HIGHLANDS Star & Courter

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Art Car Parade Art Car Parade was weekend. More Photos inside, Page 7

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THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE **STARS**

EVENTS

APR. 24, MON. Crosby Library Friends Meeting

Friends of the Crosby Llbrary will hold a meeting on Monday, April 24 at 6:00pm. The program will be a talk on Crosby History "The Swedish Streets of Crosby'

BIRTHDAYS Apr 18-Monica McKinney Mark Williams Apr 19–Benny Clark Magon Hencke Apr 20–April McClelland Apr 22–Robert McDowell Apr 23–Paul Bauer Apr 24–Casey Gower Amanda Leath Lacy Maness Kaitlyn Kaly Apr 25–Colton Cutbirth

Apr 26–Lyndsey West Apr 27–Kitty Elkins April28-Ms. Stephens Apr 29–Becky Gomez

Jason Maness Apr 30–Jeramy Bimage Jennifer Ward Loggins May 1–Pat McIntosh May 2–Justin Holton May 3-David Stone May 5-Micheal Barnes Micha Owens

ANNIVERSARIES Apr 19–Vance & Cecilia

Banik Apr 23–Jerry & Jeanette Thompson Apr 28–Dan & Margie Nicholson Mike & Tanya Williams May 3–Edward & Mareta Richard May 6-Sidney & Ellen Platt

County expands funds to help residents facing eviction

In Harris County, residents are under-represented by attorneys when an eviction is filed against them. From 2020 to 2022, 146,618 eviction cases were filed and of those cases, only 1.92% of defendants were assisted by attorneys. In these same situations, landlords almost always have legal representa-

To assist renters fighting eviction, commissioners court last month expanded the Housing Legal Services Fund with \$4 million for legal aid that will fund support for approximately 5,010 eligible cases total with approximately 90% receiving full representation and the remaining receiving brief services. Applications for assistance are open now.

To apply or learn more about the program, call 210-952-9259.



Crosby Fair and Rodeo President Ronny Ehrlich (left) and Crosby Fair and Rodeo Board Member Dwight Klise (right) receive a fully Automated External Defibrillator (AED) donated by the Cody Stephens Go Big or Go Home Memorial Foundation, represented by Melody Stephens and Scott Stephens.

AED donated to CrosbyRodeo

CROSBY - The Cody Stephens Go Big or Go Home Memorial Foundation (GBOGH), along with its sponsors Zoll-Medical Corporation and SaveStation Inc. have combined to place a fully Automated External Defibrillator (AED) at the Crosby Rodeo and Fairgrounds. Zoll Medical Corporation donated the AED to Parent Heart Watch (PHW), the national non-profit solely dedicated to the prevention of sudden cardiac arrest and death

The Go Big or Go Home Foundation then won the AED in an opportunity drawing held by PHW to raise money for the organization. SaveStation Inc of On-

Continued. See AED donated, Page 5

Turner Car Show set for Saturday



This 1965 Shelby COBRA Ford GT is scheduled to be one of the featured cars in Saturday's Car Show at Turner Chevrolet in Crosby. (If it doesn't rain, said owner Bruce Meyer). The event is from 10am to 3pm at 21002 Crosby Freeway (US90). Car fans will be able to view about 100 autos, trucks, SUVs, and other wheeled vehicles at this 2nd Annual event, according to General Manager David Mendez. There will be Food trucks, raffles for prizes, and judging of the top 20 cars on display with appropriate trophies, according to Robbie Turner. The public is welcome to

Message from the Crosby Superintendent

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families,

We are down to our last six weeks of the 2022-2023 School Year, and Crosby ISD is finishing April strong. Let's jump right in.

On April 13, the Coleen Walker Relays returned to Cougar Stadium for the first time in four years. The pandemic sidelined the event for several years, but we were fortunate to have beautiful weather for the 2023 relays. Special needs students had a wonderful time buddying up with Crosby High School students to walk through



SUPERINTENDENT PAULA PATTERSON

each relay event including sensory stations. The relays started in 2005 and are named in honor of the wonderful LifeSkills teacher at Crosby High School, Ms. Coleen Walker, who passed away in 2004. She believed in education for all. She was also the sponsor of the **Texas Future Teachers** Association (TFTA) at Crosby High School for many years. Some of the same students she taught



Crosby High School Bass Club wins Bayou City Division team championship

have gone on to do great things, from being a chef to being leaders in Crosby ISD, at the campus and district level. I remember Ms. Walker's wonderful smile, and I have no doubt she would be thrilled at the tribute in her honor.

Crosby High School students had an impressive showing at the Track and Field District 17-5A meet at Barbers Hill High School on April 12 and April 13. It was great to be there to watch our Cougars bring home so much hardware. The following students won first place in their events: the Girls' 4x400 Relay Team; Jeremiah Batiste in the 300-meter hurdles and 100-meter hurdles; Mayte Tavarez in the 400-meter race; Ty Lovas in the Pole Vault competition; and Victoria Grace in Shot Put. The following students earned second place: Abigail Ellisor in the 300-meter hurdles and the 100-meter hurdles; Xandra Hernandez



Crosby High School Girls' 4X400 Relay Team wins first place at the 17-5A District Meet. They were among several first place finishers from Crosby High School.

in the Pole Vault competition, Madison Lemond won second place in the Long Jump. Boys' 4X100 Relay Team ended in third place in their event. What an impressive list of student-athletes!

The Crosby High School Bass Club faced rain, storms, and wind during the Regional Tournament on Lake Conroe,

but they came out on top! Several angler teams are headed to State, and the Bass Club claimed the

Continued. See Crosby Superintendent, Page 2

RACHEL'S DINER

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



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Crosby Superintendent's Message,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bayou City Division team championship trophy! We know you're going to do great at State!

Congratulations to Crosby High School Girls' Basketball player Allison Bennett for being the definition of a STUDENTathlete! She has made the 5A Academic All-State Team, which is her fifth academic accolade of the season. Allison also made the Texas Girls Coaches Association Academic All-State team, Academic All District Honors, Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State Second Team, and Allison ranks 9th among her peers in the Class of 2023. We can't wait to see what she does in her next chapter.

We're at the point in the school year where parents / guardians are getting first-hand experiences seeing how much their children have learned since last August. Crosby Elementary recently hosted a STEAM night for first and second graders. Classrooms were opened and invited parents and students to explore hands-on projects covering all the STEAM subjects: science, technology, engineering, art, and math. From tracing leaves to planting seedlings to engineering boats made of a Styrofoam, it was great to see families learning and laughing together.

We're approaching testing season as April winds down and we turn the page to May. I want to thank the Crosby ISD technology services team for their preparations to make testing for our students go as smoothly as possible. On their checklist, they've been busy



Crosby ISD students celebrate the return of the Coleen Walker Relays to Cougar Stadium.





updating iPads, upgrading servers, and checking on connectivity. Last year, the online testing season went smoothly thanks to the tech team's efforts. We also want to encourage families to make sure students bring their devices to school each day fully charged.

We are looking forward

to celebrating Crosby High School seniors at this year's Graduation Ceremony for the Class of 2023. The graduation program is set for Friday, May 26, 2023, starting at 7:30pm at Cougar Stadium. Seating will be on a first come, first served basis. There are currently no seating capacity limitations for Cougar Stadium. Should inclement weather interfere or interrupt the outdoor ceremony, we will move the



Student-athlete Allison Bennett. She is a senior at Crosby High School and earned several academic accolades while playing on the girls' varsity team.

program to the CHS gym and limit seating to four (4) guests per graduate. We will all hope for sunny skies and clear weather as we celebrate our seniors

We are Better Together! Go Coogs!









Fresh Beginnings Start With A New Home This Spring

As the weather warms up and the flowers begin to bloom, there's no better time to start enjoying all that life has to offer. We at The Lodge at Pine Creek provide a range of amenities and activities that are perfect for those who want to make the most of your retirement years.

The Lodge at Pine Creek is a resort-style cottage community designed to provide a comfortable and welcoming environment for seniors who are looking to live life to the fullest. Whether you're interested in socializing with other residents, participating in fitness classes, or experiencing our market unique executive dining program, we have everything you need to have All of The Fun & None of the Chores™ this spring season.



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THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Creighton Statement on Combatting **DEI Efforts**

"Texas is one of the most diverse states in the nation, and it's important for our institutions of higher education to reflect that diversity. However, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts can sometimes have the opposite effect by furthering divides and inhibiting open dialogue. To address these issues, I have proposed two critical policies to restore a merit-based approach where individuals are judged based on their qualifications, skills, and contributions.

"DEI programs have become a million-dollar industry at taxpayer-funded institutions, which is why the Senate Finance Committee has adopted a budget rider that prevents any state funding of DEI offices on public college campuses. With over 200 full-time DEI positions, it is my intention that universities will use these funds to prioritize providing a quality education to their students.

These bills, ${\bf SB}\ {\bf 1},$ Texas Budget and SB 17, Eliminating DEI will now advance to be considered by

Mont Belvieu Mosquito Spraying to Start April 4th

Public Works department staff will spray for mosquitos once a week from April - October 2023 in an effort to keep the mosquito population in Mont Belvieu as low as possible.

Depending on your neighborhood, mosquito spraying will take place on either Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m.

ZONE 1 (TUESDAYS) Trinity Street Bridgette Lane Crown Colony The Colony Eagle Creek Magnolia Landing Cottonwood Estates Reserve of Champions Es-

Lakes of Champions South Lake Icet Creek Crossing Blue Heron

ZONE 2 (WEDNESDAYS) Wilburn Ranch Fisher's Landing Secret Subdivision Brookstone Eagle Ridge Champions Forest The Villages of Champions

Cherry Point St. Augustine Meadows Cherry Creek Estates Langston Drive Estates Uptown (East Winfree, Earl Porter, Cove Rd.) Country Creek

ZONE 3 (THURSDAYS) City Park Eagle Pointe Golf Course Eagle Pointe Recreation Cotton Bayou Wastewater

Treatment Plant Public Works Complex City Hall

WHAT WE USE

The City of Mont Belvieu uses a broad spectrum all-temperature, quick knockdown, low odor, and non-corrosive synergized synthetic pyethroid insecticide for the control of adult mosquitoes in residential, recreational, and other areas. This same product can also help control biting and non-biting midgs and black flies.

Texas House Advances CROWN Act, Which would Ban Hairstyle Discrimination

State Rep. Rhetta Bowers, D-Rowlett, at a 2021 legislative committee hearing. Bowers wants to ban hairstyle discrimination in workplaces, schools and housing.

(Evan L'Roy/The Texas Tribune, Evan L'Roy/The Texas Tribune)

The Texas House gave initial approval Wednesday to a bill that would prohibit race-based hair discrimination in schools. workplaces and housing. The lower chamber's vote took the state one step closer to adopting a law inspired by the experiences of two Black high schoolers near Houston threatened with discipline in the 2019-20 school year if they didn't cut their locks.

House Bill 567, filed by state Rep. Rhetta Bowers, D-Garland, was voted out

of a House committee in late March. An identical Senate bill from state Sen. Borris Miles, D-Houston, is sitting in the Senate State Affairs Committee but hasn't yet received a hearing. Representatives overwhelmingly approved the bill on its second reading with a 141-3 vote.

"I believe how the hair naturally grows out of our heads should have nothing to do with what is inside." Bowers told the House committee. "And therefore with any of the success that we accomplish, the time is now for Texas to take up this civil rights legislation and protect the people from racial discrimination."

HB 567 would add to the state's education, labor and property codes a prohibition on discrimination based on certain hairstyles — including braids, dreadlocks and twists. Versions of the legislation, called the CROWN Act — an acronym for Create a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair — have been adopted throughout the country since 2019, when school administrators ordered two young men in Mont Belvieu, about 30 miles east of Houston, to cut their hair.

The bill so far has received what appears to be wide support on its journey through the legislative process - at least in the House.

More than a dozen people spoke in favor of the proposal during a House State Affairs Committee hearing last month. Additionally, more than 70 people registered their support for the measure but did not testify; two individuals registered their opposition,

according to a witness list. Anecdotal accounts of discrimination have emerged sporadically since the incident in Mont Belvieu drew internation-

al attention to the issue.

Administrators at Barbers Hill Independent School District told De'Andre Arnold and his cousin to cut their locks or be disciplined. Both refused and sued the school district over its dress code policy in a matter that is not yet resolved.

A federal judge in 2020, once Arnold had graduated, found the policy discriminatory and stopped the school district from enforcing it. The school system has maintained it permits students to wear locks, but that does not preclude hair length restric-

tions in the dress code. The students' experi-

ence inspired laws that have since been adopted in 20 states, including in Virginia, according to a national group that champions the legislation.

A similar bill was unanimously voted out of a House committee during the 2021 legislative session, but the full chamber never voted on it before the session ended.

Harris County, the state's most populous, and the city of Austin have already passed similar local legislation.

"I am overjoyed with today's vote on the Texas CROWN Act," Bowers said in a statement Wednesday. "The Texas House took a strong stance against hairbased discrimination, and I look forward to sending the bill over to the Senate after tomorrow's final

City of Mont Belvieu opens Hackberry Park Phase 1 with Ribbon Cutting and Dog Park Groundbreaking

The City of Mont Belvieu will be officially opening the first phase of Hackberry Park. Initially slated as a 20+ year project, the 200-acre Hackberry Park, which features over 70 acres of ponds, is opening its first phase to Mont Belvieu's residents after just 5 short years. The park's development was boosted by the demand for dirt as a part of the construction of SH 99/Grand Parkway and thanks to generous donations from ONEOK and other area partners. Phase one of the Hackberry Park development features a robust trail system, stocked and interconnected ponds, hundreds of new trees, and parking infrastructure. The same event will also host a groundbreaking for Mont Belvieu's first dog park which will also be located within Hackberry Park.

Visual opportunities: Ribbon cutting, dog park groundbreak-



ing, City and ONEOK staff planting 500 new trees around the walk/

Interview opportunities: Mont Belvieu city manager, Parks & Recreation Director, Mont Belvieu councilmembers, representatives from ONEOK

About Hackberry Park: The expansive Hackberry Park makes a beautiful and natural entry into Mont Belvieu for travelers exiting the Grand Parkway (SH 99). Marked with an amenity bridge that harkens back to the City's important role in the Texas oil boom, Hackberry Park gives Mont Belvieu's residents a 200-acre outdoor haven that's perfect for short afternoon strolls or longer heart-pumping hikes. The park boasts 70 acres of interconnected ponds that are perfect for fishing, kayaking, and canoeing. Hackberry Park also plays an important role in keeping Mont Belvieu safe; the park is designed to flood and gives the city an abundance of storm water detention during large weather events.

Contact: For more information and to coordinate interview availabilities at the event, please contact City of Mont Belvieu Communications & Marketing Director Brian Ligon at bligon@montbelvieu.net or 281-974-0384 (cell).



Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown

The Future of Cancer Treatment

Thanks to dedicated researchers and scientific advances, the survival rates for cancer have steadily increased over the last 10 years. From placing a greater emphasis on precision medicine to the rise of immunotherapy and discovering the link between health disparities and outcomes, researchers in the U.S. and across the globe continue to make significant advances in understanding cancer and how to treat it.

"Cancer researchers explore and test new forms of treatment each day. Several of these treatment options offer promising results," said Dr. Ugochukwu Odo, an oncologist with Houston Methodist Neal Cancer Center at Bay-

Here's a look at some of the groundbreaking discoveries that are helping to save lives.

IMMUNOTHERAPY

Immunotherapy uses medications and vaccines to boost your body's natu-

ral immune system to target cancer cells. These vaccines help the body find and attack cancer cells. It then produces the antibodies to combat cancer cells in different parts of the

"Some antibodies are made from a patient's own cells while others are mass-produced in a lab," Odo explained. She added that immunotherapy can be used alone or in conjunction with chemotherapy and other cancer treatments. Types of cancer that often benefit from immunotherapy include melanoma, lung cancer, kidney cancer, lymphoma and leukemia.

ANTIANGIOGENIC **THERAPY**

Chemotherapy is one of the most effective cancer treatments, but it comes with harsh side effects. That's why scientists are always in search of alternatives like antiangiogenic therapy, which uses agents that cut off the blood supply to tumors.



Dr. Ugochukwu Odo

Without this life source, cancer cells can't grow or survive.

"The real value of these drugs is that they do less damage to nearby healthy cells," Odo explained. "This helps reduce many of the worst side effects of chemotherapy and helps patients stay active throughout treatment." While it's not a cure for cancer, antiangiogenic agents are showing great potential. This is especially true for colon or

lung cancers. GENE THERAPY

Gene therapy explores the ways in which genetic changes cause normal cells to turn cancerous. Scientists are excited at how much this stops cancer cells from forming and makes them more sensitive to other agents. The hope is that future therapies can replace damaged or missing genes. There are several ongoing clinical trials to determine the safest and most effective ways to use gene therapy.

"Keep in mind that many of these techniques are still a long way off from regular use. While these potential cancer breakthroughs show promise, it often takes years of research and several independent studies to confirm new findings," Odo said.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CLINICAL TRIALS

Clinical trials are how new medications and treatments for cancer are developed, which means patients have more options when it comes to deciding on a treatment plan. Trials measure a drug's effectiveness and safety. They also identify side effects and adverse reactions to

medications or therapies. The FDA oversees thou-

sands of clinical trials in the U.S. every year. Numerous independent studies are conducted during the approval process to ensure patient safety.

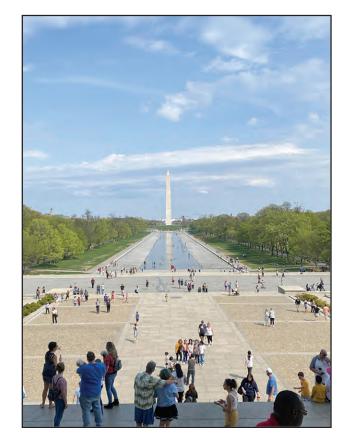
Several clinical trials are underway at Houston Methodist Neal Cancer Center at Baytown. Our oncologists and treatment teams can help you explore the possibility of getting into clinical trials. Visit houstonmethodist.org/ cancer/clinical-trials to learn more about cancer research and the types of clinical trials available.

Have questions about a cancer diagnosis or potential treatments? Our board-certified oncologists at Houston Methodist Neal Cancer Center at Baytown offer personalized care and the most advanced treatment options available. Call 281.420.7211 to schedule an appointment today.

OPINION PAGE \bigstar



A Weekend on the National Mall



On Good Friday, I traveled to Washington, D.C., to attend the interment of a friend's mother at Arlington National Cemetery. Cheryl and I took the rest of the weekend to hang around the National Mall. Let me tell you what we saw.

We saw thousands of our fellow Americans in every flavor you can imagine. From Americans with almost no melanin in their skin to those rich with it. Americans who had come here from every corner of the globe, many in their traditional garb. We saw dozens of interracial couples, many with their beautiful children whose faces reflected their combined heritage. We saw Americans being unfailingly kind to each other. Laughing, smiling, sharing where they were from, what they had seen, what they planned to see. We saw them volunteering to take families' pictures for each other so entire families could be included in the shot.

We saw people stopping military personnel and thanking them for their service. We saw Americans standing at the Vietnam War memorial with tears streaming down their faces. We saw tourists at Arlington stopping and removing their hats or saluting as our funerary procession passed. We saw people poring over the words of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, many I suspect for the first time reading the greatest speech ever written in the English language.

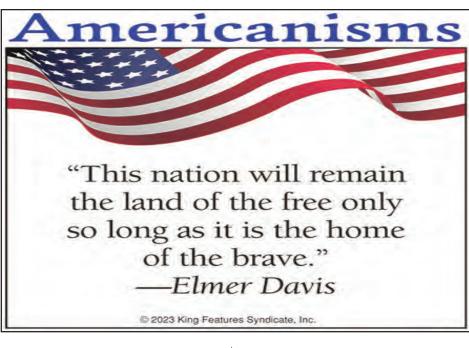
What we did not see was the toxic polarization that the media constantly tells us is tearing our country apart. We saw almost no hats or t-shirts with political slogans. There were no protests. There was no one arguing or velling at each other. All we saw were thousands of our fellow Americans basking in the pride of their remarkable country and its history.

Our visit to the National Mall once again reminded me of the fundamental goodness and decency of the American people. We allow ourselves to be seduced in doubting this truism by a media fixated on showing us the relatively rare examples of Americans who are not good and decent. I wish all of us could remember that, as Hans Rosling said in his book "Factfullness," what we read and see in the media is "filtered through the mass media [executives], which love nonrepresentative, extraordinary events and shuns normality."

It also once again underscored to me how unworthy our current government is of the extraordinary people it is supposed to represent. Unfortunately, we have allowed it to become the captive of two corrupt, power-mad political parties, which are attempting to wreck our constitutional order and allow extremist minorities to rule. A danger about which almost every Founder warned us.

Dramatic reenactments of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor have attributed a quote to Japanese Admiral Yamamoto on the victory: "I fear we have awakened a sleeping giant and filled him with a terrible resolve."* The American people are long-suffering, and most are disinclined to actively participate in politics. But at some point, the two incumbent parties are going to exhaust the American people's patience and find that they have awakened a giant filled with a terrible resolve.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5906 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS **By Gary Borders**

Dueling Tax Proposals in The Lege

The Texas House passed a bill promising \$17 billion in tax relief, a measure that is at odds with the Senate's tax break plan, according to the Austin American-Statesman. The House bill would lower by half a home's cap on appraisal increases. It passed overwhelmingly, 141-9. However, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who presides over the Senate, said that body will not approve it, preferring its plan to raise property exemptions from \$40,000 to \$70,000.

In a press conference held Thursday, Patrick reiterated his opposition, saying appraisal caps do not have much effect on property tax

"So let me be very clear, I've said before this session, I've said it at the beginning of session, I've said recently, you don't negotiate on bad math," Patrick said.

House Speaker Dade Phelan took a less confrontational stand.

"I think we need to do what's best for all Texans, and that is sit down and hammer out a compromise," Phelan said in part. "We are ready, willing and able to do it in the Texas House."

PARENTAL BOOK BILL **PASSES THE SENATE**

The Texas Senate passed a bill last week that would require schools to inform parents of all books their children check out of school libraries, The Dallas Morning News reported. The bill's sponsor, state Sen. Angela Paxton, R-McKinney, said she sponsored the bill after being contacted about sexually explicit materials in school libraries.

"I cannot unsee what I saw," Paxton said on the Senate floor. "More importantly, a child cannot unsee sexually explicit materials. and this certainly shouldn't happen in a school library, of all places."

Critics say the bill could lead to politicized book bans and undermine the work of librarians. It requires school boards to create local library advisory panels made up mainly of parents.



The bill now heads to the Texas House for consider-

DROUGHT CONDITIONS EXPAND IN CENTRAL, WEST TEXAS

Warmer temperatures and less rain in March expanded drought conditions throughout the central and western parts of the state, hydrologist Dr. Mark Wentzel of the Texas Water Development Board reported. More than two-thirds of the state is affected by drought, up five percentage points from the previous month. The exception is in the eastern portion of Texas, which is now drought

The La Niña weather system, which is at least partially responsible for drought conditions in the state for the past two-anda-half years, is predicted to give way by fall to El Niño conditions, which tend to be wetter, according to Wentzel.

"Why are La Niña, neutral, and El Niño conditions important to Texas? Each of these conditions sets up different atmospheric circulation patterns that impact weather around the world, including Texas," Wentzel wrote.

HUNDREDS APPLY FOR HOUSTON ISD BOARD OF MANAGERS

With the Texas Education Agency taking over management of the Houston Independent School District, nearly 400 applications have been received to join the district's Board of Managers. In a news release, TEA said it is looking for Houston residents with "a wide array of backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives who believe all children can learn and achieve at high levels when properly supported and who can work together as a governance team."

"I am looking for Houstonians with wisdom and integrity who can be laser-focused on what is best for students," Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath said. "It is exciting to see so many Houstonians express a willingness to help move the school system forward in service of students."

The Board of Managers will hold public board meetings and has the same legal requirements and obligations as any elected school board, according to TEA.

MORE FUNDING FOR **COMMUNITY COLLEGES?**

A bill approved last week by the Texas House would allocate additional funding to the state's 50 community college districts, the Statesman reported. The additional amount each district would receive would be based on several factors, including the number of degrees and certificates a college awards "that equip students for continued learning and greater earnings," the Statesman report-

The bill is one of House Speaker Dade Phelan's priorities and has more than 90 co-authors.

"This would be the most significant state investment for community colleges in decades," said Ryan Franklin, senior director of policy and advocacy for Educate Texas.

Community colleges in Texas are funded by a combination of local property taxes, tuition and fees, state revenue, and various other sources. The bill guarantees a certain amount of funding for rural community college districts that are unable to raise as much in property taxes as urban districts.

MORE THAN 18,000 CATTLE KILLED IN EXPLOSION

What is being called the deadliest barn fire for cattle on record left more than 18,000 cattle dead and one worker critically injured at a dairy farm in the Texas Panhandle, The Dallas Morning News reported. The fire swept through the holding pens of Southfork Dairy Farm in Dimmitt last week as the cattle were waiting to be milked.

"It's mind-boggling," Dimmitt Mayor Roger Malone said. "I don't think it's ever happened before around here. It's a real tragedy. The cause has not been determined, but Castro County Sheriff Sal Rivera told KCBD-TV that overheating electrical equipment in the holding pens may have ignited methane gas. Photos and video posted on social media show a massive plume of smoke rising from the facility.

Carrie Classon

"3,002 Suns"

Our landlord, Jorge, loves his suns. I am sure he loves his son, Jorge Jr., as well, but I am talking about the other kind of sun.

This is why there are nearly 3,000 smiling sun faces decorating the hotel where we stay when we are in Mexico. Two more were added yesterday.

Much of the time my husband, Peter, and I are in our little apartment in Jorge's hotel, there is a team of artists working. Fabricio is the father, and usually at least two and sometimes three of his sons work with him. They paint anything that stays still long enough for them to apply paint.

Jorge sets them to work painting ceramic suns to join the nearly 3,000 already hanging in the courtyard. They paint the outside of the hotel for the Day of the Dead and other celebrations-painting over their artwork at the end of the celebration. They paint saints on palm frond mats that are hung during Holy Week. They paint images of famous wrestlers so tourists can have their photos taken with them. They paint murals in the guest rooms. Occasionally, they even touch up the banisters in the hotel, and do not seem to mind.

Yesterday, Peter and I had lunch in the hotel. Jorge has opened up a sandwich shop in the hotel but, like so much that happens in Mexico, the longterm plan remains unclear to

Yesterday, for instance, we had salmon.

"Jorge is serving salmon in his sandwich shop?" I asked Pe-

"Yup."

"It's not really a sandwich shop anymore, is it?"

He also had a steak and a shrimp special. Peter and I had the salmon. It was fantastic. Then I saw Fabricio on a lad-

"What is he doing outside our

door?" I asked aloud. We ate. Fabricio painted. After we were through, I went upstairs. Fabricio had found room for two more suns over our door. and had roughed in the first col-

"Oh! I love that color!" I told

There were two suns, side by side, and one of them was painted the blue-green color that I love. I showed him the approximately 11 to 13 bracelets I had on my wrist at the moment, all in shades of blue and green. Fabricio smiled. He kept paint-

Later in the afternoon, Fabricio had taken down his ladder. I stepped outside to see the finished project.

There were two suns: a smiling blue-green female sun with her eyes closed, and a yellow male sun with bright blue eyes—just like Peter's. I realized that none of this was by accident. Fabricio had painted the two of us, as suns, right outside

"Thank you for the beautiful suns!" I told Fabricio as he was on his way out, arms full of paints and paintbrushes, paint splatters all over his T-shirt and face. "They are beautiful!"

That night, Jorge was sitting at the front desk. I told him how good the salmon was. He smiled. Then I told him that Fabricio had painted two suns—and they looked just like Peter and me!

Jorge smiled and nodded. He knew. Of course he did.

Nothing happens in this hotel that Jorge does not know about. Peter and I wander around imagining all the gentle acts of kindness that surround us somehow happen by chance.

"Gracias," I said. I don't know if he thought I

was thanking him for the salmon or the suns or the accommodations that always feel like home, or for simply creating this unique and wondrous place.

And it doesn't matter.

Till next time.

Check out CarrieClassonAuthor on Facebook or visit CarrieClasson.com.



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Sales Tax Holiday April 22-24, for Emergency Supplies

(AUSTIN) — With the severe weather season upon us, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar reminds Texans they can purchase certain items tax-free during the state's sales tax holiday for emergency preparation on supplies, which begins at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, April 22, and ends at midnight on Monday, April 24.

"While we can't know in advance when the next flood, tornado or hurricane may strike, we can make sure our families, homes and businesses have the supplies they need to face these and other emergencies," Hegar said. "This tax holiday can help Texans save money while stocking up for emergency situations. Don't wait for disaster to strike. Take the time now to get prepared."

The Comptroller's office estimates shoppers will save nearly \$2 million in state and local sales taxes during the tax holiday, which was approved by the Texas Legislature in 2015.

There's no limit on the number of qualifying items you can purchase. These include:

- household batteries, fuel containers and flashlights priced less than \$75;
- hurricane shutters and emergency ladders priced less than \$300; and
- portable generators priced less than \$3,000.

For purchases made online, note that delivery, shipping, handling and transportation charges are part of the sales price. Consider these charges when determining whether an emergency preparation supply can be purchased tax-free during the holi-

For example, if you purchase a rescue ladder online for \$299 with a \$10 delivery charge, the total sales price is \$309. Because the total sales price of the ladder is more than \$300, tax is due on the \$309 sales price.

Purchases that do *not* qualify include:

- batteries for automobiles, boats and other motorized vehicles:
- camping stoves, camping supplies;
 - chainsaws;
 - plywood;
- extension ladders and stepladders; and
 - tents.
- A list of emergency preparation supplies that may be purchased tax-free can be found on the Comptroller's website.

AED donated to Crosby Rodeo fairgrounds,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tario Canada donated the custom cabinet to house the AED, which is equipped with an alarm that activates when opened. The cabinet features an image of Cody Stephens and his last Crosby show steer before he passed away of sudden cardiac arrest his senior year of high school in 2012. A QR code is featured which links to the foundations website where the public can learn more about our efforts to protect and save young hearts from sudden cardiac arrest. The AED is located in the restroom hallway near the fair office, which is accessible when the fairgrounds are in use.

The donation of this

AED continues the GBOGH foundations practice of placing AEDs in public areas of the Crosby Community. Along with partners Chris and Karen Claunch and the Crosby Education Foundation, the GBOGH Foundation has placed AED's and SaveStaion towers at both the Crosby ISD football and baseball complexes. Additionally, an AED is located at FBC Crosby and assistance was given in placing an AED at Crosby Methodist Church which houses an extensive weekday preschool program.

Additionally, work is underway to place AEDs at the county parks housing our communities little leagues. Harris Couty Precinct 3 is in the process of approving their locations and placements. Long time resident Cliff Reeves donated two AEDs to the foundation in honor of his wife, Becky, who passed away from heart complications.

The GBOGH Foundation is excited to continue making Crosby a heart safe community. Please reach out to the foundation at www.codystephens foundation.org or 713-451-3600 for questions, donations or possible future public locations in need of a lifesaving AED.

--Scott P Stephens, MAI, AI-GRS President, Founder and

Cody's Dad Cody Stephens Foundation

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Greetings and blessings from the congregation of Crosby United Methodist

To our neighbors who are looking to align themselves with a United Methodist

We are excited and optimistic about the future of our church. While it's important

It's been said that opportunity often comes disguised as hard work. Our District

With Spring and the sense of renewal it brings, and with the promise of Easter

congregation, we say simply, "Come join us!" It doesn't matter if you were a member of

a UMC that recently chose to disaffiliate, if you are new to the area and seeking a church

home, or just find yourself thinking it's time to start (or start back!) going to church, we

to remember our past and how we got to this point, our focus and energy need to be

forward-looking (remember, your car's windshield is much larger than the rearview

and Conference Leaders join us in a shared belief in the opportunities that lie ahead of us

as one of the few remaining UMC congregations in our area, but we have a lot of work to do, and we will need the support of every one of our members and fellow congregants to

still fresh on our minds, this is the perfect time to give some prayerful thought to establishing – or renewing – a personal commitment to Christ and His church. We are

here, we feel strongly that we are poised and preparing to do great things as we move

forward, and we extend a sincere and heartfelt invitation for you to share in our

Church to our friends and neighbors in the community at large!

www.crosbyumc.org

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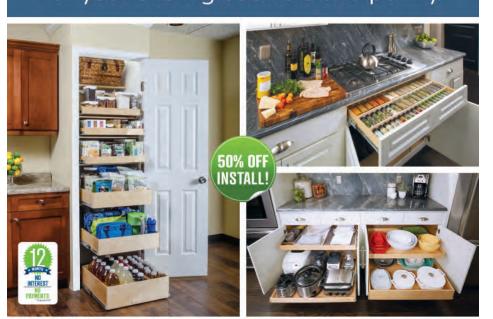
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Interested parties may contact the BHISD Business Office for a copy of the specifications which can also be obtained at the District website. Please direct all proposal questions to Amy Presley, Purchasing Coordinator, (281) 576-2221 ext. 1268.

Proposals will accepted until 2:00 p.m. May 12, 2023

The school district reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, waive any formalities and/or technicalities in the proposal and award the contract to the best proposal that serves the interests of the district. The district may negotiate with vendors that submit viable proposals.



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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 513237; Estate of MAY E. (ELLEN) DECELL Deceased; In Probate Court No. 3 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on APRIL 5, 2023.

JOHN SCOTT DECELL

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

> c/o Weston Cotten 1500 E. Wallisville Road Highlands, TX 77562

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this APRIL 13, 2023

by WESTON COTTEN Attorney for the Estate



10-4T

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code that CROSBY BOAT, RV & MINI STORAGE, located at 15118A FM 2100, Crosby Texas 77532, will hold an online sale from March 24th to April 3rd until 10:00 o'clock a.m., at the following link http://wbauctioncrosby.hibid.com/auction/ current to sell for cash only the contents of Unit J-10, Marilyn Koskey Arthur in order to satisfy a Landlord's Lien. The property to be sold is Household items and etc....

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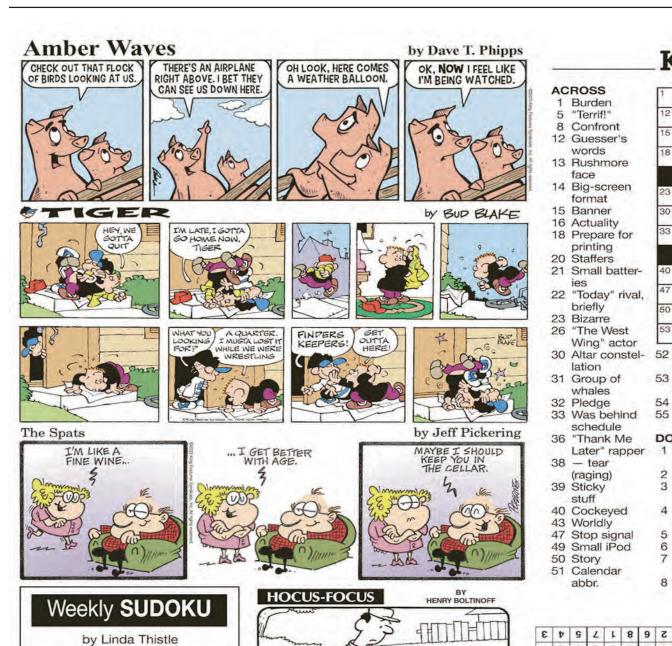








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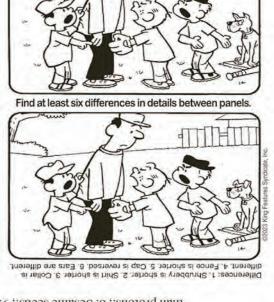
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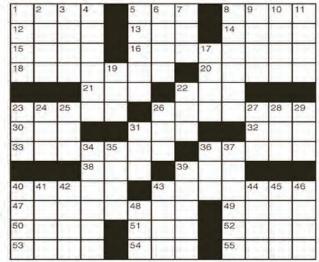
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7 9 Weekly SUDOKU 7 5 Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine. **DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦◆ ♦ Moderate ♦ ♦ Challenging ♦ ♦ ♦ HOO BOY! than protons.; 8. Sesame seeds.; 9. New Orleans., 10. Four. 5. More than 40.; 6. Insects.; 7. Francium, because it has 49 more neutrons I. "Desperate Housewives."; 2. The Nile River.; 3. Dreamt.; 4. Sitka.; - King Crossword -Trivia Test Answerst

April 17, 2023 Posting Date

King Crossword Burden "Terrif!"



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Answer

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 - Abbey" role

 - 46 Cheer (for) 48 Joke

port org.

1. TELEVISION: Which drama focuses on the inhabitants of Wisteria Lane?

2. GEOGRAPHY: The Aswan Dam is located

on which river? 3. LANGUAGE: What is the only word in the

English language that ends in "mt"? 4. MOVIES: What is the name of Ryan Reyn-

olds' Alaskan hometown in "The Proposal"? 5. U.S. CITIES: How many buildings in New York City have their own ZIP codes, including the Empire State Building?

6. SCIENCE: Entomology is the scientific

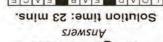
study of what? 7. CHEMISTRY: Which natural element is the

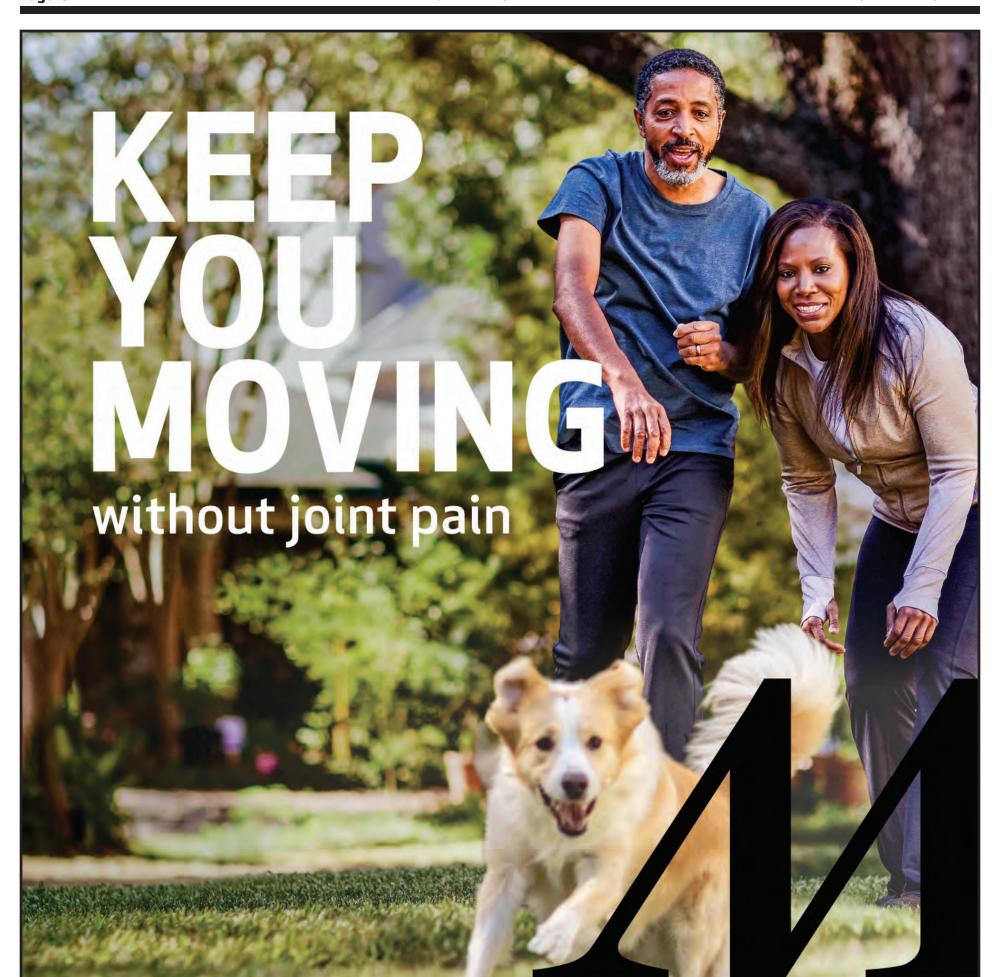
most unstable?

8. FOOD & DRINK: What is the condiment tahini made of?

9. LITERATURE: What is the setting for John Kennedy Toole's novel "A Confederacy of Dunces"? 10. ANATOMY: How many lobes are in the human brain?

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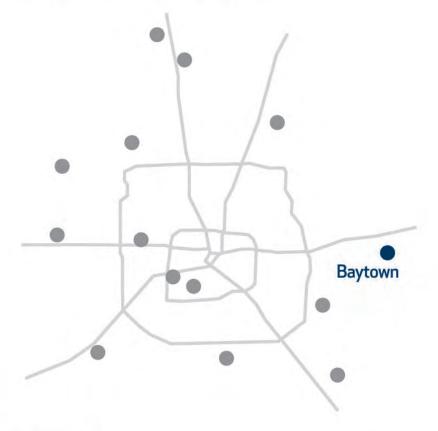




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