

Walls that Heals in
Chambers County, Page 3

Fall Festival at Lodge at
Pine Creek, Page 7

HIGHLANDS

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VOL. 69, NO. 41 – 50¢

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2022

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

OCT. 23, SUNDAY Extreme Machine at Crosby Church

Free Family Festival.
Auto Show, Crafts, Kids
Games. Sunday October
23 from 10am to 4pm at
Crosby Church, 5725
Highway 90, Crosby, TX.

40 Vendors, 50 Auto,
Craft Booths, Petting Zoo,
Kids Booths, Ninja Warrior
Course, Gelly Ball, Food
Vendors and MORE.

Everyone Welcome.

OCT. 25, TUES. San Jacinto River Coalition meeting on Waste Pits

**THEA COMMUNITY
MEETING PLANNED**
THEA staff has been
carefully reviewing
the 100,000 plus-
page cleanup propos-
al that was submitted
this summer and have
a number of con-
cerns. We will meet
with our [San Jacinto
River Coalition](#) and
other members of the
public on:
**October 25 at 6:30p.m.
San Jacinto Community
Center
604 Highland Woods Dr,
Highlands, TX**
At the meeting, THEA
will update residents
and other concerned
citizens on the plan
and get their feed-
back to share with the
EPA.

Final Weeks of Campaigns:

BETO, ABBOTT stump Houston for Votes

By Gilbert Hoffman

HARRIS COUNTY – Voters face a momentous and important task on Election Day, November 8, when they must select candidate and propositions on the longest ballot in Texas and the longest in recent memory. In addition, they must navigate the new voting machines which have a combination of electronic ballot casting, and a paper record to be scanned and archived.

Candidates have been ferociously campaigning, with personal appearances, social media, email campaigns, and ads on TV and newspapers.

Most political observers feel this is one of the most important elections in many years, with the Supreme Court overturning



Beto O'Rourke made one of many campaign appearances last Sunday in a community center gym in North Forest. Also speaking were Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, left, and County Commissioner Rodney Ellis. (Photo by Gil Hoffman)

longstanding judgements, and an evenly split Congress deadlocked on many life-altering issues.

Important races on the ballot include Texas Gov-

ernor and other state offices, Harris County Judge and commissioner, and many candidates for U.S. House and State Legislature.



Governor Greg Abbott also appeared last week in Houston, choosing to speak to a small crowd of businessmen and officials at the Port of Houston conference room.

In addition, there are bond propositions for massive amounts of money, and school districts wanting to fund expansion. Dozens of judges will be

elected, both family, district, civil and criminal

Continued. See Election Campaigns, Page 7

Rotarians meet area's "Top Cop"

HIGHLANDS – Captain Nathan Douglas of the Harris County Sheriff's Office was a guest speaker at the weekly Rotary club luncheon last week.

Captain Douglas spoke about the current state of policing and crime in our society, and of his own career in law enforcement.

Douglas is Captain over the Patrol District III, where he has worked for over 31 years. This district extends from Huffman on the north, to Pasadena and almost to Pearland on the south.



HCSO Captain Nathan Douglas

Douglas is a native of Clear Lake and keeps busy in off-hours as assistant chief of the Seabrook Volunteer Fire Department.

Douglas describes his peace-keeping role as "Top Cop -- like the small town Chief of Police." His department is headquartered at the courthouse on Wallisville Road, and has 130 personnel that protect residents

and property on the East side of the county.

Personally, he is a master peace officer, an emergency medical technician, and firefighter, and is a member of the FBI National Academy Association. He received a B.S. in Criminal Justice from the University of Houston, and graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

In 1999 the Space Center Rotary Club named him the Officer of the Year, and in 2020 Governor Ab-

bott appointed him to the Texas Emergency Services Retirement System Board of Trustees.

Douglas spoke to the Rotarians about the problems of enforcing laws and reducing crime in today's society. He said that all police departments are dealing with manpower shortages, with retirements and attrition, and the difficulty of attracting new recruits. Although he

Continued. See "TOP COP" Page 5

THEA to update community on Waste Pits at meeting on Oct. 25

HIGHLANDS – The EPA is holding its ground against further delays in cleaning up the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site. The responsible parties who seem to continuously look for ways to drag out the government-ordered clean up.

It only took a few years to fill the pits with dioxin-laden paper mill waste back in the 1960s. Nearly 60 years later, the companies found responsible for the contamination, International Paper and Waste Management, Inc., are still asking for more time to figure out how to fix the problem. A new letter from the EPA indicates the agency isn't buying it.

The companies submit-

ted a remediation plan for the northern waste pit earlier this summer. The EPA said it was incomplete and gave them until next month to come up with the full plan. The companies asked to push that deadline until February of next year, almost guaranteeing another delay in starting the cleanup.

Now the EPA has sent them a clear message. The agency writes that it has already allowed the companies to delay finalizing a plan for 725 days and is ordering them to submit the plan by November 8, 2022. It's worth remembering that the Superfund law allows the EPA to charge three times the cost of the damages if the responsible

parties won't cooperate.

THEA COMMUNITY MEETING PLANNED

THEA staff has been carefully reviewing the 100,000 plus-page cleanup proposal that was submitted this summer and have a number of concerns. We will meet with our [San Jacinto River Coalition](#) and other members of the public on:

**October 25 at 6:30p.m.
San Jacinto Community
Center
604 Highland Woods Dr,
Highlands, TX**

At the meeting, THEA will update residents and other concerned citizens on the plan and get their feed-

Continued. See SJRC Meeting, Page 5

RACHEL'S DINER

Southern Cooking Buffet -- Coming Soon

14280 FM 2100 (Across from Walmart)
281-462-7349

AUTO & HOME INSURANCE



Jeremy Rosenkranz
State Farm Agent
440 S. Main Street, Highlands, TX 77562
281-426-3512
jtr@jeremyrosenkranz.com



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GOOSE CREEK CISD NEWS

High School Options for Eighth Graders

The High School Options timeline has been put in place for Goose Creek CISD eighth graders when considering their high school plans, and the deadline to make their selections is November 28th. Students have the option of choosing one of ten career academies; a dual credit cosmetology program and a new maritime program housed at Robert E. Lee High School, IMPACT Early College High School or Stuart Career Tech High School.

Bus transportation is available for all students accepted to any of these options for high school. A help session for students and parents needing assistance in completing the application, which is available online on the district's web page, will be held during the GCCISD College & Career Night from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at E.F. Green Junior School on October 26th. The application must be submitted online by November 28th, at 11:59 p.m. Students will be notified if they are accepted on December 2, 2022.

Students in the Digital Communications Academy will learn about different audio, video and digital media formats that will prepare them for a career in Digital Communications. This Academy may also include exploration into operating machines and equipment to record sound and images, such as microphones, sound speakers, video screens, projectors, video monitors, sound and mixing boards, and related electronic equipment. By the time these students graduate from high school with a Business & Industry Endorsement, they will have also earned Performance Acknowledgments for having completed their certificate through Houston Community College dual credit classes and having earned industry certifications.

The Information Technology Career Academy is currently in its third year at Stuart Career Tech High School where students learn the skills required to begin a successful career in the network and computer systems/support industry. Academic and technical classes combine information technology workplace knowledge and skills using industry-standard certifications and curriculum. Students can earn both high school credit and college credit through Lee College for many academic and technical courses. Four years with the Information Technology Academy will lead students to a Business and Industry endorsement, a college associate degree or certificate and a Performance Acknowledgment if they earn CompTIA A+, Network+ or CISCO certifications. Seniors may also participate in internships.

Another option is the Career Academy for Future Educators (CAFÉ), which prepares students for a career in education. Students engage in education curriculum, job shadowing, internships, and college preparation activities. With a team of teachers at each grade level, students' academic and technical classes integrate related education activities into their coursework and projects that span across academy classes. Internship opportunities are available through business partners such as GCCISD elementary, junior, and high school campuses, Fueling Brains, and local daycare centers. Participation in Texas Association for Future Educators (TAFE) and Educators Rising (state and national organizations) allows student

the opportunity to compete in education-related events. Academy students have the opportunity to earn an associate degree in teaching as well as a Public Service Endorsement with Performance Acknowledgments by earning CPR or Education Aide certifications (upon graduation).

The Health Science Academy follows the rigorous Project Lead The Way-Biomedical Science curriculum where students step into the roles of several medical professionals and learn hands-on-skills throughout the 4 years. Students have the opportunity to earn an associate degree and/or several certifications including medical assistant, EKG technician, nurse aide, pharmacy tech and EMT. As part of their classes, students will have opportunities to network with healthcare professionals and experience a variety of high demand occupations in healthcare. Additional junior and senior level courses offer student job shadowing and internships.

Students in the Global Business Academy complete a four-year pathway in a rigorous High School of Business curriculum to prepare them to develop their own business or continue towards a business degree. This academy also partners with Lee College to provide students with the opportunity to complete an Associates of Business Degree. The Global Business Academy will offer a new pathway for students interested in Agribusiness. In addition, students can graduate with Microsoft Office certifications and internship experience. The Global Business Academy was awarded Model Academy Designation by the National Career Academy Coalition in 2021.

The STEM Academy, which helps students learn the many different facets of engineering, robotics, and instrumentation as they relate to the petrochemical, aerospace, and environmental industries on the Gulf Coast. Students can also choose to earn a Lee College Instrumentation Technology certificate. Mentors from local industry assist students in deciding which type of engineering they want to pursue before they apply for college.

The Cosmetology program provides students the opportunity to earn both high school and college credit for their cosmetology classes. Through the program, students receive the technical background and experience necessary to develop the skills and theoretical knowledge required to pass the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation Examination to become a licensed Cosmetology Operator and to gain employment in professional salons. Students also will earn a Lee College Cosmetology Certificate of Completion.

Students in the Culinary Arts Academy earn dual credit through Lee College as well as industry certifications and an opportunity to earn an associate degree. Culinary Arts Academy students will have the opportunity to work in the Titan Table, the restaurant that will be opening at SCHS. Additional real-world experience is gained by students through many catering opportunities and special events that the culinary students participate in throughout the school year.

The Manufacturing and Industrial Maintenance Academy offers both pipe-

fitting and welding programs. Students in the academy learn about the many exciting careers in the petrochemical industry from entry-level craft occupations to careers requiring two- and four-year college degrees. Students may earn NCCER and AWS credentials as well as the opportunity to earn a Lee College Welding Technology Associate of Applied Science or an Associate of Applied Science in Pipefitting while in high school.

Another exciting option that eighth grade students have is to apply to the Agriculture Science Academy. A new Plant Science pathway will be available to students in the fall of 2023 for students interested in horticulture and floral design. Students in the Animal Science pathway will work with local veterinarians to gain the experience to earn their Vet Assistant certification. The Agriculture Science Academy opened brand new facilities including a reception area, classroom, and lab as well as a pet wash station, exam room, kennels, outdoor area, and greenhouses in the 2020-2021 school year. Students have the option to take academic dual credit courses to graduate "core complete" to save time and money when transferring to four-year universities.

The Advanced Automotive Academy offers three programs of study: Automotive Technology, Diesel Technology and Collision Repair. Partnering with Lee College and Lamar Institute of Technology, students can earn both high school and college credit for many of their academic and technical courses. Advanced Automotive students earn industry certifications that prepare them to enter the workforce after graduation. The Automotive Academy has a brand-new state-of-the-art facility that gives students the opportunity to know what it is like to work in an actual automotive repair or collision shop.

IMPACT Early College High School provides another option for prospective freshmen. It is a unique school that serves students who are ready and eager to do serious college work. It enables highly motivated students to move, in four years, from the ninth grade through the first two years of college. At this nationally recognized school, students focus on academics with the goal of graduating with a high school diploma, earning their associate degree from Lee College, and/or earning college hours to apply to a degree. IMPACT ECHS prepares students to be successful, independent college students by providing college-ready academic behavior and skills, college placement exam preparation and college course support.

Altogether, Goose Creek CISD eighth graders may choose among over 40 programs of study in all five endorsement areas. Very few districts offer these diverse and specialized educational opportunities, so Goose Creek CISD eighth grade students should carefully consider their options as they create their graduation plans and begin their high school experience. Applications to the academies, Cosmetology program, Maritime Program, Stuart Career Tech High School, and IMPACT Early College High School will be available on the Goose Creek CISD website at <http://www.gccisd.net> on October 24th.

Goose Creek CISD to Celebrate Robotics Facility Ribbon Cutting

Goose Creek CISD will host a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Robotics Facility on Thursday, October 20th at 5 p.m. Located at 401 YMCA Drive, the building is strategically placed across from Stuart Career Technical High School. The building was designed to support the district's nationally award-winning robotics team, Blar-glefish, and provide learning opportunities for students across the district. The facility will also be used to accommodate small-scale robotics competitions and exhibitions from schools across the state.

For more information, please contact Kristyn Hunt Cathey, GCCISD Director of Communications, at Kristyn.cathey@gccisd.net or 281-707-3688.

GCCISD Celebrates National Construction Appreciation Week



By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey, APR – Director of Communications

National Construction Appreciation Week recognizes the dedicated, hard-working men and women instrumental in the development of our infrastructure. Recognized the third week in September, it aims to inspire a national conversation about construction and how it is vital to the American infrastructure and facilities.

The Goose Creek CISD Facilities Planning and Construction department, led by Brenda Garcia, facilitates all construction-related projects in the district. The department completed several projects

during the 2021-2022 school year, including: the rebuild of San Jacinto Elementary, construction of Jessie Lee Pumphrey Elementary School, Shelia C. Liles Early Learning Academy, E.F. Green Junior School, Robotics Center; and phase four of the Stuart Career Technical High School; just to name a few. The construction of the new Robert E. Lee Fine Arts building is underway for the 2022-2023 school year as well as several other projects designed to uplift the district's infrastructure.

The district recognizes the importance of the Facilities Planning and Construction team and

applaud them for the work they do to make the district and city better.

Dr. Demetrius McCall, Deputy Superintendent of Administrative Services, oversees the department which includes the following employees: Brenda Garcia, Director of Facilities Planning and Construction; Bruce Riggs, Assistant Director of Facilities Planning and Construction; Ed Martir, Senior Project Manager; Project Managers Carl Burg, Jessie Garcia and Lacey Spells; Arlene Blanco-Chapa, Construction Accounting Analyst and Terri Perez, Secretary.

Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman

CHAMBER NEWS

Crosby/Huffman Chamber Luncheon and Board Election

You are invited to attend our October Luncheon. The luncheon will take place on Thursday, October 20th at Crosby Church. The address is 5725 Hwy 90, Crosby, Texas 77532. Lunch will begin at 11:30am.

If you are unable to attend luncheon but would like to vote; we will have absentee voting starting Monday the 17th at Chamber Office. You must be a current Chamber Member and be in good standing.

Our Speaker will be Vinson Drewry with Aflac Insurance and will be speaking on Breast Cancer Awareness!

Voting will be held at this Luncheon. There are 8 positions to fill for 2023

Only CHAMBER MEMBERS in good standing may vote.

If you have any questions regarding your status to vote or how many votes your business receives please contact Chamber at 281-328-6984 or email us at chamber@crosbyhuffmancc.org.

There are EIGHT positions open this year to vote for:

- Nominees Running for Chamber Board are:
- Tiffany Muller-Crosby Care/Incumbent
- Eddie Foster-Handyman/Incumbent
- Kimberly Davila-JLA Realty/Incumbent
- Margarette Chasteen-Rodan & Fields/Incumbent
- Laci Rendon-Rendon Legal/Incumbent
- Nancy Farrior-Huffman Education Foundation
- Crystal Egorushkin-Trusted Insurance Group
- Jennifer Gray-Woodforest National Bank
- Tom Long-Associate

Pastor Children's Ministries Crosby Church

Stephanie Rosendahl-United Community Credit Union

Angelica Hodges-Wellness Advocate

Cherie Zarsky-Realty Associates

Please keep in mind when submitting a nomination or voting, the following recommendations:

- Chamber Member for at least a year
- Actively Involved
- Will commit to attend Board Meetings
- Can and will actively promote the Chamber
- Has the betterment of the Crosby Huffman Communities in mind

Thank you for your continuous support of our Communities and the Chamber and for remembering to SHOP LOCAL!

Kim Harris
President
Crosby Huffman Chamber 281-328-6984

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www.starcouriernews.com

Barbers Hill Dayton Press

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VOL. 27, NO. 41 – 50¢

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2022

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Chambers County Burn Ban

Prohibition of Outdoor Burning
WHEREAS, on October 4, 2022.

That the state of disaster proclaimed for Chambers County by the County Judge on October 4,

2022 shall continue until terminated by order of the COMMISSIONERS COURT or the COUNTY JUDGE.

BE IT THEREFORE ORDERED that the following emergency regulations are hereby established for Chambers County, Texas for the duration of the above mentioned declaration;

Actions Prohibited:

A. A person violates this order if he or she burns any combustible material outside of an enclosure which serves to contain all flames and/or sparks, or orders such burning by others.

B. This Order does not prohibit outdoor burning activities exempted by Local Government Code Ch. 352.081(f) related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas

Commission on Environmental Quality for: (1) firefighter training; (2) planting or harvesting

of agricultural crops; or, (3) burns that are conducted by a prescribed burn manager certified

under Section 153.048, Natural Resources Code, and meet the standards of Section 153.047,

Natural Resources Code. This order does not apply to Air Curtain Incineration conducted according to Title 30 Texas Administrative Code §106.496 and Title 30 Texas

Administrative Code §106.4, and for which the proper TCEQ permit has been obtained

Enforcement:

A. Upon notification of suspected outdoor burning, the fire department assigned to the location of the fire shall respond to the scene and take immediate measures to contain and/or extinguish the fire.

B. As soon as possible, a duly commissioned peace officer shall be sent to the scene to investigate the nature of the fire.

C. If in the opinion of the officer at the scene and/or the fire chief, the goal of the order can be attained by informing the responsible party about the prohibitions established by this order, the officer may, at his discretion, notify the party about the provisions of this order and request compliance with it. In such instances, an entry of the notification shall be made into the dispatchers log containing the time, date, and place of the warning, and the name of the person receiving the warning.

3. At the discretion of the peace officer or the fire chief, second or flagrant violations of this order may be prosecuted in accordance with the statutes and procedures governing misdemeanors. In accordance with the Local Government Code, a person who knowingly or intentionally violates this order commits a Class C Misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$500.00.

MECHANIC NEEDED:

Must have own tools, must be able to diagnose vehicle, BE ON TIME
HAVE A VALID DRIVER LICENSE.
PAY IS BASE ON KNOWLEDGE
DROP BY TO FILL APPLICATION AT
11012 1/2 HWY 146 N MONT BELVIEU TX, 77523
OR CALL AT 832/307/7937

Wall That Heals Will Be Hosted in Chambers County Oct. 27-30

Chambers County Texas- On Veterans Day 1996, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) unveiled a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., designed to travel to communities throughout the United States. This three-quarter sized replica of the memorial measures 375' long and 7.5' tall at its apex. Etched in The Wall's granite panels are the names of over 58,000 men and women who sacrificed their lives serving overseas during the Vietnam War.

Since its dedication, The Wall That Heals has been displayed at nearly 700 communities throughout the nation, spreading the Memorial's



October 27 through 30, 2022 (Closing at 2 p.m. on October 30) White Memorial Park, 225 White Park Rd. Anahuac, TX 77514

healing legacy to millions.

Bringing The Wall home to communities throughout our country allows the souls enshrined on the Memorial to exist once more among

family and friends in the peace and comfort of familiar surroundings. The traveling exhibit provides thousands of veterans who have been unable to cope with the prospect of facing The

Wall to find the strength and courage to do so within their own communities, thus allowing the healing process to begin.

Honor the more than 58,000 service members

whose names are inscribed on The Wall in Washington, D.C., and honor all who served in Vietnam. Beginning October 27, The Wall That Heals will be hosted in Chambers County, Texas by a volunteer group called The Wall That Heals - Chambers County. This endeavor is made possible by support from various entities and organizations including Chambers County, Texas and the Chambers

Visitors can also see a timeline of "The War and The Wall," learn about the legacy of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and see items representative of those left at The Wall in Washington, D.C. Learn more: thewallthathealschamberscounty.com

New Member iOne Benefits Group Celebrates with Baytown Chamber Ribbon Cutting

BAYTOWN – Team members from iOne Benefits group, local business owners and Baytown Chamber staff and Ambassadors gathered at the Chamber Office Wednesday morning to welcome iOne to the Chamber with a ribbon cutting ceremony. iOne Benefits helps employers establish benefits such as life, health, dental insurance and more. They also offer benefits for independent contractors and can assist with benefits compliance.

iOne Benefits operates remotely in Baytown for now but they have plans to open an of-

fice in the near future. To inquire about their services, call 877-210-0005 or visit www.ionebenefits.com.

About the Baytown Chamber

The Baytown Chamber of Commerce is a 501 (c) 6 premier business organization representing 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.



Pictured Left to Right: Charlotte Oldbury, Ayshe Tayfun, Julie DeTorre, Michele Gill, Tracy Davis, Shane Martin, Chase Watson, Karla Opryshek, Jesus Rodriguez, Christine DiCosimo, Mike Neb

Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown

Could Herniated Disc Be Causing Your Arm or Leg Pain?

You pick up a package on your doorstep — and you're surprised by how heavy it is — but you manage it anyway. The next thing you know, the dull ache in your lower back suddenly turns into a sharp pain running down the back of your leg.

Could it be a herniated disc?

"Spine arthritis is often the result of a gradual, age-related wear and tear called disc degeneration," explains Dr. Camron Saifi orthopedic spine surgeon at Houston Methodist Baytown. "A herniated disc in the lumbar or lower back is common, but discs in the neck can also herniate. The thoracic or mid-back discs are rarely affected." **WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF A HERNIATED DISC?**

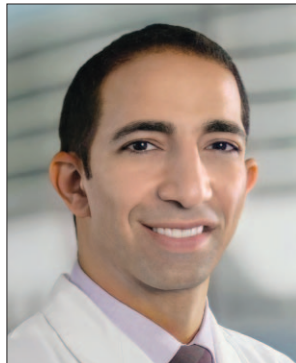
The spinal column consists of vertebrae separated by softer, cushiony discs. A herniated disc oc-

curs when that softer material slips outside the vertebral column and presses against nerves causing pain.

Symptoms of a herniated disc include:

- *Arm or leg pain, depending on the location of the affected disc, that can radiate from the buttock to the foot or through the shoulder and arm
- *Numbness or tingling in the limb that is served by the nerve the disc is pressing against
- *Weakness in the muscles served by the affected nerve, causing you to stumble or have difficulty lifting or holding items

HOW IS A HERNIATED DISC TREATED?
"Treatment varies based on your overall health, age, activity level and severity of the symptoms. Initially, a short period of rest and pain medications, such as anti-



Dr. Saifi Camron C

inflammatory drugs or painkillers, may be followed by physical therapy," explains Saifi.

Taking into consideration your condition, physical therapists may combine exercise with:

- *Electrical stimulation
- *Heat or ice treatment
- *Traction (a mechanism to pull vertebrae back into place and hold them there)

As the pain improves, physical therapists will teach you core-strengthening exercises to help avoid

a recurrence. Generally, most people's symptoms improve within a month of nonsurgical treatment.

"If physical therapy doesn't provide relief, steroid injections may help control the pain," Saifi adds.

These injections, given in the doctor's office, reduce swelling and inflammation around the disc to relieve symptoms. Your doctor may use X-ray or fluoroscopy to locate where the injection is needed.

WHEN IS SURGERY NEEDED TO FIX A HERNIATED DISC?

"For patients whose symptoms do not subside with other treatments, surgery may be necessary," Saifi says.

Your doctor may recommend surgery if:

- *Symptoms haven't improved after six weeks of nonsurgical treatment
- *A disc fragment lodges in your spinal canal and presses on a nerve, causing

progressive weakness

*You have difficulty performing basic activities, such as standing or walking

In most cases, the surgeon removes the protruding section of the disc. Rarely, the entire disc must be removed, and the vertebrae fused with metal hardware to stabilize the spine. Your surgeon could also suggest implanting an artificial disc.

Dr. Saifi is hosting a webinar to discuss neck and back issues. He will discuss the causes and symptoms, how to prevent them, as well as treatment and rehabilitation options. The webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26th at noon. You can register by visiting join.houstonmethodist.org/backpain-baytown or call 281.428.2273.

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OPINION PAGE

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OPINION

Harris County Judge
Lina Hidalgo



Judge Hidalgo comments on Budget stand-off

October 14 2022

On September 13th, two Harris County Commissioners declined to show up to a vital Commissioners Court meeting to approve the budget and funding for the next fiscal year for all departments and services across Harris County. Due to the Commissioners’ intentional absence, Court did not reach quorum, or the required four commissioners present. The result is that the Harris County budget will revert to over \$200 million less than what had been meticulously planned for by our departments. When the Commissioners had more chances to appear in Court and finally approve the budget on September 27th and October 11th, they again declined to attend.

My colleagues’ absence would force Harris Health System to operate with a deficit of roughly \$45 million this year. Patients at Harris Health hospitals and clinics would have to be turned away, and private hospitals would have to absorb the demand for care, meaning emergency room wait times would get even longer at private hospitals across the County. The deficit would lead to delays to the expansion of operations at the Quentin Mease facility, impeding nearly 100 colonoscopies (cancer screenings) per day from happening. We currently have a 3,000 person backlog for these cancer screenings.

The shortfall of funds would affect our law enforcement — the loss of funding for the Sheriff’s patrol is the equivalent of 175 entry-level deputies. An entire cadet class of 60 new police officers may have to cancel their start date next month. And 35 additional investigators that were budgeted for would not be added to the Sheriff’s team. All frontline law enforcement officers will only receive a portion of the substantial raises that had been promised them and budgeted for them. The District Attorney would have a \$5.4 million reduction, which is equivalent to not having at least 39 frontline prosecutor positions.

Our Veteran’s Services Department will have to eliminate \$300,000 of their services budget. The Children’s Assessment Center, a facility that provides services to the most vulnerable among us – sexually abused children – would see a reduction of nearly half a million dollars in funding that could go towards outreach and reaching children in need. Our public health system could stand to lose up to \$150 million in grants that require matching funds for food safety, water quality, and virus-fighting programs.


In short, the results would be devastating to Harris County. The consequences would be felt by vulnerable children and adults, frontline employees and institutions doing the hard work of providing quality services on tight budgets. The Commissioners will have another opportunity this coming Tuesday, October 18 to show up to the hearing, debate the options, and participate in a vote. I urge my colleagues to attend and fully fund these vital and necessary services for our residents. The funding also amounts to a 1% tax rate cut, the lowest tax rate in years.

Lives, jobs, and services our residents depend on for their health and safety are on the line. Let’s pass this budget.

Sincerely,
Lina Hidalgo
Harris County Judge

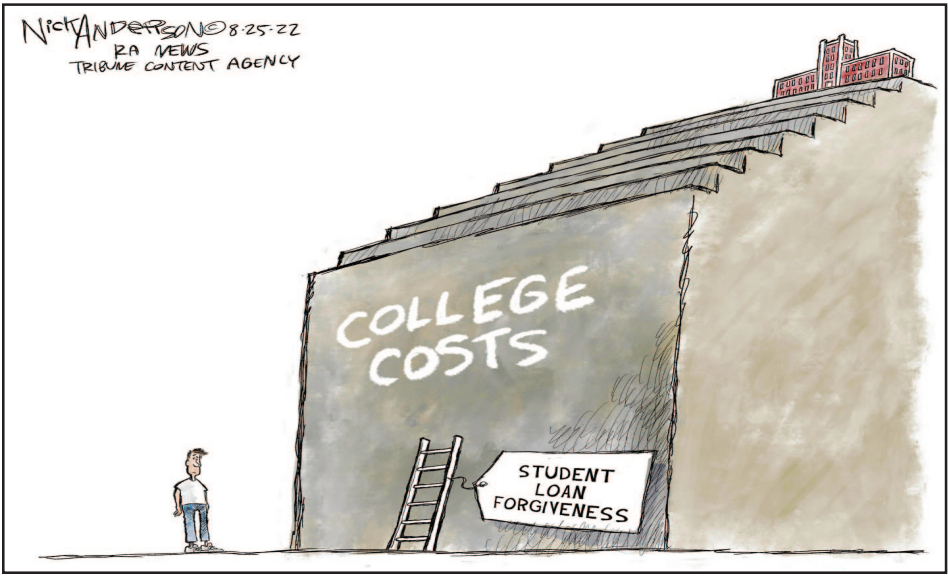
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Americanisms



“Death and taxes and child-birth! There’s never any convenient time for any of them!”
— Margaret Mitchell

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Texans Urged to Get Flu Shot

Flu season is under-way, and health officials are urging Texans to get their vaccinations as soon as possible, since it takes about two weeks for the shot to take effect.

“Because influenza can be a very serious disease, we recommend that all individuals aged 6 months and older get their flu vaccine every year,” said Dr. Jennifer Shuford, interim commissioner for the Texas Department of State Health Services.

“The flu vaccines for the 2022-2023 flu season have undergone substantial changes since last season, which will allow them to better protect against the flu viruses that are currently circulating,” she said. “So it is important to go get this season’s flu vaccine before flu activity increases even more in Texas.”

People over the age of 65 have a choice of three recommended higher-dose flu vaccines, which are considered more effective for this age group. People can also safely get a COVID-19 vaccine or booster at the same time they get the influenza vaccine, Shuford said.

Flu shots are widely available. To find out where, go to [Vaccines.gov](#).

COLORFUL FALL FOLIAGE LOOKS UNLIKELY

With much of the state still abnormally dry, or in some stage of drought, trees across the state are struggling with the effects of high temperatures and little rain. That means it is likely this year’s fall foliage won’t be as vivid as usual, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service.

“Many trees put on fewer, smaller leaves this spring or started to change color or prematurely drop their leaves in the summer,” said Karl Flocke, with the forest



service. “All of this will most likely lead to fall colors that are less impressive than in years past.”

Deciduous trees drop their leaves in the autumn to conserve energy. However, due to the drought, some trees are already dropping their leaves before the green chlorophyll begins breaking down, which is what results in fall colors. Other trees still have their leaves, but they have already turned dead and brown.

There are other long-term effects from drought besides a lack of pretty colors, including a higher vulnerability to wood-boring insects. It could take months to determine the ultimate toll from the drought on the state’s trees.

EMERGENCY FOOD BENEFITS AGAIN EXTENDED

More than \$329 million in emergency food benefits are being extended by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for October, marking 30 straight months of additional benefits.

All SNAP households will receive a minimum of \$95 in emergency allotments, in addition to their regular benefits. About 1.6 million Texas households benefit from the allotments. More than \$8.2 billion in emer-

gency benefits have been provided by USA to Texans since April 2020.

“HHSC is proud to continue helping Texans who need a helping hand to put food on their table,” said Wayne Salter if the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, which administers the program.

SCHOOL SAFETY CHIEF APPOINTED

A new position of state chief of school safety and security has been created following the mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde. Former Secret Service agent John P. Scott is filling that post.

“Protecting Texas children and making our schools safer for all are top priorities, and John Scott is uniquely qualified to help lead our efforts ensuring their safety and security in Texas schools,” Gov. Greg Abbott said. “Chief Scott’s wealth of experience in security and intelligence and exemplary service to our nation make him the perfect fit as the new Chief of School Safety and Security.”

Scott served in a number of positions in the Secret Service. He will report directly to Mike Morath, Texas commissioner of education.

UVALDE SCHOOL DISTRICT SUSPENDS ENTIRE FORCE

The Uvalde school district has suspended its entire police force and placed two administrators on leave, following withering criticism to law enforcement response to the late May shooting, when an 18-year-old gunman killed 19 students and two teachers.

The Texas Standard reported the action came after investigations revealed that officers waited more than an hour before engaging the shooter, as students and teachers pleaded with 911 dispatchers to send help. The shooter ultimately was killed by law enforcement officers.

Family members of the victims camped out at district headquarters for 10 days demanding action, the report said.

COVID-19 CASES CONTINUE TO DROP

The Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University reported new cases of COVID-19 in Texas during the past week dropped once again to 14,225, with 104 new deaths. The Texas Department of State Health Services reported 1,359 lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations across the state, down slightly from the previous week.

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By
Carrie Classon

Shelley’s Hats

This past week we attended the memorial for my husband Peter’s oldest sister, Shelley.

Shelley went through a long battle with cancer, and Peter lost his second sister in two years. The pandemic had just started, her husband had just died, and Shelley moved 900 miles across the country to live near her kids. Then, almost immediately, she discovered she was gravely ill. She moved in with her son, Joel, and daughter-in-law, Dani, and never left.

Shelley had several operations that did not go well, then chemo, which did not make her feel better, and finally she died peacefully, surrounded by the family who loved her so much. Meanwhile, all the things she packed up in the moving van remained in a storage unit.

Shelley was a woman of style. She was a striking beauty all her life. She dressed in bright colors and coordinated every outfit with care and, whenever the occasion called for it, she wore a hat. So I thought I’d wear a hat to Shelley’s memorial.

I am not generally a hat-wearing person. But I like to dress up, and a day dedicated to remembering Shelley seemed like an occasion that called for it. So I ordered a fancy black hat. Peter liked the idea, and emailed Dani.

“Did Shelley have some other hats you could bring to the service that people could wear if they wanted?” he wrote.

He got no response. This was unlike Dani. Dani has the biggest heart of anyone I know. When Shelley was in the nursing home for several months, Dani organized it so that Shelley had a visitor every single day she was there. Dani planned parties for Shelley’s birthday, took her to all of her doctor appointments and cooked for her every day.

“I screwed up,” Peter said. “I didn’t mean to make more work for Dani!” I decided to wear my hat, regardless. I knew Peter’s ex-wife planned to attend, which caused me a twinge of concern. She is a reserved and sensible person, two adjectives rarely applied to me, and was unlikely to show up in headgear the size of a hula hoop. No matter, I thought. Shelley would have liked it.

On the day of the memorial, we walked into the funeral home and saw Dani, wearing a hat. Next to her was her daughter, also in a hat. As I entered the lobby, I saw hats on the back of the chairs, over the lamps, sitting on the tables. They were everywhere, and they were all Shelley’s hats.

“I wasn’t sure I was going to do it,” Dani confessed. “That’s why I didn’t answer you. They were all in storage. But one day, I had a couple of hours, and I said, ‘what the heck!’ I had to empty about a third of the storage unit until I got to this huge washing-machine box. It was filled with hats and hatboxes. I started to empty it, but I couldn’t reach the bottom. So I climbed in and kept emptying it. Then I couldn’t get out!”

Dani didn’t tell us how she eventually got out of the washer box. It was apparently not dignified.

But the result was magnificent. Every woman wore a hat. Everyone took their hat home as a memory of Shelley, and I can only imagine how delighted she would have been.

Funerals tend to end up looking alike, and we all go to too many of them. But no one will ever forget the sea of colorful hats, a little bit of Shelley in every one.

Till next time,
Carrie
[CarrieClasson.com](#).

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Entered as Periodicals Clats at Highlands Post Office, Highlands, TX 77562. Under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Published 50 weeks per year, on Thursday, by Grafikpress Corp., 5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057. Opinions in this paper are those of the authors, and not necessarily this newspaper’s. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to [grafikstar@aol.com](#).

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District III’s “Top Cop,”

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

has 16 less officers than two years ago, he still is able to have 4 to 5 patrol cars each day on the east side of the San Jacinto River, he noted. He also indicated that the Highlands area is not what his office considers a “hot zone” of crime, but that Channel-view is.

Douglas talks about the general attitude people have toward policing and crime, and how it has changed in the 31 years he has been an officer. In the past, there was more respect for officers, and minor laws could be enforced.

Today with a “bad” bail bond program, too many criminals are released back to the streets, and many crimes such as shootings and burglaries continue because of this.

He noted that our jails are full, with Harris County jail holding 10,000 now, when it was at capacity of 8000 just a few years ago.

Douglas said that policing is more difficult today also because the public attitude is more critical and demanding, and often his officers are criticized for just making normal arrests.

In a Q&A session that followed, he was asked why they didn’t write more tickets for speeding, drag racing, and passing school buses on local streets. Douglas lamented that when taken to court, there is often no enforcement or judgement. He indicated this has made his job harder and encouraged more crime.

Nevertheless, Captain Douglas said he likes to meet citizens in his district, and loves his job and finds it rewarding to help keep the peace and help residents.

FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 8: Texas hopes good times continue against Oklahoma State: Texans look for second straight win when they visit Las Vegas

Things are starting to heat up in the Big 12 and Texas fans are starting to believe their team might just be back after their 49-0 pasting of arch rival Oklahoma two weeks ago in the Cotton Bowl.

UT fans will learn a lot more about Steve Sarkisian’s team this weekend when the No. 22-ranked Longhorns travel to Stillwater to face No. 8-ranked Oklahoma State.

Sure, the ‘Horns decimated a struggling OU team, but this week they face the best team in the state as Mike Gundy’s team won its first five games of the season before their showdown at TCU last Saturday.

Speaking of TCU, the No. 13-ranked Horned Frogs take on No. 17-ranked Kansas State in another key Big 12 contest on Saturday. And just for good measure, No. 19-ranked Kansas heads to Waco to face defending Big 12 champ Baylor in a key game for both teams. Two weeks ago, Kansas suffered its first loss of the season at home against TCU (38-31) and also lost starting QB Jalon Daniels (1,072 passing yards, 11 TDs/ 335 rushing yards, 5 TDs). Daniels sustained a shoulder injury against the Frogs and his availability for the Baylor game is unknown at this time. If he can’t go, backup QB Jason Bean (286 yards, 4 TDs) will be called on to lead the offense.

This year’s league race is shaping up as a real dogfight and it’s very likely that the two teams who reach the Big 12 title game on Dec. 3 in Arlington could have two losses. The league is that competitive and deep this year.

While a lot of attention will be focused on those two games, there’s a good one on tap in the Pac 12 as No. 11-ranked UCLA, one of the surprise teams thus far this season, travels to Eugene to take on No. 12-ranked Oregon in a key conference game. UCLA, under the direction of head coach Chip Kelly, won its first six games of the season after finishing 8-4 a year ago. It appears Kelly has turned the program around. The trip to Eugene will let Bruins fans know just how much the program has improved. After losing their opener against Georgia, the Ducks have run off five straight wins and look like the class of the Pac 12 North.

In the NFL, the Texans travel to Sin City to face the Raiders. Two weeks ago, Lovie Smith’s team picked up its first win of the year with a 13-6 victory at Jacksonville. They had last week off to prepare for the Vegas game and to rest up for the remainder of the season.

The Cowboys host a hapless Detroit team on Sunday in Arlington. Two weeks ago, Mike McCarthy’s team won its fourth straight game with Cooper Rush at QB with a 22-10 dismantling of the Los Angeles Rams, the Super Bowl champs . Once again, the defense was dominant coming up with five more sacks (20 for the season) as Micah Parsons led the way with two more sacks while teammate DeMarcus Lawrence returned a Matthew Stafford fumble for the first score of the game to get the Cowboys going.

Starting quarterback Dak Prescott should return for this game, which should open things up for the offense. Rush has done an admirable job while Prescott nursed a fractured thumb and if Prescott struggles, I would not be surprised if McCarthy goes back to him at some point this season.

In other games of interest, the Colts visit the Titans in a key AFC South contest for both teams, while the Chiefs visit San Francisco in a rematch of Super Bowl LIV.

Before we take a look at this week’s game, let’s review last week’s record. Another 6-6 week brought the season record to just 39-33 (54%)

Now, onto this weekend games.

NCAA

Texas at Oklahoma State - No. 22-ranked Texas hits the road to take on No. 8-ranked Oklahoma State in a key Big 12 contest for both teams. Two



weeks ago, Steve Sarkisian’s team blew out Oklahoma, 49-0, while OSU came back to defeat Texas Tech, 41-31. Both teams have potent offenses, which means this could turn into a shootout. The Texas offense got a huge boost with the return of QB Quinn Ewers (648 yards 6 TDs) after he missed the ‘Horns’ last three games recovering from a shoulder injury he sustained in Week 2 against Alabama. While Ewers return has been welcomed, the UT offense is led by running back Bijan Robinson (645 yards, 11 total TDs). Robinson should have success against a spotty OSU defense. Look for UT to establish Robinson early, which should open up Ewers to make plays downfield to wideouts Xavier Worthy (24 receptions, 360 yards, 4 TDs) and Jordan Whittington (26 receptions, 354 yards). The Cowboys have the league’s most experienced QB in Spencer Sanders (1,394 passing yards, 12 TDs/ 241 rushing yards, 6 TDs). OSU has a solid running back in Dominic Richardson (355 yards, 4 TDs) and a big-play wide receiver in Braylon Johnson (17 receptions, 3 TDs). If Texas is going to be serious about being in the Big 12 title hunt, they need a marquee road win and I think they get it this Saturday in Stillwater. My pick, Texas 36, Oklahoma State 33

Kansas at Baylor: No. 19-ranked Kansas hits the road and heads to Waco to take on the defending Big 12 champs, the Baylor Bears, in another key conference tilt. Kansas has been one of the best stories of the 2022 season. The Jayhawks won their first five games of the season before losing at home two weeks ago to TCU, 38-31. KU not only lost the game, but also starting QB Jalon Daniels (1,072 passing yards, 11 TDs/335 rushing yards, 5 TDs) to a shoulder injury. If he’s unable to go, backup QB Jason Bean will get the start. Bean has thrown for 286 yards and 4 TDs and if he starts, he will rely on running back Devin Daniels (421 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receiver Luke Grimm (29 receptions, 281 yards, 3 TDs). Baylor will rely on QB Blake Shappen (11,118 yards, 9 TDs) and wide receiver Monray Baldwin (12 receptions, 261 yards, 3 TDs) to make plays for the Bears. If Baylor is going to defend its Big 12 title, they can’t afford another loss after losing their conference opener to Oklahoma State. My pick, Baylor 24, Kansas 21

NFL

Detroit at Dallas: The Lions have been one of the highest scoring teams thus far this season, but two weeks ago, the offense was stymied during its 29-0 loss at New England. Things won’t get any easier for Jared Goff (1,355 yards, 11 TDs) and the rest of the Lions offense when they take on one of the league’s best defenses. In their first five games (four wins), the Dallas defense has recorded 20 sacks (second best to SF’s 21) as second-year linebacker Micah Parsons (6 sacks) is becoming one of, if not the best, defensive players in the entire NFL. Two weeks ago in their 22-10 win over the Rams in LA, the Dallas ‘D’ recorded another five sacks and defensive end DeMarcus Lawrence returned a Matthew Stafford fumble for a touchdown. The Dallas offense has been doing just enough to win with backup QB Cooper Rush (839 yards, 4 TDs). The running game of Ezekiel Elliott (305 yards, 1 TD) and Tony Pollard (248 yards, 2 TDs) has been efficient. Starting QB Dak Prescott should return for this game, so look for him to carve up a porous Detroit defense with big downfield plays to CeeDee Lamb (25 receptions, 341 yards, 2 TDs) and the rest of the Dal-

las receivers. My pick, Dallas 33, Detroit 12

Indianapolis at Tennessee: A key AFC South contest pits the Colts against the Titans in Nashville. Two weeks ago, Indy won an ugly 12-9 game at Denver as QB Matt Ryan (1,376 yards, 4 TDs/5 interceptions) continued to struggle as the Colts new quarterback. Ryan must improve his play and do a better job of protecting the football. It would help if running back Jonathan Taylor (38 yards, 1 TD) would get untracked. The Titans won three straight heading into their bye week and it appears running back Derrick Henry (408 yards, 5 TDs) is looking like his old self after missing the last eight games a year ago with a broken foot. Henry’s success running the ball makes QB Ryan Tannehill (965 yards, 6 TDs) a more efficient passer, especially on play-action passes. Look for the Titans defense to make things difficult for Ryan as the Titans begin to emerge as the favorites in the AFC South. My pick, Tennessee 30, Indianapolis 23

Houston at Las Vegas: The Texans return from their bye week and head to Las Vegas looking for their second straight win after their 13-6 road win at Jacksonville on Oct. 9. The Texans appear to have one of the best rookie running backs in the league in Dameon Pierce (412 yards, 2 TDs). Pierce is a powerful runner with a nice burst. He rushed for 99 yards and scored the game-winning TD against the Jags. If Pierce can continue to produce on the ground, that should help QB Davis Mills (1,048 yards, 5 TDs) make plays in the passing game to Nico Collins (15 receptions, 272 yards) and Brandin Cooks. The Raiders have the better offense, but lost four of their first five games. They dropped a tough one two weeks ago on Monday Night Football at KC. Look for QB Derek Carr (1,279 yards, 8 TDs), running back Josh Jacobs (490 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver DaVante Adams (29 receptions, 414 yards, 5 TDs) to light up the Houston defense as the Raiders serve as inhospitable hosts in Sin City. My pick, Las Vegas 34, Houston 18

New Orleans at Arizona: Week 7 of the NFL season kicks off with Thursday Night Football when the Saints visit the Cardinals in an important game for both teams fledgling playoff chances. The winner of this one remains in the hunt in the NFL Wild Card hunt, while the loser will probably be on the inside looking out as far as the postseason goes. The Saints dropped three of their first five games, but got back on track two weeks ago with a wild win over Seattle. Starting QB Jameis Winston (858 yards, 4 TDs/5 interceptions) could be back for this game, but if he’s still out, backup Andy Dalton (423 yards, 2 TDs) will get the call. Either QB will look to make plays to rookie wide receiver Chris Olave (25 receptions, 389 yards, 2 TDs). It appears running back Alvin Kamara is back after missing three weeks with an injury. His return is big for the NO offense. The Cardinals also lost two of their first five games, but have been in all of their contests. The Arizona offense will get a big lift with the return of wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins, who missed the team’s first six games for violating the NFL’s substance abuse policy. Hopkins’ return should be a big boost to QB Kyler Murray (1,241 passing yards, 6 TDs/133 rushing yards, 2 TDs). Hopkins will pair with speedy wideout Marquise Brown (38 receptions, 417 yards, 3 TDs) to give the NO defense fits come Thursday night. My pick, Arizona 26, New Orleans 23

SJRC Meeting Oct. 25,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

back to share with the EPA.

THEA IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

In the meantime, THEA continues to inform the community of the risk that the Superfund Site presents until it is fully removed. Last week the THEA team was at the Highlands Jamboree, an annual celebration of the founding of Highlands.

Several people we talked to at the Jamboree didn’t know there were Superfund sites or fish consumption advisories along the San Jacinto River, once again driving home the need for ongoing communications with people impacted by toxins in and around the river.

OCT. 24-NOV. 4 Early Voting in Highlands area

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY CENTER will be an early voting location & Voting Day location

November General Election - Early Voting: (Tentative Voting Hours)
October 24 (Monday): 7am – 7pm
October 25 (Tuesday) – October 29 (Saturday): 7am – 7pm
October 30 (Sunday): 12pm – 7pm
October 31 (Monday) – November 2 (Wednesday): 7am – 7pm
November 3 (Thursday): 7am – 10pm
November 4 (Friday): 7am – 7pm

November General Election - Election Day: (Voting Hours)
November 8 (Tuesday): 7am – 7p



ELECTION November 8, 2022

- The Board of Directors of Crosby Municipal Utility District has called a **maintenance tax election** for November 8, 2022 at the Crosby Branch Library at 135 Hare Road, Crosby, Texas 77532 or at any Harris County polling place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- The District’s operations are funded solely by water and sewer rates. The District’s current taxes can only be used for paying back bonds used to fund large construction projects. The Board is focused on operating efficiently and has not raised water and sewer rates in the last 18 years, however rising costs (salaries, repairs, parts, fuel, electricity, etc.) that affect everyone will require the District to increase revenues this year.
- For example, the District purchases raw water to treat for drinking water from the San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) and SJRA has raised it cost 146% over the last 18 years.
- The purpose of the election is to provide a second revenue source for the District’s operations by voter authorization of a maintenance tax. Over 95% of all utility districts in Harris County have authorized maintenance taxes. These districts use the maintenance tax collections to supplement water and sewer revenues to reduce increases in water and sewer rates.
- The election would authorize a maintenance tax of up to \$0.25 per \$100 of assessed value; however, if approved the Board of Directors of the District does not anticipate levying the full \$0.25 maintenance tax at this time, but something in the range of \$0.05 (which would be \$50 per year for a \$100,000 house or approximately \$4 per month).
- Without a maintenance tax, the District will be forced to increase its water and sewer rates significantly.
- Crosby MUD debt service tax rate has decreased from \$0.570 in 2013 to \$0.452 today, a 20% drop over the last 9 years. This demonstrates that the Board of Directors, all of whom pay the District’s water and sewer rates as well as property taxes, manage the District construction projects conservatively.
- Early voting is at Crosby Branch Library at 135 Hare Road, Crosby, Texas 77532 or at any other Harris County early voting polling place the following days and times:

Monday, October 24 through Saturday, October 29: 7:00 am – 7:00 pm
Sunday, October 30: 12:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Monday, October 31 through Wednesday, November 2: 7:00 am – 7:00 pm
Thursday, November 3: 7:00 am – 10:00 pm
Friday, November 4: 7:00 am – 7:00 pm
- For more information, please see the District’s website at www.crosbymud.org or call 281-328-4242. We strongly encourage you to vote at the election.

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judges fill several pages of the ballot.

At a more local level, school board trustees will be voted on in Channelview, Crosby, Huffman, Sheldon, and Lone Star College.

Bond issues for MUD districts are slated in New-
port and Crosby.

Bond Issues include Harris County Proposi-
tions that would raise \$1.2 billion for Public Safety, Roads and Drainage, and Parks, a City of Houston Proposition that would raise over \$478 for a mul-
titude of improvements, and Sheldon School Dis-
trict Bond proposals total-
ling over \$247 million for facility expansion.

Some well-known office holders that are being challenged this election cycle include Congress persons Dan Crenshaw, Lizzie Fletcher, Sheila Jackson Lee, Troy Nehls, Sylvia Garcia, and Brian Babin.

Also challenged are Governor Greg Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, and the Attorney General Ken Paxton.

State Senators facing a challenge include Brandon Creighton, John Whit-
mire, and Joan Huffman. State Representatives challenged include Briscoe Cain.

Harris County office holders that are chal-
lenged include District Clerk Marilyn Burgess, County Clerk Teneshia Hudspeth, County Com-
missioners Pct. 2 Adrian Garcia, Pct. 4 Jack Cagle, and Justice of the Peace Pct. 3 Place 2 Lucia Bates.

CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR CAMPAIGN IN HOUSTON

Both Governor candi-
dates made personal ap-
pearance in the Houston area in the last week, at-
tempting to garner more votes in this urban area.

Beto O'Rourke ap-
peared at a rally in a com-
munity center gym in the North Forest area on Sat-
urday, October 8th, and then again in Bellaire Chi-
natown area on Saturday, October 15th. His cam-

paigh message was ex-
tremely personal, and at North Forest he related stories that were aimed at persons in the audience that he seemed to know quite a bit about.

Beto talked about creat-
ing great jobs that pay a living wage, investing in world-class public schools, expanding health care so that more people can afford to access a doctor, restoring a woman's choice of re-
productive care, and lowering living costs with-
in the state.

Beto said "Texans will overcome Abbott's extrem-
ism -- from the total ban on abortion with no exceptions for rape or incest, to de-
funding public schools, driving up inflation, and blocking commonsense measures to keep kids and communities safe from gun violence."

The rally or town hall in North Forest was attended by several hundred people, and the press and other politicians and Super Neighborhood officials.

The rally in Bellaire Chi-

natown was meant to ad-
dress another demograph-
ic segment of the voters, the Asian community. The rally was held on the lawn in front of the Southern Chinese News building on Bellaire Boulevard. Beto's message was similar, but tailored to a different eth-
nicity and included com-
ments in immigration policy and economic pro-
grams from the federal governement.

In contrast, Greg Ab-
bott's recent meeting in Houston was with busi-
ness leaders, Port officials, and leaders of the Energy industry, in a conference room at the offices of the Port of Houston. Abbott spoke about Texas "sur-
ging economy and jobs growth in the energy in-
dustry."

Abbott said "Texas is proud to be the nation's number one exporting state for 20 years in a row, and we're beating our com-
petitors in other states be-
cause of the efficiency and effectiveness of Port Hous-
ton," said Governor Ab-
bott. "Texas' economy is booming, but our state—and Port Houston—could unleash its full economic potential if the federal gov-
ernment would get out of the way and rollback un-
necessary regulations."

In a roundtable discus-
sion that followed, with energy leaders present, Abbott touted Texas' con-
tinued cominance in U.S. exports and highlighted Port Houston and its many companies' signigicant role in achieving that distinction. His message seemed to indicate that despite environmental threats to the industry, Abbott backed full support of practices.

Texas Comptroller returns \$309 million in Unclaimed Property

(AUSTIN)—The Tex-
as Comptroller's office approved and paid out a record \$309 million in unclaimed property dur-
ing the past fiscal year, Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced today.

This is the third time the Comptroller's office has returned \$300 mil-
lion or more in un-
claimed property in a fiscal year. In fiscal 2019, the Comptroller's office returned a then-record \$308 million to its right-
ful property owners; in fiscal 2020, the Comp-
troller's office returned \$300 million in un-
claimed property.

"The \$309 million rep-
resents more than 160,000 claims paid to their rightful owners, and the fact that my of-
fice has returned \$2.1 billion to Texans since I became Comptroller is a testament to the hard-
working folks in our Un-
claimed Property Division," Hegar said. "I encourage everyone to visit ClaimItTexas.org to see if the state is holding some of their unclaimed property."

In addition, the Comp-
troller's office will be im-
plementing a new way to quickly return un-
claimed property to own-
ers this year — sending a check to the owner without requiring them to file a claim. This pro-
cess was authorized by Texas House Bill 1514 in 2021 and will be limited to unclaimed properties

under \$5,000 that the agency reasonably be-
lieves it can link to the correct owner.

The Comptroller's of-
fice has returned more than \$4 billion in un-
claimed property to its owners since Texas' un-
claimed property pro-
gram began in 1962. The state is currently holding more than \$7 billion in cash and other valuables through the program.

The \$309 million in un-
claimed property re-
turned in fiscal 2022 includes forgotten utility deposits or other refunds, insurance proceeds, pay-
roll checks, cashier's checks, dividends, miner-
al royalties, dormant bank accounts and aban-
doned safe-deposit box contents. Businesses gen-
erally turn property over to the unclaimed prop-
erty program after it has been considered dormant for one to five years.

There is generally no statute of limitations for unclaimed property the state holds, which means there's no time limit for owners to file a claim — they can do so at any time.

For more information about the unclaimed property program, or to search for unclaimed property and begin the claims process, visit the Comptroller's unclaimed property website, ClaimItTexas.org, or call 800-321-2274 (CASH).

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 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



The Lodge At Pine Creek Presents Our

FALL FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 29th | 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Please Call 832-572-5592 to RSVP

Join The Lodge at Pine Creek as we celebrate autumn at our Fall Festival. Invite your friends and loved ones to enjoy numerous family-friendly activities, including pumpkin carvings, live outdoor music, cake walk, bounce house and delicious Oktoberfest foods. All proceeds from this event will go to Breast Cancer Awareness.

INDEPENDENT & ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY CARE



THE LODGE AT PINE CREEK

BY ABBY SENIOR LIVING

825 Hunt Road | Baytown, TX
832-572-5592 | LodgeAtPineCreek.com

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Convenient, customized care — close to work or home.

Our Houston Methodist primary care doctors in Baytown and Mont Belvieu provide personalized care for you and your family, including physicals, immunizations and preventive health services.

Many of our practices:

- Provide in-person and virtual visits with online scheduling
- Offer same-day sick visits
- Are conveniently located close to work or home
- Accept most major insurance plans

Your health and safety are our priority. We are taking every necessary precaution to keep you safe.

