



Crosby ISD Trustee Kea Lynn Lewis performs the National Anthem at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo with her sister.

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star Courier

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THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

MAR. 25, SATURDAY Texas Historic Cemetery Workshop

Crosby Historical Society Meeting and Cemetery Application Workshop.
Saturday, March 25 at Crosby Brethren Church.
10am-11:20am Historical Society Meeting.
12pm-2pm Historic Cemetery Designation Application Workshop.
Pre-Registration required.
\$20 Fee. Contact Susan Armstrong, ose203@aol.com.
Details, see AD page 5.

MAR. 25, SATURDAY THEA fundraiser

"Clean Mud for Bugs" Crawfish Boil

This is THEA's Annual fundraiser and your chance to support our work on Houston/Harris County toxic chemical contamination.
Crawfish Boil fundraiser, Saturday March 25 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm, Karbach Brewing, 2032 Karbach Street, Houston.
New this year, a KID'S Zone and a special kid's price. AND T-shirts to purchase with THEA/Mud Bug theme.
Tickets: txhea.org.

MAR. 25, SATURDAY Crosby FD Stair Climb and Walk

9/11 Memorial Stair Climb and Walk, starts at 8am at the Crosby Stadium. Funds go to Fallen Firefighters Foundation.
Everyone welcome. Register: <https://nffh.akaraisin.com/ui/crosbyvfd>

BIRTHDAYS

Mar 16—M. Edith Miller
Zachary Dunlap
Mar 17—Lyndsay Dammon
Mar 18—Kent Nelson
Mar 19—Yvonne Browder
Isabell Daniels
Annie Mari-e Herron
Chris Scott
Jett Sherwood
Mar 20—Josh Kimberlin
Mar 21—Crystal Burton
Kathy Townsend
Mar 22—Craig Gross
Lisa Strouhal
Laura White
Mar 23—Jackie Thompson
Charlotte Wotipka
Mar 24—Lindsey Bell
John Townsend
Mary Helen James
Mar 25—Tara Barron
Mike O'Conner
Mar 27—Emma Johnson
Mar 28—Zachery Abbott
Rebecca Erikson
Edgar Wotipka
Mar 30—Derek Geffs
Rachel Schultz
Cheryl Sue Zarsky
B.J. Amberger
John C. Zaprada
Mar 31—Amy Brewer
Lottie Velma Dunaway

ANNIVERSARIES

Mar 5—Raymond & Mary Helen James
Mar 16—Yvonne & Dale Browder
March 31—William & Susan O'Neal

C/H Chamber installs new board

Awards for Business of Year and Ambassadors

CROSBY – The Crosby/Huffman Chamber of Commerce held their Installation of the 2023 Board of Directors, and held Recognition Awards at their monthly luncheon last Thursday, February 16. The event was held at Stonebridge at Newport. Judge Lucia Bates presided over the swearing-in of the new board.

Also on the program was the award of the Business of the Year, and the Ambassador of the Year. Two Businesses were given awards, Skero's Furniture and Visiting Angels.

The Ambassador of the Year for 2023 was awarded to Sue Fitzgerald. A special President's Award was given to Eddie Foster, presented by Kim Harris.

In other Chamber business, members are being asked to complete a survey on the Chamber and its services. The results of this survey will help form future strategies for the Chamber.

Plans are also underway for the 31st Annual Tees-N-Tails Golf Tournament, to be held Thursday, April 13 at Stonebridge at Newport. Early bird registration starts at \$75, call 281-328-6984.

Continued. See C/H Chamber on Page 5



2023 CHAMBER BOARD, WITH AMBASSADORS

Top row: Margarette Chasteen, Sue Fitzgerald, Larry Koslovsky, Eric Jennings, Eddie Foster, Keenan Smith, Kay Sosa, Brett Birkinbine
Bottom row: Judge Lucia Bates, Toni Handley, Tiffany Muller, Angelica Hodges, Kim Davila, Stephanie Rosendahl and Crystal Egorushkin



2024 AMBASSADORS

Sue Fitzgerald (Center) is the winning Ambassador of the Year 2023.
L to R: Traci Galyean, Cheri Melcher, Margarette Chasteen, Sue Fitzgerald, Kay Sosa, Stephanie Rosendahl and Debra Roberts

Message from the Crosby Superintendent

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families,

It is recruiting season, and Crosby ISD is actively working to bring in the top teaching talent in Harris County and across Texas. We will be throwing a party for applicants during a District Job Fair on Saturday, April 1. Campus leaders will be available to meet applicants from 9am until Noon at Crosby High School. Please share with any educators, bus drivers, or anyone else you know who could serve in support staff roles. We know that Crosby ISD is a destination for excellent educators, and we want to fill our classrooms with top-notch teachers for our students.

Crosby ISD is a busy place as we enter the waning days of March. A quick reminder that we are coming up on testing season as we enter the final nine-week grading period. Remember to ensure your students are getting plen-



SUPERINTENDENT PAULA PATTERSON

ty of sleep, coming to school with fully-charged devices, and ready to learn each day.

Now to some high fives and shout outs. Our Crosby High School theater students advanced to the second round of the UIL One Act Play competition. The CHS troupe is performing "The Beggar's Opera." I thoroughly enjoyed watching the performance in the district round, and I firmly believe our students will continue with strong scores. Veterinary Tech

students are hosting a massive free spay and neuter event at Crosby High School on March 25. Pet owners are allowed to book appointments to have their pets spayed/neutered, microchipped, and vaccinated at no cost. We appreciate the efforts of our "Cougar Canine" students and The Empty Shelter Project for pinpointing the need in the Crosby/Barrett Station communities.

We're showing our strength in sports. The Crosby High School boys' and girls' soccer teams are advancing to the playoffs. Our Cougar strength was on full display at the 5A D1 State Championship meet in Frisco this month. We loved seeing senior Xandra Hernandez (105 lb weight class) and freshman Kayleigh Bowling (198 lb weight class) compete against some of the best powerlifters in Texas. I also want to brag about the

Continued. See Crosby Superintendent, Page 6



Crosby High School Theater Arts students move onto the second round of the UIL One Act Play competition. The students are performing "The Beggar's Opera" in the Bi-District round on March 23.

RACHEL'S DINER

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

AUTO & HOME INSURANCE



Jeremy Rosenkranz
State Farm Agent
440 S. Main Street, Highlands, TX 77562
281-426-3512
jtr@jeremyrosenkranz.com



WESTON G. COTTEN

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Turner Chevy Car Show

2nd Annual Car Show At Turner Chevy



Saturday
APRIL 22ND 10AM-3PM

Food Truck On Site.
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Top 20

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21001 Crosby Freeway
Crosby, TX 77532
281-328-4377

TurnerChevroletCrosby.com

Suspect sought in Walmart arson fire

The Harris County Fire Marshal's Office and Crime Stoppers need the public's assistance identifying the suspect involved in a commercial fire that occurred in the late evening hours on February 18, 2023, at Walmart located at 13750 East Freeway, Houston, TX. 77015.

HCFMO Fire Investigators determined the suspect ignited a flammable liquid at Walmart, causing approximately \$5,000

worth of damage. If you recognize the person in the pictures or video, call Crime Stoppers.

Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$5,000 for information leading to felony charges or an arrest of the suspect(s) in this case. Information may be reported by calling (713) 222-TIPS (8477) or submitting tips online at www.crimestoppers.org. All tipsters remain anonymous.



Person sought for setting arson fire.



Car belonging to person sought for arson at Walmart store on I-10.

Dealing with the loss of a loved one is never easy, but maybe these guys can help!

We're the only funeral home in the Houston area providing full-time, certified therapy dogs for the comfort of our families and guests



Axel and Izzy are both certified grief therapy dogs. You can follow them on Facebook and Instagram @GriefTherapyDood

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Barbers Hill Press

Dayton

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

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THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

West Chambers County Pilot Club 24th Annual Fundraising Gala



"Flamingle on The Hill"

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,

9696 Eagle Drive Mont Belvieu, TX 77580

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.

RSVP: Diana Jackson 505-220-7499 or Tonya Keller 281-628-6786

or Email: Linda Gilmore at wccpilclub@gmail.com

Mailing Address: West Chambers County Pilot Club

P.O. Box 1032



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

Jones Public Library BOOK SIGNING



"HELP! I'VE FALLEN INTO OLD AGE AND I CAN'T GET UP!" BY MYRA SMITH

*AUTHOR DISCUSSION
*LIVE READING
*BOOKS FOR SALE
*REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

APRIL 4 | 5:30 - 6:30 PM JONES PUBLIC LIBRARY

Creighton Files Higher Education Priority Bills

Austin, Texas—Senator Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) has filed priority legislation for Texas colleges and universities.

Senator Creighton offered the following statement:

"Education is the greatest equalizer in our nation, and Texas is home to world class and innovative colleges and universities. The strength of the Texas economic engine is directly tied to our workforce, and making overdue reforms to higher education will allow Texas to remain the number 1 job creator in the nation.

"The decisions we make for higher education today determine our Texas of tomorrow, and in order to prepare the next generation of leaders, these taxpayer funded institutions must promote merit, free thought, and ensure that every student is treated as

an individual and afforded equal opportunities to achieve success."

SB 2539: 21st Century Workforce Act

A highly educated and skilled workforce is critical for Texas to remain the most attractive state to do business, and community colleges are ground zero for students to access the necessary skills and training for in-demand careers. The Community College Finance Commission was created in SB 2539 in the 86th Legislature, and this bill activates the commission's recommendations. Specifically providing funding based on student outcomes, increased financial aid and work-based opportunities, as well as greater investment in college capacity through grants and cross campus partnerships.

SB 1563: Investing in Rural Healthcare

In 2019, the Texas Leg-



islature, through HB 2867, established the Sam Houston State University Medical School to address the shortage of primary care physicians and rural healthcare needs. In 4 short years, the Osteopathic school has increased class size by 34% and doubled the volume of applications. This bill provides the necessary funding for the school to expand and train the next generation of in-demand physicians Texas desperately needs.

SB 17: Ending Diverse Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Policies

While every member of a university community must be treated with equal dignity, so-called DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) offices are in fact the leading threat to true diversity and genuine inclusivity on university campuses. Whether a student is from Conroe, Austin or Laredo, a first generation college student or triple legacy, every individual should be welcome and promoted based on qualifications. The elevation of DEI offices on campuses have only furthered divides and created a chilling effect on open dialogue. This legislation will ensure Texas college campuses are environments that are open to differing ideas, foster meaningful, reasoned dialogue, and

encourage intellectual discourse.

SB 18: Eliminating Tenure

SB 18 eliminates the costly, unnecessary and antiquated burden of tenure at Texas public colleges and universities. Tenure was originally intended to protect academic freedom and recruit professors, however over the years, the practice has devolved into a costly perk that is detrimental to innovative research and quality instruction and if abused, used as an attack against the brand of the university itself. At a time when colleges and universities have unprecedented endowments, bloated administrative costs and ballooning tuition it is time for lawmakers to reevaluate an outdated practice that guarantees lifetime employment at taxpayer expense.

TWFG Khan Insurance Celebrates Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

BAYTOWN - TWFG Khan Insurance, celebrated their Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with the Baytown Chamber of Commerce, Ambassadors and staff.

TWFG Khan Insurance is a locally owned and operated insurance agency committed to providing quality insurance products for individuals and businesses. Their staff consists of highly experienced insurance professionals with access to exclusive markets. They take pride in being able to access AM Best A rated carriers with exclusive Commercial Package programs. With



Pictured left to right: Mike Nebgen, Jackland Berry-McDowell, Natalie Van Zyl, Sameer Khan (Owner/Principal), Brittany Merryman, Carmen Parris, Mike Wilson

a specialty in writing commercial insurance for small businesses and mid-sized corporations, they are able to bring clients the best risk transfer programs available.

In addition to commercial property, casualty, life and health, payroll, H/R, Workers Compensation, Inland Marine, E & O, commercial transportation, liquor liability, surety, performance and fidelity bonds; they also offer niche coverage for the following industries: large artisan contractors, oil and gas, trucking for hire fleet coverage, security, private investigation and

body guard companies, life science and technology, non-profits, retail and mercantile including franchise operations, multiple dwelling units including government subsidized housing, institutional housing, apartments, condominiums and townhomes.

When you work with TWFG Khan Insurance, you'll experience the exceptional service and attention to detail that you can only find with an independent insurance agency. Today we welcome TWFG Khan Insurance as an official member of the Baytown Chamber of Commerce!

Custom Gifts and Promo's Celebrates Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

BAYTOWN - Custom Gifts and Promo's, celebrated their Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with the Baytown Chamber of Commerce, Ambassadors and staff.

Custom Gifts and Promos is a family-owned business specializing in laser engraving items ranging from water bot-



Pictured left to right: Mike Nebgen, Bryan Corbin, Ashley Corbin, Carmen Parris, Celeste Rodriguez

tles, tumblers, key chains, acrylic lit signs, power banks, plaques, and other products with no minimum order required. Utilizing their creativity and expertise, they are able to produce a unique gift or promotional item using nearly any logo or phrase of your choice. Orders placed in bulk receive discounts and specials are offered every month. Members of the Baytown Chamber of Commerce also receive a 10% discount and free local delivery. For more infor-

mation, you can visit their website at www.houstoncgp.com or contact them via phone at (346) 222-0337 or via email at order@houstoncgp.com.

Please help us congratulate Custom Gifts and Promo's in their new endeavors as official members of the Baytown Chamber of Commerce!

Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown

The Benefits of Seeing a Nurse Practitioner in Primary Care

Have you been to your primary care doctor's office recently and noticed you can get in more quickly if you see a nurse practitioner instead of a medical doctor? Or perhaps you see your doctor and a nurse practitioner interchangeably?

As the demand for primary care grows, more and more clinics across the U.S. are hiring nurse practitioners to work alongside doctors. Nurse practitioners — officially called advanced practice registered nurses — are nurses who have completed extensive education and training and have earned their master's or doctorate degrees in nursing.

"Our nurse practitioners partner with us to assess patients and help diagnose, develop and oversee comprehensive

treatment plans for chronic and acute illnesses," said Dr. Irfan Dadahoy, a family medicine physician with Houston Methodist Primary Care Group in Baytown. "Every patient is unique, and we enjoy getting to know all of our patients and working with them to achieve their individual healthcare needs and goals."

What can a nurse practitioner do?

"Our team of physicians and nurse practitioners collaborate to provide exceptional treatment with integrity, respect and compassion," Dadahoy said.

Some potential nurse practitioner responsibilities include:

- Assessing patients, collecting health history, and performing physical exams
- Ordering diagnostic and laboratory tests, and ana-



Dr. Irfan Dadahoy

- lyzing results
- Making diagnoses
- Developing, administering and overseeing treatment plans, including prescribing medication and other therapies
- Making referrals to specialists and coordinating care
- Educating patients, families and caregivers to promote healthy lifestyles, prevent disease and manage chronic illness
- Through communica-

tion, education and promoting healthy lifestyles, our nurse practitioners can help reduce frequent office visits, ER visits and hospitalizations.

"In our clinic, nurse practitioners provide individualized health care that incorporates patients and their families to ensure the best outcomes," he said. "Our nurse practitioners help us empower our patients to help them better care for themselves through information and health education."

What is a nurse practitioner's limit?

If a nurse practitioner helps oversee a patient's chronic condition, at Houston Methodist, the team ensures the patient sees his or her physician at least every third visit. Annual exams at Houston Methodist are also typical-

ly completed by the physician.

"While nurse practitioners serve as an extension of the physician," Dadahoy said, "if there is a specific concern about a patient, she or he consults with us and we work collaboratively," he said.

The bottom line: Nurse practitioners in a primary care setting help patients access care quickly, prevent and manage disease, and maintain healthy lifestyles — along with enhancing patient satisfaction.

Don't wait to get care. Visit houstonmethodist.org/baytown or call 832-556-6670 to schedule an appointment with a primary care physician or nurse practitioner who can see you — in person or virtually — today.

OPINION PAGE

OPINION

By BILL KING



Houston Does Not Have a Revenue Cap!

One of my pet peeves is how frequently I hear some City elected official or someone in the media refer Houston's "revenue cap." Let me state this as clearly as possible: the City of Houston does not have, nor has it ever had, a cap on the revenues it can collect.

The easiest way to know that Houston does not have a cap on its revenues is to look at its revenues since Proposition 1, the proposition that is so frequently and incessantly mischaracterized as a revenue cap, was passed in 2004. Since that time, the City's revenues have increased by 159%.

That is about a 5.5% average annual increase, which has roughly been twice the rate of inflation and wage growth in the Houston area for the same period. And notwithstanding the commonly held belief that Houston is still rapidly growing, although its population has only increased by about 15% since 2004, or less than 1% per year.

What the voters overwhelmingly approved in 2004 was a charter amendment that prohibited City Council from raising property taxes by more than the sum of inflation and population growth or 4.5%, whichever is lower. The principle reason this proposition has not resulted in any significant limitation on the City's revenue growth is that property taxes only make up about 20% of the City's revenue. There is absolutely no limitation on the other revenue sources for the City. So, for example, Proposition 1 had no effect on the City imposing a new drainage fee on its citizens to the tune of over \$100 million per year in 2014, or say, doubling the water and sewer rates.1

Ironically, Proposition 1 has not even been all that effective at tamping down property taxes, which have doubled since it was adopted. That is primarily because of some loopholes in Proposition 1. The most notable is that the property taxes collected by the TIRZs do not count against the limit. Also, property tax increases during a state of emergency are exempt.

You will frequently hear City-elected officials lament Proposition 1 and call for its repeal, claiming that their hands are tied by it. What they never mention is that under Proposition 1's provisions, Council can raise property taxes by whatever amount they want (up to the State limit), if they first ask for the voters' approval. Of course, given the sorry state of City services, notwithstanding its record revenues, they know that would be a hard sell.

So, the next time you hear some City official whining about the supposed "revenue cap" and suggesting we should repeal it, just remember what they are really saying is that they want to increase property taxes by more than population growth and inflation without checking with you first.

LETTERS To The Editor

Spend Budget Surplus on Environmental Priorities

Friend,

All too often, the Texas budget conversation has been focused on what will get cut. But this year should be different - the state has over \$32 billion in surplus funds.

Republicans want to use these funds to reduce property taxes, but there are many important needs that should receive a share of these resources.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Railroad Commission, Public Utility Commission, Office of Public Utility Counsel, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas Water Development Board all need additional funding to meet their mandates to protect the environment and Texans and manage our natural resources.

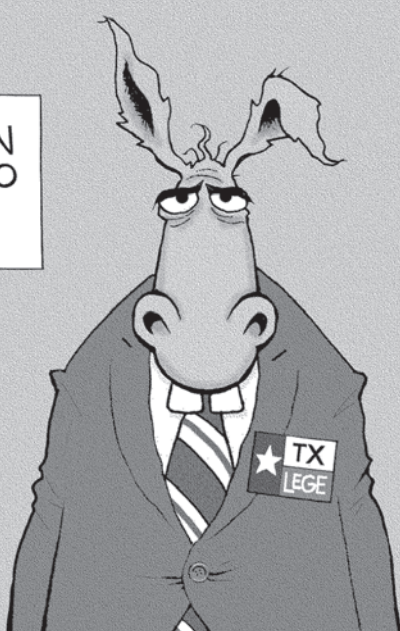
Send an email to the Senate Committee on Finance and the House Appropriations Committee to support additional investment in enforcing environmental laws, fixing the electric grid, expanding parkland, and modernizing agencies to be more effective and responsive to the public.

Thank you for taking action. The budget is critical to advance our priorities.

Working together,

Alliance for a Clean Texas

SOME IN AUSTIN STILL WITH NO POWER...



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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

"Tourist Town"

My husband, Peter, and I are staying in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, which is, according to a lot of folks, a tourist town.

Sometimes, the person saying this means it is not a place they would want to spend time. This puzzles me. I'm not sure why a town known for meat-packing or manufacturing would be a better place to spend time than a town known for tourism. But I respect anyone's right to spend time wherever they want, and Peter and I are happy in San Miguel, in large part because it is a tourist town.

A lot of the tourists are from the United States. A surprising number are from Canada.

"Is there anyone left up there in the winter?" I asked a Canadian visitor I met at the writers' conference last week. There were more Canadians in the audience than folks from the U.S. and Mexico combined. I found this astonishing, considering that all of Canada has only as many people as Mexico City.

"Did you leave someone up there to turn off the lights?" I asked.

But more common than either Canadians or Americans are, of course, the Mexican tourists who come to town to enjoy the year-round festivities of San Miguel. There is always a party of some sort going on. There is music in the streets, religious celebrations, parades of zombies, costumed indigenous dancers, fireworks and giant puppets—amazing surprises that appear every day, surprises that appear as if by magic.

And there's no mistaking Mexican tourists for their northern counterparts.

U.S. tourists tend to look as if they are braced for calamity. They constantly refer to their maps. They wear sunscreen under their oversized hats, have trousers filled with zippered pockets, secret money belts and hiding places for their passports. They wear shoes intended for hiking up mountains and carry water in case they should make a wrong turn at the ice cream shop and inadvertently end up marooned in the desert.

Mexican tourists are always better dressed, often in high heels, and never lost.

They wear sequins and carry small dogs and, even when I don't know what they are saying, I can hear them using a lot of exclamation points to say it. Mexicans do not take photos of the sights, but of one another, smiling broadly, and usually holding their small dogs. They zip in on Friday nights and start partying immediately, hiring the mariachi bands to play songs they love and lining up at restaurants to have their favorite meals.

The U.S. tourists generally look less cheerful. They are also older. I noticed, on a rare occasion that a store advertised in English, the sign read, "Spare parts for crutches, wheelchairs and walking sticks." Clearly, they knew their market.

Mexican tourists would be unlikely to need any of the above, despite the high heels, and would be more inclined to buy festive costumes for their tiny dogs.

By Monday morning, most of the Mexican tourists are gone, leaving only traces of confetti on the cobblestones, which the street cleaners work diligently to remove until they are, again, pristine and ready for the next party.

I'm trying to learn from the Mexican tourists. I'm trying to remember to smile at strangers and worry less about falling on the cobblestones (even if I keep wearing practical shoes). I'm trying to put a little more glitter in my life and a few more sequins.

Being prepared for an emergency is a good thing, of course. But being prepared for a party is every bit as important.

Till next time, Carrie

Carrie's memoir is "Blue Yarn." Learn more about her writing at CarrieClasson.com.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Bill Would Require Fentanyl Education

The death of a Leander High School graduate from a fentanyl overdose has prompted state Rep. Terry Wilson, R-Georgetown, to file a bill that would require 10 hours of education annually concerning the dangers of the drug to students in sixth grade and up, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

Tucker Roe, 19, bought what he thought was a Percocet pill on Instagram, according to his mother, Stefanie Turner. It turned out to be laced with a deadly amount of fentanyl, a powerful opioid responsible for more than 5,000 deaths in Texas last year, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

"He was struggling with sleeping and stress, and he purchased a pill to help him sleep, and that pill took his life," Turner told the Statesman. Wilson's bill would allow a number of different types of organizations to provide the education, including public health agencies.

MORE ARRESTS MADE IN AUSTIN 'STREET TAKEOVER'

More than three dozen charges against 17 people were made last week in the takeover of several Austin intersections on Feb. 18 and 19. The Statesman reported those arrested face charges including evading arrest, obstructing a highway, reckless driving and engaging in organized criminal activity.

Video footage shot during the incidents showed cars spinning through intersections, fireworks exploding, and dozens of people running through the streets.

"The events that occurred disrupted our community, they garnered much of our attention, and they were clearly not good for our community," Austin Police Chief Joe Chacon said.

PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLIST FATALITIES ON THE RISE

Pedestrian fatalities resulting from traffic crashes



increased 34% from 2017 to 2021, while bicyclist deaths increased 58% during the same period.

The Texas Department of Transportation has kicked off a pedestrian and bicyclist campaign this month to urge all Texans to follow the state's traffic laws and reduce those fatalities.

"We have a shared responsibility to every member of our community - to every family and every individual - to help reverse these trends and reduce traffic fatalities in Texas," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams.

Texas law requires drivers to stop and yield for pedestrian and bicyclists in crosswalks, to yield while turning, and to pass bikes at a safe distance. Pedestrians, in turn, are urged to cross only at intersections and crosswalks, to obey all traffic signs and signals, and to use sidewalks when possible.

Bicyclists are required to stop at red lights and stop signs, to ride in the same direction as traffic, and to use bike lanes when available.

NELSON CONFIRMED AS TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE

Former state Sen. Jane Nelson was confirmed last week by the Texas Senate as secretary of state. Gov. Greg Abbott appointed her to the position two months ago.

Nelson served in that chamber for 30 years.

"I will work to safeguard honest and accurate elections in all 254 counties

across our great state, while continuing to support business owners by ensuring that government moves at the speed of Texas business, not the other way around," Nelson said in a statement after her confirmation.

ADJUSTER INDICTED AFTER TDI INVESTIGATION

A Texas public insurance adjuster has been indicted by a Kimble County grand jury after being accused of stealing more than \$268,000 in insurance claims. An investigation by the Texas Department of Insurance alleges Andrew Joseph Mitchell signed the names of clients on their insurance claim checks and kept the money.

Mitchell, based in Clear Lake Shores, Texas, solicited clients across the country using the internet, according to authorities.

"We have other victims here in Texas we're referring to prosecutors, but Mitchell is currently in jail in Louisiana, and we know of investigations in at least two other states," TDI fraud investigator Mark Pardaen said.

LAWMAKERS WANT TO LEGALIZE SUNDAY LIQUOR SALES

A pair of bills introduced in the Legislature would legalize the sales of ready-to-drink cocktails seven days a week, the Houston Chronicle reported. Under current law, liquor stores are closed on Sunday, and grocery and corner stores can only sell beer and wine.

State Sen. Kelly Hancock, R-North Richland Hills, filed his version of the bill recently.

"As industries innovate and new products become staples in the marketplace, it only makes sense for us to take a look at ways government can reduce regulatory red tape," Hancock said. A twin version of the bill was filed in the House by state Rep. Justin Holland, R-Rockwall. Liquor stores would still be required to be closed on Sunday under the bills.

TPWD SEEKS INPUT ON LAND AND WATER PLAN

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is seeking public input to help the agency make future management decisions.

"In fulfilling our mission, TPWD is committed to delivering effective natural resources stewardship and outdoor recreation programs that exemplify the highest standards of quality, service and professionalism," said David Yoskowitz, executive director of TPWD.

Public input can be made through April 14 by completing a survey being conducted by Texas A&M University. The survey can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/nhkcwmwx>.

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

C/H Chamber installs new Board, gives awards,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



ABOVE: Skero's Furniture receives one of two Business of the Year awards: At left are the parents of Daron Skero, with the microphone. At right Tim Paterson, Kim Harris and others prepare the Business of the Year award.



AT LEFT: Eddie Foster wins the President's Award, presented by Kim Harris.



AT RIGHT: Kay Sosa and Jeff Wolfe also wins Business of the Year for their Visiting Angels. This year the Chamber presented 2 Business of the Year awards.



Highlands Rotary partners on Community Projects

Sometimes a small project can help the needy in a very big way. The Highlands Rotary Club recently found two projects that needed a partner to help some needy folks in the community. Thanks to our Rotarians, we were able to help a partner complete their project.



An elderly person in Highlands couldn't reach her front door because the steps were too steep. Rotarians partnered with Shriners from Baytown to build a new set of stairs that were easier and safer.



Highlands Elementary Student Council, the Hawks, had a fundraiser project to provide sheets for the homeless at the Bay Area Homeless Womens Center. Highlands Rotary purchased sheets and the Hawks delivered them to the Center.

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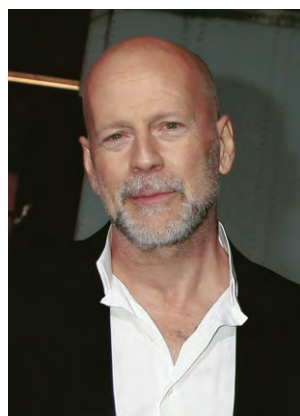
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celebrity extra

by Dana Jackson

Q: How is Bruce Willis doing since he was diagnosed with a neurological disorder? I've enjoyed his work ever since seeing him in "Moonlighting," with Cybill Shepherd. — P.I.



Bruce Willis

A: It's hard to believe it's been 38 years since Bruce Willis debuted as charming P.I. David Addison Jr., opposite his boss, former model Maddie Hayes, played by Cybill Shepherd. The two quarreled both on screen and off, but their chemistry was a hit with viewers, making the show last five seasons.

Willis went on to be a mega movie star in the "Die Hard" franchise, among other films, but last March, it was announced that he was retiring from acting at age 67 after being diagnosed with a cognitive disorder called aphasia. Sadly, in February of this year, his wife, Emma Heming Willis, announced that his condition has progressed and that they now have a more specific diagnosis: frontotemporal dementia. Fortunately, he has a wonderful support system that includes his ex-wife, actress Demi Moore, and their children, along with his two daughters with Emma.

Q: I only recently start-

bit off. This should feel kind of like something's a little wrong here." His instincts were right, and it led to him winning an Emmy Award for Outstanding Original Main Title Theme Music. Before being hired for "Succession," he already had an excellent reputation in the industry, having earned Oscar nominations for three different movie scores: "Moonlight," "If Beale Street Could Talk" and "Don't Look Up."

The fourth and final season of "Succession" returns to HBO on March 26. In the meantime, you can hear more of Britell's creations with the Disney+ series "Andor" and in the upcoming live-action film "Mufasa: The Lion King."

Q: What happened to Taylor Kinney on "Chicago Fire"? Did he leave the show? — G.M.

A: On a recent episode of the hit NBC series "Chicago Fire," it was mentioned that Taylor Kinney's character, Lt. Kelly Severide, had gone to Alabama for arson investigation training.

Off-screen, the actor has chosen to take a hiatus from the show for personal reasons. He's still in the credits, though, and Capt. Tom Van Meter (Tim Hopper) assured Chief Boden (Eamonn Walker) that Severide isn't "planning a transfer." Kinney has been with the show since 2012, so hopefully, he just needs a little R&R and will return before the season ends.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Henry Cavill has left the Netflix series "The Witcher," for the new four-part spy film franchise "Argylle," with Sam Rockwell, Bryce Dallas Howard, John Cena and Samuel L. Jackson. Cavill will also star in director Guy Ritchie and producer Jerry Bruckheimer's next film "The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare" (opposite "Baby Driver's" Eiza Gonzalez), which charts Winston Churchill's and "James Bond" creator Ian Fleming's secret WWII combat organization. "Enola Holmes 2" also hit Netflix recently, and Cavill will be back to play Superman again.

"12 Years a Slave" Oscar winner Lupita Nyong'o, currently headlining "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," has found "A Quiet Place" for her next film. Considered a spin-off, not a sequel to "A Quiet Place: Day One," is based on an idea from creator, star and director of "A Quiet Place" John Krasinski — who won't be starring in it when it opens in March 2024.

"The Fabulous Four" — Susan Sarandon, Bette Midler, Sissy Spacek and Megan Mullally — are lifelong friends who reunite in Key West for Midler's wedding. Aussie director Jocelyn Moorhouse begins shooting next year in her home. Spacek currently stars with Dustin Hoffman in "Sam & Kate."

International film superstar Catherine Deneuve (age 79) is best remembered for "The Umbrellas of Cherbourg" (1964), Roman Polanski's "Repulsion" (1965) and "Viva Maria!" (1965), with George Hamilton and French mega-superstar Brigitte Bardot. Even though she's never stopped working in her native home of France, she's making an international comeback in "Bernadette" as former French first lady Bernadette Chirac, wife of 1995 French president Jacques Chirac. I met Deneuve when she and Bardot toured 26



Lupita Nyong'o in "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever"

theaters in New York with "Viva Maria!" in 1965. They attracted mob scenes, and people were fainting and going mad over her and Bardot who, despite being French movie stars, commanded crowds equal to Liz Taylor and Richard Burton.

Also making a comeback is Shelley Duvall, who won two Emmys, a British Academy Award, a Peabody and a top prize at the Cannes Film Festival. Duvall was unforgettable in two 1980 classics (Wendy in "The Shining" and Olive Oyl in "Popeye"). Now 73, she's been absent since 2002, and her last film was "Manna from Heaven," with Shirley Jones, Louise Fletcher and Cloris Leachman. In 2016, a talk show host who calls himself "Dr." did a hatchet job interviewing her. But in 2021, when the Hollywood Reporter profiled her in "Searching for Shelley Duvall," it created renewed interest in her career. After she completed her comeback werewolf film "The Forest Hills," Duvall admitted, "It was a lot of fun, and I'm excited to be back!" The times I parted with her, she was sweet and funny. Guess werewolves like Olive Oyl, too? (c) 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

OK, CLASS, TODAY WE ARE GOING TO DISCUSS OUR FAMILY HERITAGE. GRANDMA SAYS WE ARE ENGLISH ON HER SIDE AND GERMAN ON GRANDPA'S. THAT'S WONDERFUL, AMY. OK, AND YOU, GERALD? MY GRANDMA SAYS SHE'S 100% IRISH AND GRANDPA IS EXTRA CAUTIOUS.

by Bud Blake

TIGER

by Jeff Pickering

The Spats

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

9				7	2			
	8		3	6				
2		6			1	5		
2		4				6		
	3		2	4				
4				5	9			
1			8	2				
	3	9				4		
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenge
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

March 20, 2023 Posting Date King Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	
12					13						14		
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54											56		

ACROSS

- Blunder
- Sir's partner
- Witty one
- Message target
- Lamb alias
- "Evil Woman" gp.
- Dairy aisle purchase
- Zodiac feline
- Indiana city
- TV's DeGeneres
- Rejection
- buddy
- Bears' hands
- Candy-heart word
- Ashen
- "— Believer"
- Epoch
- Actress Ruby
- Attire
- The whole enchilada
- Barking mammal
- Dark and gloomy
- "I see"
- "Shrek" princess
- Scents
- Adj. modifier
- Canning jar feature
- King, in Cannes
- Tale teller
- "Woe —!"
- World Cup cheer
- China (Pref.)
- Legendary loch
- "This — no sense!"
- Built to last
- Downwind
- Thug
- Punk-rock subgenre
- Prune
- Strapping
- Track shape
- Pot-bellied pet
- Docs' bloc
- "Dunkirk" or "Platoon," e.g.
- Faucet problem
- Meadow
- Snaky fish
- Chignon
- Sure winner
- "Lady Love" singer Lou
- Branch
- Gambling game
- Pedestal occupant
- Sleek, in car lingo
- Inspiration
- \$ dispensers
- Females
- Sundial numeral
- Author Brown

DOWN

- Stare stupidly
- Twice cuatro
- "Hmm, I guess so"
- Criminals
- Office note
- "The Greatest"
- Be sick

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Trivia Test Answers

- Levi's; 2. Bambooz; 3. Camp Crystal Lake; 4. Confluence; 5. World Wide Web; 6. Thighs; 7. Carl Sandburg; 8. "The Simpsons"; 9. Tibet; China; 10. James Monroe and his wife Elizabeth.

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- AD SLOGANS: What company advertises its clothing with the ad slogan, "Quality never goes out of style"?
- SCIENCE: What is the tallest grass in the world?
- MOVIES: What is the name of the camp in "Friday the 13th"?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the term when two water streams join to form a larger stream?
- INVENTIONS: What is Tim Berners-Lee credited with inventing?
- ANATOMY: Where are the quadriceps located?
- LITERATURE: Which poet wrote a six-volume biography of President Lincoln?
- TELEVISION: Timothy Lovejoy is a minister on which animated TV series?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: Yaks are native to which region?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Before he was elected president, which of the founding fathers attended the coronation of Napoleon at Notre Dame Cathedral?

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

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Crosby Superintendent's Message,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Crosby High School Bass Club, who had one team place among the top 3 teams for Angler of the Year in the Bayou City division of the Texas High School Bass Association. Senior Weston Roach and junior Landon Darjean earned additional scholarship money for their second-place finish. We are looking forward to the fishing Regionals coming up April 15 on Lake Conroe.

We will find out at the end of the month whether the third graders at Newport Elementary School will be crowned champions in the Read to the Final Four literacy contest. If you've been following along, Crosby ISD was the only district in the Houston region to have four schools earn a spot in the Elite 8 bracket in the reading challenge. Our third-grade students have read a collective 11 million minutes since we started competing in the fall. Newport Elementary School students placed among the Final Four teams, and on March 31, we will find out if they read the most minutes in the history of the program!

We have some amazing talent here in Crosby ISD. We are so proud of Board of Trustees member, Deputy Kea Lynn Lewis, for her performance of the National Anthem at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo this month. Lewis, who serves as



Crosby High School Bass Club members, senior Weston Roach and junior Landon Darjean, place among the top 3 teams for Angler of the Year in the Bayou City division of the Texas High School Bass Association.



Crosby Middle School BBQ Cookoff on Friday, March 10.


Board Assistant Secretary, beautifully sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" with her sister, Kea Shawn Coxie, who works as a firefighter. They are sisters who serve and sing. We are so proud!

Two of our Board members are also joined in to celebrate a great example of commUNITY at Crosby Middle School this month. The CMS staff invited families to compete in a barbecue cookoff on campus on the eve of Spring Break. Trustee, Ms. Karen Thomas, stopped by to sample

some of the delicious dishes. Trustee, Mr. Phillip Chapman, served as one of the judges to award first, second, and third place in three categories: best open dish, best chicken, and best ribs. One of the best parts was to see CMS students volunteering to help staff clean up once the cookoff ended. It was a beautiful time of fellowship for our middle school staff, students, and community members.

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LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE	HELP WANTED	LEGAL NOTICE
<p>CROSBY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF RULES</p> <p>Notice is hereby given that the Board of the Directors of Crosby Municipal Utility District at a meeting held on the 27th day of February 2023 adopted an Ordinance Adopting Amended Rates and Fees for Services and Rules and Regulations; Establishing Certain Other Policies; and Providing Penalties and Violations Thereof. A copy of the Ordinance is on file at the principal office of the District, 103 W. Wahl Street, Crosby, Harris County, Texas, where it may be read in full.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Henry Scheiber</i> President, Board of Directors</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">10-2T</p>	<p>NEWSPAPER MARKETING/SALES PERSON Position available for AD SALES representative. Experience helpful but not necessary. Possible to work from home. Suitable for Part Time, or Full Time. Commission plus. Send letter of interest to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com or call 713-252-8000.</p>	<p>LEGAL NOTICE</p>	<p>LEGAL NOTICE</p>

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