

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star Courier

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Crosby students meet the Astros at Minute Maid Park

Astros player Jose Abreu signs shirts for Crosby ISD elementary students as part of Mental Health Awareness Month.

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THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

North Shore Rotary Annual FISH FRY May 20

48th Annual Catfish Fry and Crawfish Boil, Raffle for a new Toyota Tacoma pickup or Toyota Camry car or 20 other valuable prizes. Silent Auction, Live auction. Saturday, May 20 from 11am to 3pm at the Rotary Pavilion on Wallisville (behind the courthouse). Raffle Tickets \$100 which includes two fish fry meals. Dinner Tickets alone \$15. Everyone welcome!

Pilot Club Puzzle Competition May 7

Teams of 4 compete to complete a puzzle and win prizes. Fundraiser for San Jacinto Pilot Club's Autism support and community projects. Sunday, May 7 at Hampton Inn, 14120 Karissa Court (Beltway 8 frontage). Starts 2:30pm, Finish and awards at 5:00pm. Tickets \$25, from any club member or call 281-221-1616.

Major new housing project for Crosby

EAST HARRIS COUNTY – A new community of almost 1,000 homes is planned for the Crosby area, on the east side of Lake Houston.

Meritage Homes has acquired 241 acres near FM 2100 and Foley Road for its Sundance Cove community, the company announced. About 30 miles northeast of downtown Houston, the community will offer houses with starting prices in the low \$200,000s.

This site had been scheduled for development by other companies several years ago, but due to the economy and Covid pandemic they declined to proceed, and the land was available for Meritage.

Meritage Homes, the



The 241 acre building site for Sundance Cove has been cleared, and construction of new homes is scheduled to start this month.

Scottsdale, Ariz.-based builder, which builds in 37 communities in the Houston area, will offer one- and two-story homes of about 1,300 to 3,000 square feet.

Model homes are expected to open in late summer. Meritage will be the only builder in the community, which will take several years to complete, accord-

ing to the company.

Sundance Cove will be a welcome addition for the region, which has been popular among residents who grew up in Crosby and

surrounding areas, said David Jarvis, a principal at John Burns Research and Consulting, which tracks U.S. housing markets. "The existing communities are rapidly building out," Jarvis said. "There hasn't been enough new development coming on to replace them."

Sundance Cove will offer amenities such as trails, a swimming pool, splash pad and recreation center. Students will attend Crosby ISD schools. Homes will be available on three lot sizes, from 40 to 50 feet wide and 120 feet deep.

"The homes here will offer some of the most re-

Continued. See Crosby Housing, Page 5

Highlands Elementary Hosts 2nd Annual Color Run

By Amanda Kennington, Healthy Community School Coordinator

On March 30, 2023, Highlands Elementary hosted the second Color Run as a part of the school's CATCH Family Night Wellness Fair. Highlands Elementary School Health Advisory Committee (C-SHAC) hosts multiple opportunities throughout the school year for families to be involved with their children and have fun while promoting healthy habits such as taking a break from electronics and getting physically active. Approximately fifteen local community organizations provided resources and



Volunteers helped throw colored powder at participants during Highlands Elementary 2nd annual Color Run.

health information at the event and Aramark provided healthy eating options such as cantaloupe fruit bowls and fruit kabobs. Over two-hundred

students and their family members participated in the event and many parents ran with their children in the Color Run. Highlands Elementary

Hawk Council supported the event by selling individual color packets to students so they could throw powder during the Color Powder Party. The campus PTO and local business partners sponsored the event providing safety goggles and materials used during the run activity. Based on the turnout as well as testimony shared by students and parents, the event was a huge success! Highlands students said, "This is so much fun! I really liked my teachers throwing powder on me and I liked my teachers running around so I could throw color on them, too. I can't wait for this to happen again next year!"

Parents stated that the event was "positive, organized and ran very smoothly, a great night." Physical education teacher, Coach Joel Kunz, described the event by stating, "I don't have one favorite part. It is how the whole thing came together, C-SHAC working to make everything run smoothly, enough volunteers to throw powder at the students, more volunteers helping at the start/finish line, and especially the smiles on everyone's face."

The campus implements the coordinated

Continued. See Highlands Elem. Color Run, Page 7

GLO Commissioner Buckingham meets with Pastors



Commissioner Dawn Buckingham meeting with faith leaders and community members in Houston.

Commissioner Dawn Buckingham Addresses Houston Pastors Meeting, Brings Homeowners to Set the Record Straight

HOUSTON – Houston pastors and faith leaders congregated to hear Texas General Land Office (GLO) Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D., speak about the success of the GLO's Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP). Commissioner Buckingham was invited by Reverend Perry Wooten, who organized the meeting to discuss housing recovery efforts by the GLO and to clarify misinformation.

During her address, Commissioner Buckingham spoke about the importance of ad

Continued. See GLO Housing, Page 5

Message from the Crosby Superintendent

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families,

Welcome to May! As the 2023-2024 School Year comes to a close, it's one of the busiest months of the year with celebrations and recognitions. The Board of Trustees will be holding our annual Spring Salute on May 22 at the Crosby High School Performing Arts Center. We recognize the students and organizations for their achievements during the spring semester.

The Class of 2023 Graduation will be Friday, May 26 at 7:30pm at Cougar Stadium. Please note that there will be a clear bag policy in effect during the ceremony. Each person may carry up to one bag that is clear plastic, mesh,



SUPERINTENDENT PAULA PATTERSON

or see-through vinyl. The bag should be larger than a gallon freezer bag. Exceptions will be made for medically-necessary items after inspection. We are looking forward to watching our Crosby High School seniors walk across the stage and be transformed into Crosby ISD alumni.

As we end this year, we

are busy planning the 2023-2024 School Year. We have opened verification/registration for all students earlier than ever before. We would very much appreciate our families taking the time to confirm their child's information and transportation needs as soon as possible. The process is done entirely online, and it takes about 10 minutes per child. Please remember that proof of residency will need to be submitted for each child. Verification is for students returning to Crosby ISD. www.crosbyisd.org/verification. Registration is for students new to Crosby ISD. www.crosbyisd.org/registration. Thank you in your help for completing process sooner than later.

It is testing season here



Crosby ISD elementary students visit Minute Maid Park and Astros player Jose Abreu as part of Mental Health Awareness Month.

in Crosby ISD. Hats off to our Technology Services team for guiding the process to make it run as smoothly as possible. The STAAR test is entirely online this year, but Crosby ISD was ahead of the curve thanks to our technicians. We ran our STAAR tests

100% online last year, and we had very few bumps in the road. The next big testing date will be Tuesday, May 9 for the STAAR Grades 3-8 Math exam. Our campuses do not allow

Continued. See Crosby Superintendent, Page 7

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TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Rebuilding homes and lives in the City of Houston



On average, homes rebuilt through the Homeowner Assistance Program increase the value of the property by **more than \$85,000.**

“My goal is simple, serve the people we are supposed to serve and do it well.”

**COMMISSIONER
DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.**

Texas General Land Office
Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D.



Barbers Hill Press

Dayton

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

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THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Jones Public Library

Memorials, Honorariums and Donations

HONORARIUMS

In Honor of:
Sullivan, Rachel: We All Play, given by Lambda Alpha Sigma
Pruitt, Haywood "Frosty": Mere Christianity, Occupational Outlook Handbook, given by DHS Class of 1973

Weibelhaus, Donna: Unicorn Princesses, given by Lambda Alpha Sigma
Noyer, Meadow: Little Blue Truck Makes a Friend, given by Lambda

Alpha Sigma
MEMORIALS
Myers, Freddie: A Teacher's Love, The Giving Tree, given by Aneisha

Remsing
Eberle, Addisyn
Claire: Thank you God, given by Bobby and Dava
Glatfelter
Eberle, Addisyn
Claire: How Much is a Little Girl Worth, given by

Boswell Family
Crayton, TJ: Follow Me to Hell, given by Jones Library Staff
Crayton, TJ: Natural Wonders of the World, given by Friends of Jones

LibrarY
Mason, Rita: Paper Mice, given by Cathy Harbour
Pruitt, Dwight: A Library, Pairs of People, Baker and Taylor: Blast

off to Space City, Black Boy Black Boy, Ohana Means Family given by
DHS Class of 1973
Pruitt, Dwight: Lift Every Voice, given by The City of Dayton

Pruitt, Dwight: Texas Almanac, San Antonio, Austin, The Texas Hill Country, Created to Dream, The World Almanac Book of Facts, given by

DHS Class of 1980
Park, Sue: The Library Lion, given by Jones Library Staff
Park, Sue: Charles M. Schulz, given by Friends of Jones Library

Thompkins, Mary: The Defined Dish, given by Carla Weaver
Breedon, Katy: The Mitford Secret, The Metropolitan Affair, Mouse

Seasons, given by The Breedon Family
Breedon, Katy: Western Art of the 21st Century: Native Americans,

Western Art of the 21st Century: Cowboys, given by Liberty County Art League
Ekvall, Dr. Don J: Meet a Veterinarian, All About Veterinarians,

given by The Drawhorn Girls, Sally Larson, Weet Franklin, Dixie Baker, Tootie Ramsey

Voters to choose MB, BHISD, GCCISD candidates in May 6 Election

MONT BELVIEU – Voters are casting their ballots in Early voting, from April 24 through May 2 for position on Mont Belvieu government. The following positions are included in the election: Mayor, City Council positions 1, 2 and 5 (A special election for an unexpired term).

This election is a joint election with Barbers Hill ISD, where two open Trustee seats are on the ballot, Positions 3 and 4.

On Election Day, Saturday May 6, the polls



will be open from 7:00am to 7:00pm. Voting that day is at the Community Election Center, the building behind the Lead-

ership Center which was formerly the Pre-K/Primary cafeteria, at 9650 Eagle Drive in Mont Belvieu.

MONT BELVIEU

On the City of Mont Belvieu Ballot, for Mayor Joey McWilliams is running unopposed; Mike Pmykal is running for Council Position 1 unopposed; and for Council Position 2 there are three candidates vying for the seat: Tommy Henry, Mickey Bertrand, and Laurie Guidry. For Council Position 5, an unexpired term, there are three candidates: Don Price, Danny Campbell, and Russell Dibenedetto.

BARBERS HILL ISD

On the Barbers Hill ISD ballot, there are two Trustee positions up for election. For Trustee Position 3, two candidates are vying: Brandon Thornhill and George Barrera. For Trustee Position 4 Clint Pipes is running unopposed.

GOOSE CREEK CISD

The school district has one open Trustee seat on the ballot, Single Member District 6, where two candidates are vying for the position: Yacel Amador and Tiffany Guy.

Baytown Chamber of Commerce Celebrates Grand Opening of Recycling facility With Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The Baytown Chamber of Commerce celebrated the Grand Opening of PSC Group's Advanced Recycling facility. In addition to Chamber of Commerce Staff and Ambassadors, Baytown Mayor Pro Tem Jacob Powell, Adrienne Sun from State Representative Briscoe Caine's office, James Trevathan, Cyclyx COO and Natalie Martinez, ExxonMobil North America Advanced Recycling Commercial Manager, were also in attendance to help officially cut the ribbon! Attendees were given a tour of the new facility and were hon-

ored with a crawfish boil immediately after. The new facility will shred and pre-process up to 80 million pounds of plastic waste each year for use in large-scale chemical and mechanical recycling. They collaborate closely with both Cyclyx and ExxonMobil Baytown Area, and are looking forward to helping more plastics producers achieve their goals for a more circular economy. If you would like to learn more about PSC Group, you can visit their website at www.pscgroup.com or follow them on Facebook.



Pictured L to R: Baytown Mayor Pro Tem Jacob Powell; James Trevathan, Cyclyx COO; Natalie Martinez, ExxonMobil North America Advanced Recycling Commercial Manager; Joel Dickerson, PSC Group CEO; Adam Gilmore, PSC Group Sr. VP; Charles Johnson, Chamber of Commerce Board Member

Baytown Chamber of Commerce Celebrates Grand Opening of Houston's House of Hope with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The Baytown Chamber of Commerce celebrated the Grand Opening of Houston's House of Hope. In addition to Chamber of Commerce Staff, Board members and Ambassadors, Baytown Mayor Brandon Capetillo and Councilman Jacob Powell were also in attendance to help officially cut the ribbon! Attendees were given a tour of the campus and grounds, then treated to light fare prepared by Executive Catering. Founder and CEO, Wendy Smith says "Houston's House of

Hope is fully committed to the emotional welfare, mental stability, nurturing and spiritual growth for each child we are fortunate enough to care for. Historically, many at-risk children often end up in the foster care system with no support from their biological families. While placed in foster care many children often feel abandoned and isolated. Admittedly, this is why we ultimately decided to launch Houston's House of Hope in 2021. It is our focus to provide each child we encounter the tools needed to have



Pictured L to R: La'Tosha Melton, Sinandra Hunt, Tamira Williams, District 5 Councilman Jacob Powell, Ameilya Bowers, Tykajah Jackson, Kazariya Williams, Tameshia Curl, Kaniela Rhymes, Founder and CEO Wendy Smith, Albert Lane Jr., Baytown Mayor Brandon Capetillo, Chamber Ambassadors, Blythe Adam, Carmen Parris, Karla Opryshek and Jeff Walters

a fair chance to be successful in life. We aim to Reach One, Teach One!"

If you would like to learn more about Houston's House of Hope or volunteer, you can visit their website at www.houstonshoh.org or follow them on Instagram: houstonshoh.

Baytown Woman guilty of Embezzling Millions from her Employer over 10 years

HOUSTON – A 54-year-old Baytown woman has pleaded guilty to wire fraud, announced U.S. Attorney Alamdar S. HamdaNi.

Judy M. Green admitted to embezzling over \$3 million from her employer for approximately 10 years.

Green worked as an account manager for a Houston-based building



and maintenance supply company. As part of the scheme, she submitted fraudulent invoices to induce payment from the company and pocketed the funds for personal expenses. Ultimately, the scheme was uncovered when one of the business owners noticed a large payment to an unknown credit card company in the summer of 2022. An audit revealed the fraud had been ongoing since 2012.

U.S. District Judge Alfred Bennett accepted the plea and set sentencing

for Aug. 3. At that time, Green faces up to 20 years in federal prison as well as a possible \$250,000 maximum fine.

Green was permitted to remain on bond pending sentencing.

The FBI conducted the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas Carter prosecuted the case.

OPINION PAGE

TEXAS GLO

By Dawn Buckingham, M.D. Commissioner, Texas General Land Office

Texas GLO posts amendment to expand housing programs

Second amendment of the plan expands eligibility of participants in the Homeowner Assistance Program and Resilient Home Program

AUSTIN - Today the Texas General Land Office (GLO) posted Amendment 2 of the Mitigation State Action Plan for \$4.3 billion in Community Development Block Grants for Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) for a federally required 30-day public comment period.

The amendment includes the following changes:

- Housing Oversubscription Supplemental: Expanded eligible participants to include waitlisted eligible Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP) applicants from the 2018 South Texas Floods HAP and 2019 Disasters (Lower Rio Grande Flooding and Tropical Storm Imelda) HAP.
Resilient Home Program: Expanded eligible participants to include waitlisted eligible Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP) applicants from the 2018 South Texas Floods HAP and 2019 Disasters (Lower Rio Grande Flooding and Tropical Storm Imelda) HAP.

The GLO's Homeowner Assistance Program has successfully reached the hardest hit, low and moderate income, vulnerable, and historically hard-to-reach families and individuals as defined by the Fair Housing Act and required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The innovative Resilient Home Program (RHP) reconstructs owner-occupied single-family homes damaged by Hurricane Harvey with additional resiliency and mitigation standards. Eligible participants will be drawn from the GLO's existing waitlisted eligible Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP) applicants.

The amendment is available for review at recovery.texas.gov/public-notice. All comments should be submitted to cdr@recovery.texas.gov by 5:00 p.m. on May 30, 2023, to be considered.

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.



THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

"Bunny Food"

The TSA agent looked stern—as they usually do. 'I'd like to look inside this bag, ma'am,' he said. 'No problem!' I always sound a little too eager when being questioned by an authority figure.

The agent proceeded to open my carry-on bag. 'It's a bowl!' I told him, with a little too much enthusiasm. My husband, Peter, was supposed to have put the bowl in his checked luggage.

'Why don't you put it in your carry-on?' Peter asked, after I was already more or less packed.

'That big bowl in my carry-on?' I was dubious. 'I think it will be safer. I can take whatever you had planned to put in your carry-on.'

So I took the bowl, already wrapped up in bubble wrap, and put it in my carry-on, and now the TSA agent wanted to take a look at it.

We had a lot of little things to bring back from Mexico after three months, and Peter had stuffed who-knows-what into the bowl before wrapping it in bubble wrap.

'Peter!' I hissed. 'What's in the bowl?'

'Food?' Peter replied. 'Food?' the agent asked. Oh, great, I thought. Now this agent is going to be thinking we're bringing in a ham or something.

'Yup!' Peter said, apparently unworried. Well, it was my luggage after all, I thought.

The TSA agent proceeded to unwrap the bowl, tearing off the packing tape and taking a lot of time with the whole procedure. We had a connecting flight, and I was getting nervous, so I smiled even more broadly.

Inside the bowl were several suspicious-looking bags. Inside the bags were lentils, chickpeas, chia seeds and shelled pumpkin seeds. The TSA agent looked up at Peter. 'Bunny food,' he said. I couldn't tell if he was mocking Peter or simply making an official identification.

'Bunny food!' I said to Peter, as we finally headed away from security.

We got home late. It was cold and rainy and so different from the sunny Mexico we had just left behind. In the morning, we learned we had both gained almost 10 pounds. Everything seemed a little dreary.

I unwrapped the brightly colored bowl. It looked wonderful in our apartment. I put Peter's bags of seeds on the counter for his morning breakfast.

I was glad we brought these things back from Mexico. As we get used to gray skies and cool temperatures up north, we need the comfort of a little extra color. And we certainly need a little extra bunny food. Till next time, Carrie Check out CarrieClasson-Author on Facebook or visit CarrieClasson.com.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



House OKs \$4.5 Billion for Teacher pay Raises

The Texas House last Thursday passed two education-related bills, one that allocates \$4.5 billion for teacher pay raises and another to increase the annual per-student base funding from \$6,160 to \$6,300 — a 2.3% increase.

The Austin American-Statesman reported the bill would create minimum salaries for teachers ranging from \$35,000 to \$63,000 depending on experience and level of education. It would also increase funding for special education and fine arts.

Some education advocates worry the per-student funding is insufficient to keep up with inflation, which has grown by 17% in the last four years, the Statesman reported.

The bill also creates a method to adjust the per-student funding for inflation every other year, starting in 2025.

VOTERS MAY DECIDE FATE OF BROADBAND EXPANSION

Voters could decide whether the state should invest \$5 billion to expand internet availability if a bill passed last week by the Texas House makes it through the Senate. House Bill 9, sponsored by state Rep. Trent Ashby, R-Lufkin, would create the Texas Broadband Infrastructure Fund, the Texas Tribune reported.

'This bill will have a measurable impact on each one of your districts,' Ashby said last week on the House floor. 'No matter whether they be urban, suburban or rural.'

Nearly 7 million Texans do not have reliable broadband service, a fact hammered home during the pandemic, when connectivity often was crucial for schools and people trying to work from home. However, state Comptroller Glenn Hegar said in March that it would take closer to \$10 billion to get all Texans connected.

The state is also expected to receive federal dollars for broadband expansion out of the infrastructure package passed by Congress in 2021, though it is unknown how much Texas will receive out of the \$42.45 billion allocated for broadband expansion. The



state will need to match one-fourth of whatever it receives from the federal government.

\$200 ANNUAL FEE FOR EV OWNERS GOES TO ABBOTT

A bill requiring electrical vehicle owners to pay a \$200 annual fee to the state has passed both chambers and sent to Gov. Greg Abbott, The Dallas Morning News reported. Backers of the bill say the higher vehicle registration fees are needed because EV owners don't pay fuel taxes built into the price of fuel and used to fund the state's highway system.

Opponents of the bill say it would slow the expansion of EVs in the state, which pollute less than vehicles using carbon-based fuels. They also note the fuel tax funds just 29% of what is spent on Texas highways.

'The primary cause of the road funding shortfall in Texas has nothing to do with EVs, but rather with the fact that Texas has not increased their gas tax since 1991,' Dylan Jaff, sustainability policy analyst with Consumer Reports, said in a memo.

FENTANYL TEST STRIP BILL STALLS IN SENATE

A bipartisan effort to decriminalize the use of fentanyl test strips has stalled in a Texas Senate committee after passing the Texas House with near unanimous report, The Morning News reported. The bill also has the backing of Abbott.

State Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston, chairs the criminal justice committee. He said

some members fear making the test strips legal would lead to more people feeling confident about using dangerous drugs.

Fentanyl is often mixed with more expensive drugs such as heroin, leading to thousands of fatal overdoses, including more than 5,000 in Texas from July 2021 to July 2022.

'It's just illogical, but there's a belief by some members that it might safeguard the use,' Whitmire said.

The testing strips are currently treated as drug paraphernalia. The strips are used to test for the presence of fentanyl in other drugs.

BILL CALLS FOR ARMED OFFICERS AT ALL SCHOOLS

A bill that would require school districts to place at least one armed officer on each campus has passed the Texas House, the Statesman reported. The measure comes almost a year after a gunman killed 19 children and two teachers in a mass shooting in Uvalde last May.

Any officer or school employee would have to complete handgun safety training. The measure also requires at least one audit for intruder detection each year in all districts. The state would provide at least \$100 per student and \$15,000 per campus to maintain and improve school safety.

State Sen. Roland Gutierrez, D-San Antonio, has filed several gun control measures in that chamber that have yet to receive a hearing. Gutierrez represents Uvalde and says more needs to be done besides the House measure.

'Let me be very clear: I'm for anything that's going to make our schools safer,' Gutierrez said in the Statesman story. 'But the three things that is going to really make our schools safer is extreme risk protective orders, you take guns out of the hands of the mentally ill, Florida did it, it worked; raising the age limit, take guns, AR-15's out of (the hands of) 18-, 19- and 20-year-olds, Florida did it, it worked; closing the gun show loophole and universal background checks.'

DISASTER DECLARATION PARTIALLY APPROVED

President Joe Biden has partially approved the state's request for a major disaster declaration for counties affected by an ice storm in late January.

The original request included 23 counties, but 13 were given access to funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency — Bastrop, Blanco, Burleson, Burnet, Hays, Henderson, Kendall, Lee, Leon, Milam, Robertson, Travis and Williamson.

The ice storm damaged millions of trees, particularly in the Austin area, and caused widespread power outages throughout Central Texas. A total of 350,000 people in Texas were without power at some point, according to Spectrum News 1.

Top Ten Fastest-Growing Brands* 1. Zoom 2. Peacock 3. Instacart 4. TikTok 5. Bud Light Seltzer 6. Tubi 7. Natural Light Seltzer 8. Cash App 9. Venmo 10. Warby Parker *name recognition, 2020 Source: Morning Consult

HIGHLANDS CROSBY Star Courier USPS 244-500 Barbers Hill Dayton PRESS NORTH CHANNEL STAR Editor & Publisher: Gilbert Hoffman Associate Publisher: Mei-Ing Liu Hoffman Assignment Editor: Julieta Paita Website Editor: Kristan Hoffman Marketing Executive: Willie Glasgow Production Manager: Gerardo Hernandez

Commissioner Dawn Buckingham Addresses Houston Pastors Meeting, Brings Homeowners to Set the Record Straight

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dressing the housing needs of Houstonians who need help rebuilding as well as the GLO's success of having more than 1,000 homes rebuilt in Houston and Harris County with another 1,000 homes approved and under construction. She also emphasized the success of the GLO's program, which has helped homeowners who were not served by the City of Houston, which was initially administering the funds for home rebuilding.

"When I was running, I promised, you would see me, you would know me, and I'd be here serving your communities," said Commissioner Buckingham. "What I care about is meeting unmet needs and being sure we are bringing prosperity to your communities, your churches, and helping your folks who need help."

Several Houston-area Harvey victims shared their emotional stories with the audience, including June Battist, who expressed her

gratitude to the GLO for intervening when the City of Houston failed to help. Greg Luna shared his story of how the City of Houston mishandled his case and how the GLO was able to provide him with a new home in just 77 days.

Lloyd Helms, who had been approved by the City of Houston for assistance five years before the GLO's intervention, spoke about the frustration as he waited in vain for aid. Timothy LeBlanc also shared his experience, expressing how the GLO was able to build his new home in just 110 days.

Speaking on the importance of community members meeting with Commissioner Buckingham, Reverend Perry Wooten stated, "[Commissioner Buckingham] has been here every step of the way. God put us here to lead our people and shepherd His flock. We need for her to be in here and touch base with the faith based community." He continued, "She's kept her word. She's



Houston resident Retta Miles had a particularly gut-wrenching journey after the 2017 storm devastated the area, "I am just happy to be in a place where I don't have to suffer, cry or worry anymore. GLO made that happen for me."

doing what she's told me she's going to do. That's who she is. As long as I'm involved, we're going to bring it back to the community. We're going to make sure you're at the table."

Commissioner Buckingham also took the opportunity to correct some of the false narratives that have been repeated by those opposing the GLO's recovery efforts. She noted that some

have falsely claimed the home rebuilding program, regulated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, diminishes home values when in fact, on average, homes rebuilt through the GLO's Homeowner Assistance Program increase the value of the property by more than \$85,000.

Commissioner Buckingham also noted that 85% of

funds are benefiting low- to moderate-income families, significantly outperforming HUD's requirements. Nearly 60% of the households served by the GLO are considered extremely low income, which means the household income would be less than \$27,750 for a family of four.

Commissioner Buckingham concluded the meeting by thanking Reverend

Wooten for organizing the event and highlighting the need for organizations to work together more effectively in the future. With the upcoming hurricane season only weeks away, she emphasized the importance of being prepared and working efficiently to provide aid to those who need it.

"We know there is another storm coming. We know we haven't recovered from the last one. We have got to get that recovery complete. Then we have to figure out how to come together so next time something happens - because we know it's going to happen - that we come together more efficiently and more effectively," said Commissioner Buckingham.

The meeting was an opportunity to set the record straight and provide homeowners with the required assistance. The Commissioner's remarks highlight the importance of collaboration and the need to work together to prepare for future disasters. (Contributed)

New Housing in Crosby,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Meritage Homes will build this type of house in Sundance Cove in Crosby.

requested features, including granite countertops, upgraded cabinets and backsplashes, covered patios and pendant lighting," Meritage Homes Houston Division President Kyle Davison said in an an-

nouncement.

Home sales have been gaining momentum in Houston and other markets since December, Jarvis said. Builders have helped by offering incen-

tives, such as buying down mortgage rates to reduce monthly payments. "The market has really recovered from that summer and fall slump last year," Jarvis said.

Highlands Elementary Color Run,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

health program with the goal to engage families in health-promoting events throughout the school year. All K-8 campuses in Goose Creek CISD implement the CATCH program, which stands for coordinated approach to child health. Goose Creek's CATCH program is supported by Be Well™ Baytown. Be Well Baytown is an initiative of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center sponsored by ExxonMobil. By offering this event, Highlands Elementary is showing its commitment to create and maintain a healthy environment and make the lives of its students and their families healthier.



Highlands Elementary encouraged families to get active and have fun, placing smiles on everyone's faces.



Aramark provided healthy eating options for Highland's CATCH Family Night.

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2023 Houston Art Car Parade Winners



First Place Art Car
"Traffic Safety Cone Monster" by Team TXDOR
Houston, TX



First Place Art Car
"Gretapocalypse" by Rick McKinney
Fairfax, CA



2023 Ann Harithas Legacy Award Winner
"Spacerider" by Claire Johnson & The Ploppet Crew
Scottsdale, AZ



First Place Art Car
"Shelley's Truck" by Peg E. Corn
Houston, TX

We hope you enjoyed this year's incredible celebration of creativity, innovation, and "the drive to create." We couldn't produce Houston's largest free cultural event without the help of our partners, sponsors, supporters, volunteers, staff, and the over 260 artists, schools,

youth groups, non-profits, businesses, and creative individuals that entered a one-of-a-kind mobile masterpiece into the 36th Annual Houston Art Car Parade & Festival. Mark your calendars for the Orange Show's 37th Annual Houston Art Car Parade, coming April 13, 2024!

Over \$16,000 was awarded this year to artists who participated in the Houston Art Car Parade through a judging process that looked at craftsmanship, theme, design and originality. This year's judges were Hot Wheels Diecast Design Manager Bryan Benedict, City of Houston Civic Art

Program Manager Theresa Escobedo, Acclaimed automotive designer Randy Grubb, Houston Museum of African American Culture CEO John Guess, Jr., Multimedia Artist, Opera Singer and Filmmaker Lisa Harris, and Custom Car Maker Will Robinson.

First Place Art Cars
"Shelley's Truck" by Peg E. Corn" by Rickey Polidore, Jr. & Friends - Houston, TX
"Gretapocalypse" by Rick McKinney - Fairfax, CA
"Traffic Safety Cone Monster" by James Keener & Team TXDOT - Houston, TX
Second Place Art Cars
"Cheerio, the Hippo Car" by Tom Kennedy for Sue Shefman - Houston, TX

"Smelly Cat" by Kimi Bainter - Houston, TX
"Dominatrix" by Tjody Deval - Columbia Heights, MN
Third Place Art Cars
"Sugar Rush" by Lovett Elementary - Houston, TX
"Face your Fears" by Sam Houston Math, Science & Tech HS - Houston, TX
"Kat Balue" by Queen Becky - Houston, TX

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS


Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 513670; Estate of BERNIE LLYNN BLOWERS HALL Deceased; In Probate Court No. 3 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on APRIL 20, 2023.

SANFORD ALLEN HALL

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 27, 2023


by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

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 April 24th to May 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.....

16-2T

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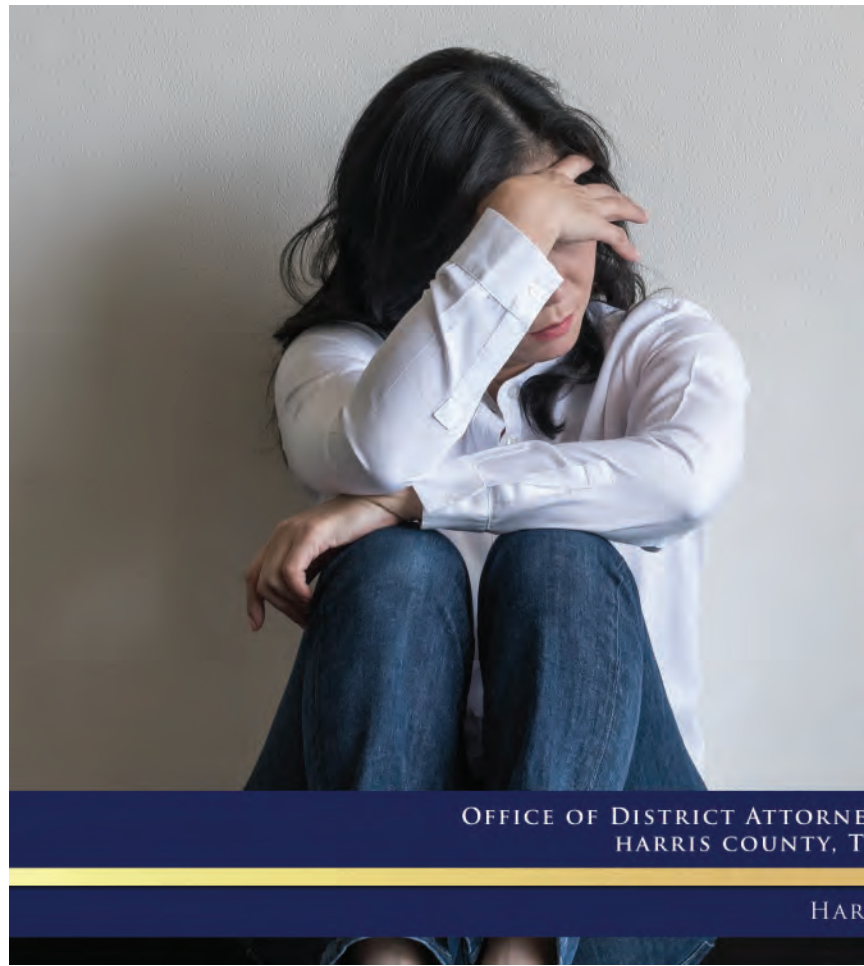
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OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY
HARRIS COUNTY, TX



KIM OGG

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Crosby Superintendent's Message,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

visitors on testing days in order to keep students focused on the task at hand. A special shoutout as well to the Crosby High School Social Studies Department for holding a massive review day on Saturday, April 29. More than 90 students had a chance to brush up on their history knowledge before testing this week.

Our student-athletes are on a roll. The Crosby High School Baseball and Softball teams are in the playoffs. Softball is up against Richmond Foster in the Area playoff series. Baseball faces Santa Fe in the first round Bi-District playoffs. We hope to see you in the stands. Senior Braden Womack is headed to the UIL State Track & Field Meet after placing second in the Long Jump

at Regionals. He will compete on Friday, May 12 at 10:45am in Austin. Good luck, Braden!

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Recently, students from each of our elementary schools had the chance to travel to Minute Maid Park and take part in a promotional campaign with the Astros Foundation, player Jose Abreu, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Greater Houston. Abreu signed shirts and took photographs with our 4th and 5th graders. What a joy for our students to make memories and be a part of a public service announcement to advocate support and education regarding mental health.

I want to share an early Happy Mother's Day with

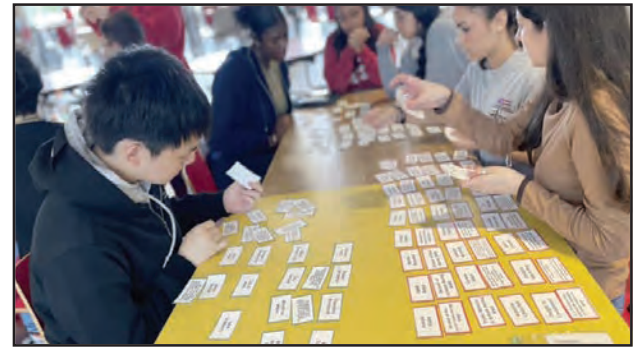
all our moms and grandmothers in Crosby ISD. Your job is the one of the most important, most rewarding, and one of the toughest out there. Thank you for all that you do to

inspire and support our students and staff members. We are so grateful.

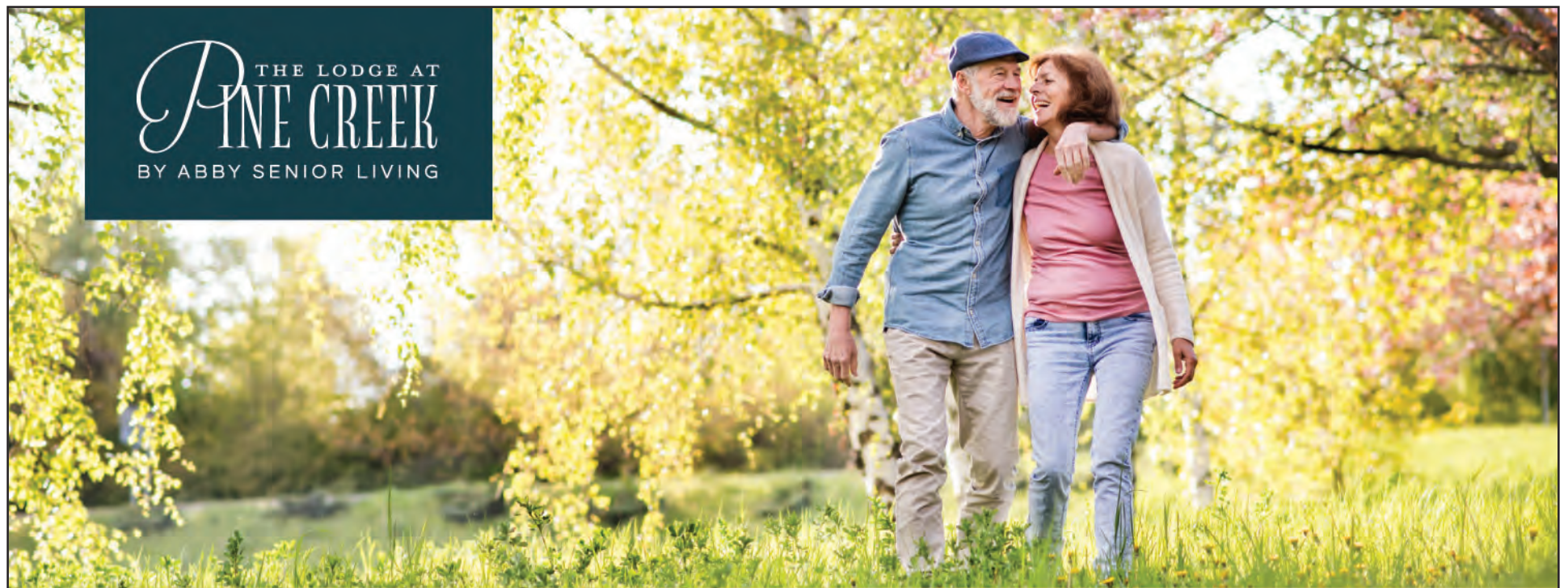
We are Better Together!
Go Coogs!



Crosby High School senior Braden Womack and coaches after Womack finished second in the long jump at Regionals. He's headed to the State Track Meet in Austin.



ABOVE: 90 Crosby High School students brush up on U.S. History with a Saturday review session.



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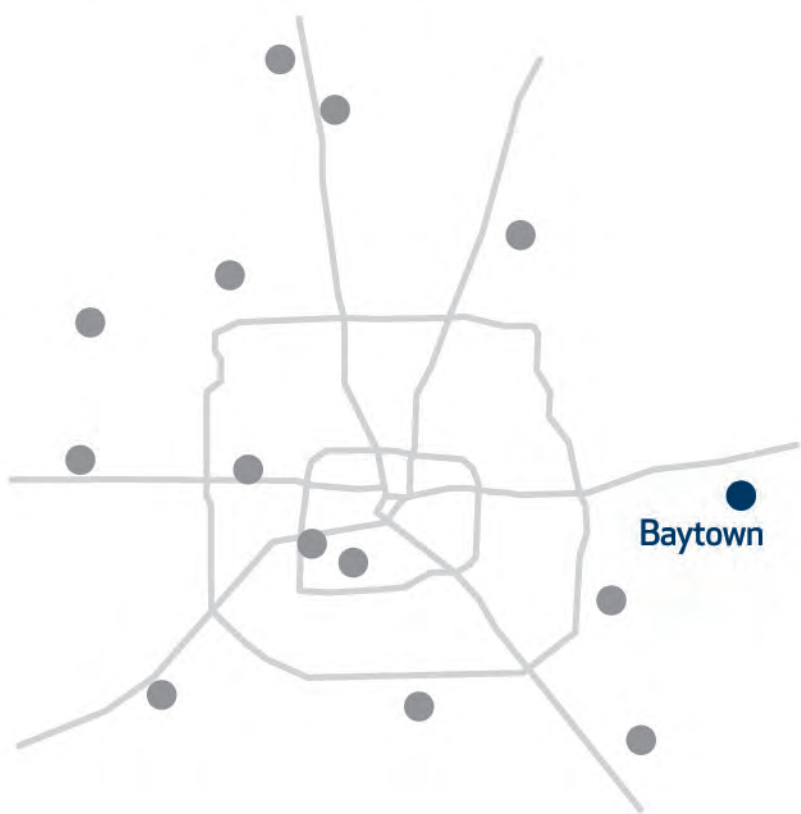
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