

Lodge at Pine Creek
Now Open, Page 2

Letters to Santa form,
Page 7

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star Courier

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SANTA and Miss Highlands last year.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2022

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

**DEC. 5, MONDAY
EPA Meeting on
Waste Pits**

EPA will hold an IN-PERSON (Not Virtual) community meeting to update information on the San Jacinto River Waste Pits. Monday, December 5 from 6:00pm to 7:45pm. Public is invited. Highlands Community Center, 604 Highland Woods Drive, Highlands 77562.

**DEC. 8, THURS.
Santa comes to
Highlands**

Highlands Chamber and Harris County Precinct 3 will have Cookies & Pictures with Santa at the Highlands Community Center, 5pm to 7pm. The celebration this year is indoors, in place of the traditional Santa in the Pavilion at the Railroad Park.

**DEC. 2, 3
Crosby Library
Book Sale**

Friends of the Crosby Library will hold their 2022 Christmas Book Sale on: Friday, December 2 - 1pm - 6pm and Saturday, December 3 - 10am - 5pm. Buy 2 books, get 1 free! Paperback or Hardback books. Children's books not included. Hardback, paperback, cookbooks, romance, mystery Spanish, children's and more! Movies and more at great prices! All proceeds from the Book Sale benefit the Crosby Library. For more information, call the Library 281-328-3535 or 832-927-7790.

Holiday Season opens with Feasts, Parade

By Gilbert Hoffman

Houston got into the Holiday mood starting on Thanksgiving day, with a Super Feast at the George R. Brown Convention Center, serving almost 20,000 a tasty Thanksgiving dinner, and a festive, colorful Parade in downtown Houston.

The Parade continued in spite of a light rain that came and stopped intermittently. Marching band members and riders on floats and horseback simply donned plastic ponchos and kept going. "Don't Rain on my Parade" was the theme, it seemed.

The Super Feast is in its 44th year, and served over 35,000 meals, to both in-person sit-down diners, and drive-up patrons. Each received a food package with about 60 to 80 pounds of various types of foods, including a turkey, chicken or ham, enough for a family for about a week. The organizer of the Super Feast is the City Wide Club of Houston. They



Houston Thanksgiving Day Parade stretched for 20 blocks through downtown.



Super Feast served over 20,000 diners at George R. Brown Convention Center



Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia loading a turkey into an auto trunk.

serve these meals twice a year, on Thanksgiving Day and the day before Christmas, to everyone who comes to the Convention Center.

The Thanksgiving Day Parade is sponsored by H-E-B, and is in its 73rd year. It traverses over 20 city blocks, and features elaborate floats, colorful marching bands and drill and dance teams, balloon figures, horse and wagon units, and much more. Several hundred thousands spectators line the streets to see the spectacle, as well as thousands more watching TV. The Grand Marshal of the Parade this year is Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson. Participating from Aldine was the Carver HS Dance Company.

In the spirit of the Holiday Season, a number of Turkey giveaways occurred through our communities. Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia gave away over 1000 turkeys at a dozen sites, as did Judge Joe

Continued on Page 5

Highlands, Crosby look forward to Santa

HIGHLANDS/CROSBY - Christmas Season, with parades, Santa appearances, and Holiday festivals will get started next week, with some changes in the traditional events. Highlands Chamber is planning their festivities at the Community Center this year, instead of the Park on San Jacinto.

HIGHLANDS
Highlands is welcoming

Santa Thursday, December 8 at 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.. He will arrive on a fire truck to chat with local kids about what they want for Christmas, sponsored by a combination of Harris County Precinct 3, the Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce and the Highlands Fire Dept. Free Hot Chocolate and cookies will be served by the Rotary Club of High-



Santa and Mrs. Claus in Crosby last year.

lands and the Highlands Horizons. This annual tradition goes back over 30 years.

Santa will be in the Community Center, for pictures with Santa and for children to tell him their wishes for Christmas.

CROSBY
The season begins at Crosby Church on Satur-

Continued on Page 5

EPA meeting Dec. 5 to review Waste Pits status

HIGHLANDS - The federal EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) will hold a community meeting on Monday night, Dec. 5 to inform the public about current status of remediation work at the San Jacinto River Waste Pits north and south sites. The public will have an opportunity to ask questions and receive more information, according to Jeanetta Coats of the EPA.

The meeting will be led by EPA Remediation Project Manager Lauren Poulos and other EPA staff members.

Coats said the work involves excavation and off-site disposal of dioxin-containing wastes from the portion of the site known as the Southern Impoundment, an area of about 20 acres on a small



SIGNS OF PROGRESS: Contractors have positioned excavators, storage trailers, and offices on the site of the Waste Pits Southern impoundment prior to start of actual removal of the toxic waste.

peninsula extending just south of Interstate 10.

EPA Regional Administrator Dr. Earthea Nance said "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."

EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order to

Continued on Page 2

Pct. 2 dedicates Vietnam Fallen Warriors Monument



Veterans and City and County officials were present at the Ribbon Cutting for the new Vietnam Fallen Warriors Monument on Tidwell Road.

Harris County - Thursday, November 10th, 2022, at 10:30 a.m., Vietnam Combat Veterans Association unveiled the Vietnam Fallen Warriors Monument at Veterans Memori-

al Park. The monument, a four-year project, honors the 544 service members who died in the Vietnam War from the Houston area. Each of their names is inscribed on this monu-

ment. The total cost of the project was \$300,000 and was raised by foundations, VWF, through fundraisers, and grassroots supporters.

Continued on Page 5

RACHEL'S DINER
Southern Cooking Buffet -- Coming Soon
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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

HIGHLANDS ROTARY CLUB NEWS



Hoffman awarded Paul Harris pin +1



Highlands Rotarian Gil Hoffman, center, was awarded the Paul Harris +1 pin for achieving the next level of support in Rotary International. With Hoffman are Rotarians Patricia Scott and president Andy Scott.

Rotary Chili Feast set for February 4th

Highlands Rotarians are preparing for their 48th Annual Chili Feast, to be held on Saturday, February 4, 2023 at St. Jude's Catholic Church, 808 S. Main Street in Highlands.

Rotarians are selling tickets at this time, and a

\$100 donation will get two great tasting chili dinners, and a chance to win one of 16 valuable prizes. The top prize in the drawing is the winner's choice of a 2023 Chevrolet Trailblazer, or a Chevy Equinox SUV.

Waste Pits meeting Dec. 5,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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 exca-

vation. 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.

GOOSE CREEK CISD NEWS

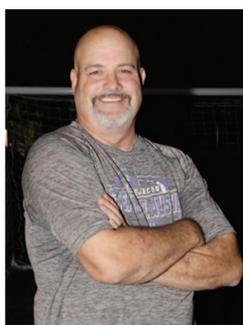
Education Foundation awards for "Get On The Bus"



The GCCISD Ed Foundation presented certificates to the elementary campuses with the highest percentage of participation for their "Get on the Bus" campaign. First place goes to Lamar, 2nd place to Bowie and 3rd place to Clark. Congratulations!

Giant Alumnus of the Month

Our Giant Alumnus of the Month for November 2022 is Shane Little. Shane graduated from Sterling High School in 1988 after attending Highlands Elementary and Highlands Junior. He graduated with a business management degree from LeTourneau University and is currently the AutoCAD department lead at Kent PLC in Baytown. Shane has dedicated most of his adult life to working with youth sports in Baytown and Highlands. In the 80s, he served as a coach and president for the Highlands Sports Association. Now, he coaches for the Baytown Upward Sports Association and recently started a new Upwards soccer program in Highlands, meeting kids' needs.



SHANE LITTLE

Shane's soccer and football programs are some of the largest Upwards sports leagues in Texas. Shane

has worked with athletes of all ages in Highlands and Baytown. For him, it is more than just advancing skills; it offers local youth mentorship. His goal is to provide as many positive outlets for kids as possible. Shane is a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend in his spare time.

Thank you to Houston Methodist Baytown for sponsoring this award.

CHAMBER NEWS



Cookies & Pictures with Santa
December 8, 2022
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

San Jacinto Community Center
604 Highland Woods Dr.
Highlands, TX 77562
713-274-2860

Special Guest



23rd Annual Christmas Festival
Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10th
1:00PM - 5:00PM

Crosby Church - 5725 Hwy 90, Crosby, TX

- Christmas Market
- Entertainment
- Holly the Elf
- Pictures with Santa and Goody Bags 2pm-4pm
- Petting Zoo 2-5pm
- Hayride
- Balloon Artist
- AND SO MUCH MORE!!!

FREE HOTDOGS, POPCORN & COTTON CANDY

LIGHTED PARADE AT 6 PM

Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce

SCHEDULE A COTTAGE TOUR AND ASK ABOUT OUR MOVE-IN SPECIALS!



Now Open
Baytown's New Favorite Option in Senior Living

A perfect blend of senior living options to fit your lifestyle in a one-of-a-kind Independent Living cottage retirement community. Offering a host of luxury amenities, active classes and activities, thoughtfully crafted living quarters with a market unique full kitchen and daily services. The Lodge at Pine Creek is a resort-style cottage community with a lake view in Baytown that provides unmatched value for you and your family.

INDEPENDENT LIVING | ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY CARE

THE LODGE AT
PINE CREEK
BY ABBY SENIOR LIVING

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

Barbers Hill Dayton Press

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2022

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Chambers County Library News

The Chambers County Library System has some fun programs coming up this holiday season! On Dec. 6 (Anahuac), 7 (Winnie), & 8 (Mont Belvieu) bring your pet to the library for a photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus! All times 5-6:30pm. This fundraiser for the Friends of the library (only \$5 a photo!) gives you a sweet little memento with a fun backdrop for you and your furry, fuzzy, or slimy pal. Great idea for a family Christmas card!

Storytime and Baby & Me programs also continue weekly at each branch. The importance of socializing infants and babies cannot be understated. Learn fun songs, stories, repetition, and introduce sensory activities to allow your little one to create, investigate, and explore. These programs last about 30 minutes and usually include a craft and hands-on activities.

After school programs for kids include:

Anahuac: Gingerbread-decorating contest Dec. 1-10. Pick up your template and show us your best art! Ages 0-11.

Winnie: Silent Knight Tournament! Games, crafts and refreshments served! Dec. 15 at 4pm. Ages 0-11.

Mont Belvieu: A visit from the North Pole! Grab a quick photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus and enjoy refreshments and a fun holiday craft. Dec. 15 at 4pm. Ages 0-11.

Tweens, Teens, and Adult programs include:

Anahuac: Teens enjoy cocoa and the movie Krampus on Dec. 19 at 4pm. Adults join us for an international Christmas dish exchange! Dec. 8 at 5:30pm.

Winnie: Teens make your own DIY gingerbread house! Dec. 20 at 4pm. Adults join us for free Christmas cookies and hot chocolate in the lobby on Dec. 15 from 9am-11am.

Mont Belvieu: Tweens (ages 7-11) make your own Christmas ornament on Dec. 1 at 4pm, and teens show us your teamwork by entering our gingerbread house building contest! Dec. 8 at 3:30pm. Adults join us on Dec. 12 from 10:30am-noon for caroling and cocoa! Hear some local musicians sing some Christmas classics.

And don't forget book club discussion groups at each branch. Check out all these programs (and more) on the library's website under the Events tab for more details: www.chambers.lib.tx.us Or call your local branch for more info: Anahuac: 409-267-2554, Winnie: 409-296-8245, Mont Belvieu: 281-576-2245. The library also continues to offer curbside pickup/printing at all locations. Patrons can request items online or by phone, and the library staff will place books in your vehicle.

Christmas On The Hill Parade Dec. 4



Holiday traditions run deep in the south, and the Christmas on the Hill Parade is one of our most cherished Mont Belvieu traditions. This special event gives the community the opportunity to support our locals and 100% of the

application fees brought in from this parade are given directly to the West Chambers County Food Pantry right here in Mont Belvieu. 'Tis the season, so let's give back in one of the most meaningful ways we know how.

JOIN THE PARADE!
The Christmas on the Hill parade will be at 6:00 p.m. on December 4th. The 2022 parade is full! We are no longer accepting submissions for parade entries.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Volunteers are needed for the City of Mont Belvieu Christmas on the Hill Parade. Volunteers will help delegate staging areas and maintain the integrity of

the parade. Volunteers need to be 18 years old or older and will be driving golf carts to help marshal the parade. **SHARE** Tag your friends & share this event on [Facebook](#).



Village Medical Celebrates Ribbon Cutting with Baytown Chamber



BAYTOWN - Village Medical, located at 2000 Garth Rd celebrated its 29th clinic in the Greater Houston area with a Baytown Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting. Village Medical, located inside the Walgreens at the corner of Garth Rd and Park St filled with Cham-

ber Ambassadors, staff and elected officials as well as the Village Medical team for the celebration.

Village Medical in Baytown is now accepting patients 6-years-old up to geriatric care. They are a primary care facility and can perform lab work and administer vaccines. To make an appointment, call 713-461-5307 or visit www.villagemedical.com

Middleton files First Three Bills

Restrict Lobbyists; School Choice; Ban COVID 19 Vaccine Mandate

Monday, the Legislature began filing bills ahead of the 88th Legislative Session. I filed my first three bills as your State Senator:

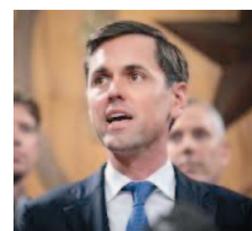
Ban on Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying
Empowering Parents to Choose Their Child's Education
Ban on COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates
You can read more about the first two bills below.

Senate Bill 175, prohibits public funds from being used to hire registered lobbyists.

"Taxpayers should not be bankrolling efforts to advocate against their interests. Every step of the way, taxpayer-funded lobbyists have lobbied against key conservative priorities including: property tax relief, election integrity, disclosures of what bonds truly cost taxpayers, the constitutional ban on a state income tax, and they even opposed the bill to fund and protect the teacher retirement system pension."

-Senator-Elect Mayes Middleton
Senate Bill 176, empowers parents to choose the educational opportunity that best suits their child's needs, with the money following the child.

"Our rights as parents are from God,



not government. Educational choice is about trusting Texas parents by putting more tools on the table for them to decide which educational options work best for their children—whether public school, private school, homeschool, or a hybrid of each. Parents deserve more options, and no zip code or income level should prevent Texas children from receiving a high-quality education—this is about equality of opportunity."

Mayes Middleton
Senator-Elect, Senate District 11

Walk-On's Celebrates Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening



BAYTOWN - Walk-On's Sports Bistreaux, located at 10528 IH 10 Service Rd, celebrated its 72nd location opening with a Baytown and West Chambers County Chamber of Commerce

Ribbon Cutting. Walk-On's filled with Chamber Ambassadors, staff, board and members, as well as elected officials and Walk-On's staff for the celebration.

Walk-On's offers Lou-

isiana-inspired, scratch-made dishes and an extensive beer and drink list, perfect for family & friend groups of all sizes. Reach the Bistreaux for more information at go.walk-ons.com or 832-810-9959.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

From Beach City Mayor Ryan Dagley

Happy Thanksgiving to all

As I sit here in the final days of my time as Mayor, I am very thankful for the opportunity I have had to lead the City of Beach City the last several years. I have been truly blessed with an amazing city council and an amazing city secretary. We have accomplished a lot as a team over the last several years, and I cannot thank the city council for their hard work and dedication along the way. Evonne, our City Secretary, exhibits daily our city motto "Beach City Spirit". She is as passionate as they come, and she has been such a good friend to me in my time on the city council and as Mayor. The City of Beach City is a very special place to my family and me, and I know I am leaving the city in good hands under the leadership of Mayor-

Elect Ken Pantin as well as the city council.

As most of you know, I was elected as the next Chambers County Commissioner for Pct 4 which encompasses the City of Beach City, all the industrial areas, as well as a large portion of the county along Highway 146. I take office on January 2nd, and although I am sad that I am leaving the city as your Mayor, I am at the same time very excited about being able to take my skill set, ideas, and passion to the county level. Thank you all for your continued support for the City of Beach City. I also want to thank you all for your support as a city councilman and as your mayor for the last several years.

God Bless you all and Happy Thanksgiving
Ryan Dagley, MAI
Mayor, Beach City**

OPINION PAGE

OPINION By Gus Bova Texas Observer Magazine

Beto's Lost Year

"I don't know what my role or yours will be going forward," said the Texas Dems' political star, after \$70 million bought a bracing defeat.

by Gus Bova, Texas Observer magazine

On Tuesday night, once it was clear his bid for Texas governor had been soundly defeated, Democrat Beto O'Rourke bounded up to address what one reporter called a "small, energetic crowd" in his hometown of El Paso.

"This may be one of the last times I get to talk in front of you all," he said, prompting a chorus of dismay from the crowd. He spoke of shifting his focus to helping his mom fight through cancer.

"Well, that still is the Texas that I want to live in, that is the dream that I ... will continue to pursue," he said. "I don't know what form that will take—I don't know what my role or yours will be going forward—but I'm in this fight for life."

The crowd began chanting "Beto."

It was an apt microcosm. O'Rourke's personal charm, which helped propel him to premature political stardom, was evident even in defeat. The crowd evinced its passion for him as an individual. Yet the showing was a shadow of 2018, when his concession speech was at a packed minor league baseball stadium.

Beto O'Rourke addresses the crowd at a town hall in Austin on June 3, 2022. Gus Bova/Texas Observer

Here are the numbers, in all their bleak implacability. On Tuesday night, O'Rourke lost to incumbent GOP Governor Greg Abbott by 11 points. That's 5 points worse than President Biden's showing in 2020 and 8 points worse than O'Rourke's tally against Cruz.

Dave Carney, Abbott's longtime campaign guru, now says he hopes O'Rourke will run for office again. "We need Beto," Carney cheekily told the Dallas Morning News in a Wednesday article.

So, how did we get here? Just four years past, O'Rourke was pure political dynamism—really, the only thing going for statewide Dems in the long shadow of Wendy Davis' 2014 gubernatorial flameout. He was the unheralded El Pasoan, who burst forth on a Facebook Live stream and took the state by storm, stirring something even in cynical observers and coming within a hair of ousting the eminently disagreeable Cruz.

By the time O'Rourke declared for governor last November, nothing looked good. Polling was already suggesting a comfortable lead for Abbott and, most tellingly, that O'Rourke was almost universally known and more disliked than liked.

Texas Dems, however, had no one else to run; O'Rourke, two losing campaigns under his belt, was far and away the strongest candidate they could muster. It was practically his duty to run, and lose, like the Lone Star State's fleeting liberal stars before him.

In response, O'Rourke did what O'Rourke does. He hopped in a pickup truck, drove like mad around the whole state, raised a ton of money, and mobilized a bunch of ardent volunteers. He worked hard to massage his past unpopular positions, and he seized on each opportunity fate provided. Often, these took the form of disasters: the lethal electric grid failure of 2021, the suicides of National Guard members deployed to the border, the worst school shooting in Texas history in Uvalde, and the termination of the constitutional right to abortion.

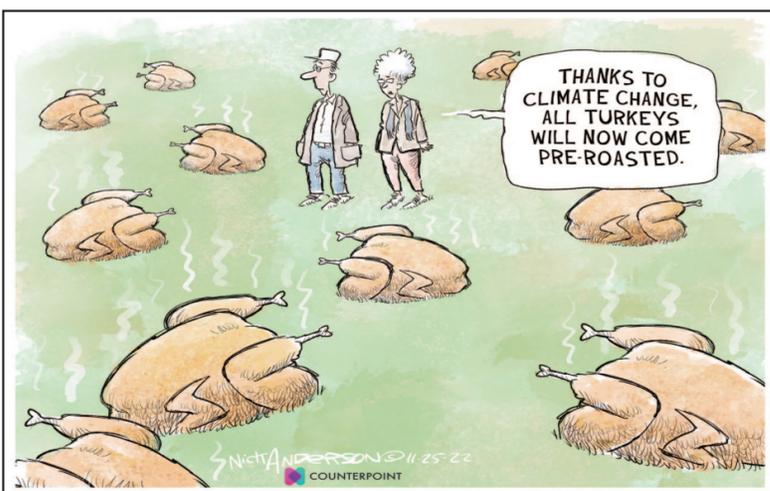
Beto painted himself into a corner; he outlined himself sharply in the eyes of a Texas electorate that previously saw him in something of a soft, forgiving glow.

For a time, these nation-shaking events did seem to deflect the governor's race. Over the summer, the polls tightened a tad, and there was all that money coming in. But maybe that was all wishful thinking. What's striking now, looking back, is the static nature of the race. Abbott was up by 12 in an early speculative poll last June; the RealClearPolitics average of all the polling over time is plus-10.4 for Abbott; Abbott won by 11.

If there are silver linings, they're slim. Unlike in 2018, when O'Rourke propelled a suite of down-ballot Democratic wins, this year's race was run on an overwhelmingly non-competitive, freshly gerrymandered map. It's possible that O'Rourke's spending and campaigning helped Houston-area Dems narrowly avoid a county-level wipeout Tuesday. It's also feasible that O'Rourke's statewide campaign infrastructure will one day be inherited by a promising new avatar of Texas progressivism. But, for now, this isn't much to hang one's hat on.

"I'd honestly like to see [O'Rourke] take a break," Carolina Machado, a school counselor, told the Texas Tribune after Tuesday's concession speech in El Paso. "I think he needs some time to kind of chill and be a family man for a little bit ... but I'd love to see him get back out there and really fight for us as Texans."

Machado has the right of it, of course; O'Rourke and his family have more than earned a reprieve. And should he decide to run for office again, the El Paso mayor's seat is up in just a couple short years.



THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Loved and Lost

We thought we would miss the festivities, which just shows how much we still have to learn about Mexico.

My husband, Peter, and I arrived in San Miguel de Allende on the 2nd of November.

"It's too bad we'll miss the Day of the Dead," I told Peter when he made reservations. I knew a little about the Day of the Dead. I'd seen the elaborate skeleton costumes and the cemeteries filled with flowers and families. I figured it would be all over.

But when we arrived, the streets were festooned with streamers, and there were bright orange Mexican marigolds decorating every doorway. It did not appear the party was over yet.

My former sister-in-law, who is Catholic, explained it to me later.

"Oh! It's All Souls' Day!" she said. All Souls' Day follows All Saints' Day which, in Mexico, is the Day of the Dead.

There were long lines of booths where people were having their faces painted to look like skeletons in an infinite variety of styles. Everyone on the street was dressed in elaborate costumes—adults and children and even a few dogs. One little dog was dressed in festive local fabric in a vivid shade of pink.

"Aren't you cute?" Peter said. The little dog lunged at Peter and barked. It's hard to look vicious when you're all decked out in pink.

There was a man carrying a brightly colored iguana on his shoulder.

"Is it your pet?" I asked his daughter. She nodded.

"Is it nice or dangerous?" I asked. She laughed.

A mariachi band played in the square and a woman sang songs that it seemed everyone knew except me and, finally, there was a parade with carriages pulled by giant draft horses in fancy harnesses, and enormous skeletons walking on stilts, and more bands, and police officers in dress uniforms riding in their jeeps and on their motorcycles, most of them with painted skeleton faces as well. It was marvelous.

But most memorable of all were the "ofrendas," the altars put up all around the square to honor the dead.

Some were quite large, and they were decorated with brilliant orange marigolds, photos of the dead, food, tequila, and other remembrances of things the deceased had loved. Some honored many family members. One was for victims of domestic violence. One was for men who had died on motorcycles. One was for a beloved nun. Most of them, we could only guess.

There was a framed photo of a beautiful woman that looked as if it had been taken several years ago. "Brave heart," the sign below her said. Peter, who lost two sisters to cancer in the last two years, was deeply touched.

Because, beneath all the festivities, there was a serious side to this wonderful celebration. It was a day to remember the souls of people loved and lost. It was a time set aside to remember how short life is and how we miss those who have left us. It was a day to honor them and remember them and feel their presence more keenly than most days of the year. We wish them well. We hope they wish the same for us.

Peter and I had dinner in a restaurant after the parade had passed and the light was growing dim. There would be fireworks later on, as there is for every celebration. The restaurant was filled with people in beautiful, colorful costumes that all, in some way, reminded us that we should enjoy this sweet day and celebrate the dead—before we, too, join their ranks.

Till next time, Carrie

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

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders



Legislators begin filling bills

LEGISLATORS BEGIN FILING BILLS AHEAD OF SESSION

Texas legislators are off to the races, filing more than 850 bills on Monday, the first day of filing season for the 88th session, which begins Jan. 10.

The Austin American-Statesman reported the potential laws, constitutional amendments and propositions address everything from property taxes to border security, access to guns, abortion, education and health care.

Thousands more bills will be filed prior to the March 10 deadline. Gov. Greg Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dade Phelan have not yet announced their legislative priorities.

Property tax relief is likely to be a top item, given past remarks from the state's leaders. With a hefty state surplus of \$27 billion predicted, two bills would carve into that surplus to reduce property taxes.

Other topics drawing proposed legislation:

- Democrats have filed a bevy of bills to increase gun safety and limit access to certain firearms.
· Eight Democratic state senators filed a bill that would create exceptions to the state's abortion ban in the case of rape or incest, as well as additional medical exceptions.
· Legalizing gambling will again be before the Legislature, as it has the past several sessions.
· Another Democratic measure would expand Medicaid benefits for women both before and after birth.

DACA RECIPIENTS URGE QUICK CONGRESSIONAL ACTION

A number of recipients of the Obama-era program known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) are urging Congress to act during the lame duck session to give them permanent protec-



tion against deportation.

The Texas Standard reported Austin accountant Edilsa Lopez was one of several recipients who met with Congressional leaders to tell their stories and urge them to adopt such legislation.

Nearly 600,000 children who were brought here by parents who are not U.S. citizens are protected under DACA, while another 400,000 are eligible but have been stymied from enrolling by legal challenges.

"This is my third time in D.C. flying to meet with congressmen from both sides of the aisle and they just keep on talking and talking," said Diego Corzo, 32, of Austin. "I think it's time that they finally put an importance to find a solution — a long-term solution — for the DACA recipients, for the Dreamers, so that we stop living in limbo."

RRC INSPECTORS SENT TO REEVES COUNTY AFTER QUAKE

The Texas Railroad Commission sent inspectors to Reeves County in West Texas Thursday after the area was rocked with a 5.4 magnitude earthquake near its border with Culberson County. The agents are examining disposal activity at injection wells in the area.

Tremors from the earthquake were felt in both San Antonio and Austin.

STATE NOW BUSING MIGRANTS TO PHILADELPHIA

The City of Brotherly love is the latest recipient of migrants being bused from Texas border communities, the Texas Tribune reported. The first bus arrived in Philadelphia last Wednesday.

"Since April, Texas' bus-ing strategy has successfully provided much-needed relief to our border communities overwhelmed by the historic influx of migrants caused by President Biden's reckless open border policies," Abbott said.

Texas has been sending busloads of migrants to Washington, D.C., Chicago, and New York in an attempt to pressure Biden to stiffen his immigration policies.

Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney said the city welcomed the migrants and has been preparing for their possible arrival since summer.

"As a proud welcoming city, we will greet our newly arrived neighbors with dignity and respect," said Kenney.

SAFE DRIVING URGED DURING HOLIDAY SEASON

The Texas Department of Public Transportation is urging holiday season motorists to exert caution and to especially not drink and drive.

The state saw 48,641 traffic crashes during the holiday season from Dec. 1, 2021, to Jan. 1, 2022, with 433 fatalities and 1,695 serious injuries. Nearly a quarter of those deaths — 23% — were related to drunk drivers, according to TxDOT.

"Get together with family and friends and have a great time, but please find an alternative way home if you choose to drink," Marc Williams, TxDOT executive director, said. "You have many options available."

Those options include a designated sober driver, calling a taxi or rideshare service, public transportation, or just staying put.

FED FUNDS SOUGHT AFTER NORTH TEXAS STORMS

Abbott has requested a disaster declaration from the U.S. Small Business Administration for Northeast Texas counties that were hit by severe weather and tornadoes earlier this month.

An SBA disaster declaration would make federal funds available for residents and business owners in Lamar, Morris, Bowie, Camp, Cass, Delta, Fannin, Marion, Red River, Titus, and Upshur counties.

The program, if approved by the SBA, would provide long-term, low-interest loans to qualifying persons who sustained damage and losses.

Advertisement for Star Courier newspaper, including contact information, subscription rates, and publisher details.

Dedication of the Vietnam Fallen Warriors Monument,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Vietnam Fallen Warriors Monument Ribbon Cutting, with remarks by Adrian Garcia, Harris County Commissioner, Precinct 2, a City of Houston representative, and Chief Sergeant Major Juan Chavez.

The ceremony was held Thursday, November 10, 2022, from 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at Veteran's Memorial Park, 1896 Tidwell Road, on Houston's north side.



Keynote speakers at the dedication ceremony included Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, and Chief Sergeant Major Juan Chavez.



View of the Vietnam Fallen Warriors Monument, which is part of the Veterans Memorial Park on Tidwell Road.

IN THE STARS

- BIRTHDAYS**
- Dec 1-Andrew Guerrero
 - Dec 3-Evelyn Deck
Carolyn Ingram Adams
Larry Lindstrom
 - Dec 4-Larry Kelley
 - Dec 5-Armand Chargois
 - Dec 6-Deborah Brown
Rob Turner
 - Dec 7-Leslie Coward
Becky Hill
Led Manke
Becky Smith
 - Dec 8-Barbara Glaze
Margaret K. Boyd
 - Dec 9-Bruce Abbott
Ray Denson
Alison Elkins
Briscoe Cain
EARL BOYKIN (90 in 2022)
 - Dec 10-Alecia Simmons
Karl Tewold
Maegan West
Kacy Browning
 - Dec 11-Caydie Farmer
Wesley Sheffield
 - Dec 12-Sheila Young
Cameron Townsend
 - Dec 13-Gary Hart
Patricia Herman
Don Lauders
Bernard Kotalik
Mary McCee
 - Dec 14-Blaine Allen Dickey
Mandy Griggs
 - Dec 15-Courtney Langham
Russell Rogers
 - Dec 16-Kelsy Browning
 - Dec 17-Tim Dammon
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Brandon Tappan
Laurie Delome
 - Dec 18-Mikey Martin
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 - Dec 15-Bob & Mary McGee
 - Dec 16-George & Aimee Palmer
 - Dec 17-George & Stachia R. Thurmond
 - Dec 19-Kitty & Bob Elkins
 - Dec 20-David & Kathryn Dunlop

Holiday Season has started,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Stephens in the North Channel area, and a similar giveaway at Davis High School in Aldine. Many other organizations throughout the county had similar free food distribution during the Thanksgiving week.

BLACK FRIDAY SHOPPING

After Thanksgiving, many families spent the next day shopping for bargains at Black Friday sales. However, stores were not as busy as previous years, perhaps because there are more shopping days this year, or online sales have taken the pressure off. Many stores were closed on Thanksgiving day, for the first time. Some shoppers took advantage of Toys-R-Us returning as a department inside Macy's stores.

TREE LIGHTING

Communities through-

out the county were preparing for Christmas celebrations, with tree lighting ceremonies and appearance of Santa Claus for chats and photos. In Highlands the event will be at the Community Center on Thursday December 8, from 5pm to 7pm, with cookies and hot chocolate and an appearance by the Grinch. In East Aldine a huge tree will be lighted on Friday December 9, from 6pm to 9pm and includes Frosty the snowman, Horse drawn rides, photos, hot cocoa, and Real Snow! In Crosby the 23rd Annual Christmas Festival takes place Saturday December 10 from 1pm to 5pm at Crosby Church, with hayrides, petting zoo, photos with Santa 2pm to 4pm, Holly the Elf, a Christmas Market, free food and at 6pm a Lighted Parade.

Christmas Events in Highlands/ Crosby,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

day, December 10th, with a Christmas Festival sponsored by the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce. It will be held from 1:00pm to 5:00pm at 5725 Hwy 90 in Crosby. Planned events include a Christmas Market, Entertainment, an appearance by Holly the Elf, a Petting Zoo starting at 2:00pm, a Hayride (remember them), a balloon artist and more.

You will be able to have your picture taken with SANTA and get a goody bag from 2:00 to 4:00pm.

There will also be free Hot Dogs, Popcorn, and Cotton Candy for attendees small and large.

And then at 6:00pm, back in town there will be a Christmas Parade! The parade starts and finishes at the Middle School, travels up FM2100 and First Street to Wahl, and then returns.

CUIC (Churches United In Caring) will hold a Mary Christmas Sale ongoing until Dec. 16 at their store on Church Street, with 50% off most items.

FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 14: Deshaun Watson returns to Houston: TCU looks to make its case for a CFP bid

The Prodigal Son is returning.

Former Texans QB Deshaun Watson will make his debut as the Cleveland Browns starting quarterback (and savior?) when he returns to NRG Stadium to face his former team on Sunday.

Watson served an 11-game suspension for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy after more than 20 women accused the former Texans No. 1 draft choice of inappropriate conduct while he received messages from them. Watson also fell out of favor with the Houston front office and demanded a trade. That's just what General Manager Nick Caserio did, trading the talented signal caller to the Browns for a boat load of draft picks.

Ironically, Watson plays his first game for the Browns against the team that made him the 12th overall pick in the 2017 draft.

Watson had his moments during his tenure as a Texan, but he forced a divorce and now long-suffering Browns fans are hoping they finally have a quarterback who can take them all the way. It won't be this year because the Browns are pretty much out of the playoff hunt, but Watson has the talent to lead a turnaround in 2023. Cleveland has the pieces in place to be a playoff contender next season.

While a lot of attention will be played to Watson's return to his old stomping grounds, there will be a lot of focus at the college level as teams play their conference title games all over the country. Once the dust has settled, we should have a pretty good idea of what four teams will make up the College Football Playoff field this year.

Defending national champion Georgia takes on LSU and first-year head coach Brian Kelly in the SEC title game in Atlanta. Georgia should have one of the CFP berths locked up, as should the winner of the Big 10 title game, which will be either Michigan or Ohio State. In the Big 12, TCU is assured of one of the slots in the conference title game. The Horned Frogs opponent should be either Kansas State or Texas. If TCU wins the conference title game, they would move to 13-0 on the season. Tennessee's upset loss at South Carolina two weeks ago eliminated the Vols from CFP contention and put TCU in solid position to land perhaps the fourth berth. USC is another team that will be considered for the CFP if the Trojans and first-year head coach Lincoln Riley finish with a win over a good, but not great Notre Dame team and a victory in the Pac 12 title game. The Committee could also consider a one-loss Michigan or Ohio State team as well. Clemson could also be playing for a playoff berth when they face North Carolina in the ACC title game.

Needless to say, there is a lot that will be decided this weekend.

In the NFL, there are a number of interesting games on tap this first weekend of December. Aside from Watson's return to Houston, the Cowboys host the Colts on Sunday Night Football, while the Jets travel to Minneapolis to take on the Vikings. The Chiefs and Bengals meet in a rematch of their AFC title game, but this time they will be playing this one in Bengal country. Week 13 concludes with an NFC South battle as the Saints visit Tom Brady and the Bucs.

Before we take a look at this week's games, let's review last week's record. A 10-2 week brought the season record to 93-49 (65%).

Now, onto this weekend's game.

NCAA

SEC Title Game: Georgia vs. LSU: A year ago, Kirby Smart's team was upset in the SEC title game by Alabama, but I don't expect that to be the case this year. Georgia should have learned from last year's experience. Kelly has done an amazing job in his first year in Baton Rouge and expect him to have something up his sleeve on Saturday in the Mercedes-Benz Dome. The Georgia defense is once again one of the top units in the country. The Dawgs allow just 11 points per game, and they do a great job of neutralizing their opponents top weapon. That means the Georgia defense will center its attention on LSU dual threat QB Jayden Daniels (2,377 passing yards, 15 TDs/740 rushing yards, 11 TDs). Look for Georgia's front seven to take the run away from him and force him to throw the ball. When the Bulldogs have the ball, look for QB Stetson Bennett IV (3,011 yards, 14 TDs) to make plays down field to tight end Brock Bowers (41 receptions, 625 yards, 4 TDs) and dependable wideout Ladd McConkey (46 receptions, 606 yards, 4 TDs). Look for running back Kenny McIntosh (568 yards, 7 TDs) to handle the work on the ground. Look for the Bulldogs to send a message to the rest of the college football world that they are serious about winning a second straight national title. My pick, Georgia 34, LSU 16

Big 12 Title Game: TCU vs. Kansas State or Texas: TCU is assured of one of the berths in the Big 12 title game, but their opponent is still up in the air. If Kansas State defeated in-state rival Kansas last week, the Wildcats



pick, Minnesota 26, New York Jets 13

Tennessee at Philadelphia: The Titans head to the City of Brotherly Love to face the Eagles in a battle of division leaders. The Titans are atop the AFC South standings, while the Eagles rule the roost in the NFC East. Tennessee is a tough, hard-nosed football team, sort of like the Washington team that physically dominated the Eagles on Nov. 14 and handed Philly their first loss of the season. The Titans can run the football with Derrick Henry (1,010 yards, 10 TDs) and QB Ryan Tannehill (1,685 yards, 10 TDs) does a good job of taking what defenses give him. He's not a flashy quarterback and the Titans don't throw deep a lot, but they will take their shots when they see an opening. Two weeks ago, the Eagles escaped Indy with a last-second 17-16 win on QB Jalen Hurts (2,407 passing yards, 14 TDs/440 rushing yards, 8 TDs) late TD run with just seconds left in the game. Hurts will look to make plays in the passing game to wide receivers A.J. Brown (49 receptions, 785 yards, 6 TDs) and Devonta Smith (52 receptions, 559 yards, 3 TDs). Losing dependable tight end Dallas Goedert to a shoulder injury will hinder the Eagles' passing game. Look for Henry to have a big day as the Titans pull off the upset. My pick, Tennessee 26, Philadelphia 23

ACC Title Game: Clemson vs. North Carolina: Clemson's stingy defense takes on NC's high-scoring offense in the ACC title game. A Clemson win keeps their CFP hopes alive, while a loss will dash those hopes. The Clemson defense is very solid, but it will have its hands full with Tarheel QB Drake Maye (3,614 passing yards, 34 TDs/597 rushing yards, 5 TDs). Two weeks ago, NC was up 17-0 at Georgia Tech and wound up losing 20-17. North Carolina can't afford a let up against a Tiger team that is led by QB DJ Uga-galelei (2,406 yards, 21 TDs) and running back Will Shipley (960 yards, 13 TDs). Look for the Clemson defense to be the difference maker in this one as the Tigers win another ACC title. My pick, Clemson 30, North Carolina 20

NFL

Buffalo at New England: Week 13 begins with a key AFC East contest on Thursday Night Football as the Bills visit New England. This game will feature the high-scoring Bills offense against a stingy Patriots defense, so something has to give. Two weeks ago, the Bills ended their two-game losing streak with a 31-23 win over Cleveland in Detroit after Buffalo was shut down due to six feet of snow. QB Josh Allen (2,930 passing yards, 21 TDs/483 rushing yards, 4 TDs) did just enough to get the Bills back in the winning mode. Buffalo has found a running game behind Devin Singletary (480 yards, 3 TDs), which should open up more passing plays for Allen and wide receiver Stefon Diggs (76 receptions, 1,033 yards, 8 TDs). The Bills offense will face a tough test Thursday night as Bill Belichick has molded one of the top defenses in the NFL. Two weeks ago in their 10-3 win over the Jets, that unit gave up just 213 yards of total offense. NE won the game an 84-yard punt return by former UH star Marcus Jones with just five seconds left in the game. Unlike the Jets, the Bills can play offense and look for Allen and his team to start their late-season run as they look to challenge KC for the best record in the AFC. My pick, Buffalo 27, New England 13

Cleveland at Houston: About the only interesting thing about this game is how well Watson will play after almost two years off the field and what sort of reaction he receives from Texans fans. These are two bad teams, but Watson should be a boost to the offense. With him now under center, teams will have to respect the pass and his mobility, which things should open up for star running back Nick Chubb (923 yards, 11 TDs). And facing the porous Houston run defense should be another factor as for why Chubb could have a huge day inside NRG Stadium. The Browns can bring pressure with Miles Garrett and Jadaveon Clowney off the edges, so look for Houston QB Davis Mills (2,144 yards, 11 TDs) to be in for another long afternoon. My pick, Cleveland 31, Houston 16

New York Jets at Minnesota: The offensively-challenged Jets (they had only 103 yards of total offense in the NE loss) travel to Minneapolis to take on a Vikings team that was dominated 40-3 at home by the Cowboys two weeks ago. The Jets are OK on defense, but their offense can't seem to get going. QB Zach Wilson (1,279 yards, 4 TDs) has got to play better if the Jets hope to challenge for a Wild Card spot. Look for the Vikings offense to shake off its worst performance of the year and bounce back in a big way. QB Kirk Cousins (2,461 yards, 14 TDs) should make some plays to star wide receiver Justin Jefferson (72 receptions, 1,093 yards, 4 TDs), which should open up the running game for running back Dalvin Cook (797 yards, 6 TDs). Look for the Vikings to get back on track against the Jets on Sunday. My

Washington at New York Giants: Don't look now, but the Commanders are in the playoff hunt. The Commander's 23-10 win over the hapless Texans two weeks ago was their fifth win in their last six games and this Sunday they take on the Giants in a key NFC East contest in The Meadowlands. Two weeks ago, the Giants were upset at home by the Lions as running back Jamaal Williams gouged the NY defense for three scoring runs. NY needs to play better on defense, or their bubble could begin to burst. Washington has a tough defense and if defensive end Chase Young is back for this game, Giants QB Daniel Jones (1,596 yards, 9 TDs) and running back Saquon Barkley (931 yards, 6 TDs), could be in for a long day. The Giants will have an extra three days of rest to prepare for this game after they played Dallas on Thanksgiving Day. Look for the Giants to win a tight one on Sunday. My pick, New York Giants 23, Washington 20

Miami at San Francisco: The high-flying Dolphins take their offensive show to Northern Cali to take on the 49ers in what should be one of Week 13's better games. The 49ers defense will have their hands full with QB Tua Tagovailoa (2,265 yards, 18 TDs) and speedy wideouts Tyreek Hill (81 receptions, 1,145 yards, 8 TDs) and Jaylen Waddle (51 receptions, 878 yards, 6 TDs). The 49ers will be looking for a bust out game from speedy running back Christian McCaffrey in this game. Miami's defense is so-so, which means SF QB Jimmy Garoppolo will need to make some big plays downfield to WR Deebo Samuel and tight end George Kittle. I think the SF defense steps up to lead the 49ers to a big home win. My pick, San Francisco 26, Miami 24

Kansas City at Cincinnati: A rematch of last year's AFC Championship game has the Chiefs playing at the Bengals this time around. This game should be a shootout between KC QB Pat Mahomes (3,265 yards, 28 TDs) and Cincinnati QB Joe Burrow (2,890 yards, 22 TDs). This game will feature a wealth of offensive weapons as KC tight end Travis Kelce (69 receptions, 855 yards, 11 TDs) and rookie running back Isaiah Pacheco (386 yards, 1 TD) will take on Bengals running back Joe Mixon (605 yards, 6 TDs) and wide receivers Tee Higgins (50 receptions, 712 yards, 3 TDs) and Ja'Marr Chase (47 receptions, 605 yards, 6 TDs). Chase should be back for this game after missing the last four games recovering from a hip injury. If Chase is back, he will present the KC defense with a real challenge and make Higgins an even bigger target for Burrow. The Chiefs are not intimidated by playing on the road and will be up to the challenge come Sunday. Two weeks ago against the Chargers, Mahomes worked his magic once again as he led his team on a late game-winning drive as he connected with Kelce for the game-winning touchdown. Mahomes and Kelce hooked up for three scores in the win over LA. I also think the Chiefs want to avenge last year's home loss in the AFC title game, so look for Mahomes to work his magic on the road once again. My pick, Kansas City 33, Cincinnati 31

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HARRIS COUNTY WATER CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1

TO THE RESIDENTS OF HARRIS COUNTY WATER CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 51.129 of the Texas Water Code, that there has been a change in the Ordinance Adopting Amended Rates and Fees for Service and Rules and Regulations; Establishing Certain Other Policies and Providing Penalties and Violations Thereof (the "Rate Ordinance") for Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1 (the "District"). The Rate Ordinance contains definitions of terms, water and sewer rates, rules and regulations covering water and sewer service and enforcement provisions of the District.

The District's Rate Ordinance has been amended to require property within the District to use District water and sanitary sewer services unless otherwise approved by the Board of Directors of the District. A violation of the District's rules and regulations will subject the violator to a penalty.

The entire Rate Ordinance is on file at the principal office of the District, 125 San Jacinto, Highlands, Harris County, Texas 77562, where it may be read by any interested person. The Rate Ordinance was adopted on November 15, 2022, and the rules and regulations contained therein are effective and enforceable five days following publication of the notice required by Section 51.129 of the Texas Water Code.

46-2t

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 TRACT 2: LT 3 BLK 11 (OMITTED IMPS)(LAND*0681130110003)SAN JACINTO RIVER ESTATES 1;
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