


Civics lesson for the Cain family



District 128 State Representative Briscoe Cain took his whole family to the Crosby Library when he went for Early Voting. "Straight Republican," he noted.

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

NOV. 17, THUR. Crosby Chamber Luncheon

LET'S EAT TURKEY! Crosby/Huffman Chamber November Member Luncheon, at Crosby Church, 5725 Hwy 90, Crosby. Lunch starts at 11:30am, \$20 for members.

SPEAKER: Pastor LaNora Purvis, Heaven's Army 1st Step Recovery & Crisis Intervention Center. Catering by Just Passing Thru BBQ.

RSVP by November 15, 281-328-6984 or email chamber@crosbyhuffmancc.org.

NOV. 18, FRIDAY Free Pie Day Giveaway

Precinct 3 is having a Pie Give Away at the San Jacinto HIGHLANDS Community Center, Friday November 18 at 9:00 a.m. 604 Highlands Woods Drive, Highlands.

Free Pie Give Away is in Partnership with Amerigroup. 1 Holiday Pie per Family while Limited Supplies last. ENJOY.

Crosby loses Playoff game to Longview 49-15

Last Friday night the Cougar varsity football team lost their first-round Play-off game to the Longview Lobos, 49-15. This eliminated them from advancing in the Playoffs.

QB C. Myles was 10/23 for 92 yards passing and L. Fontenot had 42 yards rushing, but the Lobo defense kept the Cougar offense in check.

The Lobos played essentially a run game, with 377 total yards rushing.

ELECTION RESULTS: Democrats retain control of County Government

Beto defeated; Texas remains Republican

HARRIS COUNTY – Despite warnings of a Republican “Red Wave” sweeping the voting booths, it didn’t materialize in most of the country, and especially in Harris County.

Democrats kept their seats if incumbents, and in at least one critical race, Pct. 4 of the County Commissioners, they picked up a key vote. Lesley Briones defeated incumbent Commissioner Jack Cagle, and the County is now run by a solid 4 out of 5 votes by Democrats.

Republicans spent a record amount of \$9 million attempting to unseat Judge Lina Hidalgo, but she retained her position



Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo revels in the news that she won re-election over her Republican opponent by a margin of about 15,000 votes. She is joined in the celebration by Congresswomen Sheila Jackson Lee, left, and Sylvia Garcia, right, with County Commissioner Rodney Ellis behind. The Democrats now have four of the five votes on the County Commissioners Court.

by defeating challenger Alexandra Mealer by over 17,000 votes, 549,999 to 532,602.

In other county races, Adrian Garcia defeated Jack Morman for Pct. 2 Commissioner, 53% to 47%, and Lesley Briones had 52% and Jack Cagle 48%.

Voters approved \$1.2 billion in Bonds for the County, and \$478 million in Bonds for the City.

Republicans kept all their state offices, however, with a challenge for Governor by Beto O'Rourke defeated by a vote of 55% for Greg Abbott and 44% for Beto.

The turnout for the election was less than four years ago at midterm, in spite of greater money spent on the campaign and intense ads and personal appearances.

EPA to hold Waste Pits meeting Dec. 5th; remedial work started

HIGHLANDS – The cleanup is starting at the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site according to THEA director Jackie Medcalf, and an announcement from the EPA in Dallas. Initially the work will involve the Southern Impoundment site, not the Northern Impoundment.

In addition to the announcement, EPA is planning a Community Town Hall Meeting on December 5. See Details on Page 2.

According to Jackie Medcalf, here is what we know about the plan:

Phase One of the cleanup started this week. This includes removing vegetation from the site, building fences, and building a water treatment facility on location.

Physical removal of the waste will start in late December or early January. About 25-30 trucks will haul the toxic waste away to disposal facilities.

This phase will take place in two parts. Crews

will use the lower part of the southern pit for the water treatment operations and as a staging area while they remove the waste from the upper area. Once the upper area is restored, they will move the water treatment facility and staging area to that part and start work on the lower section.

The EPA says this phase will take two years. The plan to clean up the northern pit is still contentious, but the good news is that the EPA has finally

put its foot down and informed the responsible parties, International Paper Company and Waste Management's subsidiary, McGinnes Industrial Maintenance Corporation, that it won't allow any more delays in producing a cleanup plan.

If you have questions or concerns, contact THEA or EPA representative Lauren Poulos at 214-665-8371 or Poulos.lauren@epa.gov.

The EPA issued the following statement regard-

ing the start of the Cleanup and Remediation work:

DALLAS --(Nov. 14th, 2022) — Construction for the final remedy has begun for part of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site in Harris County, Texas, just east of Houston. The work involves excavation and off-site disposal of dioxin-containing wastes from the portion of the site known as the Southern

Continued. See Waste Pits work starts, Page 2

Top chef visits Crosby ISD to help with Thanksgiving meal

Crosby High School Students cook Thanksgiving Meal with "Hell's Kitchen" Contest Chef

Crosby, TX – Students in the Culinary Arts CTE program at Crosby High School will have a very special guest instructor this month. "Hell's Kitchen" contestant, Executive Chef Abe Sanchez, will mentor students as they provide Thanksgiving lunch service to the Crosby and Barrett Station communities.

The students operate a fully-functional restaurant, called the "Cougar Bistro," inside Crosby



CELEBRITY CHEF ABE SANCHEZ WILL BE AT COUGAR BISTRO IN CROSBY NOVEMBER 17.

High School each month. Students will serve a delicious Thanksgiving meal with all the fixings on Thursday, November 17. Chef Sanchez will coach students on meal prep and then guide them through

the meal service itself.

It's a change of pace for Chef Sanchez, who is currently competing in Season 21 of "Hell's Kitchen Battle of the Champions."

Continued. See Crosby Chef, Page 5

Gov. Abbott wants to investigate County voting

Governor Abbott Calls For Investigation Of Harris County Elections

AUSTIN – Governor Greg Abbott today called for an investigation into the widespread problems with Harris County's elections last Tuesday. Voters in Harris County were frustrated by confusion and delays including missing keys, insufficient paper ballots in Republican precincts, staffing problems, and more.

"I'm calling on the Secretary of State, the Attorney General's Office, and the Texas Rangers to initiate investigations into



allegations of improprieties in the way that the 2022 elections were conducted in Harris County," said Governor Abbott. "The allegations of election improprieties in our state's largest county may result from anything ranging from malfeasance to blatant criminal conduct. Voters in Harris County

deserve to know what happened. Integrity in the election process is essential. To achieve that standard, a thorough investigation is warranted."

HARRIS COUNTY GOP ALSO FILES LAWSUIT

Shortly after the Governor's order, the Harris County GOP party announced a lawsuit against Harris County and Elections Administrator Clifford Tatum, alleging that thousands of voters were turned away from voting for various issues.

In response, the County Democratic party called it another example of "political theater."

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

WESTON G. COTTEN

Attorney at Law

O. 281/421-4050

F. 281/533-6032

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\$3K

For the Holidays

Get a **\$3,000** Loan | As low as **\$140** Per Month*

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Monthly payment would be \$140.15 on \$3,000 borrowed for 24 months at 6.99% APR, including all applicable discounts. All loans subject to credit approval and some restrictions may apply. Payment also includes monthly premium for Payment Protection which includes Credit Life and Disability Insurance. Credit Life and Disability Insurance is not required. Membership required. Offer subject to change or cancellation without notice.



Community Resource CREDIT UNION

CRCU.org/3KHolidays

GOOSE CREEK CISD NEWS

Goose Creek CISD hosted Be Well™ Baytown Day in Collaboration with UT MD Anderson hospital



The Lamar Elementary School pep squad show their support for healthy eating during the Be Well Baytown Day event.

Goose Creek CISD hosted Be Well™ Baytown Day in collaboration with University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and the Be Well Baytown Steering Committee members on November 5th at E.F. Green Junior School. It was the fourth edition of the community event, with a goal of bringing together families, organizations and local vendors to promote health and wellness, and to celebrate all the notable accomplishments of the collective work done in the five target areas of the initiative: healthy eating, active living, sun safety, tobacco-free liv-

ing and preventive care. City of Baytown Mayor, Brandon Capetillo, proclaimed this day as Be Well Baytown Day in the community. Over 500 attendees enjoyed games and fun fitness activities hosted at 13 campus booths, healthy snacks were distributed by Aramark, and GCCISD students and mascots engaged the audience through exciting musical and dance performances. Fifty-three flu shots were administered and over 4,500 pounds of food were distributed by Hearts and Hands of Baytown. All photos taken by Amanda Kennington:

District FFA Members Advance to Area District Contest

Fifty-two GCCISD FFA members attended the Gulf Coast District Leadership Development Events (LDE) contest on November 2nd. Collectively, the FFA Chapters brought home 13 banners; with five of the teams advancing to Area III LDE, which will take place on November 14th at the Berry Center in Cypress, Texas. FFA is a dynamic student-led leadership development organization for students of agricultural education. The FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of

students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.” F-F-A stands for Future Farmers of America, which is the official name of the organization, but the organization operates as “FFA” to establish a much broader emphasis on agriculture. Members study things such as horticulture, aquaculture, food sciences, accounting, wildlife management, mechanics and engineering.



Advancing to Area III:
Greenhand FFA Quiz - Dalecia Driver (High Point Individual), Kendall Maddox, Sky Aranda, Skylar Loeser (GCM)
Greenhand FFA Quiz - Tuyen Huynh, Fayth Watt, Sarahi Hinojosa, Natalie Velazquez (SCTHS)
Greenhand Spanish Creed Speaking - Merari Corbajal (SCTHS)
Job Interview - MaKenna Land (GCM)
Sr. FFA Creed Speaking - Hannah Griffice (GCM)

EPA to hold Waste Pits meeting Dec. 5th; work started on Southern Impoundment site

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Impoundment, an area of about 20 acres on a small peninsula extending just south of Interstate 10. “The San Jacinto River Waste Pits has proven to be one of the most complex Superfund sites in the nation, with the Highlands and Channelview areas


living with the burden of dioxin contamination for too long,” said Regional Administrator Dr. Earthea Nance. “By starting construction on the remedy for the Southern Impoundment, we are taking the first steps to ensuring these wastes are no longer a threat to the surrounding communities.”

The overall site consists of two large pits, or impoundments, built into the banks of the San Jacinto River in the mid-1960s for disposal of pulp wastes containing dioxin from nearby paper-manufacturing facilities. The site was added to the National Priorities List in 2008. EPA issued an order for the site

investigation in 2009 to International Paper and McGinnes Industrial Maintenance Corporation, the responsible companies. In 2017, EPA issued a Record of Decision for the site that included removal of waste from the impoundments and off-site disposal. EPA issued a Unilateral

Administrative Order to International Paper in 2021 to address the contamination in the Southern Impoundment. IP contractors will conduct the work under EPA oversight. The first few weeks of work will include personnel and equipment mobilization and site prep prior to the start of excavation. The work is expected to take two years to complete.

Members of the public are reminded to follow posted warning signs and stay out of the fenced areas of the site. A fish consumption advisory remains in place for the San Jacinto River.



YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND


San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site

Community Meeting

The Highland Community Center

Monday , December 5, 2022

6:00 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in cooperation with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), Federal, State and Harris County agencies, local officials and industry, invite you to attend the Community Meeting for the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site. The meeting will be held:

Date: Monday, December 5, 2022
Time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.
Location: **The Highland Community Center**
604 Highland Woods Drive
Highland, Texas 77562

During the meeting, an update will be provided on current site activities and next steps. Following the updates, a questions and answer session will be open to the public. The presentation slides will be posted online on the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site: <https://www.epa.gov/tx/sjrwps>

The meeting is being held in a fully accessible facility. Should you have any specific needs or questions about the facility, please contact EPA Sr. Community Involvement Coordinator, Janetta Coats, at 214-665-7308 or 1-800-533-3508 (toll-free) no later than November 21, 2022.

The EPA would also like to notify the community that remediation for the Southern Impoundment will begin on November 9, 2022. The EPA will present an update on the remediation activities that the community can expect to see occurring at the site through the spring of 2023.

EPA will continue to monitor COVID-19 Community Levels in Harris County, TX. Updates on the status of this meeting, if needed, will be posted online on the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site: <https://www.epa.gov/tx/sjrwps> Copies of fact sheets, information bulletins, the administrative record, and other information are also available at this site.

Para información en español, comuníquese con la Agencia de Protección Ambiental de los Estados Unidos (la EPA) a 1-800-533-3508 (llamada gratis)

Barbers Hill Dayton Press

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

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2022

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

United Way Impact Grant application now open

Baytown, Texas (November 1) United Way of Greater Baytown Area and Chambers County (UWGBACC) announces the opening of the 2023 community impact grant cycle. Applications will be accepted through November 30, 2022. Local human service nonprofit organizations are encouraged to visit <https://www.unitedwaygbacc.org/funded-partners> to learn more about eligibility and the application process.

Your local United Way's mission is to support programs that are providing targeted resources and solutions to community needs in Baytown and Chambers County. UWGBACC is currently partnering with 16 local agencies through the community impact grant program that includes funding and capacity building efforts. The funds for this program are made possible through the generosity of donors who contribute through the annual campaign that is underway now. To make your donation, visit www.unitedwaygbacc.org/Give.

"The Community Impact Grant is an opportunity to increase agency capacity and impact in our community," said UWGBACC CEO, Melissa Reabold. She also explained the process: "Unfortunately, it is not possible to fully fund agency requests. There is a grant process in place that relies on the agency's reporting on their ability to effectively manage the program(s) they are seeking funding for and how they will meet goals that they set. Funded agencies are required to provide a program report quarterly that can then be shared with donors. All requests for funding are reviewed by a committee of community members. There are nearly 100 volunteers involved and who give of their time and energy to ensure every investment made is creating community impact."

If you would like to have more information about the grant process and becoming a funded partner or to make a gift to this year's campaign, please call 281-424-8922 or email admin@unitedwaygbacc.org.

About United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers County For more than 75 years, United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers County has served the community, which covers Baytown, Highlands, and Chambers County. With a focus on education, health, financial stability, and basic needs, United Way collaborates and partners with local human service organizations that provide programs tackling community-wide issues.

For more information, visit <https://www.unitedwaygbacc.org/> or call 281.424.5922.

Lee College opens Newly Renovated Cosmetology Center in Liberty County

LIBERTY, TX, Nov. 10, 2022 – Liberty Mayor Carl Pickett was among several area elected officials who joined Lee College to officially open its newly renovated cosmetology space at the Lee College Education Center - South Liberty County (LCEC).

"The cosmetology department at Lee College is helping students of all ages become productive citizens in finding something they like doing, and they can make a great living out of it," said the mayor to a crowded room of attendees during the Nov. 3 ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Mayor Pickett is right. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, careers in cosmetology are expected to grow 11% by 2031. The earning potential as a cosmetologist can go well into the six figures, and Lee College instructors,



who have worked in the industry, are training the next generation of salon and med spa owners to meet this growing demand.

The facility on Highway 146 Bypass provides students with a training salon. With the new renovations

at LCEC, students now have access to 25 brand-new, full-service stations for haircuts, hair styling, hair coloring, a shampoo area, manicure stations and pedicure chairs, as well as private rooms where students can do facials and

waxing. There are also classrooms where students learn the business and legal aspects of the cosmetology field.

The Lee College Cosmetology program was established in the 1960s. It offers an Associate of Applied Sci-

ence of Cosmetology Operator and a certificate of completion. Currently, there are just over 200 traditional and dual-credit students enrolled at LCEC, the Technical Vocational 8 building and 650 W. Texas building at the main campus in Baytown. Instructors say there's an extensive waiting list to get into the program.

"The future is bright for the students," said F. Scott Churchman, Lee College division business technology chair. "We have partnerships with industry leaders such as Loreal, Joico and Pravana. Students also get exposure to salons in our area such as Master Cuts, Great Clips, TGF, Sports Clip and JC Penny. They are training with the best of the best."

Learn more about the Cosmetology program at Lee College.

Annual Poinsettia Sale

A fundraiser benefiting Baytown Habitat for Humanity

Order thru Friday, Nov. 18 for Pick Up on Friday, Dec. 2.

Plants are \$12 each and will be available for pick up at the

Baytown Optimist Club, 1724 Market St. from 8am until 5pm.

Delivery is available for orders of 10 or more plants.

When you purchase



our poinsettias know that all proceeds from your

purchase go toward building decent affordable homes for low income

families in our own community,

Email To

marguerite.williams@baytownhabitat.org

or

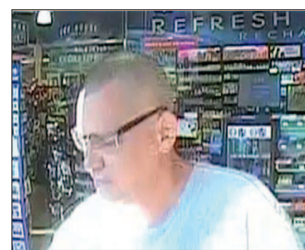
dianne.wilson@baytownhabitat.org

Or Call 281-427-0866 and we can take your order over the phone!

Payment due upon pick up or delivery

Store Clerk Robbed in Dayton

The Dayton Police Department is investigating a theft that took place during the morning hours of Thursday, September 1st, at the Circle K located at 502 North Cleveland Street in Dayton. The business was not the victim in this case but one of their hard-working employees that had just gotten off the night shift. The person of interest appears to be a middle-aged white male that wears eyeglasses and has a very



distinctive tattoo located on the back side of his upper right calf. If you recognize this person, or if you are this person, please contact Detective Chris Duos at (936) 258-7621.

Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown

What to Do If Your Joint Pain Isn't Responding to Medication

Whether the pain is in your knee, hip or somewhere else, joint pain can range from mild to excruciating. It can also be constant or come and go. But one thing never changes: Chronic joint pain affects your quality of life, causing everyday tasks and activities to feel like obstacles.

When it comes to relieving it, many begin with over-the-counter medication for joint pain — including pain relievers, such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like ibuprofen and naproxen, or topical medications that can be rubbed onto the skin.

But is this really the right approach to getting long-term joint pain relief?

"Pain that is so severe or persistent that you have to rely on medication frequently likely indicates that there's a larger issue that needs to be addressed," says Dr. David Sun, an orthopedic surgeon at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital. "It's important to consult your doctor if you have pain that's leading to prolonged use of over-the-counter pain relievers or joint pain products."

What to do when over-the-counter medication for joint pain isn't enough

"Over-the-counter pain relievers can provide short-

term relief, but they don't treat the cause of your joint pain," explains Dr. Sun. "They simply treat the symptoms but not the root cause. Initially, over-the-counter medications may be able to control your symptoms; however, over time there are diminishing returns."

Dr. Sun strongly warns against relying on over-the-counter pain relievers longer than a week or so without first checking with your doctor.

It's also important to be sure that any pain reliever you're taking doesn't interfere with other medications you take. Your doctor can help confirm.

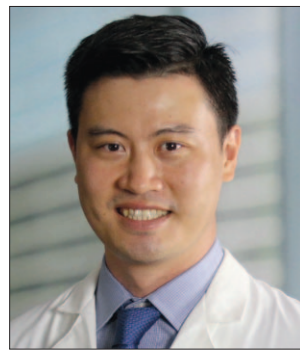
And rather than relying on pain relievers for an extended period of time, talk to your doctor about how best to treat joint pain that persists.

"Over-the-counter pain relievers are just one of the many tools we have in our arsenal to combat joint pain," says Sun. "In reality, it's best to only occasionally turn to these medications as a way to help supplement the other longer-lasting ways of treating joint pain."

Other ways to relieve joint pain

Taking medication for joint pain isn't the only way to get relief.

"There are many ways to



Dr. David Sun

address chronic joint pain, and your doctor can help you understand where to start," says Sun.

Other ways to help relieve joint pain include:

- Exercising and stretching
- Modifying your diet
- Losing weight, if you are overweight
- Applying heat and ice
- Physical therapy
- Prescription pain medication
- Injectable medications
- Surgery, including joint replacement

For instance, exercise, a healthy diet and weight loss can help improve joint mobility, reduce joint inflammation and lessen the pressure placed on joints — all of which can help relieve joint pain.

Your doctor may also recommend physical therapy, which uses targeted exercises to strengthen muscles around the affected joint and improve its range of motion.

This can help further reduce pain and stiffness in the joint. This may also optimize joint function prior to surgery aka: Pre-habilitation.

"Depending on the underlying cause of your joint pain and which remedies you've already tried, your doctor can help you determine what the next steps are for treating your pain," says Dr. Sun.

For significant joint pain that doesn't respond to more conservative treatment, different methods may be needed.

"Corticosteroid injections can lessen pain for several months and have immediate onset pain relief," explains Sun. "Hyaluronic acid (aka gel injections) takes longer to work but lasts for six months or longer. Both help reduce the inflammation that's causing stiffness and pain in the joint."

Still, despite treatment, you may notice the signs that your joint pain is continuing to affect your daily life — and wonder whether it's time for more aggressive measures.

When is joint replacement surgery needed to address joint pain?

A hip or knee replacement can improve your quality of life but deciding to have surgery is a big decision that you don't want to take lightly.

"We always start by ad-

ressing joint pain in the most conservative fashion, but surgery may eventually be needed if your pain continues to progress," says Dr. Sun. "I am a conservative surgeon who attempts to try everything we can to control your pain prior to deciding on surgery. Surgery should be our last option."

Before joint replacement, chronic joint pain can sometimes be relieved using a minor, outpatient procedure called arthroscopic surgery.

"During arthroscopy surgery, several small incisions are made around the affected joint and a tiny camera and other tools are used to visualize and repair any damage present," explains Dr. Sun. "This usually involves cleaning and flushing the joint, removing damaged cartilage and loose bone. Recovery is fairly straightforward, and people can usually resume activities a few days later."

However, arthroscopic surgery often only provides short-term relief, and a joint replacement may ultimately be needed.

Dr. Sun will host a webinar to discuss joint pain on Tuesday, November 15th at noon. You can sign up by calling 281.428.2273 or visiting jointpain-baytown.org.

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OPINION PAGE

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TX-29 MATTERS

By U.S. Representative SYLVIA GARCIA



Casework Clinics: Help with your Paperwork

My office can help you get solutions when you're having problems with Social Security, Medicare, federal employee retirement, veterans' services, or other federal programs.

This is called casework, and it is one of the most important things I do as your Congresswoman.

I'll be hosting casework clinics across the district to help residents. Staff will be available to assist in English and Spanish. If you need help with a federal agency, please stop by one of the following clinics:

- **East Harris County Activity Center** (7340 Spencer Hwy, Pasadena, TX 77505) on Thursday, November 10, from 10:00 a.m. through 12:00 p.m.
- **Leonel J Castillo Community Center** (2101 South St, Houston, TX 77009) on Monday, November 14, from 11:30 a.m. through 1:30 p.m.
- **Northeast Harris County Community Center** (10918 1/2 Bentley St, Houston, TX 77093) on Tuesday, November 15, from 11:00 a.m. through 1:00 p.m.
- **Hardy Community Center** (11901 West Hardy Rd, Houston, TX 77076) on Wednesday, November 16, from 10:00 a.m. through 12:00 p.m.
- **Pep Mueller Activity Center** (14750 Henry Rd, Houston, TX 77060) on Wednesday, November 30, from 9:00 a.m. through 11:00 a.m.
- **Mangum-Howell Community Center** (2500 Frick Rd, Houston, TX 77038) on Tuesday, December 13, from 12:00 p.m. through 2:00 p.m.

We hope to see you there!

P.S. Unable to join one of my clinics? No worries. You can always call my office at **(832) 325-3150** and set an appointment with a member of my staff.

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COUNTY MATTERS

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo

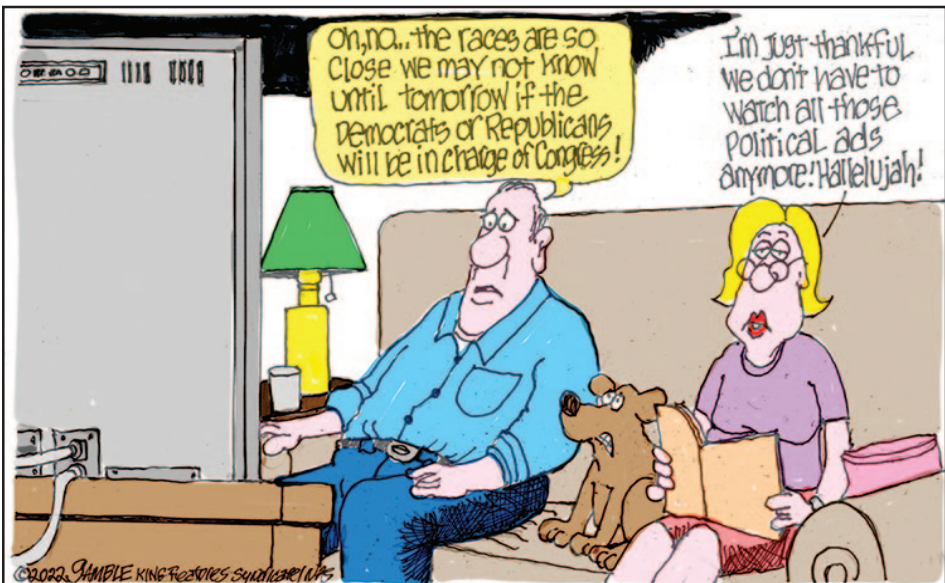


Growing Harris County's Access to Mental Health Support

Mental health is an issue we can no longer put on the back burner. During the pandemic, about four in ten adults in the U.S. reported symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorder, four times as many as in 2019. According to CDC data, in 2021 more than a third (37%) of high school students reported experiencing poor mental health. Disturbingly, Texas ranks last among all other states when it comes to access to mental health support services and, in the last year, the state has cut \$117 million in mental health funding, further increasing the gap between support services and the individuals who depend on them. For the least fortunate folks, interaction with the police, arrest and/or jail is often the only way to access mental health services. The largest mental health provider in Texas is the Harris County Jail.

To combat this impending mental health crisis in Harris County, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Commissioners Court last month passed a \$14.3 million initiative. Through a multi-million dollar allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, the Behavioral and Mental Health Program will increase the quantity of trained mental health providers so they are better able to retain and hire more trained staff. The initiative will also recruit more high school and college students into the mental health profession, add school counselors, and will help connect residents with mental health and substance abuse resources that will aid in their recovery.

This is just another way Harris County is working to help improve lives for our residents. In August Harris County established The Brighter Futures for Harris County Kids program, which has invested more than \$80 million dollars in early childhood education, childcare, and maternal health (read more below). Commissioner's Court has also invested over \$1 billion in crime prevention and justice programs including the HART (Holistic Assistance Response Teams) program, which dispatches trained behavioral and mental health responders, instead of busy police officers, to calls involving mental health and substance abuse issues, allowing police officers to focus on violent crime.



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Panic Buttons, Locked Doors for Texas Schools

Texas public schools would have to install panic buttons in classrooms and ensure all doors and windows are locked and monitored under new proposed safety standards released last week by the Texas Education Agency.

The proposal is the latest effort to strengthen school safety after 19 children and two teachers were killed at Robb Elementary in Uvalde last May in the state's deadliest school shooting.

The Dallas Morning News reported that school districts in coming weeks can apply for grants from TEA to cover spending on security-related items, including installment of silent panic buttons this year. Each district will receive at least \$200,000, with funds awarded on a per-student count.

Districts would also be required to undergo twice-annual maintenance checks to make sure that two-way radio equipment used by law enforcement and first responders works inside their school buildings. Previous reports indicate poor radio communication was one reason law enforcement didn't confront the gunman for more than an hour in Uvalde.

20% INCREASE IN TRAFFIC DEATHS IN OIL AND GAS REGIONS

More than 79,000 traffic crashes were recorded in 2021 in the state's five main energy sectors — the Permian Basin, Eagle Ford Shale, Barnett Shale, Anadarko Basin and the Haynesville/Bossier Shale — resulting in 1,119 fatalities. The Texas Department of Transportation launched its "Be Safe. Drive Smart" fall campaign to remind drivers to slow down, stay alert and be extra cautious when driving in high-traffic oil- and gas-producing areas.

Drivers are urged to fol-



low the posted speed limit and adjust driving to road conditions; don't text or talk when behind the wheel; give large trucks plenty of space; pass only when it's safe to do so; and always buckle up.

"Be Safe. Drive Smart" is a key part of #EndTheStreakTX, which is attempting to end the streak of daily traffic deaths in Texas. On Nov. 7, the state marked 22 years since the last deathless day on Texas roadways.

WILDFIRE SAFETY URGED DURING HUNTING SEASON

Deer season is underway, and the Texas A&M Forest Service urges hunters to be careful with activities that may cause a wildfire this hunting season. From 2017 to 2021 the forest service responded to 3,682 wildfires that burned 1.4 million acres. During that period, 42% of wildfires occurred during the major hunting season months of September through January.

"Texas A&M Forest Service wants all hunters to be safe this upcoming season," said Karen Stafford of the forest service. "We all have a role to play in protecting our state from wildfires, so remember to do your part and don't let a wildfire start."

Hunters are urged to avoid driving over and parking on dry grass, which could spark a fire; to check for burn bans in effect; never leave a campfire

unattended; and to always carry a fire extinguisher, shovel and water to camp.

EMERGENCY SNAP BENEFITS AGAIN EXTENDED

Once again, emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program food benefits have been extended through the U.S. Department of Agriculture and distributed by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. More than \$334.5 million in emergency benefits are going to about 1.6 million Texas households.

"As we head into the holiday season, we hope these additional allotments provide nourishing meals to Texans in need," said Texas HHS Access and Eligibility Services Deputy Executive Commissioner Wayne Salter.

All SNAP households will receive a minimum of \$95 in emergency benefits by Nov. 30. Since April 2020, more than \$8.7 billion in federal food benefits have been provided to eligible Texans.

TEXAS AGAIN LEADS NATION IN JOBS ADDED

The latest statistics from the Texas Workforce Commission and the Bureau of Labor Statistics show Texas led the nation in jobs added over the past 12 months and broke the state's record for total jobs for the 11th consecutive month.

The state economy has added 721,8000 positions since September 2021. The state's unemployment rate was 4.0%

"More people in Texas are working today than ever before. In fact, more people in Texas are working than the entire population of the state of Pennsylvania," said TWC Commissioner Julian Alvarez. "TWC offers an array of free services to Texans to ensure their success — everything from free online learning courses to occupational training and hiring events. We're here to help."

BIGGEST-EVER BUC-EE'S COMING TO LULING

Buc-ee's is planning to bring the title of largest of its travel centers back to Texas by building a 75,000-squa re-foot facility in Luling, about 50 miles south of Austin. The new facility will be 1,000 square feet larger than the current title holder in Tennessee, according to The Dallas Morning News.

The new building in Luling will have 120 fueling stations and is expected to open next year. Buc-ee's began 40 years ago in Lake Jackson and now operates more than 30 travel centers in Texas and nine in other states. The company plans to expand to Colorado and Missouri.

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Stubby's Chance

I am delighted to report that my mother has come around.

I have been lobbying my mother for months to take pity on a little red squirrel who had acquired a great fondness for her, demonstrating his devotion by digging up all her flowerpots and gazing at her for minutes at a time through the window. My mother spent the summer shooing him off the deck and telling him to "scram" when she saw him through the window.

"He loves you, Mom."

"I don't love him!"

The little squirrel persisted. He would stare through the window, standing on his hind legs with his little fingers knit together, as if he was about to make a speech. I suspected I knew what his speech would be about. He wanted to be my mom's pet.

"He's not my pet!" my mother insisted.

A couple of weeks ago, I sent her a video of a squirrel that had been allowed to live in someone's house.

"Never inside!" she texted back.

The fact that she said "never inside" instead of simply "never!" indicated to me that she was softening on the subject. I suspected I knew the reason. Sometime early this fall, the poor squirrel lost half his tail.

"He was too preoccupied looking in the window at you!" I told her.

"I don't know how he lost it," my mother said. "Maybe a fox."

I could tell this recent bit of bad fortune had tipped the scale in favor of my little furry friend.

"Squirrels need their tails," my mother said. "They use them for balance. He might not be able to climb trees anymore!" As if to reassure my mother, the little squirrel nimbly scrambled up the nearest pine tree with a cone in its mouth.

But now all the other red squirrels had disappeared for the season, and this one fellow was still there, with half a tail, hanging out on the deck and acting as if he desperately wanted to be part of the family.

"Well, I've decided to start feeding him," my mother told me.

This is a big concession for my mom. Squirrels are the never-ending adversary, always looking for ways to get into the bird feeders. My parents have put considerable effort into thwarting their attempts. The red squirrels in particular are mischievous, dropping things onto the deck, stealing birdseed every chance they get and chattering loudly when they have some complaint—and they are always complaining about something. This fellow is as bad as any of them. But he won't go away. And now he only has half a tail.

"So I guess he needs a name," my mom continued. "Your sister suggested Richard, but that sounds too dignified to me. I suggested Ricky." Obviously, things had progressed significantly if my mother was christening the wicked little red squirrel.

"But Beau pointed out that we don't know if it's male or female, so maybe we should pick a name that would work either way." Beau is my nephew, and he is very concerned about inclusive language.

"Beau suggested Ray," my mom continued, which did not sound very squirrel-like to me.

"It's missing half its tail," I reminded my mother. "Why not call it Stubby? That would work for either gender."

"Stubby!" my mom laughed.

Whatever his (or her) name, I feel a lot better about Stubby's chance of making it through the winter with half a tail now that there is a daily serving of seeds on the deck railing.

And I am pleased that my mother has finally acquired a new pet.

Till next time,
Carrie

Photos from the column and other fun stuff can be found at CarrieClasson.com.

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OBITUARIES

REBECCA “BECKY” ANN REEVES (GAEKE)

Rebecca Ann Reeves, 62, passed away on Wednesday, November 9th, 2022, due to complications from surgery.

Becky was born December 14, 1959, in Brenham Texas to parents Wilbert “Sonny” Gaeke and Gisela Gaeke (Schmidt). Becky grew up in Brenham but graduated from Galena Park High School in 1976 after the family moved there for their car business.

Becky was blessed with son Robert “Robbie” LaFerney and married Clifford “Cliff” Reeves. They moved to Crosby in 1989 and raised Robbie there until they moved to the Kingwood Area in 2014. Becky worked for multiple Gas and Oil companies thru the years and retired in



2018 due to health conditions. Becky and Cliff lived in retirement spending most their experiences, gambling in Louisiana, traveling, and spending time with the grandkids, Evelyn Shawn, and Callie Grace LaFerney. Becky joins our Father in Heaven, Jesus Christ, her family, Gisela, Sonny, and Sister Karen Gaeke where she will be welcomed with open arms to serve in Heaven.

Becky is survived by her husband, Cliff; son and daughter-in-law, Robbie and Samantha; grandchildren, Evelyn and Callie; Ex-Husband, Robert C. LaFerney; brother and sister-in-law, Johnny and Lana Gaeke; and nephew, J.W.

Becky will be remembered for her larger-than-life heart, constant need to give to everyone anything they asked for, and outstanding ability to cook for an army.

Visitation and Memorial Services will be held Saturday, November 19, 11:00 a.m. at the Crosby Brethren Church at 5202 1st Street, Crosby, Texas 77532.

Claybar Funeral Home
504 N. 5th Street
Orange, Texas 77630

IN THE STARS

BIRTHDAYS

- Nov 17–Seth Bailey
Rose Castro
Beverly Wanke
Garrett Welch
Wayne Whittaker
- Nov 18–Brooke Dammon
Blake Engle
Rachel Nibbe
Johnny Wotipka
- Nov 19–Gilbert Hoffman
Nov 20–Gene Bulanek
Nov 21–Claudia Birdsong
Gene Cole
Kristan Liu Hoffman
Gina Marie Manley
- Nov 22–Theresa McGee
Lisa Selensky
- Nov 23–Monica Day
Brittany Muldrow
Caleb Morgan
- Nov 24–David Boucher
Jaymee Gleason
Teri Gleason
Gene Gomez
- Nov 25–W.G. Carro
Curtis Ingram
- Nov 26–Mary Hargis
Nov 27–Doyle King
Nov 28–Louise Duncan
Jim Strouhal, Jr.
- Nov 29–Vernon Searcy
Louis Williams
- Nov 30–Kaycee Culbreath

ANNIVERSARIES

- Nov 19–Bill & Cindy Creel
Ovis & Betty Divin
- Nov 20–Albert & Cheryl
ZarskyNov 25–Lois & Charles Dunbar
Becky & Rayford Smith
- Nov 26–J.B. & Barbara
Glaze
- Doyle & Ruby King
- Dec 2–Robert & Nelda
Bailey

DEATHS

- Rebecca Ann Reeves (Gaeke)
- Janie J. York

JANIE J. YORK

Our mother, Janie J. York passed November 10, 2022.

95 years young!

She loved to go anywhere and everywhere. She is on her next adventure.

We will miss her.

Visitation on Thursday, November 17, 2022 at Sterling-White Funeral Home in Highlands Texas. Visitation 5-8 pm, Rosary at 7pm.

Mass at 11am on Friday November 18, 2022 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Crosby Texas.

Luncheon to follow, Sacred Heart Catholic Church Parish Hall.



Crosby Chef,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tle of the Ages” on the Fox Television Network. He has two children who attend Crosby High School, and he is actively giving back to our communities as he continues deeper into the season on the intense cooking show competition. The Crosby High School Thanksgiving meal will be the fifth full-service lunch Culinary Arts students have prepared this semester from the school-based Bistro.

CROSBY ISD

Crosby ISD serves the needs of more than 6700 children in the communities of Crosby and Barrett Station in East Harris County, Texas. Our mission is to produce literate, responsible citizens capable of learning and applying academic and social skills successfully in any life setting. For more information, visit crosbyisd.org

FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 12:
No. 4-ranked TCU faces tough road test at Baylor; Cowboys face tall task with trip to Minnesota

Before we talk football, let's talk Astros! What an amazing job our boys in Orange and Blue did this year as they brought a second World Series title back to H-Town. As a life-long Astros fan (I started going to games in the mid-60s, so yes, I'm old), you don't know how happy our team's title-clinching win on Saturday night was to me and so, so many Astros fans. So happy that Dusty Baker finally got a Series title as a manager. He was the right man for the job after owner Jim Crane fired GM Jeff Luhnow and manager A.J. Hinch following the sign stealing scandal. Hats off as well to a loaded pitching staff, and a clutch-hitting lineup. Jordan Alvarez's blast in the bottom of the sixth will live in the annals of Astros history. What a shot!

This is a solid team that can win it again. We are witnessing the greatest era of Astros baseball and it's been a fun ride. Congrats boys. You made a city very, very happy.

Now, onto football.

It's getting close to crunch time for college football teams and their hopes of landing a spot in the College Football Playoffs (CFP).

Defending national champion Georgia appears to be a lock to defend its title, but a handful of other teams need impressive wins in the final three week of the season to join the Bulldogs in the four-team tournament.

Tennessee is on the outside looking in after its 27-13 loss at Georgia two weeks ago, and Nick Saban's Alabama Crimson Tide's national title hopes are pretty much done after dropping a 32-31 decision at LSU two weeks ago. That leaves No. 2-ranked Ohio State, No. 3-ranked Michigan and No. 4-ranked TCU as viable contenders to play for a national title.

And No. 7-ranked USC is still in the hunt. They face crosstown rival UCLA, which is ranked No. 12 in the country, in a key game for both teams this Saturday in the Rose Bowl.

It's going to be an interesting close to the regular season and then the conference title games to see who will be left standing for the four CFP berths.

TCU is the Big 12's best chance to land a playoff spot, and they face a huge test this Saturday when they travel to Waco to take on a tough Baylor team. The Bears are the defending Big 12 champs and would like nothing more than to spoil TCU's undefeated season. Two weeks ago, the Frogs trailed Texas Tech 20-17 in the third quarter before ripping off 17 straight points to ease to a 34-24 win. They played at Texas last Saturday, which will be no easy feat.

Speaking of Texas, the Longhorns got a big boost two weeks ago with their 34-27 win at Kansas State. UT is still in the hunt to earn a spot in the Big 12 title game, but they need to win out and get help from others on the Big 12. Even if Steve Sarkisian's team does not make it to AT&T Stadium for the Big 12 title game, they are now bowl eligible and things could be looking up for the 'Horns after last year's 5-7 season.

In the Big 10, No. 3-ranked Michigan hosts No. 16-ranked Illinois, one of the surprise teams of the 2022 season, while in the Pac 10, No. 7-ranked USC takes on No. 12-ranked UCLA in the Rose Bowl. The winner of that game will probably earn a spot in the Pac 10 title game.

In the NFL, the hapless Texans host the Washington Commanders on Sunday, while the Cowboys head to Minneapolis to take on a very good Vikings team. This will be the Cowboys second straight week of playing an NFC North team as they played at struggling Green Bay last Sunday. Wow, Packer fans are suffering through a rough season as QB Aaron Rodgers has had an un-Rodgers like season. Two weeks ago, the Pack hit rock bottom when they lost at Detroit, which entered the game with just one win. Rodgers was intercepted three times in the 15-9 setback.

There's a big game in the AFC East as the surprising New York Jets (6-3) visit Foxborough to take on the defense-minded Patriots. Kansas City travels to Los Angeles to take on the Chargers in a key AFC West game on Sunday Night Football. Week 10 concludes on Monday Night Football with the Bengals visiting the struggling Steelers.

Before we take a look at those games and some others, let's review last week's record. An 8-4 week brought the season record to 78-42 (65%). Now, onto this weekend's game.

NCAA

Georgia at Kentucky: No. 1-ranked Georgia has a tricky trip to Lexington to take on a dangerous Kentucky team, but it appears after their domination of previously undefeated Tennessee two weeks ago (27-13) the Bulldogs are focused on a second straight national title. Georgia was methodical in its 14-point win over the Vols and this week the defense will have to deal with an NFL-style QB in Kentucky's Will Lewis (1,903 yards, 16 TDs) and a strong runner in running back Chris Rod-



KEENEY'S KORNER
By
MIKE KEENEY

riguez (571 yards, 4 TDs). Look for Georgia QB Stetson Bennett (2,606 yards, 11 passing TDs/6 rushing TDs) to be his steady self. He'll look to make plays in the passing game to perhaps the nation's best tight end in sophomore Brock Bowers (34 receptions, 574 yards, 6 total TDs), while running back Daijun Edwards (488 yards, 7 TDs) takes care of things on the ground. Head coach Kirby Smart knows the Wildcats are dangerous and he will have his troops ready come Saturday. My pick, Georgia 31, Kentucky 13

Illinois at Michigan: The Illini have been one of the surprise teams of the 2022 season winning seven of their first nine games and are bowl eligible. Two weeks ago, they were upset at home by a mediocre Michigan State team and this week they face the No. 3-ranked Wolverines, who are looking to their annual encounter against arch rival Ohio State (ranked No. 2 in the nation) on Nov. 26. I don't expect Jim Harbaugh's team to look past Illinois. Illinois has the nation's leading rusher in Chase Brown (1,344 yards, 5 TDs) and a decent QB in Tommy DeVito (1,882 yards, 14 TDs). But those two will be facing a Michigan defense that is allowing just 12 points per game this season. The Wolverines will be led by QB J.J. McCarthy (1,617 yards, 12 TDs) and running back Blake Carum (1,187 yards, 16 TDs). Harbaugh will have his team ready and then it's onto the Buckeyes on Thanksgiving weekend. My pick, Michigan 34, Illinois 14

Texas at Kansas: No. 24-ranked Texas has another tough road test when they travel to Lawrence to take on another surprise team, the Kansas Jayhawks. Two weeks ago, KU became bowl eligible with its 37-16 home win over Oklahoma State. Texas picked up a nice road win at Kansas State to also become bowl eligible. The 'Horns will be seeking to avenge last year's home loss to Kansas. Look for running back Bijan Robinson (1,129 yards, 14 total TDs) to have another big day, along with QB Quinn Ewers (1,336 yards, 13 TDs) and wide receiver Xavier Worthy (40 receptions, 552 yards, 9 TDs). Kansas has a potent offense as well led by backup QB Jason Bean (986 yards, 11 TDs) and running back Devin Neal (761 yards, 7 TDs). Texas must win out if it hopes to make it to the Big 12 title game so look for another solid effort on the road on Saturday. My pick, Texas 34, Kansas 30

TCU at Baylor: If the Horned Frogs win at Baylor on Saturday, they can pretty much assure themselves a trip to Arlington and the Big 12 title game on Dec. 3. TCU has been the best team in the conference so far this season, but they face a real challenge against a good Baylor team on Saturday. TCU is led by QB Max Duggan (2,407 yards, 24 TDs/4 rushing TDs), running back Kendre Miller (1,009 yards, 12 TDs) and wide receiver Quinton Johnson (42 receptions, 650 yards, 4 TDs). Johnson injured his ankle in the win over Texas Tech, but should be back for the Baylor game. Baylor will look to running back Richard Reese (798 yards, 13 TDs) and QB Blake Shapen (1,951 yards, 13 TDs) to move the ball on offense, but I don't think they have the firepower to keep up with the Frogs. The Baylor defense will be severely tested on Saturday. My pick, TCU 31, Baylor 20

NFL

Tennessee at Green Bay: Week 11 of the NFL season kicks off with Thursday Night Football as the Tennessee Titans visit the Packers at Lambeau Field. Two weeks ago, the Titans lost in overtime at Kansas City, 20-17. The Titans are a tough team that loves to run the football which makes sense since they have one of the top running backs in the league in Derrick Henry (1,097 yards, 6 TDs). Tennessee hope to have starting QB Ryan Tannehill back for this game after he missed two games with an ankle injury. If Tannehill is unable to go, look for head coach Mike Vrabel to give Henry a heavy workload against a beat up GB defense. Two weeks ago, the Packers dropped their fifth straight game to fall to 3-6 when they suffered a humiliating loss to a then one-win Detroit team. GB QB Aaron Rodgers (2,091 yards, 14 TDs) threw three interceptions in the Detroit game and has yet to get untracked this season. Look for it to be another long night when they take on the Titans. My pick, Tennessee 26, Green Bay 23

New York Jets at New England: Don't look now, but the Jets are a bonafide playoff contender. Two weeks ago, NY upset Buffalo 20-17 as the defense intercepted Josh Allen twice and forced a fumble from the supposed MVP. The offense has issues, especially at QB as Zach Wilson (1,202 yards, 4 TDs) isn't getting

it done in the passing game. Wilson needs to step up or he could be in for a long day against a New England defense that recorded nine sacks and had a pick six two weeks ago during its 26-3 route of the Colts. Head coach bill Belichick has his team in the playoff hunt, despite an offense that is limited with Mac Jones (1,140 yards, 4 TDs) at quarterback. The Pats can run the ball, so look for Belichick to give the Jets defense a steady dose of running back Rhamdre Stevenson (618 yards, 4 TDs). This should be a defensive battle and, in that case, go with the home team. My pick, New England 17, New York Jets 13

Washington at Houston: What an exciting matchup, NOT! This game features two challenged offenses as the Commanders visit NRG Stadium to take on the Texans on Sunday afternoon. Washington has turned to back up QB Taylor Heinicke (629 yards, 5 TDs) as starter Carson Wentz recovers from a hand injury. Heinicke is a battler and can make plays with his legs. He has a solid WR to throw to in Terry McLaurin (38 receptions, 605 yards, 2 TDs). The Texans need to give the Washington defense a steady dose of rookie running back Dameon Pierce (678 yards, 4 total TDs) because quarterback Davis Mills (1,656 yards, 10 TDs/8 interceptions) just isn't getting it done in the passing game. Yes, the Texans played hard two weeks ago in their 29-17 loss to the Eagles, so maybe there's hope they can win one at home on Sunday. My pick, Houston 20, Washington 17

Dallas at Minnesota: One of the better games of Week 11 has the Cowboys taking on the NFC North leading Minnesota Vikings in Minneapolis. This will be the second week Dallas plays an NFC North team as they played at Green Bay last Sunday. The Cowboys bring one of the league's best defenses into this game (33 sacks, 17 turnovers in their first 8 games) and now that Dak Prescott (591 yards, 3 TDs) is back at QB, the offense is starting to hum. Dallas has a one-two punch at running back with Ezekiel Elliott (443 yards, 4 TDs) and speedy Tony Pollard (506 yards, 5 TDs) and a big-play wideout in CeeDee Lamb (42 receptions, 556 yards, 3 TDs). Minnesota has a solid offense as well led by QB Kirk Cousins (1,999 yards, 13 TDs), running back Dalvin Cook (608 yards, 6 total TDs) and wide receiver Justin Jefferson (59 receptions, 867 yards, 3 TDs). I think the Cowboys hang around in this one, but look for Cousins to out-duel Prescott as the Vikings march on to an NFC North title. My pick, Minnesota 30, Dallas 27

Kansas City at Los Angeles Chargers: A big one in the AFC West as the Chiefs visit the Chargers in one of the better games on the Week 11 schedule. Two weeks ago, Justin Herbert (2,254 yards, 13 TDs) and Austin Ekeler (427 rushing yards, 6 TDs/60 receptions, 351 yards, 4 TDs) earned a hard-fought win against a feisty Atlanta team on the road. This week, they face a Chiefs team that is grinding out wins. Two weeks ago, Patrick Mahomes (2,605 yards, 21 TDs) used his arms and legs (63 rushing yards, 1 TD) to lead his team to a 20-17 overtime win against the Titans. Look for Mahomes to once again key in on tight end Travis Kelce (57 receptions, 659 yards, 7 TDs) and JuJu Smith-Schuster (44 receptions, 582 yards, 2 TDs) to make plays against a suspect LA secondary. The Chiefs and Chargers always play entertaining games, and I expect another offensive shootout come Sunday. My pick, Kansas City 33, Los Angeles Chargers 31

Cincinnati at Pittsburgh: The Bengals visit the Steelers on Sunday Night Football with one team seeking a second straight playoff appearance, while the other may be looking at its first losing season under the direction of head coach Mike Tomlin. The Bengals are battling the Ravens for the top spot in the AFC North, while the Steelers appear to be in rebuild mode. Pittsburgh is a proud team and look for their defense to play hard against Cincinnati QB Joe Burrow (2,535 yards, 18 TDs) on Sunday Night Football. Two weeks ago, Bengals running back Joe Mixon (585 yards, 8 total TDs) had a field day against Carolina scoring five touchdowns in a 42-21 route. Look for Burrow to rely on Tee Higgins (41 receptions, 564 yards, 3 TDs) and others to pick up the slack while Ja'Marr Chase recovers from a hip injury. The Steeler offense has been dormant this year as rookie QB Kenny Pickett (962 yards, 2 TDs) is in the process of learning on the job. He needs help from running back Najee Harris (361 yards, 1 TD) to step up. I think the Steelers play hard in this game, but look for Burrow and Mixon to make plays late to send the Bengals home with a big road win. My pick, Cincinnati 26, Pittsburgh 17

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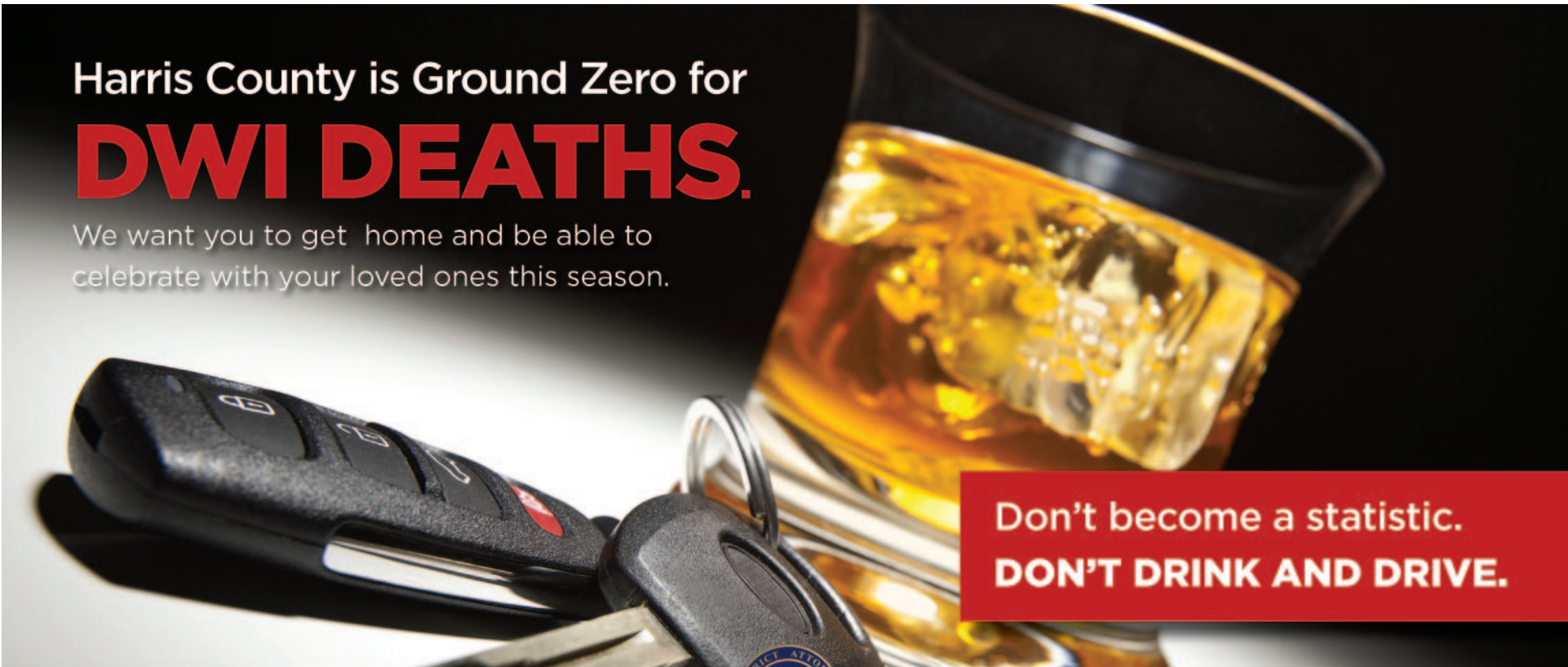
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Rotary hears of Navigation Center

HIGHLANDS – Rotarians heard about the new Navigation Center that has been established in the Highlands Methodist Church, to serve homeless and needy persons throughout the East Harris County area.

The speaker was Tom Kelchner, a Baytown Rotarian and now full-time social worker, who has teamed with Marcelous-Willilams Resource Center to provide support services to the needy population.

Ramonia and Eddie Williams joined with Kelchner in this new endeavor, which is supported by Lee College, Harris County Precinct 2, and a number of Baytown industries.

Services are provided at their offices in the Highlands Methodist Church, on



11.08

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11am to 3pm. So far about 100 persons have been helped, with plans to expand the outreach. These services are open to anyone, and will be asked to commit to a life plan. The center tries to provide food, clothing, jobs, and housing where appropriate.

Kelchner said donations are welcome, and volunteers. To learn more about the Navigation Center, there is an Open House planned on Dec. 8th from 2:00-5:30pm at the church.

Tom Kelchner and Ramonia Williams speaking at Highlands Rotary about the new Navigation Center.



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