

Crosby Library Book Sale,  
March 3-4

Project Grad Bingo Night  
CANCELLED



These Trail Riders were judged winners with their Trail Wagon group. RodeoHouston Feb. 28 thru Mar. 19

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

# Star Courier

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THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

## CANCER FUNDRAISER IN CROSBY

# BRAs For the Cause raises \$155,000 & Riotous Fun

By Debbie Holmelin

The Crosby community once again rallied and showed their overwhelming generosity and support of Crosby Fair and Rodeo's 11th Annual Bras for the Cause Event hosted by the Cause Committee on Saturday, February 4, 2023 at the Crosby American Legion Hall. Preliminary reports show over \$155,000 was raised at the event through ticket sales, VIP sponsors, live auction and silent auction donations.

100% of proceeds will benefit people in our community and surrounding areas that are fighting cancer through the Pink Heals Fund and Breast Care Fund at Houston Methodist Baytown, Candlelighters Childhood Alliance, and Joseph's Warriors.

20 male celebrity models participated in a fashion show modeling bras designed by family and friends. Jason Lewis got the party started with his "Shake Cancer" Bra designed by Sarah Humphries and Shelly Carter. Some of the themes included, "Ropin' a Cure" a handmade leather bra made by the model himself (aka Kurt Marek). Adam Notgrass was "Cruella Deville" and Dr. Nirav Naik, Oncologist from

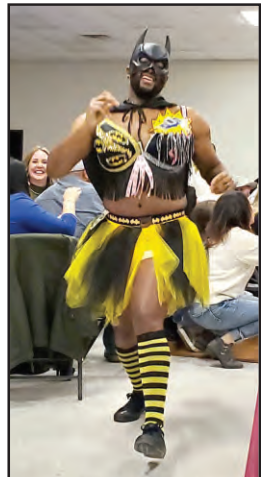


Photography by Michele

**BOTTOM ROW:** Dr. Joe Dervay, Josh Boyd, JD Ramirez, Justin Whittredge, Adam Notgrass, Matt Whitworth, Dr. Navir Naik  
**TOP ROW:** Dr. Tyson Brunstetter, Brian Parker, Andrew Tarpinian, Kurt Marek, Kory Hornberger, Jason Lewis, Andrew Rumney, Teaque Schexnayder, Jacob Massengale, Jeremy Strang, Aaron Bond, David Cagigas, Jason McWhorter (not pictured Jamayne Carter-Casey.) (Photos by Michele)



Lily-White



Batman



The LINEMAN with friends & buyers (Photos by Michele)

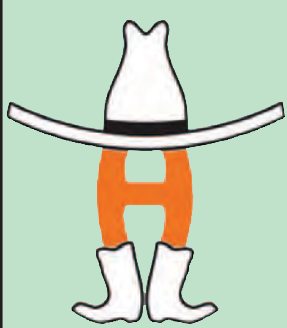
Houston Methodist Baytown was the "Cancer Exterminator". Aaron Bond, Houston Firefighter and THAARs member joined in the fun as "Fireball" along with several of his coworkers joining in the fun modeling bras. Jeremy Strang electrified the crowd as a "Lineman" sponsored by "The Branding Iron Bar." Dr. Joe Dervay "tapped out" cancer with his German Sidekick, Helga and finally, Jacob Massengale ended the fashion show in his "Maverick Top Gun" bra. All 20 of the models wowed the crowd with the bras this year!

David Rodgers, Candlelighters supporter and retired member of Dayton Fire Department, returned as MC. DJ Cruz provided the music and Bill Busby served as auctioneer. Dinner was catered by Demeris and HEB provided cupcakes for dessert. Michele Tatum-Eaglin served as photographer.

The BFC committee is overwhelmed each year by the generous support of the Crosby Community and the willingness of men in our community to step up and model bras in support of local cancer patients. We feel blessed and very

CONTINUED. More Photos and Story on Page 7

### IN THE STARS



At the Rodeo:

- TUESDAY FEB 28**  
Parker McCollum
- WEDNESDAY MAR 1**  
Brooks & Dunn
- THURSDAY MAR 2**  
Lauren Daigle
- FRIDAY MAR 3**  
Bun B
- SATURDAY MAR 4**  
Walker Hayes
- SUNDAY MAR 5**  
Zac Brown Band
- MONDAY MAR 6**  
Jason Aldean
- TUESDAY MAR 7**  
New Kids on the Block

## Trail Rides trek through Crosby, Channelview, Aldine on way to Parade



Trailriders arrive last Friday at their final destination prior to Saturday's Parade. They bedded in Memorial Park, seen above with its new tunnel system that joins grass areas on either side.

By Gilbert Hoffman

HOUSTON – Ten trail rides converged on Memorial Park last Friday night, after a week on the road from their origin cities.

In our readership area, two trail rides made the trek, stopping along the way about six times to rest, sleep and prepare for the next day. Many also

shared the experience with local residents who visited the campsites, and elementary schools such as Sheldon and Hilliard Elementary.

The Northeastern Trail Ride and the Spanish Trail Ride are the two that come through our area on the way into Memorial Park.

The Northeastern Trail Ride starts in Cheeks, Texas near Beaumont, travels 111 miles with 55 riders and 19 wagons.

Continued. See Trail Rides, Page 5

## CROSBY ISD VOTES FOR 4 DAY SCHOOL WEEK

CROSBY — The Crosby Independent School District Board of Trustees approved moving to a four-day instructional week starting next school year, at their board meeting Monday night.

Crosby ISD is the largest district in Texas to make the decision and the first in Harris County.

The change will help recruit and retain both school teachers and bus drivers, according to Crosby ISD Superintendent Paula Patterson.

When the 2023-2024 school year begins, Fridays will be considered student holidays, the district said. Teachers and staff will work one Friday a month for "staff development."

An additional 20 to 25 minutes will be added to the school days to compensate for the three-day weekend.

Crosby ISD superintendent Paula Patterson said she hopes the move to a four-day school week will attract more teachers to the district. Crosby ISD started this school year down 40 teachers and they expected that number to get worse next year.

"We want to find, recruit and retain the best teachers in the state in the classrooms for our students," Patterson said. "The change immediately makes Crosby ISD a top destination for educators in Harris County. Our move will attract even more exceptional teachers for our students, leading to high-quality academic outcomes. We also believe this move will increase our recruitment of bus drivers, who are vital in getting our students to



and from school safely and on time."

The vote for the new instructional calendar was closer than people may think with four board members giving the new instructional calendar approval and three others giving it a thumbs down. Crosby ISD board of trustees members Karen Thomas, school board President J.R. Humphries, Lisa Kallies and Phillip Chapman voted in favor of the 4-day school week.

Trustee President Humphries said "In my personal view, the 4-day calendar recommendation from Superintendent Patterson and her administration was a bold, strategic

Continued. See Crosby 4-day week, Page 5

### RACHEL'S DINER

Southern Cooking Buffet -- Coming Soon  
14280 FM 2100 (Across from Walmart)  
281-462-7349

### AUTO & HOME INSURANCE



Jeremy Rosenkranz  
State Farm Agent  
440 S. Main Street, Highlands, TX 77562  
281-426-3512  
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## FREE COMMUNITY SHRED DAY AND PET FOOD DRIVE

SATURDAY, MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 | 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

ATASCOCITA BRANCH, 6903 ATASCOCITA ROAD | ATASCOCITA, TX 77346



CRUCU.ORG

# GOOSE CREEK CISD NEWS

## Carlson Law Firm Makes Literacy Donation to PEH

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey, APR – Director of Communications

On February 13<sup>th</sup>, Nick Homan and the Carlson Law Firm donated 120 children's books to the Peter E. Hyland Center. The donation consisted of both Spanish and English books from Scholastic. The Carlson Law Firm is a supporter of early literacy and do so because it enhances the educational outcomes for students.

The Peter E. Hyland

Center will use the books to support early literacy with our teen parents. They will provide different workshops to teen parents on how to introduce reading to their babies. Upon completion of the workshops, they will provide each teen parent the opportunity to have quality reading time with their babies on campus.

Photo taken by Carrie Pryor-Newman:

Carlson Law Firm donating \$1200 worth of English and Spanish

books to PEH.

Tammy Davis, PEH Child Care Center Director

Alice Ricks, PEH Counselor

Melani Rodriguez w/ Carlson Law Firm

Michele Williams, PEH Assistant Principal

Dr. Tricia Times, PEH Principal

Kathryn Knotts, w/ Carlson Law Firm

Caitlin Hurbner, W/ GC ELA

Nick Homan, w/ Carlson Law Firm



## GCCISD Schools Featured in Houston Exhibit

Architecture Center Houston is proud to announce its upcoming exhibition, **HOUxEDU: Design for Learning**, opened on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and will be on view through Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Curated by architect Jody S e r g i , AIA, **HOUxEDU** will showcase the work of seven prominent architecture firms that specialize in K-12 school architecture, and their innovative and dynamic approaches to changing the educational landscape of Houston. It will highlight some of the best new school designs and explore the ways in which design may enhance the learning experience and improve learning outcomes. The exhibit will include two GCCISD schools: E.F. Green and Stuart Career Technical High

School.

Schools are cornerstones of our communities, and buildings that we inevitably interact with. They are continually evolving into flexible spaces for learning and engagement. They can be used as community centers, for exercise and entertainment, and even as shelter in times of crisis. Most importantly, schools provide space for students to learn, grow, develop their skills, and be inspired. To students from underserved communities, school is often more than just a classroom, and a well-designed school can provide an environment that is healthier, and safer than elsewhere in their lives, allowing them to thrive.

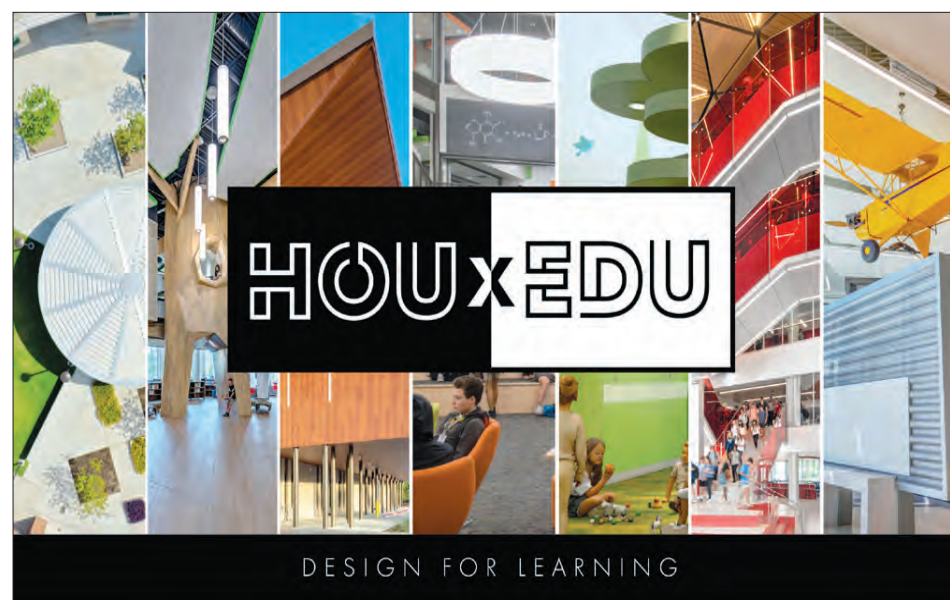
The exhibition will touch on themes including sustainability, safety and

security, renovation, outdoor learning, collaborative environments, STEAM, Career Technology Education, and inclusive design.

**Participating Firms:** Arcadis | IBI Group | DLR Group | Kirksey Architecture | PBK | Pfluger Architects | Stantec | VLK Architects

**HOUxEDU** is accompanied by several public programs including tours of schools across Houston, a school design charette for students, and a panel discussion on the community's role in school bonds.

More information on the **HOUxEDU** exhibition, associated public programs, and other news from Architecture Center Houston may be found at [houxedu.com](http://houxedu.com), [www.aahouston.org](http://www.aahouston.org) or on Facebook at Instagram using #houxedu.



**HOUxEDU: Design for Learning** will showcase the work of seven prominent K-12 architecture firms and their innovative and dynamic approach to changing the educational landscape of Houston.

It will highlight some of the best new school designs and touch on themes that include sustainability, safety and security, outdoor learning, STEAM and Career Technology Education.

### PARTICIPATING FIRMS

Arcadis | IBI Group • DLR Group • Kirksey Architecture  
PBK • Pfluger Architects • Stantec • VLK Architects

### SPONSORS

AGILE | DIRT | Dally | Tarkett

CW Lighting • Trinity Surfaces • GRIESENBECK  
ACME • DBR • Satterfield & Pontikes • VS America

For upcoming events and programs, visit [houxedu.com](http://houxedu.com) or [aahouston.org](http://aahouston.org)

FEBRUARY 23 - MAY 5, 2023

**OPENING RECEPTION**  
Thursday, February 23 | 6-8pm

**GALLERY HOURS**  
Mon - Thur 9am - 5pm | Fri 9am - 3pm  
or by appointment

### ARCHITECTURE CENTER HOUSTON

902 Commerce St.  
Houston, TX 77002  
713-420-0155



## CHEF BLAND'S GUMBO RECIPE WINS BIG

Aramark Chef Franchesca Brand's creole gumbo recipe won the top prize at the LEAD Summit during the Chef Spotlight Series luncheon on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at Temple University in Philadelphia.



Chef Bland's layout for her award-winning gumbo during the LEAD Summit at Temple University.

## Goose Creek Teachers Selected to Top Honors in Bilingual Organization

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey, APR – Director of Communications

Goose Creek CISD has a lot to celebrate. The district announced its Bilingual and/or ESL District Teachers of the Year during a special celebration process. The teachers were selected from a field of over 47 campus Bilin-

gual/ESL Teachers of the Year to represent the district at the upcoming Houston Area Association for Bilingual Education (HAABE) banquet. The selected district Teachers of the Year will advance to the city-wide competition after earning the same distinction at the district-wide level.

Nicole Rivera, Harlem Elementary, was selected as Elementary Bilingual Teacher of the Year. Crystal Garcia, Alamo, was selected as the Elementary ESL Teacher of the Year and Tamarrah (Bambi) Henderson, Baytown Junior, was selected as the Secondary ESL Teacher of the Year.



**Elementary Bilingual Teacher of the Year**  
Nicole Rivera, Elementary Bilingual Teacher of the Year from Harlem, poses with Bilingual department and campus staff.



**Elementary ESL Teacher of the Year**  
Crystal Garcia, Elementary ESL Teacher of the Year from Alamo, was surprised about her big win.



**Secondary ESL Teacher of the Year**  
Tamarrah (Bambi) Henderson of Baytown Junior was selected as the district's Secondary ESL Teacher of the Year.

# Barbers Hill Press

## Dayton

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

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THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

### ON THE HILL

#### West Chambers County Pilot Club Annual Gala April 1 Fundraiser



(L-R) "Flamingle on the Hill" Gala Bronze Sponsor Chambers County Constable Pct 4, Ben "Butch" Bean, Jr. and West Chambers County Pilot Club Director Linda Polk.



(l-r) West Chambers County Pilot Club Director Linda Polk, and "Flamingle on the Hill" Gala Silver Sponsor Lisa Dagle Bean

West Chambers County Pilot Club, Inc. will hold its annual fundraising Gala on Saturday, April 1, 2023 from 6:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M. at Barbers Hill High School, Mont Belvieu TX. The theme of this year's Gala is "Flamingle on the Hill".

There will be dinner, a live and silent auction.

A drawing with the 1st prize - \$1000.00, and 2nd prize - \$500.00 will be held at the Gala. Tickets are \$5.00 each.

Dinner tickets are \$10.00 each.

#### Perez of Beach City named to Dean's List in U of A's Fulbright College

FAYETTEVILLE, AR (02/27/2023)— Paris Perez of Beach City was named to the Fall 2022 Dean's List in the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Arkansas.

Perez joins nearly 2,500 additional Fulbright College students on the Fall 2022 Dean's List. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must achieve at least a 3.75 grade-point average for the semester while completing at least 12 credit hours.

Perez is one of more than 8,000 students who study and research in Fulbright College, which has degrees across the fine arts, humanities, natural sciences and social sciences. Learn more about the U of A's Fulbright College at [fulbright.uark.edu](http://fulbright.uark.edu).

## Mont Belvieu FD Receives \$5,000 Grant for New Thermal Imaging Cameras

Mont Belvieu, TX (February 20, 2023) – The Mont Belvieu Fire Department has received a \$5,000 grant award from Motiva Enterprises to purchase new thermal imaging cameras.

The specialized cameras can help firefighters make better decisions in an emergency and provide incident commanders with the technology to see hot spots from an exterior.

The Mont Belvieu Fire Department is one of 23 emergency response organizations across six states that received a total of nearly \$159,000 in funding through the Motiva First Responder Grant Program, which is designed to support first responders in communities that host Motiva assets.

"We greatly appreciate

the support that Motiva is providing to enhance public safety in in Mont Belvieu by making it possible for us to purchase new thermal imaging cameras," said City of Mont Belvieu Fire Chief Lee Atchison. "Thermal imaging cameras make our operations safer by allowing our firefighters to have a clearer picture of the emergency. Grants like this one sponsored by Motiva are an important funding source that help make our communities safer."

Through this program, grants up to \$10,000 per applicant are being awarded to eligible organizations to fund the purchase of safety equipment, professional training, or safety education programs.

This week's announcement represents the pro-



L to R, Lee Atchison Fire Chief, Dwayne Hunt Motiva, Brian Winningham, Mont Belvieu City Manager, and Mike Fregia Motiva.

gram's second grant award cycle. Since the Motiva First Responder Grant Program was introduced in

2021, the company has provided grant awards to 40 organizations across its operating area totaling

more than \$289,000.

"Supporting organizations which contribute so much toward the safety of the community is one way we at Motiva put our core values into practice," said Motiva Terminals & Pipelines General Manager Dollnila Slater. "In addition to improving the safety and preparedness of local first responders, we hope that these grants have a lasting, measurable impact on the communities where our employees live and work."

Applications for the next cycle of grant awards will be accepted Aug. 1 through Oct. 31, 2023.

Additional details about the program and a complete list of award recipients can be found online at [motiva.com/community/grants](http://motiva.com/community/grants).

## Beauty Enhancements by Xio Celebrates with Ribbon Cutting

HIGHLANDS – Beauty Enhancements by Xio, located at 100 S. Main Street, Highlands, celebrated their Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with the Baytown Chamber of Commerce, Ambassadors, staff and family members.

Beauty Enhancements by Xio is a non-invasive Med Spa offering the latest medical spa advancements and specializing in non-surgical skin tightening solutions for the face, neck and body of women and men wanting to get their youth back without making it a full-time job to achieve. They offer clients customized option plans for



individuals with specific needs and goals when it comes to looking young and feeling younger. We have treated every need from Weight Loss, Fat Reduction, Cellulite Reduction, Skin Tightening, Laser Resurfacing, Acne Therapy, Vascular Therapy and

more. Beauty Enhancement by Xio and her staff are all certified and well trained to help you achieve your personal goals with ease. Today we congratulate Beauty Enhancement by Xio as they become official Baytown Chamber of Commerce members!

### Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown

## What is Cardiac Arrest?

February is American Heart Month, a time when everyone can focus on their cardiovascular health. Your heart is one of the most important organs in your body. So, it is important to recognize when you may have a problem with your heart.

The heart pumps blood to every other organ, providing the constant supply of oxygen and nutrients these systems need to function. This process is also involved in removing harmful metabolic waste, like carbon dioxide.

If the heart stops working properly, as is the case with cardiac arrest, your entire body also shuts down.

"Cardiac arrest is when the heart suddenly stops functioning. In most cases, this results from certain malignant abnormal heart rhythms or arrhythmias," explains Dr. Nene Linda Ugoeke, a cardiologist at Houston Methodist.

Arrhythmias result from problems with the heart's electrical system. Not all arrhythmias are immediately harmful. But some, including ventricular fibrillation (v-fib) and ventricular tachycardia, can develop suddenly and lead to cardiac arrest.

"These types of irregular rhythms disrupt the heart's ability to pump blood effectively," explains Dr. Ugoeke. "When the brain, lungs and

other vital organs aren't getting adequate blood flow, it leads to loss of consciousness and breathing, as well as organ damage and eventually death."

Depending on the underlying arrhythmia, some cardiac arrests can be treated by shocking the heart back into a normal rhythm using a defibrillator device. Regardless of the underlying heart rhythm during cardiac arrest, immediate cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is of utmost importance in increasing the chances of surviving a cardiac arrest or at least having the best possible outcome.

**What causes cardiac arrest?**

"One of the most common causes of cardiac arrest is a heart attack," explains Dr. Ugoeke. "As blood flow to the heart is reduced, the injury experienced can set off cardiac arrest by triggering one of the dangerous rhythms."

But a person with no known heart issues can also experience sudden cardiac arrest.

"There are genetic disorders that can make a person more prone to arrhythmias and, therefore, cardiac arrest," explains Dr. Ugoeke. "For instance, cardiac channelopathy disorders affect how electricity transverse through the heart, setting a person up for arrhythmias."

**Cardiac arrest vs. heart**



Dr. Nene Linda Ugoeke

**attack: What's the difference?**

The terms heart attack and cardiac arrest are frequently used as synonyms, but in fact, they are unique conditions that should be understood distinctly.

While "cardiac arrest" is a term that generally describes the abrupt cessation of heart function, "heart attack", formally known as myocardial infarction, specifically results from compromised blood flow to portions of the heart muscle, which occurs when the arteries supplying blood to the heart muscles become blocked. Failure to deliver enough oxygenated and nutrient-rich blood to the heart leads to the damage of heart muscle. This, in turn, can affect the heart's rhythm and cause cardiac arrest.

A common cause of heart attack is coronary artery disease, a heart condition in which the coronary arteries narrow over time because of plaque buildup,

a process called atherosclerosis. Sudden rupture of these plaques can cause complete blockage of the affected artery, resulting in a heart attack.

**How to prevent cardiac arrest**

Various heart conditions and medical conditions, in general, can predispose to cardiac arrest. Heart attacks resulting from coronary artery disease are a common cause. Therefore, taking steps to reduce your risk of developing coronary artery disease, or working with your doctor to establish an effective plan for managing the condition if you already have it, will reduce your risk of having a cardiac arrest from coronary artery disease.

Living a healthy lifestyle — eating a well-balanced, heart-healthy diet, **exercising regularly** and maintaining a healthy weight — can help protect your heart and arteries.

These behaviors can also reduce your risk of developing health issues that can lead to coronary artery disease, including:

- High cholesterol
- High blood pressure
- Obesity
- Diabetes
- Smoking

Since cardiac arrest can occur in people who don't have coronary artery disease, you may be wondering whether there are ways to screen for

people who might be at increased risk of having cardiac arrest due to other heart conditions.

"We have ways to screen for conditions that may increase the risk of cardiac arrest, but screening isn't appropriate for everyone," adds Dr. Ugoeke. "Since we know these conditions can run in families, there are questions we ask first to help determine a person's risk."

Having a family member who died suddenly at a young age usually prompts screening. Further tests are then done based on the results of the initial screening. In most cases, an electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG), which is a test that records the electrical signals of the heart, is a good starting point. However, some other imaging tests and even genetic testing on occasion are done when indicated.

Despite what we know about preventing cardiac arrests, they can occur unexpectedly. Therefore, Dr. Ugoeke emphasizes the importance of learning how to perform CPR, to ensure readiness when help is needed.

To schedule an appointment with a cardiologist at the Houston Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center in Baytown visit [houstonmethodist.org/heart-vascular/](http://houstonmethodist.org/heart-vascular/) or call 281.837.7587.

### CAPITAL COMMENTS

By State Senator Brandon Creighton

#### Creighton, DeSanti to speak at GOP dinner

Last year, I served as the Victory Chair for the Republican Party of Texas, raising money and supporting strong conservatives at the local, state and federal level. And while I'm in the middle of the legislative session in Austin, I'm excited to be part of Harris County GOP's Lincoln Reagan Dinner on March 3rd in Houston. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis is the headliner, and I am speaking along with Congressman Chip Roy and Congresswoman Monica De La Cruz.



FLA. GOV. RON DESANTI

Ticket sales close this Friday, so secure your seat or sponsorship as soon as you can! It is going to be a great night of fellowship and celebrating freedom.

God Bless Texas

OPINION PAGE

OPINION By BILL KING

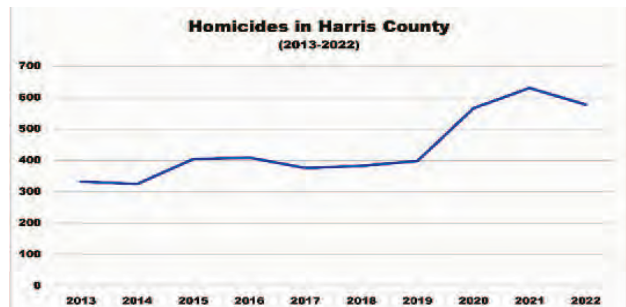


Harris County Crime Stats

2022 HARRIS COUNTY CRIME STATS

During the last election, the severity of crime in Harris County was hotly debated. The final numbers for 2022 are now available from the Texas Department of Safety and they paint a mixed picture.

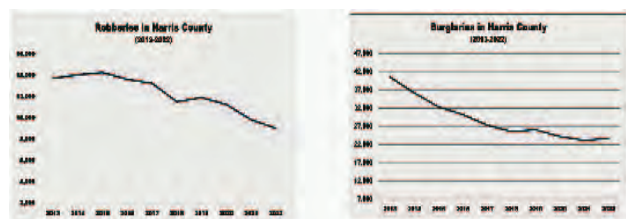
HOMICIDE, RAPES & ASSAULTS



In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Houston was going through its last crime wave. Homicides topped out in 1990 at 734. However, from there, homicides steadily declined for the next twenty years, hitting a low of 264 in 2011.

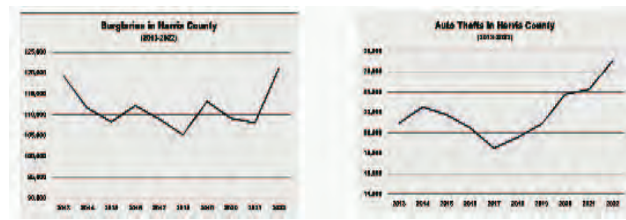
However, after 2011, homicides began creeping up and then skyrocketed higher in 2020 and 2021. The 631 homicides in 2021 was the highest level since 1990. In 2022, homicides declined slightly to 578 (-8%) but were still nearly double the number of homicides a decade ago.

The trend for rapes and assaults tracked fairly close to homicides.



ROBBERIES & BURGLARIES

Interestingly, the trend for robberies and burglaries was almost the opposite of homicides, rapes and assaults. Both began the last decade well below the peak in Houston's last crime wave in the early 1990s and have continued to track lower.



THEFT

The DPS has two categories of theft that it reports in its Index Crime Summary - larceny and auto theft. Larceny is basically any kind of theft that does not involve physically taking someone's property from them by force, which is robbery, and breaking into a home or business to steal something, which is burglary.

Both larceny and auto theft have also been generally declining for the last thirty years. Improvements in vehicle security systems resulted in a large reduction when those technologies were first rolled out.

However, both reached their nadir in 2018 and have been steadily climbing since. Both saw an 11% increase in 2022 alone.

I have been watching Houston's crime stats for nearly thirty years. I have learned over that time that crime is an incredibly complex phenomenon, which defies simple explanations as to why it goes up or down. Also, while local factors like the effectiveness of the local criminal justice system and a community's cohesiveness play a large part, there are also national macro factors that affect it.

Many have speculated that the pandemic affected crime rates, citing various possible effects. While some of that conjecture seems to make some intuitive sense, it is hard to find much support for the pandemic having any outside effects in the stats. For example, some speculated that the stress of the pandemic and associated lockdowns would cause more violence, especially family violence.

However, I do not think that it can be seriously doubted that the more lenient bond practices of many of the Democratic judges elected since 2018, combined with the huge case backlogs, have contributed to much of the increase in serious violent crimes, especially murders, in Harris County recently.

The precipitous drop in violent crime in Harris County that began in the early 1990s was a national phenomenon. Nationally, the murder rate in the U.S. dropped by half between 1990 and 2006. And for most of the last decade, the rates have remained relatively low.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders



Street Takeover Spurs Governor's Action

Gov. Greg Abbott has created a statewide task force after several "street takeovers" recently took place in Austin in which motorists obstructed intersections, shot off fireworks and drove recklessly.

Videos posted after the events showed vehicles doing donuts, crowds gathering around intersections, and people setting off fireworks, according to the Austin American-Statesman.

Seven people were arrested in the incidents, which occurred at four Austin intersections.

Abbott directed the Texas Department of Public Safety to investigate the events and "target the organized crime aspect" of the events, according to The Dallas Morning News.

"We are seeing fireworks fired at officers in crowds, lasers pointed at aircraft, drivers driving upwards of 130 miles per hour with no lights on in the dark of night — all of it is reckless, and it needs to be stopped," DPS Director Steve McCraw said.

Additional arrests are expected, law enforcement officials said.

TXDOT PROPOSES \$100 BILLION TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Texas Department of Transportation is proposing a record \$100 billion, 10-year transportation plan to improve congestion, increase safety and maintain the state's roadways. That's a \$15 billion increase over the original plan and comes after record projected revenue for the state, generated by oil and gas fees that are dedicated to highway projects.

The latest plan would increase funding in a number of areas, including "safety, energy sector, rural and urban connectivity, border infrastructure, maintenance and preservation," according to a TxDOT statement.

"Safety is a top priority for TxDOT, and these funding levels reflect that," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said.

TxDOT now has more than \$33 billion in transportation projects under construction throughout the state. More than 7,000 projects are either underway or scheduled to break ground this year.



BILLS WOULD BAN COVID RESTRICTIONS

A trio of bills by state Rep. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, would address Gov. Greg Abbott's calls to end COVID-related restrictions put in place as the pandemic began in 2020.

"This legislation is aimed at preventing future repeats of these controversial public health measures, which did little to slow the spread of the virus and did serious damage to the economy and education systems," Kolkhorst said in a statement, as reported by the Statesman.

The measures, if passed, would codify executive measures issued by Abbott in 2021 that prohibited employer or governmental COVID-19 mandates requiring people to wear masks or to be vaccinated.

Since Abbott has made the COVID-19 package an emergency measure, it bypasses many of the rules put in place by the state constitution to slow passage of legislation, the Statesman reported.

SENATE REVIVES EFFORT TO MAKE ILLEGAL VOTING A FELONY

After lowering the penalty for illegal voting to a misdemeanor in 2021, leaders in the Texas Senate appear poised to again raise the penalty to a second-degree felony, the Texas Tribune reported. Legislation filed by state Sen. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, would also modify the standard for determining a person's intent to vote illegally.

Current law says a person commits a crime if they "knowingly or intentionally" vote or attempt to vote and know they are not eligible. Under Hughes' bill, the language changes that to say anyone who votes

or attempts to vote in an election in which "the person knows of a particular circumstance that makes the person not eligible to vote" could be charged.

That means, for example, that someone who knows they are not a U.S. citizen but did not know they were ineligible to vote could still be prosecuted. An attorney with the Texas Civil Rights Project criticized the proposed change as a "very nasty and very potentially consequential provision."

STATE COULD FOOT AG OFFICE'S LEGAL BILL

A \$3.3 million settlement of a whistleblower complaint filed against the Texas attorney general's office should be paid by the state and not personally by Attorney General Ken Paxton, an agency attorney said. The AG's chief of general litigation told lawmakers that the agency, not Paxton personally, is the defendant under the Texas Whistleblower Act, and that taking the case to trial would cost even more.

"The agreement itself is contingent on legislative funding," he said. "It's a settlement that we made in order to save money for the state of Texas. It was the prudent thing to do to minimize litigation risk," Chris Hilton of the AG's office said, according to kut.org.

However, House Speaker Dade Phelan has said he does not support using taxpayer dollars for the settlement. Abbott has said "this is an issue that the attorney general is going to have to fully explain to both the House and the Senate."

TEA RELEASES TEACHER VACANCY RECOMMENDATIONS

A task force appointed last year by the Texas Education Agency has released its recommendations to address the teacher and staff vacancy crisis in Texas, as record numbers of both leave the education field in the wake of the pandemic and other issues.

The Teacher Vacancy Task Force, established last March, was comprised of teachers and school system leaders from across the state. The recommendations include:

- A significant increase in overall teacher salaries
• Enhancing teachers' total compensation package, including reducing cost of health care insurance.
• Provide incentives and support for hard-to-staff areas, such as special education and bilingual education teachers.
• Improve the pipeline and pre-service preparation of novice teachers.
• Expand training and support for teacher mentorship.
• Provide access and support for high-quality instructional materials.
• Demonstrate respect and value for teacher time.
• School culture and discipline supports.

The task force urged the Legislature to increase funding for teacher salaries, noting the state ranks 28th in the nation for average teacher salary.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

"Chia Pet Moment"

"You know, since I've been eating these chia seeds, I've noticed my beard has gotten heavier."

My husband, Peter, was talking to my father downstairs. I sat up at attention.

This comment about the chia seeds was news to me. I knew Peter was eating chia seeds because he thought it might lower his cholesterol. Peter is always reading articles about health, and I don't usually pay a lot of attention. He reads scientific studies about a variety of things. The studies are rarely conclusive, but if they indicate that eating chia seeds might be a good thing, Peter starts eating them every morning.

My cholesterol is low, and I've never eaten a chia seed in my life. But this information about his beard caught my attention. For one full moment.

Then I realized this was Peter's way of making a joke.

"You mean like a Chia Pet?" I hollered downstairs.

Peter started laughing and my dad groaned, and I was deeply disappointed. Because I was actually hoping it was true.

I had been hoping—for one long and optimistic moment—that chia seeds might help my hair. My hair is so wispy at this point that saying I look like a dandelion gone to seed is doing dandelions a disservice. I look at photos of myself taken a couple of years ago and can see I used to have a lot more hair. I can see a trajectory, and it's not going in the right direction. I wouldn't mind one bit if I started to resemble a Chia Pet. It would be a big step up, as I see it.

"Yes!" Peter laughed. "I've started to look like a Chia Pet!"

Now, this is almost true. Peter has a lot of hair. His whole family has a talent for growing hair. But the idea of a real-life, Chia Pet-type cure stayed with me. That's the trouble with getting your hopes up. When I was reconciled to being bald as a cue ball by 70, everything was fine. Get me hoping I might grow more hair—even for a moment—and I suddenly see this future filled with hair. I see luxuriant long tresses cascading down my back. OK, not really. But I imagine having enough hair where it would make a noticeable difference if I ran a comb over my head or not.

I discovered, unsurprisingly, that there were a lot of folks happy to sell products to grow more hair. There were legions of photos of impossibly long, thick hair and products associated with these photos, claiming to take credit. It was a swamp of dubious information and misplaced hopes and snake oil. It was irresistible. I ordered some supplements.

"I'm just gonna give this a try!" I told myself late at night as I imprudently ordered enough product to get me through the next three months.

The product is "guaranteed or your money back," but I know how that goes. Nobody wants to say they were suckered. Nobody wants to admit they got their hopes up. Nobody wants to come back and report that they now have almost no hair at all and would feel a lot better if they at least had the 30 bucks back that they spent, so they could buy a hat to keep their head warm, since their hair was no longer doing the job.

But now I have miracle supplements on the way, and I'm resigned to giving them a try. I'm trying to recapture my Chia Pet moment—that 15 seconds when I thought anything was possible.

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

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## Trail Rides through area,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This ride was established in 1982, and the trail boss is Anthony Bruno, taking over for his dad who passed away last year.

The Spanish Trail Ride starts in Shepherd, Texas north of Houston. It travels 109 miles, with 125 riders and 9 wagons. It was established in 1961 and the trail boss is Larry Cantrell. By coincidence Cantrell took over from his father, who also passed away last year.

Obviously the ride is a physical challenge, but interviews with the participants tell how much they look forward to it each year.

Hopefully you got to



**NORTHEASTERN TRAIL BOSS ANTHONY BRUNO**

angle Seven Arena in North Forest. They travelled along old Beaumont Highway for part of the trip, stopping at elementary schools to show their horses and wagons, and tell their stories to enthralled children.

The Spanish Trail Ride stopped at Humble Civic Center Wednesday night, and Knight of Columbus on Whitney prior to Friday's ride into Memorial Park. They travelled along Aldine-Bender for part of the trip, and Shepherd after that.

The ultimate goal was to participate in the Rodeo-Houston parade on Saturday in downtown Houston.

observe the rides in one of their travels through the area. The Northeastern Trail Ride stopped overnight Wednesday at the Crosby Fairgrounds, and Thursday night at the Tri-



Northeastern Trail Riders on the road this week.

## Crosby votes 4-day week,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tegitic move that evolved after much deliberation with her team as well as with feedback from the staff, the students and the community at large," said Board of Trustees President J.R. Humphries.

The majority of parents that were present during the vote Monday supported the move, but the district's latest survey found 41% of respondents wanted to stick with a five-day school week because they were concerned about the

inability of families to find and pay for childcare.

"I do feel for those family members that don't have someone to stay at home with them, but at the end of the day, we're going to have a whole lot less days if we don't have teachers in the classroom," Angela Hayes said. "So four good days are better than five days where teachers are absent or not able to be there."

There will be a transition between 4 and 5 day

schedules next year. Beginning with the upcoming fall semester, the month of August will operate under the regular, 5-day schedule. Then, from September through mid-April, Fridays will be student holidays. The 5-day schedule will resume from mid-April to the end of the school year in May.

The 2023-2024 school year begins Aug. 7 for Crosby ISD, though the four-day schedule won't start until September.

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IN THE STARS

BIRTHDAYS

- Mar 2—Jennifer Abbott, Robert Harper, Dorothy Holy, Jennifer Moya, Michelle Phillips, Gen. Sam Houston
Mar 3—Theresa Abbott, Irene Fleming, Jahnise McKee, Jerry Thompson
Mar 4—Evelyn Banks, Cathie West, Jamie Yarbrough, Eric Wood
Mar 5—Drexel Rohde
Mar 6—Theresa Abbott
Mar 7—Shirley Brantley, Michelle Cavazos, Don Stone, Dustin Stone
Mar 9—John Boehm, Terri Martin
Mar 10—Eric Groce
Mar 11—Marcille Robinson
Mar 12—Hope Dammon, Alexis Bowen
Mar 13—Dale Browder

ANNIVERSARIES

- Feb 24—Jim & Linda Hildebrand
Feb 26—Thomas & Geene Parrish
Mar 3—Jimmy & Teri Gleason
Mar 5—Raymond & Mary Helen James
Mar 16—Yvonne & Dale Browder
March 31—William & Susan O'Neal

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3 teens shot in House Party in Baytown area



Teens gather in front of the house on Firebrush Lane in Baytown, where a House party with over 100 teens ended in shots fired and three wounded, a fourth injured by a fall. The teens gathered on Sunday to discuss the aftermath of the night before.

BAYTOWN, Texas — An investigation is underway after three teenagers were shot and one was seriously hurt at a house party in Baytown, according to the Harris County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies responded to the shooting at about 11:30 p.m. on Friday in the 4300 block of Firebrush Lane, a cul-de-sac off Bay Run Avenue in Meadowlake Village. The site of the House Party is not far from Goose Creek Memorial High School on Wallisville.

When deputies got there, they said they found two young men, who are 18 and 19 years old, with gunshot wounds. Investigators said the 19-year-old is in critical condition, and the 18-year-old is in fair condition.

Two other teenagers, 15- and 16-year-old boys, also arrived at the hospital, according to the sheriff's office. Deputies said the 15-year-

old was shot, and the 16-year-old was trampled as he ran from the house after shots were fired. They are both reportedly in fair condition.

Joseph Wetterer, who said he is a longtime friend of Erik Poteet, the 19-year-old who was shot, said

"This is something that's just mind-boggling to us all. It's something you'd never expect. It's a shame something like this happened to him. When you heard his name, and you hear the situation that happened, it makes you go into disbelief," Wetterer said.

"There's still a bullet lodged into the back of his spine and they won't touch it for a while because he's not feeling through his legs or anything like that," Wetterer said.

Wetterer wasn't at the party but has set up a GoFundMe for his friend, who he said was just in the

wrong place at the wrong time.

Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said there were an estimated 100 to 200 people at the house party.

According to Gonzalez, other people fell and/or were trampled while running from the house after the shots were fired. The motive for the shooting is still under investigation.

"If you know anything about the situation or the people involved, please speak up. It would help the family out big time. I just hope that the people who are responsible for this are held up to the law," Wetterer said.

Gonzalez said investigators are aware of possible videos of the party on social media and are asking for anyone with info to call the Harris County Sheriff's Office at 713-274-9365 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

Precinct 3 begins 2023 with road repair projects in Crosby, Aldine-Westfield



Precinct 3 released these photos, showing what the reconstructed road will look like before and after the asphalt repairs.

HARRIS COUNTY, TX — Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey's Office kicks off the first quarter of 2023 with Asphalt Reconstruction Packages across Crosby, Humble, Spring, and Cypress. In addition to drainage improvements and traffic projects already underway, construction of asphalt improvement projects has started for the repair of roadways to increase safety and mobility throughout these areas.

Asphalt Reconstruction Package 2022-2 in the Humble, Aldine and Crosby areas: Construction will begin in the second quarter of 2023 to reconstruct various roads in Humble and Crosby. Roadway portions include Aldine Westfield Road, First Street in the Crosby area, Miller Wilson Road, Hare Cook Road, Ramsey Road, East Stroker Road, and Krenak Road. Drivers may notice daily lane closures, roadway detours, and temporary one-way operations while crews are working. Construction cost is approximately \$11.3 million, and the contractor is GMJ Paving.

River Terrace Subdivision Roadway Reconstruction in the Crosby area: Construction of the asphalt roadways is expected to begin in the third quarter of 2023. As part of the project, Cypress Street, Holley Street, Cherry Laurel Drive, Pine Street, Elm Street, Magnolia Street, Main Street, and portions of River Terrace Road will all undergo reconstruction. Drivers may notice daily lane closures, roadway detours, and temporary one-way operations while crews are working. The reconstruction cost is included within Asphalt Reconstruction package 2022-2, and the contractor is GMJ Paving.

For questions about these projects or any Precinct 3 infrastructure projects or maintenance, please email Pct3ServiceDept@pct3.hctx.net.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lucky to live in the community of Crosby. The stories that we receive about patients who have been helped through the proceeds of this event warms our hearts and confirms our drive to continue this great service for anyone in need. There were lots of smiles on Saturday night! Thank you Crosby Community!

THANKS TO PHOTOS BY MECHELE, STORY BY DEBBIE HOLMELIN



"Top Gun" model with friends



"On Tap" Model with friends



"Britney WHO?" model with mom and aunt



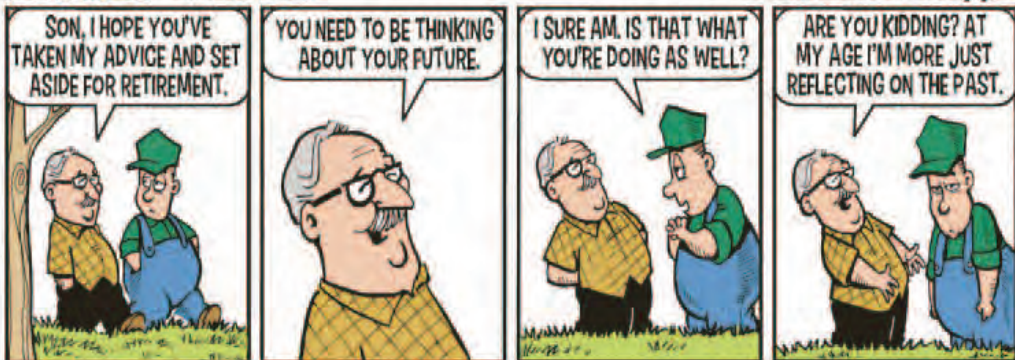
"Shake Cancer" model with friends



"Grinch" with North Shore Rotary supporters

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. A 9x9 grid with numbers and empty cells. Includes difficulty level: Moderate, Challenging, HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS by Henry Boltinoff. Two panels of a man in a suit and a woman in a shop. Text: 'Find at least six differences in details between panels.'

February 27, 2023 Posting Date

King Crossword

- ACROSS
1 Pirate's chart
4 "Shark Tank" network
7 Clench
11 Misfortunes
13 Monk's title
14 Jeans maker Strauss
15 Grabbed
16 Sailor
17 Opposite of "sans"
18 Lukewarm
20 Soft shoes, for short
22 Egg quaff
24 Give
28 Limo alternative
32 Orange variety
33 Online auction site
34 "Kapow!"
36 Traditional tales
37 Winter woes
39 Lauded
41 Balloon filler
43 Little rascal
44 Beseech
46 Speak one's mind
50 Big swig
53 Profit
55 Alike (Fr.)
56 Sheltered
57 - Jima
58 Activist Parks

10x10 crossword grid with black squares indicating non-letter positions.

- DOWN
1 Catcher's aid
2 Skin soother
3 Fall into a soft chair
4 Astern
5 "Dracula" author Stoker
6 Ersatz chocolate
7 Fairy-tale footwear
8 Speed (up) "— had it!"
9 Photo, for short
10 Photo, for short
11 Swimmer without a suit
12 Swimmer without a suit
19 Medico
21 Biz bigwig
23 Prattle
25 New Mexico resort
26 Shrek, for one
27 Garden intruder
28 Georgia or Cal
29 Bassoon's kin
30 Humpty's perch
31 Knock
35 Hosp. scan
38 California's Big —
40 I love (Lat.)
42 Craze
45 Evergreen trees
47 Mr. Stravinsky
48 "Apollo 13" org.
49 Panache
50 Tank filler
51 Last (Abbr.)
52 Meadow
54 Spinning toy

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9x9 grid for Trivia test with numbers 1-9 in some cells.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. GEOGRAPHY: Which river flows through the European capitals of Vienna and Budapest?
2. SCIENCE: At what temperature are Fahrenheit and Celsius equal?
3. TELEVISION: The comedy series "Frasier" is a spinoff of which sitcom?
4. LITERATURE: Which novel features a character named Katniss Everdeen?
5. FOOD & DRINK: What kind of beans are used in falafel?
6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a beaver's home called?
7. THEATER: Which musical features a character named Tracy Turnblad?
8. MOVIES: Which actress plays the young Wendy Darling in the movie "Hook"?
9. HISTORY: Who invented the game of lacrosse?
10. SCIENCE: What percentage of the world's population has brown eyes?

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Answers for King Crossword. Includes a grid for the crossword and the word 'ANSWERS' written vertically.

Solution time: 22 mins.

Trivia Test Answers
1. The Danube River; 2. 40; 3. "Cheers"; 4. "The Hunger Games"; 5. Chickpeas or fava beans; 6. A lodge, or a den; 7. "Hairspray"; 8. Gwyneth Paltrow; 9. Frodo; 10. 70%-80%.



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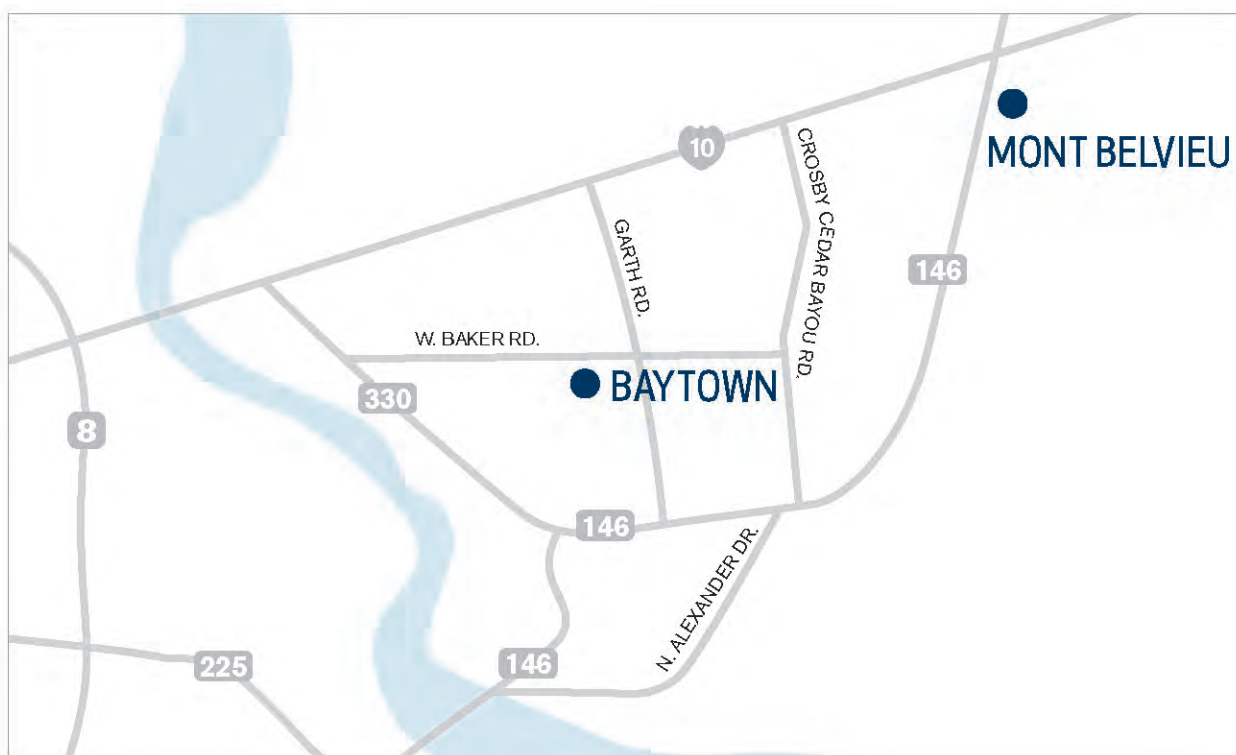
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