

HIGHLANDS

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TANNER SCARBROUGH
Highlands Firefighter of Year...



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THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

FEB. 4, SATURDAY

Rotary Chili Feast set for February 4th

Highlands Rotary Club will hold their 48th Annual Chili Feast, Raffle and Auction on Saturday, Feb. 4th at the social hall of St. Jude's Catholic Church, 808 S. Main Street, Highlands.

Tickets are available from all Rotary Club members, local businesses, or by calling 832-483-3505. Only 700 tickets are sold, increasing your odds of winning one of 16 valuable prizes. Included with your raffle ticket are two delicious chili dinners.

Top prize in the raffle is your choice of a 2023 Chevy Trailblazer, or a 2023 Equinox SUV from Turner Chevrolet.

Chief Little honored at Firefighters Banquet

HIGHLANDS—The fire department held their annual Recognition and Awards Banquet last Saturday evening, at the Monument Inn. Awards and fellowship were spread throughout the large crowd.

ESD#14 president Jim Strouhal presented the Firefighter of the Year award to Tanner Scarbrough. This award is given in memory of Cecil Kelly, who volunteered with the Highlands VFD for over 42 years before retiring in 1996. The recipient chosen by vote of the membership is a firefighter who performed above and beyond the call of duty.

A special award was presented to Chief Harvey Little in recognition of the 35 years of service to the



In honor of the 35 years of service to the Highlands Fire Department, and the community, a group of the firefighters presented Chief Harvey Little with a special rifle as a present. The gun is a Henry Firefighter Edition, Golden Boy 22 caliber with special firefighter graphics engraved on its side.

department. The firefighters presented him with a Henry Firefighter Special Edition rifle.

A large crowd of firemen and families, friends, com-

munity supporters, and board members attended the dinner. Fire Chief Harvey Little emceed the ceremony, introducing awards, guests, and honorees.

Chief Little reviewed the history of the department for 2022. He noted that there were a total of 3,381 calls for service, compared with last year's

3,154. Of these 2,388 were EMS calls compared with 2,388 the previous year.

Continued. See Firefighters Banquet, Page 7

Unique Live Auction items at Rotary Chili Feast

HIGHLANDS – Rotarians are in full preparation for their big annual Chili Feast, to be held next Saturday, February 4th at the social hall of St. Jude's Catholic Church on S. Main Street.

A large crowd is expected this year, as the pandemic subsides and people are anxious to get out and meet their friends in this 48th year tradition.

The event includes delicious chili dinners, cooked with Chester Stasney's world-famous recipe, a raffle for 16 prizes including a new 2023 Chevy automobile, a silent auction and a live auction. Chili Chairman Denise Smith pointed out that the live auction



The CHILI FEAST live auction will include several quilts by Connie Russell. These are always a favorite of the Auction bidders, and are unique and beautiful. ABOVE, one of the quilts in last year's auction.

contains a number of desirable items, which are offered only once a year to event participants.

This year the auction will include a 3 night stay at the Coastal Hideaway Resort in Long Beach, Mississippi, and also a Weekend Lake Trip. This is the first time unique vacation venues have been offered, and they promise to bring a lot of interest.

Other desirable bid items include sports memorabilia such as an Astros Kyle Tucker autographed bat, an Astros Chas McCormick autographed baseball, and an autographed Astros Chas McCormick autographed 2023 World Series framed

picture of the team.

Also available will be four unique and special handmade quilt by Connie Russell, including one for the Houston Astros.

With Valentine's Day coming up, there are several Valentine themed items to be auctioned.

Other items include metal signs, outdoor furniture, a firepit, golf bag, picnic table for children, tricycle, garden cart, generator, battery charger, pressure washer, and more.

Rotarians and local businesses are selling tickets now, for \$100 for the raffle and two chili dinners. Denise Smith said they are going fast this year.

BIRTHDAYS

Jan 20—Gary Langham
Brenda Weber
Jan 21—Ted Bloom
James Mills, Sr.
Debra Shields
Jan 22—Linda Craig
Vernon Hassell
Richard McKinney
Reynaldo Perez
Kristi Simmons
Kathy Zadraba Stuart
James Walker
Beth Wotipka
Sara Rupp
Jan 23—Tiffany Kirkwood
Brad Loggins
Jan 25—Jeffrey Langham
Jan 26—Ida Mueller
Charles Johnson
Jan 27—Ashley Almanza
JoAnn Blaskey
William R. Patterson
Tyler Wingate
Jarret Cutbirth
John Martin
Jan 28—Cindy Fikes
Johnnie Stotts
Jan 29—Scott Marshall
Michael Wettstein
Jan 30—Riley Chambers, Jr.
Jan 31—Aida Valle
Feb 1—Barbara Bowen
Feb 2—Lisa Dammon
Donny Herman
Melissa Miley
Feb 3—David Buford
Sammy Covey, Jr.
Feb 4—Harry New
Andy Scott
Chris West
Mike Getlemy
Feb 5—Angi Boudreax
Kyle McCain
Geraldine Krampota
Judy Powell
John Mouton

ANNIVERSARIES

Feb 11—Keith & Becky Adams
Howard & Patricia Brockinton
Feb 12—Donnie & Elonda Cravatt
Feb 14—Larry & Jeannie Kelly
Feb 24—Jim & Linda Hildebrand
Feb 26—Thomas & Geene Parrish

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families,

Exciting news! Crosby ISD is proud to announce that all our elementary schools have made it into the first round of the Read to the Final Four competition. Third graders at Crosby, Drew, Barrett, and Newport elementary schools made it into the Top 68 bracket against third graders in 10 other Houston-area Districts. They will continue their read-ins and other special literacy celebrations, trying to advance to the Round of 32. The reading challenge is happening to coincide with the return of the Men's Final Four college basketball championship to Houston. The Final Four reading schools will be treated to a visit to NRG Stadium for the championship ceremony.



SUPERINTENDENT PAULA PATTERSON



DRUG PREVENTION SPECIALIST ALEXIS WOOSTER

ny. We want to see our students win that reading trophy!

This month, our new drug prevention specialist has come home to make a difference. Mrs. Alexis Wooster is a proud Crosby High School graduate. Mrs. Wooster works with BACODA, the Bay Area Council on Drugs and Alcohol. She will work with students individually and in group set-

tings to encourage them to avoid the pitfalls of drug use and abuse. Mrs. Wooster is housed on campuses, and she'll hold family engagement

nights soon for parents to learn more about signs of vaping, bullying, and other concerning behaviors.

We are welcoming more alumni back into our fold to teach the next generation of Crosby ISD students. Ms. Alyssa DeLome is a member of the Crosby High School Class of 2018. She teaches fifth graders at Barrett Elementary School. Ms. DeLome's mother is also a



Crosby ISD Elementary Librarian, Mrs. Carrie Henderson, celebrates with Read to the Final Four participants at Barrett Elementary School.

Crosby ISD employee, and her younger sister is a student at Crosby High School. They are a Cougar family through and through.

It's Spelling Bee season in Crosby ISD! Our elementary campuses are holding

spelling bees this month, choosing the top two students from each campus. Those eight top finishers will then move on to the District level.

Continued. See Crosby Superintendent, Page 2

RACHEL'S DINER

Southern Cooking Buffet -- Coming Soon

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Crosby Superintendent,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

strict Spelling Bee in February. Our District winner then has a chance to compete in the Houston Public Media Spelling Bee, for a chance to keep advancing.

This month also marks our 100th Day of school. Students at our elementaries will be celebrating on Tuesday, January 31. Students get a chance to show off how they are 100 days smarter. I love to see the creative shirts that display “100” in some capacity. Other students will dress up like they are 100 years old. It’s a great way to keep momentum going into the spring semester.

Soccer season is entering District play this month. I recently watched the boys’ soccer team in action, and I can’t wait to see how well the boys’ and girls’ squads

do heading into the most competitive part of the season. Our boys’ and girls’ basketball teams also have about a month left in their respective seasons before the playoffs begin. The varsity girls’ team is currently ranked second in District 17-5A. Their competitive spirit is so fun to watch!

The Crosby High School Choir is hosting their annual fundraiser on Friday, January 27 and Saturday, January 28. “The Royal Dinner” is truly a dinner and a show. Choir students will be dressed as royalty, performing classic songs, while students in our CTE Culinary Arts program cater a delicious meal. Showtimes are 6pm both nights at the Crosby High School cafeteria. We hope to see you there!

Another important date we want to share with you. The Class of 2023 Graduation will be Friday, May 26 at 7:30pm at Cougar Stadium.

Finally, I wanted to say “Thank You” to the retired educators who are returning to fill in as substitutes and tutors. No one has more or better experience than our retirees to continue the tradition of excellence they helped to build in Crosby ISD. Our retirees work with us usually one or two days a week, and our principals are happy to work around their schedule. If you or someone you know is a retired educator, feel free to reach out to our Human Resources department.

We are Better Together!
Go Coogs!



Spelling Bee participants at Crosby Elementary School.



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THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Daddy Daughter Valentine Dance Tickets Now Available



Fathers, come dance the evening away with your little angels!

Join us for a lively dance party with a DJ, snacks, giveaways, photo ops and so much fun.

Two dates to choose from!

Pick the night you want to attend the dance:

- Friday, February 3rd
- Saturday, February 4th

\$15 per person
*Tickets may not be available at the door night of the dance; we strongly recommend you purchase your tickets in person or online using the ticket link above ahead of time. We'll check you in once you arrive.

Fish Fest at City Park



Grab your gear and get the family to City Park for a morning full of fun, fishing, games and giveaways!

At Fish Fest this year, you'll find:

- *Food & drink vendors
- *Games
- *Prizes for school-age kids
- *Raffle giveaways
- *Retail shopping

This is a great chance to angle for rainbow trout right here in Mont Belvieu, and we're adding in 250 pounds of large sport-sized trout in 2023!

*Trophies & Bragging Rights

The 5 largest fish caught (weighed & documented) will win that fisher a trophy and ultimate bragging rights until next year.

*Prizes will be awarded to the first five (5) school-aged children to show up at the welcome tent with five (5) fish.

*Fishing license requirements will be waived during the official event time. Individual licenses will be required after event ends.

No poles in the water until 8AM, please.

Lee College Alumna Receives SUV

Crystal Rios, who graduated from Lee College in December with a certificate in cosmetology, is proof that no obstacle will stand in her way.

Last year the young mother of two was badly injured in an accident that left her without a car. For months Rios relied on family and friends to get her to cosmetology class at the Baytown campus, to her job at ULTA Beauty and to take her children to the Harris County Department of Education's Head Start Program in Baytown.

Rios admits it was tough juggling a school and work schedule while being a mom to three-year-old Aubrie and a 1-year-old Jordan. Her determination and perseverance were not only noticed, but they were also rewarded. Right before the holidays, and just days after she graduated with her cosmetology certificate, Rios was gifted a rehabbed 2012 Ford Escape from Bates Auto Collision Centers.



Crystal Rios, with representatives of HCDE and Bates Auto Collision Centers.

Through a partnership with HCDE Head Start, Bates Collision gives two refurbished cars to parents who are actively involved in their children's lives and demonstrate responsible parenting. Bates employees donate their time and

skills to work on the vehicles and help fill them with gifts. Other community members and businesses donate gas, car insurance, materials needed to rehab the vehicles, and gift cards.'

"It's such a blessing to win a car," said Rios. "They went through all the Head

Start schools and chose me. What an honor."

While she's grateful to have received new transportation and her independence back, Rios also acknowledges what Lee College has done for her and has encouraging words for others who may be in her position.

"The Student Resource and Advocacy Center helped me tremendously with gas cards, diapers and food. If you are a single mom and a student at Lee College, you can do it. If I did it for eight months with no car, so can you," Rios shared.

2023 is already off to a good start for Rios, who is working toward taking her state licensure exam. Once she has her license in hand, ULTA will promote her to a full-time hair stylist. As for plans down the road, Rios says she would like to own her own business.

CAPITAL COMMENTS

By State Senator Brandon Creighton



We have wrapped up the 2nd week of the 88th Legislative Session and it was a busy one! Below is a quick rundown of what I am working on. I hope you will continue to share your opinions and stay up to date on priorities for our growing state.

HOUSTON ASTROS

On Wednesday, the World Series Champion Houston Astros were honored by the Texas Senate. I got to visit with owner Jim Crane and of course congratulate pitcher Ryan Pressly and catcher Jason Castro and see the 2022 trophy. Can't wait for the 2023 season to kick-off!

GO ASTROS

INAUGURATION

Tuesday, Governor Abbott and Lieutenant Governor Patrick were sworn into office. It was my honor to serve as the Chairman of the Senate Inauguration Committee and introduce the Lt. Governor. As Texans, we are blessed to have strong leaders who continue to keep the Texas miracle alive.



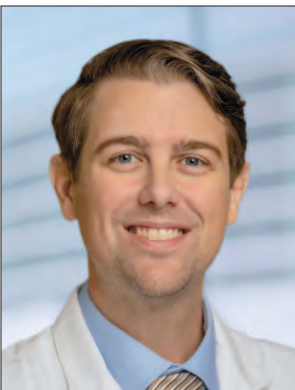
Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown

Houston Methodist Baytown Joins Flagship Hospital in Offering Innovative Prostate Procedure

BAYTOWN - Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital is offering Aquablation therapy for patients who suffer from BPH, or benign prostatic hyperplasia, also known as an enlarged prostate. It is only the second hospital in the Houston Methodist system and in the region to offer this procedure. Houston Methodist Hospital in the Texas Medical Center was the first.

The treatment differs from other options because it uses water instead of heat to remove tissue.

"It is basically using high-pressure water to destroy the unwanted tissue, and because we aren't using heat, we don't damage the nerves



Dr. Chris Kannady

of the prostate," says Dr. Chris Kannady, a urologist at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital.

It's an incision-less procedure that uses an image-guided robotic arm. The arm holds a water jet and camera to help precisely remove excess prostate tissue.



"Since we enter through a natural orifice, the urethra, there are no incisions during this procedure," Kannady explains. "And the use of image-guided robotics means tissue is removed with great precision."

Aquablation therapy removes excess tissue

without affecting a patient's ability to urinate or engage in sex.

"Aquablation is a remarkably effective procedure," says Kannady. "When we take a look at men five years post-surgery, 95% of them still don't need re-treatment. It's a very durable treat-



ment option for men with BPH with the lowest risk of sexual side effects compared with traditional prostate surgeries."

The best candidates for this procedure are men who are generally 55 to 75, in good health, have few comorbidities, and can be without blood thinners. Many insurance companies are now covering the procedure.

☆

OPINION

By BILL KING



A Hundred-Year-Old Christmas Gift from Ukraine

As many of us rushed to buy those last minute gifts and prepare for holiday gatherings with friends and family, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky delivered a stark reminder that half a world away his country is fighting the latest chapter in the war of freedom and democracy versus autocracy and repression this holiday season. In doing so, the Ukrainian people have demonstrated remarkable courage and resilience

I suspect that one of reasons they have been able to prevail is their great faith traditions. While the country is overwhelmingly East Orthodox, other faith traditions thrive there as well, as demonstrated by the country electing a Jewish president.

Ukraine also has a rich cultural history, particularly in its music. But what I did not know until recently, was that Ukraine’s faith and cultural traditions combined to give the world one of its iconic Christmas carols, The Carol of the Bells. The carol was written by Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovych in 1914 and is based on Ukrainian folk music. Peter J. Wilhousky, also Ukrainian, wrote the lyrics.

The Carol of the Bells was first performed in the United States at Carnegie Hall in 1922 and immediately became a Christmas classic. It has been performed and recorded by numerous artists. However, it was recently performed once again at Carnegie by a youth choir from Ukraine. It is an inspiring rendition and particularly poignant given the horrors of the war being waged against their country.

I want to wish Merry Christmas to my fellow Christians and happy holidays to those of you who follow a different path. May 2023 bring you and your families health and happiness and, hopefully, peace for the Ukrainian people.



with Slim Randles

Starting at the top...

Down at the sale barn Saturday, the think tank had coagulated there with coffees to go. Doc and Dud had their dogs with them, while Bert and Dewey and Steve went stag.

Dud tried to start a conversation, but the loud-speaker soon drove them outside, where they arrayed themselves on dropped tailgates and waited to hear what Dud had in mind.

“I thought about it a lot,” Dud said, “and I wondered what the favorite part of my job was, and wondered if you fellas ever gave that any thought, too.”

They nodded. Yes, by mutual consent a worthy subject.

“With me,” Dud continued, “it wasn’t so much my job as it was my hobby. You know, writing that book. I’m claiming it as the best part of my job, anyway.”

The assembled were still waiting to read “Murder in the Soggy Bottoms,” as it had yet to see print, and was really a work in progress.

Then Bert picked up the conversation thread. “Of course I’m retired now,” he said, “but when I was running the pawn shop, my favorite part of the job happened when a customer found something in there he really needed and ended up paying much less for it than he thought he’d have to.”

Doc laughed “And you made more on it than you thought you would, too,”

Bert grinned and nodded.

“Yep. That was good too. And you, Dewey?”

Our accident-prone pharaoh of fertilizer got a serious look on his face. He finally said, “The best part of the fertilizer business is seeing the difference it makes in the flower gardens around town. Now maybe it’s just my imagination, but I kinda like to take a little credit for a prettier town.”

“You deserve it, Dewey,” Doc said kindly. “Well now ... with me it’s a little different. I have doctoring skills, of course, and it’s good when I can help someone, but these days the most satisfying part of my job is to check someone out thoroughly and find there’s absolutely nothing wrong with them. Now that’s special.”

They all looked over at the tall cowboy, Steve.

“Digging postholes,” he said.

“What?” they said.

“You know,” he said, “the favorite part of my job.”

“Digging postholes?”

“Sure,” he said, grinning.

“That’s the only job a cowboy has where he can start at the top and work down.”

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




Youth Choir from Ukraine performing last month at Carnegie Hall in New York.

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Budget eyes \$288.7 billion; Priorities: Border Security, Tax Relief, Raises

For the Texas House and Senate, there is not much daylight between each chamber’s priorities in this year’s legislative session. Leaders say the focus will be on property tax relief, border security and employee raises. Preliminary budgets from both chambers were released last week, the Austin American-Statesman reported, with a record \$288.7 billion budget for the next two years. The money in the budget is made up of \$93.7 billion in federal funds, \$130.1 billion in state general revenue funds, and \$64.9 billion in other funds.

The tussle likely comes when lawmakers start spending a whopping \$32.7 billion budget surplus sitting in the state’s coffers from the previous biennium.

Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick want to provide property tax relief to homeowners, with Patrick proposing raising the homestead exemption to \$70,000 from \$40,000. Both draft budget bills set aside \$15 billion – almost half the surplus – for property tax relief.

Increased funding for border security, public education and for raises for state employees are also in the draft budgets, which are likely to change several times before session’s end.

The Texas Tribune reported the preliminary budgets still leave more than \$50 billion in state funds up for grabs. One of the biggest challenges is that state law and the Texas Constitution set limits on how much tax spending can increase between sessions.

POSSIBLE END TO CONFEDERATE HEROES DAY?

A 50-year-old state holiday honoring soldiers who fought for the Confederacy in the Civil War is again the target of a lawmaker who wants to end the holiday. State Rep. Jarvis Johnson filed the bill, telling the American-Statesman, “This is not the look we want for our state anymore.”

Johnson has filed this measure before without success. Confederate monuments on public grounds have drawn complaints across the state, including the Texas Capitol.



The day is observed on Jan. 19, the birthday of Gen. Robert E. Lee. On occasion, the holiday celebrating slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King, which is held on the third Monday in January, and Confederate Heroes Day fall on the same day.

“While (the King holiday) is a reminder that we are all created equal, how do we simultaneously celebrate an ideology that has been linked with oppression and supremacy?” Johnson asked.

NATURAL GAS SUPPLIES HELD UP DURING WINTER STORM

The bout of sub-freezing temperatures blanketing much of the state a few days before Christmas sparked concern for the state’s electric grid, which reached its highest peak for the entire year. But the grid held, and natural gas supplies to power plants were ample, state officials said.

The Texas Railroad Commission issued a press release saying, “There was ample natural gas supply to help the state’s electricity supply chain and keep Texans safe.”

The agency said it would continue to inspect natural gas facilities throughout the winter to ensure “infrastructure is hardened against extreme weather conditions.”

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in October said the grid is still at risk of failure during extreme winter conditions, such as what happened in February 2021 with Winter Storm Uri.

Overhaul plan for power market gets initial approval

The Public Utility Commission last week approved a potential overhaul of the Texas

electricity market in hopes of attracting private investment in new power plants, the Statesman reported. However, the Texas Legislature has ultimate approval. Critics say the plan is untested and could increase electric bills for consumers.

Abbott has already backed the plan, which is an effort to make the power grid, managed by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, more reliable. It is intended to encourage more private investment in “plants that can turn on and off quickly depending on need.”

If approved by legislators, the plan could take up to four years to implement.

LAWMAKERS HIGHLIGHT STATE’S FRAGILE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

A bipartisan group of 38 state legislators have banded together to educate fellow lawmakers about water security issues, the Texas Tribune reported. Aging infrastructure and lack of funding have created water-supply problems across the state, particularly in rural areas.

Last year there were more than 3,000 boil-water notices issued across the state because water quality was in doubt. Seven of the 10 water systems that issued the most notices were in rural parts of East Texas, the Tribune reported after analyzing data from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. There have already been 79 boil-water notices in January.

The group is not advocating for any specific bills.

“Water security is critically important to all Texans and our economy,” state Rep. Tracy King, who heads the caucus, said in a statement. “We must continue to innovate, invest and strategize long-term to manage our water resources efficiently.”

STATE’S NEWEST HISTORIC SITE

The Texas Historical Commission’s latest historic site is 274 years old. Presidio la Bahía was the site of the Goliad Massacre in March 1836. More than 300 Texians were held inside the church before being executed by Mexican forces.

The presidio was established on that site in 1749 during the Spanish colonial period. The fort became the nucleus of the modern-day city of Goliad.

The Presidio underwent restoration in the 1960s under the oversight of renowned restoration architect Raiford Stripling of San Augustine. More than 33,000 people visit the Presidio each year, according to its website.

COVID-19 CASES, HOSPITALIZATIONS DROP

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas during the past week reported to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University was 26,996, down about a third from the previous week, with 270 new deaths, up from 148. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations in the state, according to the Texas Department of State Health Service, totaled 2,837, which was down 17% from the previous week.

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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Complimenting Strangers

“I have to say, that is a very nice hat!” I told the man as he passed me on the sidewalk.

The man in the snazzy blue fedora had a serious look on his face, as if he was thinking deeply about something far more important than the indigo-blue hat with the red feather sitting on his head.

But whatever less-than-cheerful thought had been preoccupying him (the gathering clouds? The declining stock market? His expanding waistline?), it was whisked away when I complimented his dapper blue hat, and his face broke into a genuine smile.

I know people who say you shouldn’t compliment strangers.

“It is intrusive,” they say. “It’s fake.” “Nobody wants a stranger commenting on their appearance!”

I think this is a load of nonsense.

Everyone likes a compliment. I think it means even more coming from a stranger. I don’t interrupt conversations to compliment someone. I don’t make things up or compliment something I don’t genuinely admire. I don’t think anyone has ever looked offended when I told them they looked good or something they were wearing was attractive.

I find myself complimenting strangers several times every day. I try to pay attention when I’m on my walks. I try to savor whatever is interesting or beautiful and, much of the time, this is either dogs (because dogs are always interesting and beautiful), or people. I have also complimented gardens, but the people responsible are rarely around to get these compliments. The nice thing about complimenting clothing is that the person associated with it is right there, ready to receive the positive feedback.

“Thank you!” the man in the blue hat said.

I’m sure he knew it was a good-looking hat. It was probably an expensive hat; I haven’t bought enough hats to know. But it doesn’t really matter. Even if someone has paid a lot for something—or perhaps especially if they have—they like to know that it was money well spent, that they look good and that someone has noticed. So, I try to notice.

I’ve complimented older women on their coats and scarves, young women on the color of their hair (especially if it is blue or green), and tough-looking men on their clever T-shirts. It is always surprising how the people who look the most withdrawn are usually the ones who seem the most pleased. The young man may have forgotten what T-shirt he put on that day, but he’s pleased to know it met with an appreciative audience—even if that audience was the slightly odd, cheerful older woman.

“Thanks!” he’ll say, looking both a little embarrassed and absurdly pleased.

It doesn’t matter if it’s odd, I’ve learned. It doesn’t matter where the comment comes from. It really does not matter at all.

We all want to be seen. We want to know that we do not walk invisible in this world. No one wants to feel alone in a crowd. Compliments may seem trivial or superficial, but sometimes they are the easiest way to throw a line to someone and say, “I see you! Seeing you makes me happy.” It costs nothing. And I think it can be more important than we will ever know.

The man in the blue hat had a little more bounce in his step as he walked past me. I have no illusions that I changed his day significantly. But that’s not my job. My job is to be more like that little bird who sings the same song, day after day, and makes the world just the smallest bit sweeter.

Till next time,
Carrie
Photos and other news can be found at CarrieClasson.com.

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

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LEGAL NOTICE

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LEGAL NOTICE

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR TPDES PERMIT FOR MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER

MAJOR AMENDMENT

PERMIT NO. WQ0011329001

APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. Newport Municipal Utility District, 2727 Allen Parkway, Suite 1100, Houston, Texas 77019, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a major amendment to Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0011329001 to authorize an increase in the discharge of treated domestic wastewater from an annual average flow not to exceed 1,300,000 gallons per day to an annual average flow not to exceed 2,000,000 gallons per day. TCEQ received this application on March 11, 2022.

The facility is located at 1501 South Diamondhead Boulevard, Crosby, in Harris County, Texas 77532. The treated effluent is discharged to Gum Gully, thence to Jackson Bayou (above tidal), thence to Jackson Bayou (tidal), thence to the San Jacinto River Tidal in Segment No. 1001 of the San Jacinto River Basin. The unclassified receiving water use is high aquatic life use for Gum Gully, Jackson Bayou (non-tidal) and Jackson Bayou (tidal). The designated uses for Segment No. 1001 are primary contact recreation and high aquatic life use. In accordance with 30 Texas Administrative Code § 307.5 and the TCEQ implementation procedures (June 2010) for the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, an antidegradation review of the receiving waters was performed. A Tier 1 antidegradation review has preliminarily determined that existing water quality uses will not be impaired by this permit action. Numerical and narrative criteria to protect existing uses will be maintained. A Tier 2 review has preliminarily determined that no significant degradation of water quality is expected in Gum Gully and Jackson Bayou (non-tidal) and Jackson Bayou (tidal), which have been identified as having high aquatic life uses respectively. Existing uses will be maintained and protected. The preliminary determination can be reexamined and may be modified if new information is received. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and is not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.
<https://tceq.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=db5bac44afbc468bbddd36of8168250f&marker=-95.088575%2C29.902931&level=12>

The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The Executive Director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, Executive Director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at Newport MUD Surface Water Treatment Plant, Laboratory, 16703 Golf Club Drive, Crosby, Texas.

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING: You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ holds a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting a contested case hearing or reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in a state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period; and the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION. The Executive Director may issue final approval of the application unless a timely contested case hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed. If a timely hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the Executive Director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and request to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

All written public comments and public meeting requests must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment within 30 days from the date of newspaper publication of this notice.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Any personal information you submit to the TCEQ will become part of the agency's record; this includes email addresses. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Newport Municipal Utility District at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Adam Anderson, P.E., Project Manager, Lockwood, Andrews & Newman, Inc., at (713) 821-0337.

Issuance Date: December 15, 2022

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 509525; Estate of ISAAC S. (SUSTAITA) YBARRA Deceased; In Probate Court No. 4 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on JANUARY 11, 2023.

ANGELINA RAMIREZ VELASCO YBARRA

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

c/o Weston Cotten
1500 Wallisville Rd
Highlands, TX 77562

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this JANUARY 18, 2023.

by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

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LEGAL NOTICE FOR REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDIT SERVICES RFQ #2223-0003

Crosby ISD is requesting statements of qualifications for annual financial audit services.

Responses must be received by 2:00 PM CST, 03/01/2023 at 14670 FM 2100, Crosby, TX 77532.

The RFQ and further information may be obtained at www.crosbyisd.org/Page/494.

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HIGHLANDS Fire Dept. 2022 Recognition Awards

HIGHLANDS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Continued from page 1

Life Flight was called 45 times, compared with 38 the previous year. There were 993 calls for fire responses, compared with 857 in 2022, a significant increase. The department responded to 196 Motor Vehicle Accidents in 2022, compared to 181 the previous year. It was noted that all but the last category showed significant increases year to year.

Chief Little reported on accomplishments in the last year. The department purchased new rescue tools, upgraded fire gear, remodeled upstairs area of Station 17, and purchased 12 new Motorola handheld radios. Pre-fire inspections were completed for 25 businesses in Highlands.

Using HVFD equipment, the department held training sessions at the Baytown, Sheldon and Deer Park facilities. Combined training was held with Crosby and Mont Belvieu at the Baytown Fire Field, and Houston training field..

The Chief noted that coverage area had been extended to McNair this year by vote of the residents.

Lifesaving AED machines have been placed at First Baptist Church, and Highlands Little League park. A new ambulance is due to be delivered soon.

Membership in the HVFD stands at 69. Of these 27 are regular, 4 apprentices, 16 retirees (not in the total), 6 EMS full time paid, 17 EMS part-time paid, and 14 part-time paid firemen.



MASCOTS 2022 Bella Comeaux, 2023 Jax Grabill



5 YEAR SERVICE AWARD, Asst. Chief Ryan Hotchkiss presents award to Reagan Kemp



15 YEAR SERVICE AWARD, Ryan Hotchkiss, Kathy Chain, with Chief Little presenting



10 YEAR SERVICE AWARD, to Ben Coward



CITIZEN of the Year, Claudia Birdsong



20 YEAR SERVICE AWARD, to Felix Jackson, Reggie Elliott, and Daniel Grabill, presented by Ryan Hotchkiss and Harvey Little



ELECTED OFFICERS include Chief Harvey Little, Ryan Hotchkiss, Nate Scott and Ruben Lopez. Not pictured Patrick Brown, Kyle Little



BOARD OF DIRECTORS include Thomas Coward, Wayne Speaks, Ryan Lopez, Ben Coward, chair. Not pictured Glenn Chisholm, Matt Bennett, Tim Covington



TOP TEN RESPONDERS in the HIGHLANDS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT 2022 include Pablo Camargo 112, Ben Coward 112, Ryan Hotchkiss 122, Ruben Lopez 125, Christopher Lewis 152, Thomas Coward 153, Christofer Contreras 158, and Tanner Scarbrough 533. Not pictured, Matthew Bennett 108, and Patrick Brown 331.

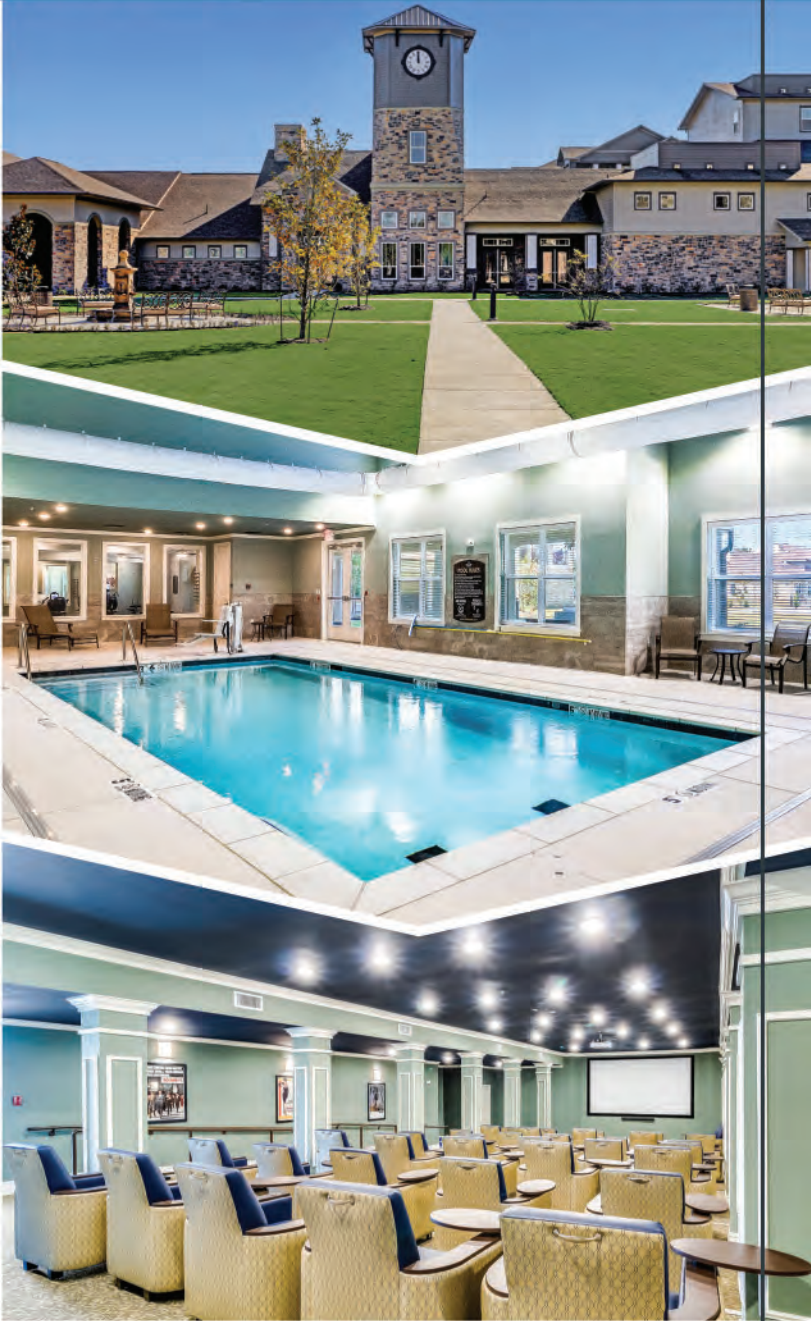


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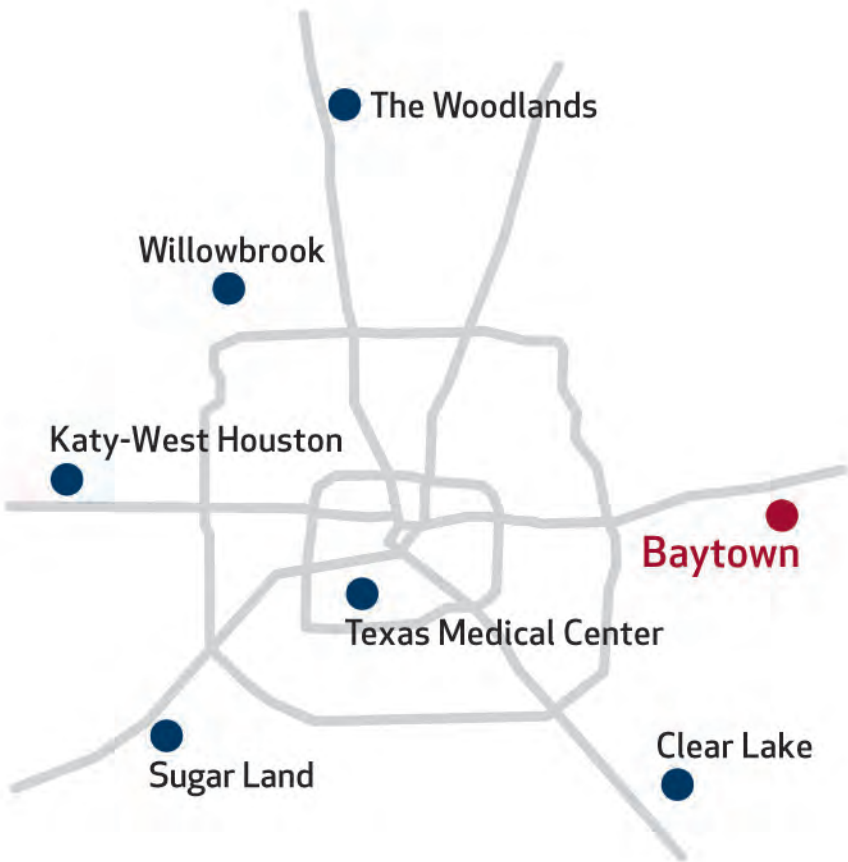
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