

COVID Booster Available,
Page 6

Free Pie at Lodge of Pine
Creek, Page 7

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star Courier

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2022

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

OCT. 24-NOV. 4
Early Voting East
Harris County

Locations:

May Community Center
2100 Wolf Rd 77336
Crosby Branch Library
135 Hare Rd 77532
Riley Chambers Comm. Center
808 1/2 Magnolia Ave 77532
Highlands Community Center
604 Highlands Woods Dr 77562
J.D. Walker Community Center
7613 Wade Rd 77521
Baytown Community Center
2407 Market St 77520

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) - thru November 2 (Wednesday): 7am - 7pm
November 3 (Thursday): 7am - 10pm
November 4 (Friday): 7am - 7pm

November General Election - Election Day:

(Voting Hours)
Nov. 8 (Tuesday): 7am - 7p

NOV. 8, TUESDAY
No School on
Election Day

The following School Districts **WILL NOT** hold class on Election Day:
ALDINE
GALENA PARK
GOOSE CREEK
HUMBLE
The following School Districts **WILL** have class on Election Day:
CHANNELVIEW
CROSBY
DEER PARK
HOUSTON
SHELDON

Waste Pits work to begin Nov. 9

HIGHLANDS - Members of the San Jacinto River Coalition, and others of the public met last Tuesday night at the San Jacinto/Highlands Community Center to hear an update on Waste Pits remediation plans from THEA director Jackie Medcalf.

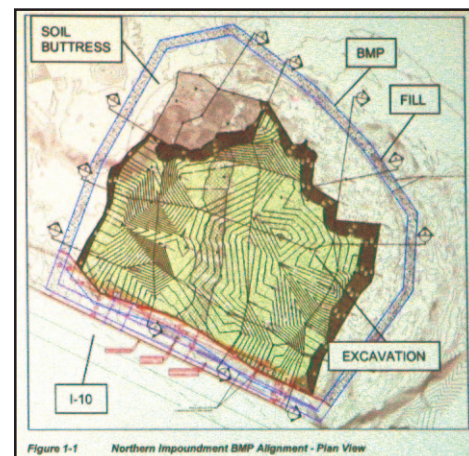
Jackie reported that the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) had informed the Responsible Parties that they would not receive any more extensions or delays, and work on the Southern Impoundment must start by November 9th.

This work will require excavation of designated areas in the industrial area south of I-10, to a depth of 10 feet or un-

Continued. See Waste Pits, Page 5



Jackie Medcalf updates the SJR Coalition on plans to start Remediation work on the Southern Impoundment on November 9.



The 90% Remedial Plan for the North Impoundment has a modified cofferdam wall. See more on Page 5

CHANNELVIEW TO HONOR QB HURTS AT CELEBRATION

Eagles QB plays in Houston Thursday night

CHANNELVIEW - The community and the School District want to honor the accomplishments of their favorite son, Quarterback Jalen Hurts, with a huge public celebration this Thursday night, November 3rd at Ray Maddy Memorial Stadium.

The public is invited to the party, even though Hurts will be playing that evening in NRG Stadium and is not expected to attend the CVISD celebration. A video message from Jalen Hurts will take place on the big scoreboard screen at the Channelview ISD stadium.

The Event is in honor of Jalen Hurts and his return to the greater Houston area since graduating from Channelview High School in 2016, Channelview ISD will host a mass communi-



ty celebration. Hurts' team, the Philadelphia Eagles, will be playing the Houston Texans that evening.

The Celebration is Thursday, November 3, 2022 from 5:00 - 6:30 pm.



It takes place at Ray Maddy Memorial Stadium, 828 Sheldon Road, Channelview, TX 77530.

What: Attendees will be able to enter the event at no cost and have the opportunity to receive free food

for families, free school supplies, backpacks and books while supplies last.

A video message from Jalen Hurts will be shown at the event as well as a Proclamation presentation from Harris County Pre-

sident 3.

Performances by the Channelview High School Marching Band and Chan-
nelettes Dance Team are

CONTINUED. SEE CELEBRATION
FOR JALEN HURTS, PAGE 5

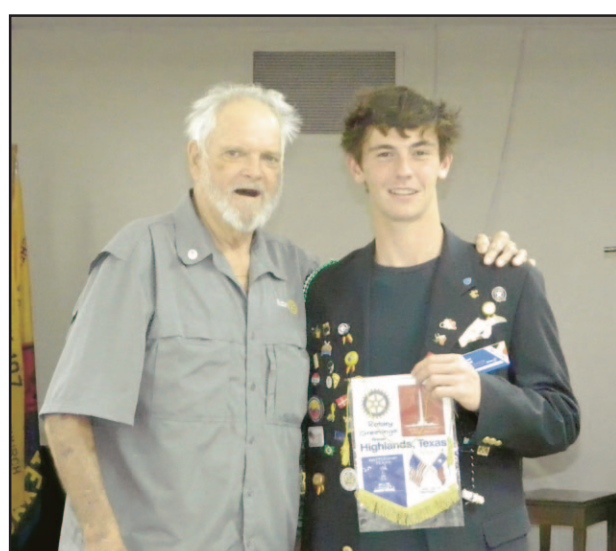
Rotary club hosts Belgian Exchange Student

HIGHLANDS - The Rotary Club continues its long tradition of hosting foreign exchange students, with this year's student from Belgium.

Edouard VanHove arrived in Houston in August, and is staying with the Teel and Cotten families in Highlands. He is attending Goose Creek Memorial High School for the year he is in the U.S.

Edouard is 17 years old, and lives with his 2 sisters in Pietrain, a small town near Brussels, known for raising pigs.

His father is an architect, and his mother a cancer researcher. His grandfather was a District Governor of Rotary in Belgium, and encouraged Edouard to travel. Edouard speaks English, Flemish, and French.



Edouard VanHove, an exchange student from Belgium, is welcomed to Highlands by Rotary President Andy Scott. Edouard holds an Exchange Pennant that he will take back to Belgium for his sponsoring club.

He has traveled quite a bit in North America, and this is his second trip. He has been active in GCM, in

*Continued. See Rotary
Exchange Student, Page 7*



EARLY VOTING starts Oct. 24
ELECTION DAY NOVEMBER 8

Baytown
Deer Park
Crosby

La Porte
Pasadena
Highlands

VOTE
CHUCK
CREWS

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WESTON G. COTTEN

Attorney at Law

O. 281/421-4050
F. 281/533-6032
weston@westoncotten.com

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Community
Resource
CREDIT UNION

CRCU.org/3KHolidays

GOOSE CREEK CISD NEWS

College & Career: Opportunities are Endless in The Goose

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey, APR – Director of Communications

The district's CTE and Counseling and College & Career Readiness departments work year-round to develop engaging and exciting opportunities that allow students of all ages to receive the level of exposure needed to be successful post high school graduation. The departments collaborate on a college and career fair every year and this year was no different. Over 300 students and over 150 parents attended the event that was held at Edward E.F. Franklin Junior School on October 26th.

The carnival-themed event included a trunk or treat with the Baytown Fire Department, GCCISD Police Department and local community and business partners, but the real treat was inside of the courtyard! Several students groups and district departments hosted a myriad of fun games, designed to titillate the senses and encourage group work. The district's Nutrition Services departments, SCTHS academy students and more interacted with the public and provided prizes to the winners. Local businesses such as Exxon-Mobil, Patients ER and Beacon Federal Credit Union along with Lee College, Texas Southern University, Lamar University and LIT used this as a recruiting opportunity.

This event was held the same week as the opening of the High School Options portal for district eighth grade students.



Members of the U.S. Marines Corp used the opportunity to recruit to district students



Members of the Baytown Sterling FFA participated in the carnival during College & Career Night.



Baytown ExxonMobil, a district partner, passed out Halloween treats and performed several STEM experiments. (All photos by Carrie Pryor-Newman)

Be Well with Be Well Baytown on November 5th

Put on your running shoes, gather your family and friends and come out to an event sure to be lots of fun! Families are invited to celebrate Be Well™ Baytown Day, a free public event that brings together families, organizations, and local vendors to promote health and wellness.

The event will be held on Saturday, November 5th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at E.F. Green Junior School, 5737 E. Wallisville Road.

There will be games and fun activities for all ages, fresh produce provided by Hearts and Hands of

Baytown (while supplies last), photos with the school mascot and more.

The event is sponsored by Goose Creek CISD, ExxonMobil and the MD Anderson Cancer Center.

For questions, contact Amanda Kennington at amanda.kennington@gccisd.net.

Highlands Hawks Recognized for Commitment to Student Leadership

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey, APR – Director of Communications

The Student Hawk Council from Highlands Elementary School received the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association's (TEPSA) Student Leadership Award for their continued commitment to student leadership on October 25th during the TEPSA Leaders 'R' Us Workshop, held at the district's Technology Center.

The campus was also the host of the one-day workshop, where attendees from grades four through eight learned how to create a dynamic student leadership team, gained awareness of who they are as leaders, increased their collaboration skills and more. Their advisors also gained skills and resources in several areas, including selecting and recruiting volunteers, creating a strong structure for student officers and representatives, developing a constitution, estab-



Superintendent Dr. Randal O'Brien poses with members of the TEPSA award winning Highlands Elementary School Student Council, principal Blanca Capetillo and student council advisors during the TEPSA event



Stephen F. Austin Elementary School Student Council members and sponsors participate at the TEPSA event held in Goose Creek.

lishing a written election process, developing new and meaningful projects and organizing campus leadership teams.

Since 1999, the TEPSA

Student Council/Leadership Workshops have trained over 40,000 Texas students to be successful leaders on their campuses.

Q: HOW DO WE KEEP COSTS AND CRIME DOWN?

A: BY VOTING ALL THE WAY DOWN THE BALLOT



RE-ELECT COMMISSIONER
ADRIAN GARCIA
Adrian is near the bottom of your very long ballot!

Before Adrian Garcia became a cop, and later our Sheriff, he worked in his dad's auto repair shop, where he learned to fix things. So when crime and costs went up, Adrian got to work: cutting the tax rate and funding the police.

Now, Adrian is working hard every day to make Harris County safer and more affordable—and he is respectfully asking for your vote.

POL. ADV. ADRIAN GARCIA CAMPAIGN

Vote early now through Nov. 4 or on Election Day: Tuesday, Nov. 8

Barbers Hill ★ Dayton Press

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2022

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Nerd Con Is Back! Nov. 5

The Chambers County Library System in partnership with the City of Mont Belvieu, Eastern Rim Funny Book & Vintage Con, and Nerd Fest brings back Nerd Con. Nerd Con will be a day filled with games, panels, vendors, celebrity guests, and more. The event will take place at Eagle Pointe Recreation Complex in Mont Belvieu. Free to park and attend! This year's theme is: "Nerd Con: Back in Time", with a nod to the 80's.

Fans of cons will know exactly what to expect. Those of you who need some details, here are the basics. Comic book conventions are popular events attended by hundreds and sometimes thousands of people. Cons are usually held at convention centers, community centers, and yes, even libraries. A large number of attendees participate in cosplay where people dress as their favorite comic book, anime, or pop culture characters. So feel free to dress as your favorite character because there will be cash prizes!

Nerd Con's featured celebrity guest is Noah Hathaway who starred in Neverending Story and Battlestar Galactica. The voice actor cast from Dragon Ball Z, Charlie Brown and Lucy, and local actress Annalise Bergen from Hawkeye. Many Marvel and DC artists, animators, and more!

The event is co-hosted by Nerd Fest and The Eastern Rim Funny Book & Vintage Con. Nerd Fest is a group on Facebook all about community, friendship, networking, and everything Sci Fi and Comic Books. The Nerd Fest community enjoys frequenting comic book conventions and sharing their passion for creativity.

This family friendly event will be a day packed full of fun. Find out more at www.nerdconmb.com

A schedule of events is as follows:

November 5, 2022: 10am-6pm

The Grill at Eagle Pointe will be open 11am-4pm for food during the event.

Panel room (Magnolia room):

11am - Tolkien Talks!

12pm - The way of the author! Hear from guest authors.

1pm - Star Trek/Star Wars: Warping the Singularity

2pm - Actors: That's great, it starts with an earthquake: How we arrived and are living in the craft.

3pm - Nerd Con Cosplay Contest!

4pm - Snark Fest

Celebrations of the Dead Art Show, Workshop

October 26 - November 18 at Lee College.

Lee College Visual Arts Department invites you to an afternoon hands-on workshop, art exhibit and reception inspired by Dia de los Muertos, All Saint's Eve, All Hallow's Eve, Samhain, and all the other celebrations of the dead around the world!

Lee College PAC Art Gallery 801 West Texas Avenue, Baytown, Texas 77520 M-Th 9a.m.-5 p.m. Fri. 9a.m.-12 p.m. www.lee.edu/pac www.lee.edu/maps

For more information, contact: Sarah Lennet: slennet@lee.edu Ph: 281.425.6821

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall

By Bill Palko

Today is one for the memory books. A day of honor, privilege and pride that will stay with me for the remainder of my life. Along with a group of fellow Veterans that included, among others, Vietnam Veterans, Vietnam Era Veterans, Iraq Veterans and Patriotic Americans, we escorted the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall from the Raceway Park in Baytown, TX, to White Park and Community Center in Wallisville, TX. The Wall will be on display at the park through this coming Sunday, October 30th. The park and display are open 24 hours. Take 1-10 East to TX 61. Take 61 South about 2

blocks and the park is on your right. Please go pay your respects to those 58,281 men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

I want to say a special thank you to the students, parents and faculty of Anahuac Elementary and High Schools. As we passed by their schools they were all lining the streets holding US Flags, waving, saluting, whistling, cheering with many of the students holding their right hand over their heart. It brought a tear to my eye.

That's the America I served and love. To all the men and women who served in Vietnam, thank you and Welcome Home.



Baytown Chamber Welcomes N2 Solutions with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



HIGHLANDS - The Baytown Chamber of Commerce welcomed N2 Solutions to the Baytown Chamber of Commerce with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday afternoon. The Highlands location is the third office for N2 Solutions which began in Broussard, Louisiana and also operates in Mercer, Pennsylvania. N2 Solutions provides the petrochemical industry with a wide variety of nitrogen services. Contact them at 866-940-2450 or n2-solutions.com for more information.

Jones Public Library Halloween Storytime



Halloween Storytime was held today at the Jones Public Library. 35 children and 22 parents enjoyed a superhero themed day filled with fun, frivolity, and trick or treating! A big thank you to our superhero librarians, community center staff, and chamber of commerce ladies for giving these little patrons a great day!



Dead Body Have Positively Identified In Chambers County

Chambers County Detectives have positively identified the victim in the homicide investigation on FM 1405, in Chambers County as Jose Montemayor, 38, of Baytown, Texas.

Preliminary investigation leads Detectives to believe that Montemayor was murdered with a firearm in another jurisdiction and his body dumped in Chambers County. Montemayor was also discovered to have ties with the gang Tango Blast, out of the Baytown area.

Detectives are asking anyone with information regarding Montemayor's whereabouts in the days



Jose Montemayor, 38

prior to October 25, 2022, to contact the Chambers County Sheriff's Office at 409.267.2500 or Chambers County Crime Stoppers at 844.860.8477

Jim Silva Sports Complex and Community Night Out

Join us for a night of family fun as we host a ribbon cutting and community night out event at the Jim Silva Sports Complex in historic Fort Anahuac Park.

When: November 7, beginning at 6 p.m.

Where: Fort Anahuac Park

We have some fun activities planned including:

A scrimmage between the State Champion 15U

Girls Softball Team and the AYSO 14U Boys Baseball Team

*A field dedication and recognition of special guests

*Concession stand available

*FREE face painting

*Snow cone truck available

There is no admission charge for this event, but visitors may want to bring money to cover concessions, snow cones and other items.

CHAMBERS COUNTY PRESENTS
JIM SILVA SPORTS COMPLEX RIBBON CUTTING AND COMMUNITY NIGHT OUT

FREE **NOV. 7**

PLUS...

STATE CHAMPION 15U GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM VS AYSO 14U BOYS BASEBALL TEAM

AND:

FIELD DEDICATION
SNOW CONE TRUCK
CONCESSIONS
SPECIAL GUESTS

CHAMBERS COUNTY TEXAS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2022
FORT ANAHUAC PARK

GATES OPEN AT 5:30 P.M.
EVENT BEGINS AT 6 P.M.

★

LETTERS

To The Editor

Senator Bettencourt on tax savings with the Harris County budget impasse

DISCUSSION OVER!!! Harris County Taxpayers WIN!!!

A QUARTER BILLION DOLLARS saved for Taxpayers thanks to Commissioner Jack Cagle and Tom Ramsey Harris Co. Commissioner PCT 3 proactive stance against the Leftist Progressive majority on the Harris County Commissioners court trying to raise property tax levy by 10.8%. Harris County now has to adopt my SB2’s no-new-revenue-tax-rate which will save taxpayers a RECORD quarter billion dollars, the same as they did in 2019 and Texas Taxpayers and Research Association - TTARA says 31% of Texas counties adopted the no-new-revenue tax rate or below in 2021! This will save Harris County Taxpayers a record quarter of a billion dollars but leave 72 million dollars more in new revenue! See link.

<https://senate.texas.gov/press.php?id=7-20221025a>

Just want to thank Gerald Harris with KHOU 11 News for including my statement where he let me recognize the obvious, that as property values go UP, property tax rates must come DOWN for any tax relief to occur!

<https://www.khou.com/.../285-d4eef15d-317e-4643-89f8...>

Don’t believe the line from Judge Lina Hidalgo that government coffers are being squeezed. They have 2.4 billion dollars between the county and the Hospital District in unencumbered reserve funds from just 7 months ago!!

-Senator Paul Bettencourt

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.*



At the Dog Show

“I took Duckworth to the dog show up in the city last weekend,” Dud said.

The other members of the Mule Barn truck stop’s world dilemma think tank and philosophy counter just looked at him.

Doc put it gently. “Dud, was this so he could get some inspiration on looking good?”

Duckworth was a medium-sized dog that found Dud while Dud was walking and thinking about the novel he’s writing. No one answered the ad he put in the Valley Weekly Miracle, so he was henceforth known as Duckworth, for some reason Dud seemed to want to keep to himself. To be honest, Duckworth looked like he fell out of the ugly tree and hit every branch on the way down.

“No, I was going to enter him in the dog show,” Dud said. “Took him right up to the registration table and tried to get him in a class. The lady there looked at ol’ Duck and asked to see his papers.”

Dud grinned. “I told her they were back home on the floor of the laundry room. She didn’t think it was funny.”

Now Duckworth had been introduced to the other dogs in the group at the sale barn, as is the custom, and Dud’s pals had been hesitant to ask much about him. Duckworth looked like something put together by a committee with a sense of humor. Oh, he was a dog ... no doubt about that. But what kind of dog was he? It made for interesting coffee speculation, that’s for sure.

“You know,” Dud said, “Anita was against me getting any kind of dog until Duckworth came along. When I explained to her that Duckworth was a bird dog ... a duck dog, actually, and that he’d help me bring more birds home, she finally gave in.”

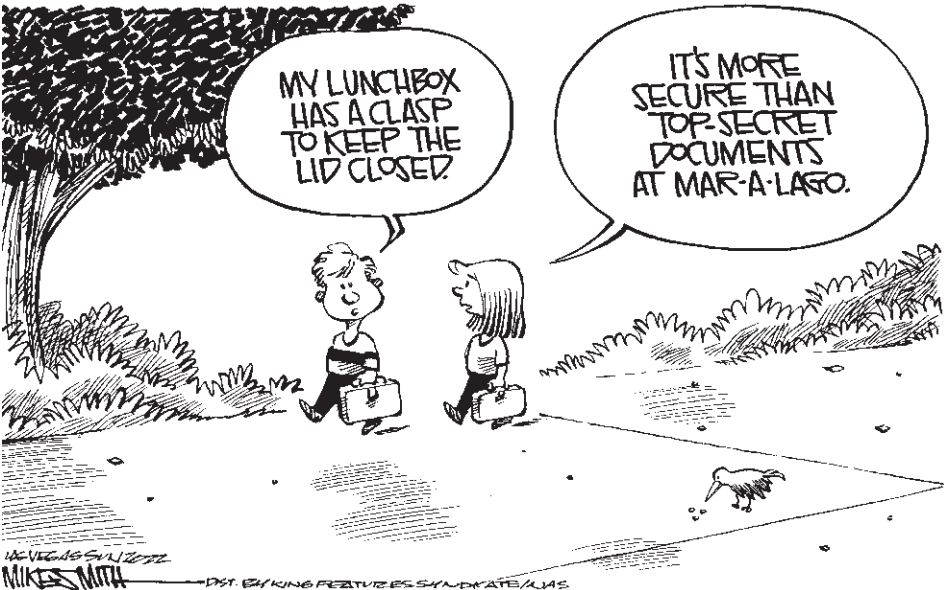
“He’s a bird dog?” Steve said. “What kind?”

“Now that’s what that dog show lady asked me, you know? I had to explain to her about canardly terriers, because she wasn’t familiar with them.”

“Canar...”

“Canardly terriers, you betcha,” Dud said, grinning, “why, I’ll bet you canardly tell what kind of terrier he is!”

Go from fierce cussing to fly casting, Try the tenkara simple fishing method. <https://tenkarausa.com/>



★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Early Voting Underway Across the State

Early voting in this year’s midterm elections began Monday and continues through Friday, Nov. 4. Election Day is Nov. 8. Voters will pick the state’s next governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, land commissioner, agriculture commissioner and comptroller in statewide races.

District races are also being held for U.S. representatives, state senators, state representatives and members of the State Board of Education. There are also ballot propositions to be decided, as well as county, school board and city races, depending on where you live.

The deadline to register to vote was Oct. 11. Interested voters can find out more at votetexas.gov.

BUSINESS LEADERS PREDICT DACA END WILL CAUSE CRISIS

Dozens of business leaders, including several in Texas, are urging Congress to protect young immigrants who came to the U.S. as children, warning that the end of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program would exacerbate workforce shortages.

In a report published in The Dallas Morning News (originally in CQ-Roll Call), the leaders released a letter sent to congressional leaders and published as a full-page ad in The Morning News and other newspapers. They warn of serious workforce issues if a ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit gutting DACA protection holds.

The ad included the logos of about a dozen Texas-based businesses or business organizations, including private equity firm TPG, the North Texas Commission, the Texas Restaurant Association, the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association, the Texas Retailers Association and the Texas Association of Business.

If the work permits of DACA recipients expire, the business leaders said, the



U.S. could lose more than half a million workers.

“The worker shortage will get worse for the United States if hundreds of thousands of critical workers are stripped of their legal ability to support themselves and their families,” the business leaders wrote. “That is the situation we currently face if this ruling becomes final, and it is the reason for our request today.”

The U.S. House has passed a bill that would put DACA recipients and other young undocumented immigrants on a path to permanent residency, but the Senate has not taken up the measure.

PUC: NO WATER DISCONNECTS DURING EXTREME COLD

The Public Utility Commission of Texas last week adopted rules that prohibit non-municipal water and sewer utilities from cutting off service to customers during extreme cold weather emergencies.

“The new rules put the health and safety of Texans first during extreme cold weather emergencies,” said PUCT Chairman Peter Lake. “This means Texans can focus on their family’s safety during extreme cold and work with their water or sewer utility to make sure they pay their bills in a timely fashion.”

Extreme weather in Texas is defined as “periods beginning when the previous day’s highest temperature in an area did not exceed 28

degrees Fahrenheit and the temperature is predicted to remain at or below that level for the next 24 hours according to the nearest National Weather Service reports for that area.”

The new rules came after passage of Senate Bill 3 in the last regular legislative session, in reaction to the disruption caused by Winter Storm Uri in February 2021.

DROUGHT PRESENTS CHALLENGES FOR WATERFOWL HUNTERS

As waterfowl hunters prepare for the new season, drought conditions across the state are posing challenges, according to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. Biologists with TPWD note habitat conditions for ducks are not ideal in many parts of the state. A May survey by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service showed most duck species had substantial decreases since the last survey in 2019.

“The drought that occurred in 2020 and 2021 had a large impact on duck hunting success in Texas,” said Kevin Kraai, with TPWD. “Last year, Texas observed a significant decrease in total duck harvest compared to the previous hunting season. The total estimated duck harvest was down 41 percent in 2021 compared to 2020.”

Except for South Texas and parts of the Panhandle, most of the state is well below seasonal rain averages, drought conditions that are the worst since 2010.

MORE THAN 79,000 DEAD ON TEXAS ROADS SINCE 2000

It is a grim statistic. Not a single day in Texas since Nov. 7, 2000, has passed without a traffic fatality. Since that date, more than 79,000 people have died in traffic crashes, according to the Texas Department of Transportation. That is roughly equivalent to the entire population of Cedar Park. For the past several years, about 10 people die daily in crashes across the state.

Texas Transportation Commissioner Laura Ryan and others are championing TxDOT’s #EndTheStreakTX campaign, saying every Texan must do their part to drive safely and care about others.

“With the knowledge that, since the pandemic, people don’t seem to view others around them as part of a community, and, that they care less about those around them, we are starting to identify the problem,” said Ryan. “If we know there is a problem and we can identify that a big part of the problem is a lack of caring or apathy, then we also know the solution — we must care more about those around us.”

Texas dropped to 11,604 with 90 deaths reported.

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

The State of Illinois

A few weeks before Halloween and many years ago, when I was still married to my former husband, he and I and a couple we knew all decided we would celebrate Halloween dressed as the Midwest.

At the time, it seemed like a clever idea. I was from Minnesota, my former husband was from Wisconsin, our friend, Becky, was from Iowa, and her husband, John, was from Illinois. We were all in our early twenties, all living in Oregon, and, as we imagined ourselves dressed as our home states, it seemed like the best idea ever.

We were no longer all living in the same city. And we didn’t see Becky and John again until Halloween. Honestly, I forgot all about the idea. I had time on my hands and so I designed and sewed elaborate costumes. I went as Medusa, with posable snakes bobbing up and down on my head. My former husband was Poseidon; he had a staff wrapped in fishing net and filled with seashells, and a crown on his head that lit up in the dark. Before LEDs, this was an accomplishment.

I was rather proud of our costumes, and we went to meet John and Becky. Becky was costumed as a striking geisha, and John arrived... dressed as the State of Illinois.

“I thought we were going as the Midwest!” John complained.

I had so completely forgotten about the idea that I was startled to see John outfitted in an enormous sheet of bright yellow corrugated cardboard shaped like the Land of Lincoln, his face popping out somewhere near Peoria.

I couldn’t feel too guilty if his own wife had not alerted him to a change in plans. It struck me that this did not bode well for the marriage (and, in fact, they were divorced a short while later). But John was stuck as the sole representative of the Midwest, and he was mightily embarrassed as we headed out to enjoy Halloween.

You can probably guess what happened next.

John was the hit of the evening. There were an astounding number of Illinois transplants in this small Oregon town, and every single one felt a special bond with John, who was, by nature, a shy and bookish guy. Slightly inebriated women came flying at him from across the street.

“Illinois! It’s Illinois!” they screamed, as if he was a visiting rock star.

They scrutinized the carefully detailed Illinois road system searching for their hometowns. I felt as if I was witnessing the reunion of long-lost siblings.

“Quincy! I found Quincy!” a woman shrieked. It looked as if she might cry. I was not sure she was going to let John go.

The snakes bouncing on my head and my former husband’s illuminated crown could not hold a candle to Quincy, Illinois.

This all happened many years ago, and yet I remember John, and I feel like him on many occasions. I tend to stick to the plan. I keep working away on my little projects, and I feel foolish when I realize that, not only has everyone I know moved on to something new, they probably think I’m a little daft not to have done the same. I frequently feel a little naïve, a little embarrassed, still puttering away.

But I’ve learned that staying the course has benefits, even if they are not the ones I imagined.

After whatever group I was a part of has evaporated, interest disappeared, momentum vanished, I think of John, proudly representing the State of Illinois—for no obvious reason and all on his own.

Till next time,
Carrie

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

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star ★ Courier

USPS 244-500

Barbers Hill ★ Dayton PRESS

NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

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Burn Ban in effect for Harris County

Harris County, Texas — Today, Harris County Commissioner's Court approved an outdoor burn ban due to continuous drought conditions across unincorporated Harris County. There are now 144 Texas counties with burn bans, including Harris, Galveston, Waller, Chambers and Liberty counties.

"The burn ban is meant to ensure the safety of our residents and their properties" said Fire Marshal Laurie L. Christensen. "We want to encourage residents to adhere to wildfire risk education and preparedness at all times yet, especially in these very dry conditions."

No outdoor burning is allowed except: in an enclosure that contains all flames and/or sparks; outdoor burning activities authorized by TCEQ; approved ceremonial fires; non-commercial cooking such as backyard cookouts and barbecues are allowed; and welding and other "hot work" performed in accordance with county fire code requirements.

Violation of the ban is a Class "C" misdemeanor, punishable for up to a \$500 fine. In addition, any person who starts a fire that causes damage to property without the consent of the owner may be charged with Reckless Damage or Destruction, a Class C misdemeanor, or arson, a felony.

FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 10: No. 1 Georgia hosts No. 3 Tennessee in key SEC East tilt: Texans host high-flying Eagles on Thursday Night Football

The college football world will focus on Athens, GA on Saturday at No. 3-ranked Tennessee visits No. 1-ranked, and the defending national champs, Georgia Bulldogs in a key SEC East contest. The winner of this game has a good shot of securing a spot in the SEC title game, slated for Dec. 3 in Atlanta and the winner will also probably have a good chance of earning one of four College Football Playoff (CFP) berths that are still up for grabs.

Most experts expected Kirby Smart's Bulldogs to once again contend for the national title after winning it all a year ago, but not too many thought the Vols would be a national title contender, but Josh Heupel's team has been a breath of fresh air this season, and an offensive juggernaut. The Vols average 49 points per game and that high-scoring offense put up 52 points on then No. 2-ranked Alabama three weeks ago en route to a 52-49 stunner. That offense will get a real test this Saturday when it faces a Georgia defense that is allowing just 8 points per game.

It should be a very interesting afternoon, or evening is CBS decides to put this one in prime time, when these two meet on Saturday.

Before we take a look at a host of other games, I would be remiss if I didn't give a shout out to our beloved Houston Astros. How 'bout them Astros! Our hometown team secured its fourth American League championship on Oct. 23 when the boys in orange overcame a 3-0 deficit against the Yankees in New York and rallied for a 6-5 victory and a sweep of the Evil Empire. Dusty Baker's crew will be playing in its fourth World Series in six years. An amazing feat. I just hope all of us realize what a special team this is and has been for the last six years. Sure, there have been some late nights, but they've been worth staying up for and enjoying the drama. Let's hope they finish it off with a World Series title against a very game Philadelphia Phillies squad.

Now, back to football.

While all eyes will be on Athens, GA this weekend, there are a number of other interesting matchups in the NCAA. Texas travels to Fort Worth to try and spoil No. 7-ranked TCU's magical season, while No. 6-ranked Alabama looks to remain in the SEC West race when it faces off against No. 18-ranked LSU in Baton Rouge. First-year Tiger head coach Brian Kelly has done a nice job this year. He inherited a team with a lot of question marks and defections, but has them winning. Two weeks ago, LSU upset previously undefeated Mississippi 45-20 and will look for another big win over the Crimson Tide on Saturday.

In the NFL, the Texans host the Philadelphia Eagles on Thursday Night Football. The Eagles entered their Oct. 30 against Pittsburgh as the NFL's only undefeated team. The Texans will have their work cut out for them if they hope to pull off the upset. Dallas has the week off, while Buffalo will visit the surprising Jets on Sunday in a key AFC East contest. The Rams travel to Tampa to take on a struggling Bucs team, while the Tennessee Titans head to KC to take on the Chiefs on Sunday Night Football. Week 9 concludes on Monday Night Football with the Ravens visiting the Saints.

Before we take a look at those games, let's review last week's record. An 11-1 week (that's two solid weeks in a row) upped the season record to 60-36 (63%).

Now, onto this weekend's games.

NCAA

Texas at Kansas State: Texas fans had high hopes entering the 2022 season and after their 49-0 route of Oklahoma on Oct. 8, a lot of Orangebloods probably thought second-year head coach Steve Sarkisian had righted the ship after going 5-7 in 2021. But after wins over West Virginia and Iowa State, Texas stumbled at Oklahoma State, 41-34. UT scored 31 points in the first half, but only three in the second half. What happened? Good question. Texas has one of the best running backs in the nation in Bijan Robinson (920 yards, 13 total TDs), a solid QB in Quinn Ewers (1139 yards, 11 TDs) and two big-play wide receivers in Xavier Worthy (36 receptions, 519 yards, 7 TDs) and Jordan Whittington (29 receptions, 404 yards, 1 TD). Texas' problem appears to



KEENEY'S KORNER
By
MIKE KEENEY

be that they can't put together four quarters of good football and they had better bring their "A" game to Manhattan on Saturday or it's going to be another long afternoon for Sarkisian and his team. The Texas run defense must play well against a Wildcat team that has a very productive running game led by QB Adrian Martinez (907 passing yards, 4 TDs/565 rushing yards, 9 TDs) and speedy scatback Deuce Vaughn (744 yards, 4 TDs). While KSU is a prolific running team, they have a very poor passing game. If the Texas defense can slow down Martinez and Vaughn and force Martinez to throw, the 'Horns should be able to pull out a win. Sarkisian and his team need a big road win what with No. 7-ranked TCU up next in Fort Worth. My pick, Texas 33, Kansas State 30

Alabama at LSU: After their 52-49 loss at Tennessee three weeks ago, Alabama head coach Nick Saban knew there was no room for error for the rest of the season. After his defense was embarrassed by the Vols, Saban made some tweaks to the defense and they appeared to work two weeks ago as the Tide rolled over Mississippi State, 30-6 (the score was 30-0 when MSU scored in the waning moments of the game). Offensively, Alabama is still dangerous with QB Bryce Young (1,906 yards, 19 TDs), running backs Jahmyr Gibbs (672 yards, 6 TDs) and wide big-play wide receiver Ja'Corey Brooks (21 receptions, 376 yards, 4 TDs). The Tide should be able to move the ball against the Tigers. The defense will need to contain dual-threat QB Jayden Daniels (1,812 passing yards, 12 TDs/524 rushing yards, 9 TDs). Look for Saban to have something extra special for Daniels in Death Valley on Saturday. My pick, Alabama 31, LSU 17

Tennessee at Georgia: The Game of the Week in the SEC and country pits No. 3-ranked Tennessee against No. 1-ranked Georgia on Saturday. As stated earlier, the Vols high octane offense will test Georgia's stingy and stifling defense. It's going to be an interesting matchup. Tennessee is led by QB Hendon Hooker (2,093 passing yards, 18 TDs/315 rushing yards, 3 TDs), running back Jalin Wright (403 yards, 4 TDs) and big-play wide receiver Jalin Hyatt (40 receptions, 769 yards, 12 TDs). That trio lit up 'Bama, but they will be facing a much better defense (Georgia only allows 8 points per game) that is well coached and loaded with speed. Georgia should be able to move the ball against a so-so Vol defense. Look for QB Stetson Bennett (2,033 yards, 7 TDs) to take what the Tennessee defense gives him. He will make plays to tight end Brock Bowers (26 receptions, 393 yards, 6 total TDs). Bowers is perhaps the best tight end in the country. The Dawgs' pedigree will show up for this one as Georgia looks to send a message to the rest of the country that they are serious about winning another national title. My pick, Georgia 33, Tennessee 16

NFL

Philadelphia at Houston: Al Michaels and the gang from Amazon head to Houston for Thursday Night Football as the Philadelphia Eagles take on the Houston Texans. The Eagles could very well enter this game with a 7-0 record (they took on the struggling Steelers last Sunday) and should leave at 8-0 when they face a struggling Texans team. Two weeks ago, the Texans turned a 20-17 third-quarter lead at Las Vegas into a 38-20 loss because they couldn't contain Raider running back Josh Jacobs (143 yards, 3 TDs). If the Houston defense doesn't play better this week, Philly QB Jalen Hurts

(1,514 passing yards, 6 TDs/293 rushing yards, 6 TDs) and running back Miles Davis (485 yards, 4 TDs) could have big nights on the ground. When Hurts turns to the air, he has two good receivers in A.J. Brown (33 receptions, 503 yards, 2 TDs) and Devonta Smith (33 receptions, 397 yards, 2 TDs) to throw to. The Texans will need another big rushing game from rookie running back Dameon Pierce (504 yards, 3 TDS) to take some pressure off QB Davis Mills (1,350 yards, 7 TDs/5 interceptions). Look for the Eagles defense to force a couple miscues from Mills as the Eagles roll on Thursday night. My pick, Philadelphia 33, Houston 20

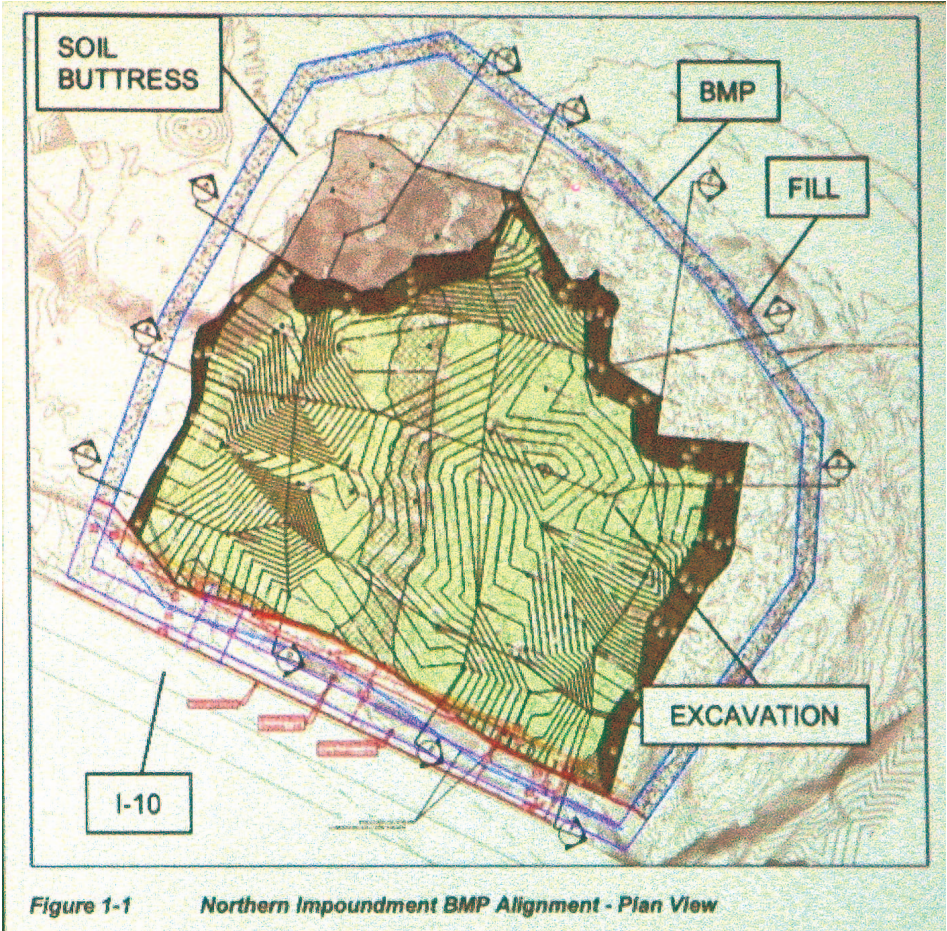
Buffalo at New York Jets: The Jets have been one of THE surprise teams (along with the Giants) thus far in the NFL. They were winners of four straight games heading into last weeks contest against New England. One of those wins was a convincing 27-10 victory over Aaron Rodgers and the Packers in Green Bay. New York has a lot of talented young players, but they will get a true measure of where they are in the NFL's pecking order when they host Josh Allen (1,980 passing yards, 17 TDs/257 rushings yards, 2 TDs), big-play wide receiver Stefon Diggs (49 receptions, 656 yards, 6 TDs) and a very good Bills defense. The Jets' offense took a huge hit in its win at Denver two weeks ago when rookie running back Breece Hall (463 yards, 4 TDs) was lost for the year with a knee injury. Second-year QB Zach Wilson (693 yards, 1 TD in four games) will need to step up in this one is the Jets are to shock the world and upset the Bills, which they won't. My pick, Buffalo 26, New York Jets 16

Los Angeles at Tampa Bay: The Rams travel to Tampa to face a Bucs team that is not playing good football and that includes future Hall of Fame QB Tom Brady (1,942 yards 8 TDs). Two weeks ago, the TB offense hit rock bottom in its 21-3 loss at Carolina (which before that win had all of one victory for the season). Wide receiver Mike Evans (33 receptions, 458 yards, 3 TDs) dropped what would have been a sure long TD pass and it was all downhill from there. The OL has issues and they had better work out those kinks before Aaron Donald and Co. come calling. The Rams split their first six games before their bye and the rest should have helped QB Matthew Stafford (1,576 yards, 6 TDs), Cooper Kupp (56 receptions, 607 yards, 4 TDs) and the rest of the offense to get things going. My pick, Los Angeles 26, Tampa Bay 20

Tennessee at Kansas City: A good one for Sunday Night Football pits the Titans and their strong run game against Patrick Mahomes and the pass-happy Chiefs. Two weeks ago, the Titans took care of the Colts, 19-10 as Derrick Henry (536 yards, 5 TDs) and Ryan Tannehill (1,097 yards, 6 TDs) led the way offensively. The Chiefs picked up a huge road win as they pummeled the 49ers, 44-23 as Mahomes (2,159 yards, 20 TDs) threw for more than 400 yards and three TDs. Look for Mahomes to have another big day tossing the rock around to tight end Travis Kelce (47 receptions, 552 yards, 7 TDs) and wide receiver JuJu Smith Schuster (34 receptions, 494 yards, 2 TDs). If the Titans have a chance to win this one, they will need Henry to have a big night so they can control the clock and keep Mahomes off the field. It won't matter how big of a night Henry has because Mahomes does not need much time to come up with game-changing plays. My pick, Kansas City 33, Tennessee 23

Waste Pits work to Begin,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



NORTHERN IMPOUNDMENT MAP OF THE WASTE PITS shows latest design to safely excavate the toxic waste material. A double wall Cofferdam enclosure will be built, with earthen backfill to stabilize it.

til tests show toxicity levels below 240ppt. This will require removing about 25,000 cubic yards of material, she said, which will be transported off-site in trucks. This work may take as much as a year.

In the Northern Impoundment, EPA has ordered the Responsible Parties to submit the Final Design by November 8, especially the Northwest Corner where test borings have shown high levels of toxic material to depths below 25 feet. The 90% submission did not address a solution for this area. (See map enclosed).

The 90% Final Design document was a huge volume, amounting to over 100,000 pages including much technical information. THEA (Texas Health and Environmental Alli-

ance) has been reviewing this report and making suggestions for the final document.

Among the comments that will be discussed with EPA when they meet the Citizens Advisory Committee in Houston on November 3rd:

- Jurisdiction question on who issues permits for work in river, US Corps of Engineers and which office;
- Where will waste go when removed and transported;
- Will a manifest for each truckload be maintained, and by whom;
- Will a decontamination zone exist, for trucks, equipment and personnel before they leave the site?

Jackie said that where

the toxic waste will be transported may depend on a test and characterization/classification of each load, with different waste facilities involved.

The RP (Responsible Parties) have indicated problems in remediation of the Northern Impoundment, such as:

- Need for 2-lane 2-way road on north side of I-10 for truck traffic;
- Schedule conflict with I-10 bridge replacement?

The EPA and THEA see these as excuses for delaying the completion of the 100% Final Design for the Northern Impoundment, and have informed the RP that a delay or extension will not be approved.

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COVID-19 Novavax Vaccine Booster Now Available for Individuals 18 and Older

Houston - Following approvals from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), individuals 18 years and older who have completed their COVID-19 primary vaccine series will have the option to receive a COVID-19 Novavax monovalent booster vaccine instead of the updated (bivalent) Pfizer or Moderna booster vaccine at Harris County

Public Health (HCPH) vaccination sites. Individuals who may not be able to receive an mRNA (Moderna or Pfizer) vaccine as a result of an allergy to a component of the vaccine will now have the Novavax booster as an option.

The Novavax booster option will be available to eligible individuals regardless of their primary series vaccine type. The booster dose is recommended for individuals 6 months after

they have completed their J&J, Moderna, Pfizer or Novavax primary vaccine series. The Novavax primary series first became available to the public in August so those who first received their Novavax primary series are not yet eligible for the Novavax booster dose.

Individuals who would prefer the Novavax monovalent booster dose are encouraged to call 832-927-8787 for schedul-

ing or visit any HCPH vaccination site to sign up.

Novavax uses a different technique than the other COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna. Instead of using mRNA, which provides the instructions for your body to create the COVID-19 spike protein which in turn induces your body's immune response, Novavax's vaccine injects a small protein that your body detects and triggers its immune response. The Novavax vaccine is based on a well-established method of vaccine development that has been used for years in other vaccines such as the human papillomavirus (HPV), hepatitis B, influenza, and shingles.

COVID-19 primary and booster vaccines available at Harris County Public Health sites include:

- Pfizer-BioNTech (mRNA vaccine)
- Moderna (mRNA vaccine)
- Novavax (protein subunit vaccine)

Moderna, Novavax, and Pfizer are recommended for primary vaccination and Moderna and Pfizer are recommended for booster doses. A person's eligibility for a booster dose depends on age and the time interval from the last dose received. Fully vaccinated is considered 2 weeks after the final dose in a primary series. People are considered up to date with COVID-19 vaccines

when they receive all the doses in their primary series and a booster, when eligible.

HCPH urges residents to get vaccinated against COVID-19 if they have not done so already and get a booster shot, for those who qualify. All COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are safe, effective, and provide strong protection against severe illness, hospitalizations, and death. Vaccines provided by HCPH are free and appointments are not required though encouraged.

If you would like to schedule an appointment, go to ReadyHarris.org, vacstrac.hctx.net, or call 832-927-8787. To find a location near you, click here.

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Turner Chevrolet treats Highlands Little League at Minute Maid Park



Report from Mayor Pro Tem Dave Martin: Limited Progress on Lake Houston Dam Project

HOUSTON, TX - In 2017, immediately after Hurricane Harvey devastated the Lake Houston Area, Mayor Pro Tem Martin began the task of transitioning Lake Houston from solely a water reservoir to a water reservoir with flood mitigation infrastructure. This would allow Lake Houston to not only provide our region with needed drinking water but also protect our area in the event of a flood. Equipping the Lake Houston Spillway Dam with flood gates allows a systematic lowering of Lake Houston, during a flood event, reducing the risk of flooding to area homes and businesses.

An improvement project of this magnitude normally takes between five and twelve years, however determined to advance this project as quickly as possible Mayor Pro Tem Martin coordinated with federal, state, and local elected officials shrinking the timeline to between five and seven years. Entering the fifth-year post Harvey and still in the design process for the Lake Houston Spillway Dam Improvement Project (LHSDIP) is not where Mayor Pro Tem believed where the City of Houston would be.

The age of the Lake Houston Spillway dam, built in 1953, is proving to be a huge obstacle for this project as it continues to move forward. Originally, six different alternatives of the project were proposed. Another factor complicating this

project is the cost variations between alternatives as project costs are outside of the existing federally funded amount, \$48 million. The City of Houston is working with the Texas Division of Emergency Management and Federal Emergency Management Agency to find the option with the highest Benefit to Cost Ratio (BCR).

The range for a favorable BCR on a project like this is between .75 and 1. The two alternatives in preliminary design only yielded a BCR of .48, largely due to the aging structure of the existing spillway dam. Mayor Pro Tem Martin continues to persist on finding a path forward. Currently, the final design of LHSDIP is paused to complete a study on alternative 1A looking at constructing five new tainter-gates on the existing embankment located on the east side of the dam. The BCR analysis for the embankment alternative will be completed by end of September 2022.

Mayor Pro Tem Martin is continuing his due diligence taking multiple avenues working to find additional funding for the project and reaching a favorable BCR with both federal and state partners. Including the exploration of additional funding through the upcoming Texas Legislative Session with outgoing State Representative Dan Huberty and incoming State Representative Charles Cunningham. It

is easy to be discouraged with the perceived lack of progress on this project, however, obstacles have only fortified Mayor Pro Tem Martin's resolve to see this project through and defining a clear path forward. More information will be forthcoming in a fall public meeting and Mayor Pro Tem Martin is optimistic by October the LHSDIP will have an attractive BCR for the 1A design.

The City of Houston is committed to continuing to utilize the existing Lake Houston pre-release strategy which has occurred each time there has been a forecasted rain event of 3 inches or more within the San Jacinto Watershed, since Hurricane Harvey, which has worked extremely well. This strategy has been used more than twenty times in the past four years.

Many thanks to Congressman Dan Crenshaw, Governor Greg Abbott, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, Commissioner Tom Ramsey, State Senator Brandon Creighton, State Representative Dan Huberty, State Representative-Elect Charles Cunningham, TDEM-Chief Nim Kidd, Mayor Sylvester Turner, Chief Recovery Officer Stephen Costello, and Harris County Flood Control District.

All parties are committed to constructing these additional gates to ensure protection against future flood events.

Rotary Exchange Student,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the tennis club and acting in a musical production.

Noting the differences between America and Belgium, he said there is no fast food or Cola drinks in his town Belgium, and eating out at a restaurant is

unusual. He said the bus system is better there, and he can use it to get to his high school in Brussels.

Edouard speaks good English, having studied it for 5 years in his country.

While in the U.S. he still

wants to see a football or baseball game, and travel to the West to see Hollywood, and the Grand Canyon. Be sure to welcome Edouard when you see him around Highlands!



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