!



**SUPERINTENDENT
PAULA PATTERSON**

Our District has much to share and celebrate with you. First, Crosby High School senior James Spencer Mendez has been named a Commended Student in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program. He is one of 34,000 students nationwide to be recognized for exceptional academic promise, out of half a million students who enter each year. James qualified for the National Merit Program by achieving an impressive score on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test last school year. He was celebrated by the high school

Continued. See Crosby Superintendent, Page 5



CROSBY HOMECOMING KING AND QUEEN

At last Friday's Homecoming Game, L to R, Superintendent Patterson, Crosby High School Homecoming King Matthew Jordan, Crosby High School Homecoming Queen Mia Reid, friend, and Crosby High School Principal Jason Davila.

HARRIS COUNTY \$1.2B BOND County schedules hearings on November Bond vote

OVERVIEW

On November 8, 2022, voters in Harris County will have the opportunity to vote on three propositions for the issuance of bonds totaling \$1.2 billion. This bond package would provide funding for multiple categories, including public safety facilities, roads, drainage and transportation-related programs, and parks and

trails.

At least \$220 million of the bond issuance would be spent in each of the four Harris County precincts for Transportation, and Parks and Trails projects. The \$100 million in public safety investments will be countywide. The bond funds cannot be used outside the three categories on the ballot, nor may they be used to fund day-to-day operations.

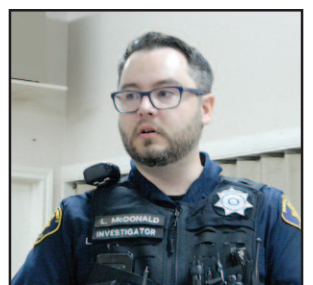
We are collecting community input through meetings, online tools and comment submissions. This input will be shared with Harris County Precinct staff as they make decisions regarding future projects that could be funded through these bonds. For more on key dates and other information related

See BOND HEARINGS SCHEDULE, Page 7

Deputy tells Rotary about ATV patrols

HIGHLANDS – The Rotary Club members heard from Pct. 3 Deputy Constable Layman McDonald at their luncheon meeting last week, regarding techniques his office is using to fight crime.

McDonald is a certified bike officer, and with 4 bikes this is one of the methods they use for patrol. He said that they would also like to use motorized patrols, especially in Pct. 2 and 3 parks in the area, and he asked the Rotary Club to consider funding the purchase of an ATV for his department. He said it would be used to patrol the 14 parks in the area, as well as used at public events. The club



Deputy Layman McDonald

is looking into the possibilities of a purchase.

He also said his department encourages requests for extra patrols in certain areas, and they respond by scheduling regular additional patrols.

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IT'S 
SHRED-TACULAR!

**FREE COMMUNITY SHRED DAY
AND FOOD DRIVE**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1ST, 2022 | 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
HWY 146 BRANCH, 8010 N. HIGHWAY 146 | BAYTOWN, TX 77523

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Resource
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GOOSE CREEK CISD NEWS

Goose Creek CISD Sees Increase in Accountability Rating

By: Dr. Matthew Bolinger, Executive Director of Strategic Planning and Innovation

Goose Creek CISD received an overall rating of 89 (B) for the 2021-2022 school year, which is an increase in performance compared to the most recent accountability ratings during 2018-2019, when the district received an 87 (B). In addition, Goose Creek CISD received a 92 (A) for school progress in the relative performance subdomain. Relative Performance measures how a school's performance compares to other schools with similar economically disadvantaged populations. Four schools in GCCISD earned an overall A rating, including Lamar Elementary, San Jacinto Elementary, Victoria Walker Elementary, and IMPACT Early College High School. Upon receiving the news of Goose Creek CISD's accountability ratings, Superintendent Dr. Randal O'Brien commented, "I could not be prouder of the work that our teachers and administrators do, day in and day out, to ensure our students' academic success. While we can take pride in being at the top of our comparison group, I know our students and families will continue to pursuit excellence in our performance until we reach that elusive A rating for larger districts". School Board President Richard Clem stated, "I am extremely proud of the students, teachers, staff, and administration of Goose Creek! Working together, they have shown that building strong relationships, great teaching, and hard work not only pays off, but it also exceeds the expectations of the GC-CISD community. While work is still to be done, our STAAR scores are better than ever! What a testament to our brand, *Here We Grow Giants!*"

Another accomplishment in the school accountability rating is the number of earned Distinction Designations. Goose Creek CISD schools earned a total of 57 Distinction Designations for the 2021-2022 school year, which is an increase of 14 compared to the last posted ratings in 2018-2019. Distinction Designations are awarded when a school or district shows exceptional achievement in certain areas and include academic achievement in specific subjects, comparative academic growth, comparative closing the achievement gaps, and postsecondary readiness. School Board member Helen Berrott-Tims shared, "I am very proud and excited about our progress. Thank you to all of our teachers and staff for their incredible work. Congratulations to our students, and a very special thank you to our community for the support."

TASA/TASB Awards Stars of Distinction to School Architecture

TASA and Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) announced that 55 projects will be included in the 2022-23 Exhibit of School Architecture. The Goose Creek CISD Stuart Career Technical High School project created by Pfluger Architects, Inc. earned the distinction of being one of the 55. This exhibit of new and renovated Texas school facilities includes projects from 36 school districts and two colleges that were submitted by 16 architectural firms. Eligible projects are newly constructed or renovated public education facilities completed in the past five years and not previously submitted in this annual exhibit.

The Exhibit of School Architecture awards are given at the discretion of a 12-member jury, which includes: four school board members, four school administrators, and four members from the Association for Learning Environments (A4LE) Southern Region. The juried exhibit awarded Stars of Distinction for Excellence to 34 projects in one or more of the following six areas: design, value, innovation, community, planning, and school transformation.

The TASA/TASB Exhibit of School Architecture, in collaboration with the A4LE – Southern Region Foundation, showcased the 55 projects as a part of the 2022 TASA/TASB Convention held in San Antonio September 23-25th and will also be featured in an online exhibit.

Baytown Fire Department Paid a visit to Goose Creek Memorial HS

Baytown firefighter Taylor Brown talked to students in health science classes at Goose Creek Memorial High School about the Baytown Fire Department Explorers program which gives people ages 14-20 the opportunity to learn what firefighters and EMTs do through hands-on experience, get certified in CPR, and much more!

The Baytown Fire Department is committed to establishing a strong partnership with our community.



Photo by Aileen Villalta

Huffman Elementary School Teacher Loses a bet on Fun Run fund-raiser goal

HUFFMAN – Mrs. LeVier promised Huffman Elementary School students that she would "Camp Out" on the roof of the school if they reached a \$25,000 goal for our Fun Run!

Well... our students, families, and the community rallied around HES and brought in over \$30,000!! A promise is a promise and Mrs. LeVier climbed up on the roof!

Parents and others could swing through the car rider line the next morning to see her up there and wave "Good Morning!"



Mrs. LeVier on top of school bldg roof

Crosby High School Student Makes Mark in Music, Math, and Academics

Crosby, TX (September 26, 2022) – Congratulations to the Crosby High School student who just made his mark in the academic world. Senior Spencer Mendez has been named a Commended Student in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program, a national academic competition for high school students.

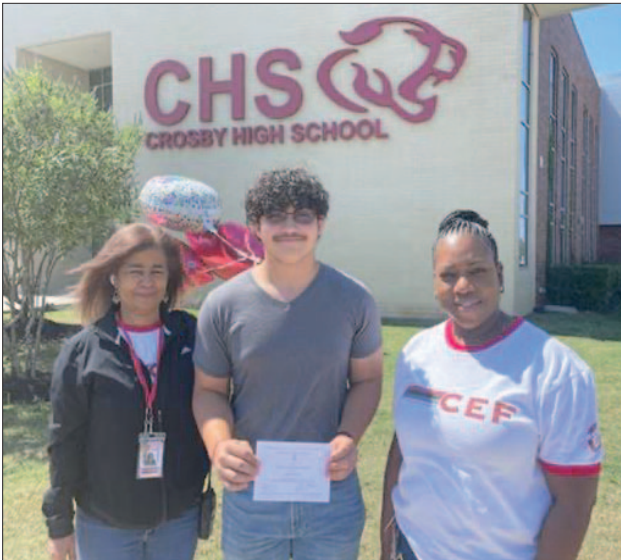
Spencer qualified for the National Merit Program by achieving an impressive score on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). Although he will not continue in the 2023 competition, as a Commended Student, Spencer placed among the top 50,000 highest-scoring students to be recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Spencer said, "You don't need to have a ton of resources, because I can do it here. Going above and beyond will get you farther than you think."

This is just the most recent honor for Spencer. He is a third-generation bassoon player. Last summer, Spencer was selected to perform as First Chair in the Texas 5A All-State Symphonic Band, the highest honor for a Texas high school music student. Spencer has big plans after he graduates as a member of the Class of 2023. He'll spend the next few months auditioning for music performance programs at UT-Austin and Rice University. After that, Spencer says his dream is to tour with an ensemble around Europe.

The staff at Crosby High School celebrated Spencer's latest academic achievement with a ceremony this week. Principal, Mr. Jason



He is currently taking college level courses in physics and calculus, as part of our MECA (Modified Early College Academy) program at San Jacinto College. He's also an amazing bassoon player, and he even learned to



Davila, said, "Crosby High School and all of Crosby ISD could not be prouder of Spencer's accomplishments. He is the perfect example of a multi-skilled student. He excels in math and music.

Highlands Jamboree,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Non-Commercial; Commercial; School Spirit; Antique/Classic Car; and Modified or Race Car.

Unlike previous years, the parade will not have Miss Highlands Pageant contestants, as the event has been postponed until later in the year, according to the sponsor group, Highlands Horizons. Miss Highlands Haley Maxey, and Jr. Miss Highlands are expected to appear and help with this year's festivities.

Last year's parade included Highlands Fire Department fire equipment, Constable Eagleton's cars and deputies, Miss Highlands and Jr. Miss Highlands, Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia's staff, Chamber of Commerce lead car, First Baptist Church, GCM Dazzlers and Charms, Highlands softball and little league teams, Childrens' Pageant contestants, Shriners, modified race cars, HJS Cheerleaders and Marching Band, a 4-H float with the Sweetheart & Beau, and even a lawnmower!

The parade lineup begins at 9am at the B.P.Hopper Primary School on E. Houston Street. At 10am it proceeds south on Main Street to Jones Road. Awards for best floats are presented the the Jamboree Fair/Expo at 12 noon in the HES Cafetorium.

After the parade, activity moved to the Highlands Elementary School multipurpose room. There was a silent auction, exhibitors booths from Precinct 2, and vendors with food and crafts.

The highlight of the day was definitely the Childrens' Pageant, with Lil Mister and Lil Miss strutting on-stage to the delight of the audience, filled with family and friends. Several hundred attended the show, taking pictures and cheering for their favorite child or grandchild.

Emcee for the Pageant was Miss Highlands Haley Maxey, with the assistance of Pageant Chairwoman Jessica Woods.

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Barbers Hill Dayton Press

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

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Mont Belvieu Goss Library Craft Club

Happy Hour Craft! Halloween Candle Ring
5:00pm - 6:00pm
Sep 29, 2022

Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Branch, Mont Belvieu

Age Groups: Adult
Program Type: Craft Club
Registration Required
Seats Remaining: 7
Description
Create this boo-tiful Halloween candle ring while you enjoy an adult beverage. (21+) All supplies and beverages are included and subject to availability. Registration required. Sponsored by Friends of CCLS.

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 p.m.

The mission of Market at the Park is to support our community by providing our residents and visitors with vendors that bring quality, fresh, locally-produced 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.

Date:
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!

Barbers Hill Dayton Press Pick-up Locations

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Mont Belvieu
*Prosperity Bank
*Barbers Hill Bank
*Buck's Pizza
*Mont Belvieu City Hall
*Old River Winfree City Hall
*Sam & Carmena Goss Memorial Branch Library
*Barbers Hill TAX Admin
*Tacos and Tamales Factory
*Beth Stop n Go

If you would like to be a PICK-UP LOCATION, please call 713-266-3444.

Lee College: 'A Season of New Beginnings'

LC Performing Arts Center Unveils Robust Programming for 2022-23

BAYTOWN, TX, Sept. 19, 2022 – The Lee College Performing Arts Center (PAC) is launching its 2022-23 season with a new mission: to connect the Baytown community to the world through collaboration, education, social engagement, and the transformative power of live performing arts.

"A Season of New Beginnings" will kick off at 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 22 with a sneak preview of performances taking center stage throughout the year. The PAC is located at 805 W. Texas Ave., Baytown, TX 77520. (Click here for map and directions.) The public is invited to attend. Admission and parking are free.

Baytown native Taylor Dobbs, recently named the PAC's new director, has developed a new mission and vision that involves



offering a wide range of artistic and cultural programming. Season ticket packages and increasing the number of community partners are two of the priorities for the year as well.

"It's about creating a space where people can be authentic; where diversity, equity and inclusion are embraced and encouraged," explained Dobbs. "Not only do we want performers and patrons to feel like the

PAC is their home away from home, but we also want to establish the Center as an arts and culture

leader in Baytown and our surrounding communities."

In addition to the Sept. 22 opener,

"A Season of New Beginnings" will showcase a variety of programming throughout 2022-23:

• 7 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 24: "Fiesta Fest," celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

• 8 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 22: "The Revival," a staged performance by local playwright Bobby Britton Jr.

• 8 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 10 - Saturday, Nov. 12: "Clue the Musical"

• 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 3: Baytown Symphony Orchestra concert

"This robust vision for the Performing Arts Center isn't about the bottom line. Our goal is to make sure the PAC is always filled with an event, whether that's a musical, concert, competition in the main hall or black

box, or an art show in the Art Gallery," said Dr. Lynda Villanueva, Lee College president. "It's a chance for the community to see great work and for our students to deliver great work.

Dobbs says audiences will not pay more than \$25 for a ticket to any of the shows this season. Guests will be asked to provide feedback of what they saw and give input on what types of performances/shows they would like to see in the future.

This new plan for the PAC is a true labor of love for Dobbs, who grew up with the Baytown Little Theater and attended Lee College and then went on to earn her bachelor's degree from Stephen F. Austin State University and a Master of Fine Arts at Boston University.

"I am the first person in my family to go to college, and being in theater changed my life," Dobbs shared. "There are so many wildly talented people in this community, they just don't know the opportunities exist. I believe Lee College has the power to change that."

You can see more information on the Performing Arts Center and view the schedule of events and showtimes for the 2022-23 season on the PAC's webpage.

Baytown Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors say "Thank You"

Baytown, TX -In September, the Chamber Ambassadors visited;

Young Plumbing, Heating & AC - Young Plumbing & Heating Company in Baytown, Texas, is an HVAC company that provides services for residential and small commercial plumbing, heating, and cooling. They offer all types of plumbing repairs and installation, including water heaters, sewer lines, gas lines, and much more. Additionally, they offer repair and installation for all makes and



McDonald's – N. Alexander Member Since 1997

models of air conditioners and heaters.

McDonald's on North Alexander - McDonald's on N. Alexander is owned

and operated by Kades Ventures, a local McDonald's Franchisee operating 8 restaurants in the Houston Area. Currently,



Young Plumbing, Heating & AC -- Young Plumbing & Heating Company Member Since 1960

they operate restaurants in Baytown, Friendswood, Houston, and Mont Belvieu. They pride themselves on equal opportuni-

ty employment, absolute community involvement, clean facilities, fast service, and hot & fresh food.

Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown

How Effective is the Updated Booster Against Omicron?

As we've learned over the last year, COVID-19 variants are to be expected.

Thankfully, the mRNA technology powering our COVID-19 vaccines provides us with a way to respond when variants not only arise but predominate, as is the case with the highly infectious omicron variant.

The updated Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine boosters targeting the omicron variant are evidence of this. They were authorized for use by the FDA and CDC.

"The BA.5 omicron strain now makes up the vast majority of COVID-19 cases across the U.S.," says Dr. Adolat Mirzaeva, with Houston Methodist Primary Care Group in Mont Belvieu. "The updated vaccines are specifically designed to increase immunity to this variant, reducing symptom severity and the chance of severe disease."

They come at the perfect

time, as some experts predict that another wave of COVID-19 could hit hard this fall and winter.

"Based on the data supporting their authorizations, the bivalent COVID-19 vaccines are expected to provide increased protection against the currently circulating omicron variant," says Mirzaeva.

Human clinical trials of the updated boosters are still ongoing. But while the real-world effectiveness of these vaccines isn't fully known just yet, there are no concerns over safety.

"FDA officials say that the public can rest assured that a great deal of care has been taken to ensure that the updated vaccines meet the agency's rigorous safety, effectiveness and manufacturing quality standards for emergency use authorization (EUA)," explains Mirzaeva.

COVID-19 vaccines are estimated to have saved almost 20 million lives in 2021 alone. The technology is already prov-



Dr. Adolat Mirzaeva

en to be safe and effective.

"It's not clear yet how often boosters will be needed, but many experts say it's reasonable to expect that — at least for the next few years while we continue to build the 'immunity wall' against COVID-19 — COVID-19 shots could be given on an annual schedule like the flu shot, a vaccine we're already accustomed to changing yearly," says Mirzaeva.

Who is eligible for the omicron booster right now?

"The bivalent COVID-19 vaccine boosters are authorized as a single dose in people who have complet-

ed their primary vaccination series, as well as those who have also received one or more booster shots already," explains Mirzaeva.

Age matters, too:

*Adults 18+ can receive either the Pfizer or Moderna bivalent COVID-19 booster vaccine

*Teens 12-17 are only eligible to receive Pfizer's updated vaccine

*Children younger than 12 are not yet eligible

"According to the FDA, you should wait until at least two months have passed since your last booster vaccination to receive the updated booster," says Mirzaeva.

This also applies to those who recently completed their primary vaccine series — you will need to wait at least two months before getting the omicron booster.

Do I need to get the updated booster if I just had COVID-19?

Many people recently recovering from COVID-19 are likely wondering

whether they'll even need the updated booster.

The FDA and CDC have recommended that people recently infected with COVID-19 should wait at least three months post-infection before being vaccinated with the omicron booster. However, individual factors such as risk of severe COVID-19 disease or community outbreaks should be taken into account when determining the timing of booster vaccination after infection.

How can I get the omicron booster?

The updated vaccines are already available at certain retail pharmacies and certain doctor offices.

As supplies build, it's recommended that you call ahead to ensure the vaccine is available at the site of your choosing.

You can schedule an appointment with a primary care physician in Mont Belvieu by calling 832.556.6936. For a primary care physician in Baytown, call 832.556.6670.

★

OPINION

By HC Pct. 3 Commissioner
TOM RAMSEY



Republican Commissioner Tom Ramsey on County Budget Controversy

“As we all know, there are two sides to every story. Judge Hidalgo and others would have you believe that but let’s look at the actual facts. You’ve heard that there are 400 open positions and you’re led to believe that those are patrol officers. That number, however, is actually all the open positions in Harris County in the Sheriff’s department, in the Jail system, in the Constable programs, and numerous other agencies. Those vacancies include administration, dispatchers, clerical and on and on. As one Constable told me, many of these positions are open because the “weight of the badge is heavy” and a lack of support from the public and elected leaders has them looking elsewhere to serve and protect.

The difference between the two budgets is \$100 million. Of course, to you and I that’s a lot of money but in a \$2.2 billion budget, it’s 4.5%. That’s half of the current inflation rate.

My top priority is law enforcement. If you listen to their side of the story, this budget addresses that but let’s look at the actual facts. You’ve heard that there are 400 open positions and you’re led to believe that those are patrol officers. That number, however, is actually all the open positions in Harris County in the Sheriff’s department, in the Jail system, in the Constable programs, and numerous other agencies. Those vacancies include administration, dispatchers, clerical and on and on. As one Constable told me, many of these positions are open because the “weight of the badge is heavy” and a lack of support from the public and elected leaders has them looking elsewhere to serve and protect.

You have to ask why there is no desire to add Constables to the budget. You have to ask why there are just raises, but not more officers patrolling our streets. Why does the Sheriff’s department get some patrol positions - which I applaud - but far more of the positions do not meet criminals face to face on our streets. What is this court doing in a time where you know what the crime rate is - you don’t have to listen to politicians debate it. Even the local paper and evening news can’t ignore the facts of historic high murders, police officers being murdered, and those committing murder out on multiple bonds. Why did Judge Hidalgo specify that the full budget will add “...35 investigators...” and “...100 detention officers...” for a jail system that hasn’t added a single cell and yet didn’t mention one patrol officer? My budget opponents say phrases like “safety and justice”. How exactly do they define those words? For me, it’s officers.

You’re also led to believe that if the maximum budget and tax rate isn’t passed, 180 flood projects will “...affect the lives of every single resident in Harris County.”

Here’s the other side of the story. The difference between the two budgets for flood control is \$14 million. That’s .6% of the budget. Point six per cent.

Flooding, of course, is important and that’s why myself and Commissioner Cagle have committed to spending \$7 million each from our precinct budgets to make up the “two budgets” difference.

Problem solved. Imagine what we could do if Commissioners Garcia and Ellis also pledged \$7 million each.

Judge Hidalgo alluded to the fact that not passing the Voter Approved Rate budget instead of the No New Revenue budget would dramatically affect the Harris Health System. Their budget is \$2.38 billion dollars. The difference between the two budgets is less than 2%. Many of Dr. Porsa’s requests and his plea for more money is for capital investments which are not a part of these budgets at all. That, however, doesn’t make for good headlines and so we are led to believe that catastrophe will strike when all it would take is for my request to have more officers to alleviate this situation.

There are other issues as well that you will be asked to fret over but do not be fooled into thinking that Harris County is on the brink of disaster because the No New Revenue budget - the lower of the two - is implemented.

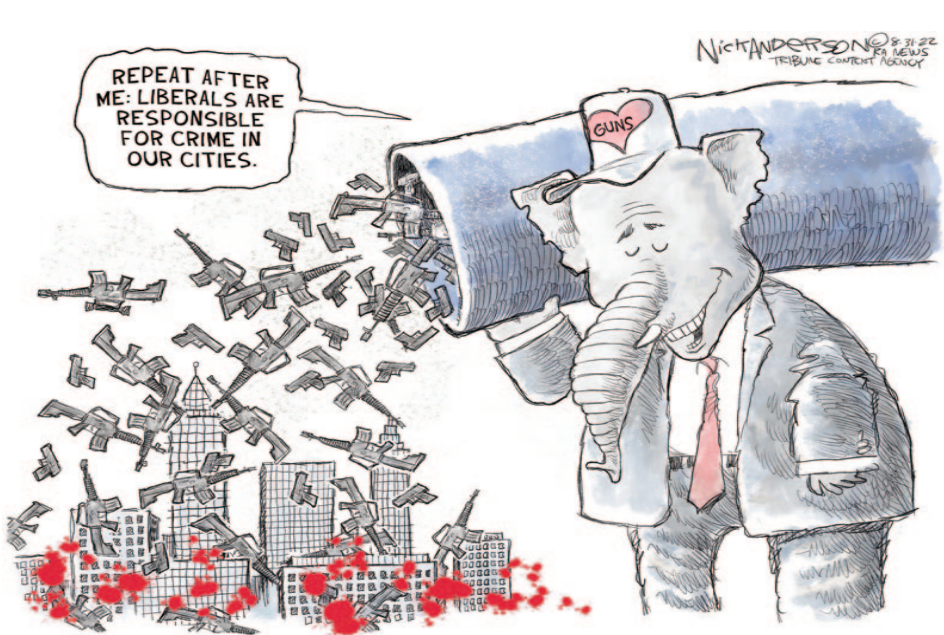
One of my objections to the “Voter Approved Rate” (clever, isn’t it? You don’t actually get to approve it but that’s the official name of the budget that taxes you at a higher rate) is that it does not add officers to our Constable programs who are responsible for many Harris County residents NOT protected by Houston police. It’s quite a sizable number.

Finally, I’ve also identified over \$100 million in the budget that I - and I think you - would consider waste. Those conversations, however, are not part of Judge Hidalgo, Commissioner Ellis and Commissioner Garcias’ plan. Those conversations aren’t allowed to be discussed in Court. If you’d like me to point you to where that’s happened publicly, I’d start with when Commissioner Cagle wasn’t even allowed to speak on adding Constables and discussion ended immediately so that the court majority could silence the concerns of voters in Precincts 3 and 4.

From the day I decided to run as your representative, I told you my focus would be first on three things - Crime, Infrastructure and Taxes. I’m not against spending money. I’m for using it properly, not wasting it, not passing it out to “friendly” consultants and I will continue to represent you with those priorities for your family and mine.

Finally, my job is not defined by attendance. My job is defined by representing the voters of Pct 3.”

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



★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Hispanic Texans Likely Largest Demographic Group

The U.S. Census Bureau released its latest estimate, which indicates Hispanic residents in Texas make up more of the state’s population than white residents. The new population figures from the American Community Survey indicate Hispanic Texans comprise 40.2% of the state’s population last year, while non-Hispanic white Texans made up 39.4%, as reported in the Texas Tribune

The estimates, from July 2021, are not considered official but reflect trends that demographers have been tracking for years. Hispanics accounted for nearly half of the state’s population increase of 4 million residents since 2010. Census figures indicate almost half of Texas residents under the age of 18 are Hispanic.

The survey showed that Hispanic residents are more than twice as likely as white resident to live below the poverty line. The median income for a white household last year was \$81,235, compared to \$54,857 for a Hispanic household.

MORE THAN 10,000 MIGRANTS BUSED ELSEWHERE

With Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis grabbing headlines by flying migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard, Gov. Greg Abbott’s office announced that is has now bused more than 10,000 migrants to what he terms “sanctuary cities” such as Washington, D.C., New York and Chicago. Last week, at Abbott’s behest, two buses of migrants from Texas were dropped off outside Vice President Kamala Harris’ residence at the United States Naval Observatory in the nation’s capital.

Abbott has long criticized the Biden administration’s approach to migrants seeking asylum in the United States, and Texas has boosted border security funding by \$4 billion. Biden last week said the admin-



istration has a process to deal with migrants at the border.

“Republicans are playing politics with human beings, using them as props. What they’re doing is simply wrong,” he said at a gala for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, according to Politico.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE APPROVED AFTER NORTH TEXAS FLOODING

The U.S. Small Business Administration has approved Abbott’s request for disaster assistance for seven North Texas counties affected by flooding last month. As much as 10 inches of rain fell in the Dallas area in late August, causing widespread damage to businesses and homes.

Counties included in the disaster declaration are Dallas, Collin, Denton, Ellis, Kaufman, Rockwall, and Tarrant. Applicants can download applications and get further information at disasterloanassistance.sba.gov.

‘MODERATE’ DEER HUNTING SEASON PREDICTED

Biologists with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department are predicting a moderate season for deer hunters, with archery season kicking off on Oct. 1.

“Overall, 2022 year is expected to be good in terms of harvest numbers and opportunities, so don’t let the chance to spend time afield with family, friends and fellow hunters pass

you by,” said Alan Cain with TPWD.

The statewide drought, while now largely in remission, has adversely affected natural forage for deer in late summer, especially in the central, south, and western parts of the state, according to Cain. Wildfires caused significant habitat loss, but those areas are quickly rejuvenating, especially with the recent rains.

“Where fires have occurred, there’s been new grass and weed growth providing some much-needed nutrition and cover for deer,” Cain said. “Although habitat conditions have improved immensely with recent rains, the timing was a bit late to have any meaningful influence on antler quality.”

TABC BUSTS 131 RETAILERS FOR UNDERAGE ALCOHOL SALES

A statewide sting of alcohol retailers in college towns across Texas netted 131 retailers accused of selling alcohol to minors. The effort by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission coincided with the start of the college fall semester. Minor-aged volunteers under the supervision of undercover TABC agents attempted to buy alcohol from licensed retailers at 1,131 locations. They found a total of 131 violations, or 14% of the locations visited.

Businesses cited for selling booze to a minor could face civil fines and possible suspension of their liquor license. Individual employees would face misdemeanor charges as well.

POP-UP COVID-19 VACCINE LOCATIONS ANNOUNCED

While new cases of COVID-19 cases continue to wane, with 36,856 reported in Texas by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University in the past week, along with 144 deaths, parking lot pop-up vaccine sites are taking place at select Walmart locations across Texas until Sept. 25.

Updated booster vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna address the newer variants, according to officials with the Texas Department of State Health Services.

“Vaccination remains our most important tool in the fight against severe illness and death from COVID-19,” said DSHS Commissioner Dr. John Hellerstedt. “And the new bivalent vaccines promise an even more effective and safe protection from Omicron variants, which continue to be the leading cause of COVID-19 illness in Texas and across the U.S.”

DSHS reported 2,161 lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations as of Sunday, down slightly from the previous week.

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

“On the Sidewalk”

I met Betty sitting outside on the sidewalk.

Betty spends a lot of time there. She lives in the adjacent building. It is a place for older folks who need a lot of help and don’t have a lot of money. Betty lost both legs, below the knee, at some point. She wears a curly wig pulled down low on her head, and she is usually smoking a cigarette, out on the sidewalk, accompanied by a few other residents from her building.

I walk by Betty’s building a lot. “How are you doing today?” I always ask the residents as I pass.

The building is made of brick, in a pattern that looks like weaving. This has led my husband, Peter, and me to privately call it the “basket building,” and its occupants the “basket cases.” I know this is not nice, but it’s what we do.

“Doing great! How are you?” Betty and most of her companions always reply. There is usually a gathering of residents, most of them in wheelchairs. They always say they are “doing great!” as they sit in their wheelchairs, smoking cigarettes, gossiping about things I will never know about.

One day, I saw Betty out by herself.

“I don’t actually know your name,” I confessed.

“I’m Betty.”

“I’m Carrie.”

“Nice to meet you, Carrie.”

Then, yesterday, I was on my way to the drugstore, and there was Betty, several blocks from the basket building, with her wheelchair parked and facing the street. “Hello, Betty!”

“Oh, hello!”

“It’s a beautiful day, isn’t it?” I said.

“Oh, it is!” she agreed.

“What’re you looking at?”

Betty gestured across the street. There was a small park with trees, and taller buildings in the background. There were flowers in the foreground and a brick walkway in the park.

“It’s beautiful, don’t you think?” she asked. “The whole thing; it’s a beautiful picture.”

I was not in a hurry to get to the drugstore, I realized. I looked across the street. It was late afternoon, and the sun was shining through the trees in the park, and the bricks were shiny, and the flowers were in full bloom. Betty was right. It was beautiful, and I would have walked right past it without a glance.

“I sometimes sit here and just look at it,” Betty told me. “One day, they had a wedding here!”

“Oh, that would be a great place for a wedding,” I said.

“Uh-huh,” Betty agreed.

“What was your name again?” she asked.

“Carrie. Like the Stephen King novel.”

“Oh, yeah!”

I stood there in silence for a long moment, looking at the park, taking in the scene.

“Well, I’ll see you around, Betty.” I finally said. Betty smiled and looked back at the park.

As I headed down the sidewalk to the drugstore, I took one last look back at Betty. She was sitting in a patch of warm autumn sunshine, and her eyes were focused on the scene across the street. She had a smile on her face and a peacefulness about her that I only manage for moments in a day—if I’m lucky.

I don’t know a thing about Betty. And, when I see her on the sidewalk, in her wheelchair, smoking her cigarettes, I’ve been pretty quick to assume that hers is not a happy life.

But I had to wonder, if in her place, I would have wheeled myself down three blocks just to look at a sight that pleased me, just to sit in the sun, just to take in the beauty.

I hope so. Till next time, Carrie

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

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OBITUARIES

Mina Nadine Sellers Gilbert

September 16, 2022, Mina Nadine Sellers Gilbert fell asleep in her home with her sweet puppy, Gracie, by her side, and woke up in Heaven face to face with her savior, Jesus. There to greet her were her parents, Lonnie Sellers and Wilma Nelle Sellers, her infant sister Carole Joyce Sellers and stepsister, Elizabeth Ashworth. Nadine was born in Baytown, Texas, September 7, 1939, and grew up in Highlands, Texas, surrounded by a large extended family. She was beautiful, feisty, and fiercely independent. The oldest of seven children in her household, she held her own with her three brothers, and paved the way for her three sisters. After graduating from Robert E Lee High School, she married and had three daughters. Nadine put her whole heart into whatever role she had at the time: daughter, sister, aunt, wife and especially mother. She served as room mother, girl scout leader, and PTA president (her fall



carnival at our elementary school was legendary!) Her many careers included waitressing, sales (excelling as a woman car salesman in the '70's), office manager, sous chef, mobile home park owner, and a highlight for her, merchant marine--or as she liked to say, "when I ran away to sea." In retirement, she threw herself into the role of grandmother and later, great-grandmother. She babysat, watched them play sports, planned adventurous sleepovers, and held tea parties. She loved keeping up with their lives and could use social media and her Iphone to do just that. Nadine was an avid reader, a writer and a life-long learner (she once borrowed graduate-level theology

books to read and study!) She was known for writing and telling jokes and even did a bit of stand-up comedy. She was quick to laugh and kept those around her laughing, too. It's not hard to imagine Jesus Nadine laughing with her in heaven. She leaves behind daughters Laurinda Turner and husband Keith, Deena Logan and husband Kevin, and Tricia Deese and husband Grage, and their father Harley Leazer; grandchildren Aimee Swindall, Andrea Turner, Aubrey McCullick, Alyssa Moore, Zach Turner, Christopher Logan, Cassi Logan, John Beaver, Jr., Christopher Deese, Jeremy Beaver, Tiffany Beaver; sisters Nelda Hadaway, Wilma Cooper, Connie Dabney, Helen Vacek, and Mary Knoerr; brothers John Sellers, C.W. Sellers, Milton Sellers and Kenneth Bass; her Aunt Ruth Caver, 19 great-grandchildren, and a multitude of nieces and nephews, and cousins. Services will be held at Earthman Baytown Funeral home on Oct. 1st at 10 AM.

Crosby Superintendent's Message,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

administration and counselor team for his well-deserved honor.

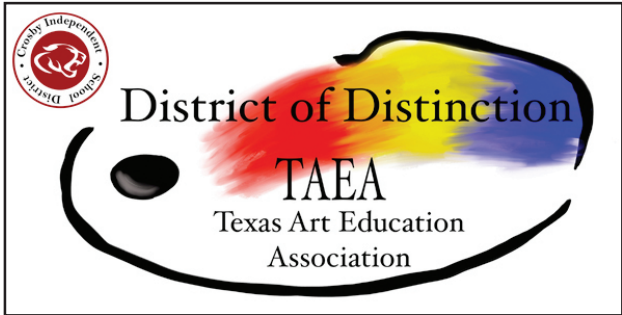
Next, Crosby High School band student, senior Tristen Flores, has been invited to partici-



Tristen Flores will be playing in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

pate in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York. Tristen is a woodwind captain, and he's a role model for his younger classmates in the band. He will perform in November with the Macy's Great American Marching Band. Tristen underwent a rigorous audition process to be invited to participate alongside the finest high school musicians from all fifty states. We can't wait to watch him on national television!

The Crosby ISD's Visual Arts program has just been awarded a District of Distinction honor by the Texas Art Education Association. The distinction puts us in the top 4% of visual arts programs in the state. Crosby ISD's District Art Lead, Ms. Meighan Gladden, and Crosby High School Visual Arts teacher, Ms. Debbie Willows, will attend the award ceremony in November during the TAEA Fall Conference. We could have not achieved this District of Distinction honor without the work of fine arts



teachers, discovery lab instructors, and interventionists at each campus.

I've said it before, but here's more proof that our Cougars are not only fast learners but just fast in general. Crosby High School senior Logan Ashby finished in first place at the 23rd Annual Anahuac Panther Invita-



Senior Logan Ashby who finished in first place at the Anahuac Panther Invitational Cross Country Meet.

tional Cross Country Meet on September 17th. He had the best time out of 80 runners. Way to go, Logan!

There have been many highlights in September. One of my personal favorites was awarding staff members who had perfect attendance for the 2021-2022 School Year. We had a chance to reward those 24 staff members with free Chick-fil-A for a year. We surprised them in classrooms, in the hallways, at our bus barn, in our human resources department, all in the name

of a job well done.

Another highlight was convening the Superintendent's Cougar Council for the first time this year. Twelve students, from grades 5th through 12th, meet with me once a quarter to have lunch and dive into what's happening in their worlds. It's a great opportunity to get feedback from students, who I believe are our most important stakeholders.

Another fabulous moment was Homecoming on September 23rd. Our campuses went all out with a tailgating party, food trucks, skydivers, performances by the Cougar Stars and Crosby High School Choir. The crowning moment was just that. I had the honor of crowning Homecoming King Matthew Jordan. Crosby High School Principal, Mr. Jason Davila, crowned Homecoming Queen Mia Reid. What a treat.

It's wonderful to see the world through the eyes of our students, standing where so many of us proud Crosby High School alumni were standing 10, 20, 30 or more years ago. Being a part of their formative years is a pleasure for me and for our staff here in Crosby ISD. I can't wait to share with you more of those great moments as we move deeper into the Academic Year.

We are Better Together! Go Coogs!

FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 5: Chargers look to avenge last year's upset by Texans: Aggies hit the road for 2nd straight week with trip to MSU

The Texans return home after a two-week road trip that took them to Denver and Chicago to face the Los Angeles Chargers, a team they upset in 2021, 41-29.

That unexpected loss to what would become a four-win Houston team, probably cost star quarterback Justin Herbert and his teammates a shot at a postseason berth, so you had better believe they won't take the lowly Texans lightly this time around. Or will they?

The Chargers have as much talent as any team in the AFC this side of Buffalo and Kansas City, but they have a penchant for playing down to the level of their competition. It cost them dearly a year ago and if they don't change their ways, it could happen again.

Houston continues to struggle on offense as evidenced by their inability to score a touchdown against Denver two weeks ago as they fell 16-9 to the underwhelming Broncos. Quarterback Davis Mills continues to struggle to make plays in the Red Zone, but rookie running back Dameon Pierce had his moments in the Mile High City. He ran hard between the tackles and maybe it's time to give him more carries to open things up for Mills. We shall see.

There are some other interesting games in the NFL this weekend, starting with the Thursday night game pitting Miami against defending AFC Champion Cincinnati. The Dolphins overcame a 35-14 fourth-quarter deficit two weeks ago at Baltimore, scoring 28 points in the final stanza to pull off a wild 42-38 win as QB Tua Tagovailoa passed for 469 yards and six TDs. The Bengals have lost their first two games and if they hope to defend their AFC title, QB Joe Burrow and Co. need to get things going. Dallas hosts Washington in a key NFC East game for both teams. The Cowboys, behind backup quarterback Cooper Rush and six sacks by the defense, picked up their first win two weeks ago with a 20-17 last-second win over the Bengals, while the Commanders fell at Detroit, 36-27. Sunday Night Football has a good one as Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs visit Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Week 4 concludes on Monday Night Football with a key NFC West encounter as the defending Super Bowl champion Los Angeles Rams take on long-time rival San Francisco.

In college action, Jimbo Fisher's Texas A&M Aggies travel to Starkville, MS to face Mike Leach and the Mississippi State Bulldogs. This will mark the Aggies second straight SEC road game after opening conference play last Saturday in Arlington against No. 10-ranked Arkansas. In another key SEC tilt, No. 2-ranked Alabama plays its second road game in just three weeks when Nick Saban's team visits a talented Arkansas team.

Before we take a look at those games and a host of others, let's review last week's record. Finally, something to crow about as a 10-2 week brought the season record to a respectable 21-15 (58%). Told you I wouldn't stay down for long!

Now, onto this weekend's game.

NCAA

North Carolina State at Clemson: No. 12-ranked North Carolina State takes on No. 5-ranked Clemson in a big early-season ACC Atlantic battle. The Wolfpack have won their first three games of the year and are a legitimate contender for the ACC title. NC State is led by QB Devin Leary (570 yards, 5 TDs), running back Demie Sumo-Karngbaye (203 rushing yards/6 receptions, 102 yards, 3 total TDs) and wide receiver Thayer Thomas (10 receptions, 102 yards, 1 TD), while Clemson is led by QB DJ Uiagalelei (662 yards, 5 TDs), and running back Will Shipley (249 yards, 6 TDs). The winner of this game takes a leg up in the race for the Atlantic Division title. NC State is underrated on defense. Look for Leary to be the best QB on the field this Saturday. My pick NC State 33, Clemson 30

Texas A&M at Mississippi State: This game will feature a solid A&M defense against a high-scoring MSU offense, so



something will have to give. Jimbo Fisher's Aggies picked up a huge win over Miami two weeks ago as the defense led the way to a 17-9 win. Fisher changed QBs in that game sitting former starter Haynes King and replacing him with Max Johnson (163 yards, 1 TD). The change seemed to spark the Ags. A&M still has issues on the offensive line, but look for Johnson, running back Devon Achane (196 yards, 3 total TDs) and wide receiver Aini Smith (14 receptions, 259 yards, 2 TDs) to take a big step forward against a Bulldog team that is suspect on defense, as evidenced by its 31-16 loss at LSU two weeks ago. Leach's team has a solid QB in Will Rogers (977 yards, 10 TDs) and two solid WRs in Rara Thomas (14 receptions, 211 yards, 2 TDs) and Caleb Ducking (14 receptions, 162 yards, 3 TDs). A&M's defense will slow the Bulldogs down this Saturday on the road. My pick, Texas A&M 31, Mississippi 17

Alabama at Arkansas: Saban's No. 2-ranked Crimson Tide face perhaps their toughest test (yes, even tougher than the game against Texas, Longhorn fans!) of the 2022 season when they head to the Hills to take on the No. 10-ranked Razorbacks. Sam Pittman's team won its first three games prior to last week's contest against A&M to open SEC play. Arkansas has a real dual threat at quarterback in K.J. Jefferson (770 passing yards, 3 TDs/169 rushing yards, 3 TDs) and another key weapon in running back Raheim Sanders (440 yards, 3 TDs). They entered the A&M game with the three top sack producers in the SEC, which means 'Bama QB Bryce Young (644 passing yards, 9 TDs/144 rushing yards, 2 TDs) had better hope his inexperienced offensive line holds up on Saturday. Look for Saban to give the 'Hogs a steady dose of running backs Jose McClellan (167 yards, 1 TD) and Jahmyr Gibbs (151 yards, 2 TDs) and look for wide receiver Traeshon Holden (12 receptions, 169 yards, 3 TDs) to make plays in the passing game. Saban will need a big game from linebacker Will Anderson Jr. (15 total tackles, one interception, one TD return) to be the difference maker on defense. After the near upset in Austin on Sept. 10, you had better believe Saban will have the Tide ready for this game. My pick, Alabama 31, Arkansas 20

NFL

Miami at Cincinnati: An interesting game to kickoff Week 4 of the 2022 NFL season pits the offensive-minded Dolphins against a struggling Cincinnati team on Thursday Night Football. As mentioned earlier, Miami erupted for 28 fourth-quarter points at Baltimore to overcome a 21-point deficit on their way to a 42-38 road win. Tua (739 yards, 7 TDs in first two games) was magnificent in the final stanza, as were wide receivers Tyreek Hill (19 receptions, 284 yards, 2 TDs) and Jalen Waddle (15 receptions, 240 yards) as they accounted for 22 receptions for 262 yards and four TDs against the Ravens. Wow! While the Dolphins are off to a hot start, the Bengals dropped their first two games and still have issues on the offensive line. QB Joe Burrow was sacked six times in the 20-17 loss to Dallas. Look for a big night from him and wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase (15 receptions, 183 yards, 1 TD) as Cinci gets its season back on track. This should be an offensive shootout. My pick, Cincinnati 34, Miami 31

Los Angeles Chargers at Houston: After last year's upset at the hands of the Texans, I don't expect the Chargers to take them for granted on Sunday at NRG Stadium. A lot will depend on the health of Herbert (613 yards, 6 TDs). He fractured some ribs in LA's 27-24 loss at KC two weeks ago, but should be ready for this game. Even if he's unable to go, look for

running back Austin Ekeker (75 rushing yards/13 receptions, 91 yards) and wide receiver Mike Williams (10 receptions, 123 yards, 1 TD) to pick up the slack. The Texans must be more productive on offense, so look for them to let rookie back Pierce (102 yards) to get plenty of work in this game. Houston's defense has played well thus far, but if Herbert is under center this Sunday, that unit will face its toughest test of the season. My pick, Los Angeles Chargers 31, Houston 18

Washington at Dallas: The Cowboys may have saved their season two weeks ago with a gritty 20-17 win at home against Cincinnati. Reserve QB Cooper Rush (299 yards, 1 TD) looked calm and reserved and made plays in the passing game to his favorite new target, Noah Brown (10 receptions, 159 yards, 1 TD) and budding superstar CeeDee Lamb (9 receptions, 104 yards). Dallas also got production in the running game from Ezekiel Elliott (105 yards) and Tony Pollard (one TD in the game), but it was the defense that saved the day. Second-year star running back Micah Parsons had his second straight game with two sacks and the Pokes picked up four more as they harassed Joe Burrow all afternoon long. Parsons and Co. will have to carry this team until Dak Prescott returns at QB and they should have another big day against the Commanders and turnover-prone QB Carson Wentz (650 yards, 7 TDs). Two weeks ago, the Commanders lost at Detroit, 36-27. Look for it to be another tough day on the road for Washington. My pick, Dallas 23, Washington 17

Kansas City at Tampa Bay: What a game for the Sunday Night Football crew as Patrick Mahomes (595 yards, 7 TDs) takes on Tom Brady (402 yards, 2 TDs) in prime time. This game will pit the up-and-coming star QB in the league against the GOAT, but it might be the Tampa Bay defense that determines the outcome of this contest. The Bucs have looked really good on defense in their first two games, allowing just 13 points in wins at Dallas and New Orleans. That unit will really get tested Sunday night in Tampa when Mahomes, tight end Travis Kelce (13 receptions, 172 yards, 1 TD), wide receiver JuJu Smith-Schuster try to dent this skilled unit. Brady and the Bucs offense have gotten off to a slow start, as injuries and suspensions have taken their toll. Brady hopes to have back big-play WR Chris Godwin for this game and should have reliable wideout Mike Evans (8 receptions, 132 yards, 1 TD) back for this game after Evans sat out last week's game against Green Bay after being suspended for his role in an altercation two weeks ago against the Saints. It's tough to go against Brady in a big game and remember, when these two met two years ago in the Super Bowl, Brady came out on top. My pick, Tampa Bay 30, Kansas City 28

Los Angeles Rams at San Francisco: Week 4 concludes on Monday Night Football with an important early-season NFC West contest between the Rams and 49ers. Two weeks ago, LA almost blew a 28-point lead at home to the Falcons but held on for a 31-27 win, while the 49ers took care of Seattle 27-7 but in the process lost starting QB Trey Lance for the season to a broken ankle. Jimmy Garoppolo (154 yards, 1 passing, 1 rushing TD) came off the bench to save the day and it's a good thing the 49ers didn't trade him prior to the start of the season. The Rams will once again be led by QB Matthew Stafford (512 yards, 4 TDs) and WR Cooper Kupp (24 receptions, 236 yards 3 TDs) on offense, but the defense needs to shore things up. SF is tough at home, especially against the Rams, so look for the 49ers to take care of the Rams on Monday night. My pick, San Francisco 26, Los Angeles Rams 23



LETTERS To The Editor

Information on ESD #14 vote regarding McNair Fire Service

Open Letter to the Residents of Harris County Emergency Services District #14 (HCESD #14) and members of the McNair Community:

On the ballot on November 8, 2022, there will be two (2) propositions which read

“PROPOSITION A

Shall the McNair Area, Harris County, Texas be added into the boundaries and become a part of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 14, pursuant to the provisions of the Texas Health and Safety Code?

PROPOSITION B

Shall the McNair Area, Harris County, Texas assume its proportionate share of all outstanding debts, taxes and other obligations, and shall the Board of Commissioners of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 14 be authorized to levy an ad valorem tax, not to exceed (\$0.10) ten cents on each \$100 valuation, provided by law on all taxable property within the annexed area?”

An affirmative vote (YES vote) will be required for the McNair Community to join the district and begin paying taxes. A “NO” vote on either will result in a failure of the proposition(s) and the McNair community will not join HCESD #14.

With new legislation, the residents of HCESD#14 must vote to allow the residents of the McNair commu-

nity to join HCESD #14 and become tax payers to HCESD #14. This will allow Highlands Volunteer Department, which is now funded by HCESD #14, to continue to serve the McNair community. The McNair community must likewise vote to join HCESD #14 and become tax payers to HCESD #14 to continue to receive services from Highlands Volunteer Fire Department.

For residents of Highlands & HCESD #14, a vote “Yes” on both propositions, will not raise your taxes, nor will it reduce the service you receive from the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department. Likewise, a “NO” vote will not lower your taxes, nor will it increase the services you receive from the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department.

The current tax rate for HCESD #14 is five cents (\$.05), with a maximum authorized rate of ten cents (\$.10). For residents of the McNair community a vote of “YES” on both propositions, will put your property in the HCESD #14 tax base and you will see a five cents (\$.05) per \$100 valuation on your property. For a property valued at \$100,000.00 the approximate tax will be \$50.00 (fifty dollars). There will also be a \$.02 (two cent) sales tax for items bought within the McNair community, which you will see as a new tax on receipts for items purchased at retail.

A vote of “NO” on either proposition, will cause HCESD #14 to stop funding the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department services to the McNair community and may result in the reduction of service to the McNair community.

BOTH communities must vote “YES” on both propositions for this to take place. A “NO” vote by either community will result in the reduction of funding by HCESD # 14 for Highlands Volunteer Fire Department for services to the McNair community.

Remember to vote on, or before, November 8, 2022.

—Jim Strouhal, director, ESD #14

Elderly man dies in fire at abandoned home in Crosby

CROSBY, Texas – An elderly man died in a fire at an abandoned home in Crosby Friday, officials said.

Firefighters with the Crosby Volunteer Fire Department received reports of a blaze at an abandoned structure fire in the 13300 block of Seaberg.

According to firefighters, one elderly man died in the fire.

Officials said the blaze is under control and investigators with the Harris County Fire Marshal’s Office are en route to the scene to determine what caused the fire.

Mohammad Abulawi graduates from Missouri State University

SPRINGFIELD, MO (08/01/2022)— Missouri State University awarded 2,878 degrees to students in spring 2022.

The commencement ceremonies took place May 20, 2022, at Great Southern Bank Arena in Springfield.

Mohammad Abulawi of Crosby (77532) graduated with a Master of Science, Project Management.

Students who graduated with honors completed at least 30 credit hours with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5.

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CROSBY RENTAL EXCELLENT LOCATION Brand New 3 Bedroom 2 1/2 Bath Townhouse. Privacy fenced yard, covered patio, single car garage. \$1500 a month 281-705-9640.		BARBERS HILL ISD is requesting bids for Category Two Internal Connections. Additional information is available at www.crwconsulting.com/rfp . Bids will be opened 10/31/22 at 2:00 PM at the Barbers Hill ISD Technology Integration Center.			NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE of property to satisfy landlord's lien. Sale to be held at STEVE'S STORAGE, LLC at 5625 Hwy 90, Crosby, TX 77532 on October 8th at 8:30 a.m. Items sold as-is to highest CASH bidder. Property is contents of tenant space of Kimberly Wilder: Antiques, etc.		NEWSPAPER MARKETING/ SALES PERSON Position available for AD SALES representative. Experience helpful but not necessary. Possible to work from home. Suitable for Part Time, or Full Time. Commission plus. Send letter of interest to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com or call 713-252-8000	
38-2T		38-2T			37-2T			

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Bond Hearings Scheduled,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to the November election, visit <http://www.harrisvotes.com>.

Bond allocation categories include:

PROPOSITION A: PUBLIC SAFETY
Up to \$100 million

Investments may support public safety facilities and technology, including law enforcement facilities, courtrooms, backup gener-

ators and improved data systems for court management and crime prevention.

PROPOSITION B: TRANSPORTATION
Up to \$900 million

Investments may include road rehabilitation and added capacity; roadway and neighborhood drainage improvements; walking, biking, and mass transit access; and safety

projects to reduce transportation-related fatalities and injuries.

PROPOSITION C: PARKS & TRAILS
Up to \$200 million

Investments may include new construction and/or maintenance of parks facilities and trails, including floodable parks, trail projects, and inclusive parks for people with disabilities.

HARRIS COUNTY \$1.2B BOND

County schedules hearings on November Bond vote

2022 OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE
Dates and locations are subject to change.

WEEK OF OCTOBER 2

Oct 3
6pm - Shirley Acres
217 Woerner Rd, Houston, TX 77090
Precinct 3

Oct 4
6pm - Humble Civic Center
8233 Will Clayton Pkwy, Houston, TX 77338
Precinct 3

Oct 5
6pm - Dream Palace Banquet Hall
11225 Bissonnet St, Houston, TX 77099
Precinct 4

Oct 6
6pm - Fountain Life Center
14083 S Main St, Houston, TX 77035
Precinct 1

WEEK OF OCTOBER 9

Oct 10
6pm - Bellaire Civic Center
7008 S Rice Ave, Bellaire, TX 77401
Precinct 1

Oct 11
6pm - Alegria Gardens at Clay
18311 Clay Rd, Houston, TX 77084
Precinct 4

Oct 13
12pm - Virtual Meeting

Oct 15
10am - Felix L. Baldree Community Center
13828 Corpus Christi St, Houston, TX 77015
Precinct 2

WEEK OF OCTOBER 16

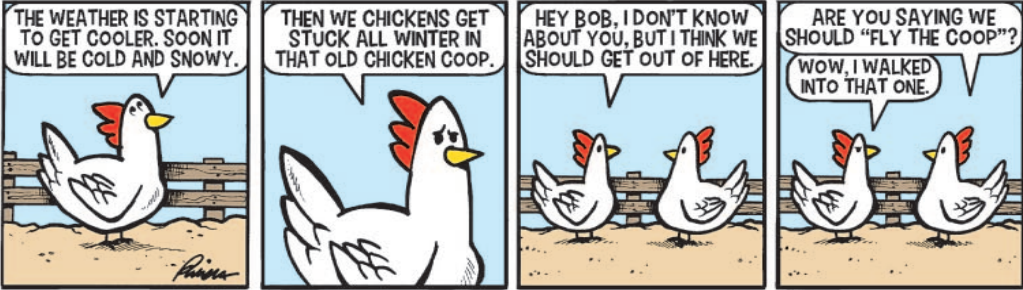
Oct 17
6pm - BakerRipley Pasadena Campus
720 Fairmont Pkwy, Pasadena, TX 77504
Precinct 2

Oct 18
12pm - Virtual Meeting
6pm - Virtual Meeting

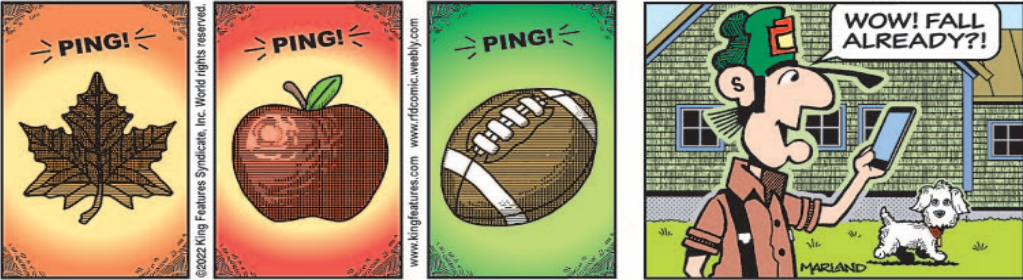
Oct 19
12pm - Virtual Meeting
6pm - Virtual Meeting

Oct 20
12pm - Virtual Meeting
6pm - Virtual Meeting

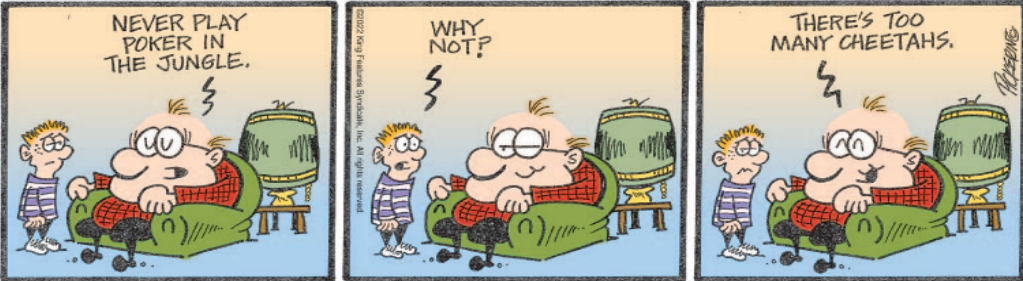
Amber Waves



R.F.D.



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

1			5			6	
	4	3		8			2
		8			6	9	
	1			9			3
		5			7		4
4			2			1	5
	8				3		2
2				1			7
		9	6	5		4	

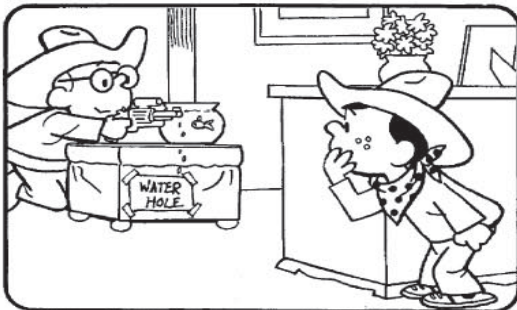
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

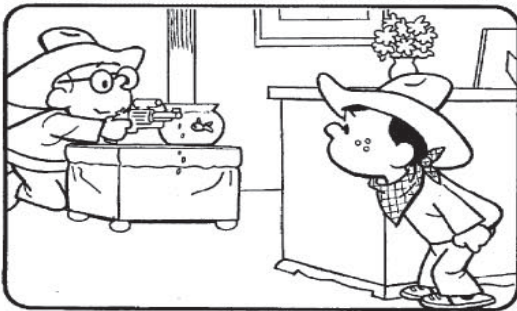
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Hat is different. 2. Sign is missing. 3. Vase is smaller. 4. Arm is hidden. 5. Bandanna is different. 6. Picture frame is moved.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 50 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2022 on October 27, 2022 at 06:00 PM at 1301 McKinney, Suite 5100, Houston, Texas 77010 and by teleconference at 346-248-7799 Meeting ID 935 7813 7796. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners. Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

For the proposal: Martin Lemond, Alice Dangerfield, Elyard David, Andrew Sonnier, Daryl G. Johnson

Against the proposal:

Present and not voting:

Absent:

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year \$0.940000/\$100	This Year \$0.926000/\$100
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$-0.014000
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		-1.49%
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$122,418	\$134,193
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled \$0 person's exemptions)		\$0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$122,418	\$134,193
Tax on average residence homestead	\$1,150.72	\$1,242.63
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted(+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$91.91 7.99%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Should you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact the tax office at 281-426-8156.

September 26, 2022 Posting Date King Crossword

ACROSS

- Piratic quaffs
- 605, in old Rome
- Last write-up
- Like some vaccines
- Ecol. watchdog
- Stratagem
- Turkey's most populous city
- Actress Falco
- Second of two
- Church keyboards
- Six, in Sicily
- Harvest
- Fireplace residue
- Society newbie
- Golf great Sam
- Coach Ewbank
- Passing craze
- Capital on a fjord
- Cardiff's country
- "Uh-huh"
- Kids' game
- Antitoxins
- French article
- Juan's pals
- Cease-fires
- Track assignment
- Brazil's most populous city

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13				14	
15				16					17	
18						19	20			
			21			22				
23	24	25		26	27		28		29	30
31			32		33		34		35	
36				37		38		39		40
			41			42		43		44
45	46					47			48	49
50										
51					52	53				
54					55				56	
57					58				59	

- Karaoke prop
- Brit. record label
- Bridal cover
- Writer Kingsley
- Wee bit
- Old U.S. gas brand
- Pizza sauce herb
- Hungary's most populous city
- "The doctor —"
- Casual tops
- Must have
- Scale members
- "How adorable!"
- Mermaid's home
- Finland's most populous city
- Inlet
- Carte lead-in
- Pooch
- "Stayin' Alive" band
- Shoulder muscle
- "No seats" sign
- Criminal, to cops
- Plus
- Debonair
- mater
- Hurt severely
- Poolroom supply
- Yale students
- Without help
- "I — Rock"

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1	8	4	2	5	9	6	7	3
7	3	5	6	1	8	4	9	2
6	2	9	3	7	4	1	8	5
9	6	1	8	9	2	4	3	7
9	4	8	7	3	1	5	2	6
3	7	2	5	6	4	9	1	8
1	6	9	2	3	8	5	7	4
2	5	7	1	8	6	3	4	9
8	9	3	4	2	5	7	6	1

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

O	S	S	E	D	I	A	D	S	I	M	A
L	I	E	A	I	M	E	E	I	M	I	M
O	C	L	E	O	V	A	S	E	N	A	T
S	E	L	E	S	O	D	I	A	V	I	
S	E	S	E	R	V	A	S	E	R	V	
O	V	I	S	E	S	E	S	E	T	V	
O	T	A	S	E	F	A	D	E	B	W	
A	S	E	S	E	S	E	S	E	S	E	
L	A	T	E	R	E	S	E	I	H	E	A
I	S	E	E	D	I	E	E	E	E	E	
E	R	A	L	E	P	A	E	E	E	E	
R	U	M	S	D	C	V	A	E	E	O	

Solution time: 24 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

- Florida; 2. Yellow; 3. "Wheel of Fortune"; 4. Wichita, Kansas; 5. The Daily Planet; 6. "Terms of Endearment"; 7. A fear of mirrors; 8. Six; 9. About 15 hours; 10. Seven.

Trivia Test Answers

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

Right Here in Baytown



Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital Is Expanding With a New Patient Tower

As part of Houston Methodist Baytown's \$250 million hospital expansion project, we are building a new state-of-the-art, five-story patient tower. Currently under construction, this facility will expand capacity and services to our community so we can continue delivering exceptional care, advanced treatments and an outstanding patient experience — all close to home.

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- **Private patient rooms:** Expansive rooms provide patients and visitors with a peaceful environment for healing and convenient amenities such as Wi-Fi connected tablets, smart speakers and room service with online meal ordering
- **Advanced imaging and technology:** A hospital-of-the-future design featuring the latest lifesaving tools and equipment to enhance surgical precision and speed patient recovery
- **Specialized care:** A new intensive care unit featuring cutting-edge medical technologies as well as an entire floor dedicated to childbirth and obstetrics services
- **World-class physicians and nurses:** A skilled and compassionate team of experts who work together to provide outstanding, personalized primary and specialty care
- **Convenient campus parking:** Fully covered parking garage allows visitors to park with ease and access the entire hospital campus, so parking is one less thing to think about



Visit houstonmethodist.org/baytown or call **281.428.2273** to make an appointment with our primary or specialty care physicians, or for a physician referral.