

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star Courier

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Street Banner indicates Rodeo Time!
Entertainment June 2 to June 10

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THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

Crosby Fair & Rodeo Schedule

MAY 20, Saturday
COWPOKE PAGEANT
10:30 am CFR pavilion
JUNE 2,3 Friday, Saturday
BBQ COOKOFF
JUNE 2, Friday
TWENTY TWOS
BAG OF DONUTS, 7:30pm
JUNE 3, Saturday
PARADE 10am
SUNNY SAUCEDO,
7:30pm
JUNE 8, Thursday
BUYER'S DINNER 4pm
LIVESTOCK AUCTION,
6pm
JUNE 9, Friday
TYLER HALVERSON
CREED FISHER, 7:30pm
JUNE 10, Saturday
LITTLE WRANGLER, 10am
AUSTIN MEADE
GIOVANNIE & THE HIRED
GUNS, 7:30pm

Highlands Chamber Public invited Jun. 9 to plan its future

Highlands Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce is seeking community input and actions for its future. The meeting will be held Friday, June 9, 2023 at 12:00 noon at Highlands Community Center located at 604 Highlands Woods Dr, Highlands TX 77562. It is important for the Public to come and Participate. Info or suggestions, Randy Casey 832-984-4651

It's a Dirty Business

Joe Flanagan of Lonestar Siteworks has available time for Dozer, Backhoe and Tractor work. Call or text him for a Free Quote on your next Dirt(y) project. 832-530-0054. He's well recommended, fast and inexpensive. Call now.

BIRTHDAYS

Jun 1-Brittani & Paige Carroll
Evelyn Wotipka
Jun 2-Martha Keyes
Bettie Woosley
Jun 4-Whitney Sain
Mary Ann Stone
Michael Taylor
Patricia E. Sparks
Jun 5-John Abbott
James Allen
Amanda Taylor
Teresa Griffith
Jun 6-Barbara Nelson
Jesse Smith
Darlene Walter
Jun 7-David Dunlap
Ray Stanley
Ruby Wendler
Jun 8-Nathan Abbott

ANNIVERSARIES

Jun 1-Harold & Janice Havard
Doug & Roxanna Phillips
Jun 2-Glen & Nell Salters
Jun 4-Donnie & Connie Larrison
Jun 6-Randy & Nita Sloan
Jun 8-Judy & Allen Dunn
Joe & Elizabeth Price

Saddle Up Crosby; It's 2 weeks of RODEO!

CROSBY – The waiting is over, the big Annual Fair & Rodeo opens this Friday, with a two-day BBQ Cookoff, and performances in the Rock'n Arena by Twenty Twos and Bag of Donuts. The Cowpoke Pageant has already been held last Saturday morning.

A parade will start Saturday at 10am, and that night the entertainment will be Sunny Saucedo group from San Antonio.

Livestock judging will take place next Monday through Wednesday, then the Buyers Dinner Thursday at 4pm and the Livestock Auction at 6pm.

Entertainment and the PRCA Rodeo return Friday with Tyler Halverson and Creed Fisher starting at 7:30pm. Saturday night the acts following the rodeo are Austin Meade, and Giovannie and the Hired Guns. YeeHaw!!



FRIDAY JUNE 2 – BAG OF DONUTS 7:30 PM



FRIDAY JUNE 2 – TWENTY TWOS 7:30 PM



SATURDAY JUNE 3 – SUNNY SAUCEDO 7:30 PM



THURSDAY JUNE 8 – LIVESTOCK AUCTION 6 PM

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE:

Graduation Day at Crosby ISD

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families,

Summer is here! It's time to rest, relax, and rejuvenate.

The 2022-2023 School Year is in the rearview mirror. We are moving forward to enjoying family vacations ... making memories ... staying up late ... sleeping in ... getting up early ... enjoying



Continued. See Crosby Graduation, Page 5

Superintendent Paula Patterson takes a photo with graduates who were first graders when she opened Crosby Elementary as a principal.

ROTARY PROJECT Students receive bikes for perfect attendance



HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY Students with perfect attendance were the recipients of new bicycles, a project of the local Rotary Club. Above, two of the students and Rotarian GayLynn Milliorn as part of the presentation ceremony last month. MORE photos on page 5.

Huffman ex-deputy sentenced to 17+ years Intent to distribute Cocaine

HOUSTON - A 49-year-old Huffman resident has been sent to prison for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine, announced U.S. Attorney Alamdar S. Hamdani.

Alexsander S. Reyes, a former Harris County Precinct 1 deputy constable, pleaded guilty Jan. 6, 2022.

Today, U.S. District David Hittner sentenced him to a total of 210 months in federal prison to be immediately followed by five years of supervised release. In handing down the sentence, the court noted Reyes committed a "gross abuse of public trust" and committed these crimes while on duty further mentioning how he used his patrol vehicle while possessing his service firearm. Judge Hittner also deemed Reyes a leader/organizer because he recruited other persons to assist in the crimes.

"Reyes was a cop who wanted to help criminals by becoming one himself," said Hamdani. "While the vast majority of police serve with courage and character, there are sadly a few that choose to dishonor their badges. Ferreting out those



ALEXANDER S. REYES
Former Deputy Constable

bad apples is something we in the Southern District of Texas take seriously so as to ensure the integrity of our criminal justice system."

"Alexsander Reyes was a dirty cop who got caught

Continued. See Huffman man sentenced, Page 5

RACHEL'S DINER

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

AUTO & HOME INSURANCE



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



Now in our New Offices
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BARRETT STATION
ANNUAL HOMECOMING WEEK
July 10th-16th, 2023

**"We Are
BETTER
Together"**

Event Schedule

- Monday-BSMA Praise & Worship @5PM
- Tuesday- HC MUD #50 Town Hall Meeting @6-8PM;
Movie In The Park 7-9PM
- Wednesday- Spades & Dominoes Tournament
@6-9PM
- Thursday- Community Corn Hole Tournament @6PM
- Friday- BST Casanova Cookoff & Campout
- Saturday- BST Homecoming Parade @10AM;
Community Flag Football Game @5PM

Please Scan This code
for Parade Registration

Please Scan This code
for Volunteer Registration

BSCCL
BARRETT STATION CIVIC LEAGUE

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves

OK, MOLLY, I HOPE YOU'RE HUNGRY. HERE'S DINNER.

TONIGHT WE ARE SERVING MASHED-UP CARROTS AND SOME MUSHY GREEN STUFF.

THAT'S NOT A WINNER. IS THERE A 2ND COURSE?

TIGER

by **BUD BLAKE**

Climb on up, Suzy.

I can't make it.

I give up.

Hey, lookit that snake!

Where?

Squid!

© 1974 by Bud Blake

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

MY GET UP AND GO HAS GOT UP AND WENT.

... AND IT DIDN'T EVEN INVITE ME TO GO WITH IT.

THANKS

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	5			7	9			
6	3		1				4	
		7		2				6
		5		9				3
	8		2			4		
7					5		1	
8					1		3	
		1		6		5		
	2		9				6	8

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!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINGOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

different. 4. Trap is missing. 5. Arm is missing. 6. Shirt is different. 7. Backpack is different. 8. Hat is different. 9. Sign is different. 10. Flowers are different.

May 29, 2023 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Modern taxi alternative
 5 911 responders
 9 ER workers
 12 Zero, in tennis
 13 Scurry
 14 Actor Kilmer
 15 Wharton Sch. offering
 17 506, in old Rome
 18 Charon's river
 19 Speedy
 21 Devil's domain
 24 Toppled
 25 Writer
 26 Circus gymnasts
 30 Call — day
 31 Kathy of "Misery"
 32 Pro vote
 33 "No worries ..."
 35 GI dining hall
 36 Cries of discovery
 37 Third rock from the sun
 38 Gantry of fiction
 40 Stable diet
 42 Napkin's place
 43 Coll. entrance considerations
 48 Oahu or Maui (Abbr.)

DOWN

1 Einstein's birthplace
 2 Short 'do
 3 Actress
 4 It had a big part in the Bible
 5 Jittery
 6 "Das Kapital" author
 7 Three, in Rome
 8 Sound systems
 9 Movie buff's purchase
 10 Sitarist
 Shankar
 11 Lost traction
 16 Roswell visitors
 20 Cleric's tunic
 21 It grows on you
 22 Initial chip
 23 Crime lab specimen
 24 Glenn of the Eagles
 26 Very small batteries
 27 Dol. fractions
 28 Try out
 29 Merit badge holder
 31 Endures
 34 Common title start
 35 Brick workers
 37 And so on (Abbr.)
 38 Yale students
 39 Cilium
 40 Elevator name
 41 "The Thin Man" dog
 44 Blackbird
 45 Tier
 46 Epoch
 47 Actor
 Waterston


Solution time: 23 mins.

U	L	O	V	E	R	E	M	I	T	S		D	R	S
M	B	A	V	E		G	R	A	E		D	V	I	
L	O	V	E		S	T	I	X		R	A	P	I	D
H	A	O	E	S		F	E	L	L					
I	N	N	A		B	A	C	H	O	B	A	T	S	
V	E	A		B	A	T	E	A	S		M	E	S	
R	E	S		T	A	S		Y		M	E	S		
A	H	A	T	S		E	A	V	A	S				
L	A	M	E	H		O	A	T	S					
S	H	E		P	I	S								
I	S	L		U	N	I	T							
N	O	R	A											
S	W	A	M											

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

4	5	2	8	6	3	7	9	2	1	5	6	4	7	8
6	3	2	1	5	9	8	4	7	3	6	2	5	9	4
1	9	7	4	2	8	3	5	6	2	1	5	7	9	4
2	1	5	7	9	4	6	8	3	7	4	6	3	8	5
9	8	3	2	1	6	4	7	5	4	6	3	8	5	2
7	4	6	3	8	5	2	1	9	8	6	9	5	4	1
8	6	9	5	4	1	7	3	2	5	9	4	1	6	8
5	2	4	9	7	3	1	6	8	4	7	5	2	9	1



Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MOVIES: When was the first "Star Wars" movie released?
2. GEOGRAPHY: In which body of water is Bermuda located?
3. TELEVISION: Who was the first host of the game show "Jeopardy!"?
4. ANATOMY: Which part of the brain controls balance and coordination?
5. LITERATURE: Which short story is described as the first modern detective story?
6. ANCIENT WORLD: Which two cities were destroyed by a volcano in 79 A.D.?
7. U.S. CITIES: What is the nickname of Albuquerque? (New Mexico) minor league baseball team?
8. FOOD & DRINK: What does "en croute" mean?
9. U.S. PRESIDENTS: What kind of farm did Jimmy Carter have before he became president?
10. AD SLOGANS: Which restaurant urges customers to "Eat fresh"?

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Trivia Test Answers!
1. 1977; 2. North Atlantic Ocean; 3. Art Fleming; 4. Cerebellum; 5. "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" by Edgar Allen Poe; 6. Pompeii and Herculaneum; 7. The Albu-querque Isotopes; 8. Food baked in a pastry crust; 9. Peanut; 10. Subway.

— King Crossword —
Answers

Barbers Hill Dayton Press

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

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THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Community Heart Screening in Cove

Date: Saturday, June 17TH
Time: 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.
Location: West Side Community Screening Building- 8138 FM 3246 Cove, TX 77523

Did you know?

- Sudden Cardiac Arrest is the #1 Killer of Student Athletes
- 1 in 300 youth have an undetected heart condition that puts them at risk for Sudden Cardiac Arrest

[Register Here for a Free Heart Screening](#)
REGISTER HERE FOR HEART SCREENING & PHYSICAL \$20



Senator Creighton's SB 17 Passes, Ending DEI at Texas Public Colleges

Austin, Texas—Today, the conference committee report on Senate Bill 17, which eliminates DEI at Texas public colleges and universities, was adopted. Senator Brandon Creighton released the following statement:

"Today marks a victory for citizens' right to free speech under the First Amendment, Texas universities, and our commitment to fostering true diversity and merit in higher education. The elimination of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion offices will result in millions in savings for taxpayers and restore a culture of free inquiry, meritocracy, equal opportunity, genuine innovation within Texas higher education.

The days of political oaths, compelled speech, and racial profiling in university hiring are behind us. Moving forward, Texas will prioritize the advancement of the most qualified individuals and endorse policies that promote diversity and equality for our great state.

I want to thank Chairman John Kuempel and the numerous individuals, students, and faculty members who made their voice heard throughout this process. I also want to thank Texas colleges and universities for their input and collaboration in this important legislation. Now that SB 17 is on its way to Governor Abbott's desk, Texas colleges and universities can refocus on their fundamental purpose of education and innovation."

Gov. Greg Abbott Signs CROWN Act into Law Banning Race-based Hair Discrimination

HOUSTON—The CROWN Act was signed into law by Texas Governor Greg Abbott on Saturday.

The legislation makes race-based hair discrimination illegal in Texas schools, places of employment and housing.

The Texas House gave initial approval 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 at Barbers Hill ISD, threatened with discipline in the 2019-20 school year if they didn't cut their locks.

Texas Representative Rhetta Andrews Bowers, who created House Bill 567, shared her excitement. "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 oppo-

sition, according to a witness list.

Anecdotal accounts of discrimination have emerged sporadically since the incident in Mont Belvieu drew international 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 restrictions in the dress code.

The students' experience 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.

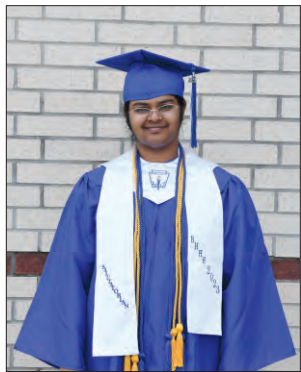
Harris County, the state's most populous, and the city of Austin have already passed similar local legislation.

The Senate approved the bill in May and the House passed it in April. The law takes effect in September.

Barbers Hill High School Class Of 2023



Sara Dixon, Valedictorian, she will be attending Georgia Institute of Technology with a major in Biochemistry.



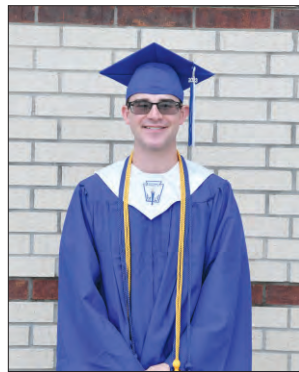
Fenecia Shaiju, Salutatorian she will be attending Rice University with a major in Biosciences.



Sophia Lannie is ranked Third, will attend Rice University with an undeclared major in the Wiess School of Natural Sciences.



Ryan Dagley Jr. is ranked Fourth, he will be attending Texas A&M (College of Engineering) with a major in Aerospace Engineering.



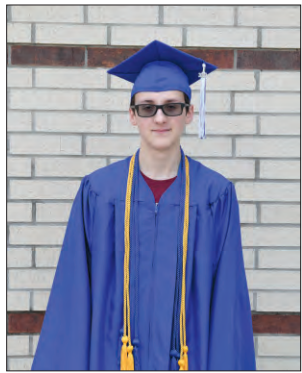
Ryan Northrup is ranked fifth, he will be attending the University of Texas at Arlington with a major of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering.



Michael Easley is ranked Sixth, she will be attending Texas A&M University with a major in Nuclear Engineering.



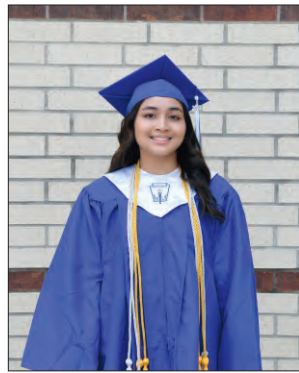
Alexis Ruiz is ranked Seventh, she will be attending the University of Texas at Austin with a major of Rhetoric and Writing with a minor in Law, Justice, and Society.



Aaron Thompson is ranked Eighth, he will be attending the Texas A&M with a major in Computer Science.



Avery Balderas is ranked Ninth, she will be attending the Texas A&M College Station with a major in pre-law.



Kerolyn Heng is ranked 10th she will be attending the University of Texas at Austin with a major in Business.

Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown

Does Pain Keep You From Walking?

Walking is hands-down one of the best forms of exercise, offering a host of potential mental and physical health benefits. It's easy and — other than the cost of a good pair of walking shoes — free.

"Unfortunately, pain in one of the many joints, muscles and tendons involved in walking can sidetrack even the most determined walker's routine," said Dr. Andrew Friedmann, an orthopedic surgeon specializing in foot and ankle surgeries at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital.

A sore back, aching knees, stiff hip, tender ankle or throbbing toe can make taking a stroll difficult. Fortunately, most common injuries are treatable.

Here are some injuries and conditions that may have an impact on your ability to walk comfortably:

Shin splints. Common in new walkers, shin splints are a pain in the lower leg. It may be caused by overstriding or wearing heels that are too high. **Plantar fasciitis.** Plantar fasciitis can cause severe pain and occurs when the tissue connecting the heel bone to the base of the toes becomes inflamed. "Walkers who exhibit overpronation (rolling the foot inward excessively with each step) may be prone to plantar fasciitis," Friedmann added. **Achilles tendon injuries.** The Achilles tendon — the thick tendon that connects the heel and foot to the back of the calf muscles — can become inflamed or even rupture due to repetitive stress, an accident or injury, or improper footwear. **Knee and hip pain.** Pain in the knees and/or hips may be the result of arthritis, an accident or



Dr. Andrew Friedmann

injury, inflammation or misalignment of the joints.

Foot pain. Bunions, toe fractures or ill-fitting shoes can contribute to aching feet.

"If you suffer from foot or ankle pain, walking can range from mildly or moderately uncomfortable to extremely agonizing. One of the simplest ways to prevent walking injuries is to wear comfortable, sturdy shoes that have a low heel and flexible sole. Avoid high heels and shoes that are too tight, too loose or

are old and have lost their inner support," Friedmann said.

Other tips: Stretch your calves and shins before you start your walk. Start off slowly and increase your walking speed gradually. Watch out for cracks, uneven areas or other obstacles on the sidewalk or walking path. Be aware of your surroundings and don't wear headphones (they can block out the sound of approaching traffic or bicyclists). Dress appropriately for the weather. Stay hydrated. Walk in a safe place, preferably with a walking partner (or take the dog along for company).

Studies indicate that a regular walking program (working up to at least five walks a week of at least 30 minutes each) may:

- *Enhance your mood.
- *Help you lose weight.
- *Help control blood pressure and cholesterol

levels.

- *Improve fitness and stamina.
- *Improve sleep.
- *Increase your energy level.
- *Lower your risk of certain diseases, such as breast cancer, heart disease and type 2 diabetes.
- *Lower stress.
- *Provide an outlet for socializing.
- *Reduce depression.
- *Strengthen your muscles and bones and reduce your risk for osteoporosis.

Be sure to consult your doctor before beginning an exercise program.

If you're experiencing pain in your joints, legs or feet, visit houstonmethodist.org/baytown or call 281.427.7400 to schedule an appointment with a foot and ankle orthopedic specialist at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital to see how they can help you keep one foot in front of the other.



Remembering Uvalde One Year later; Ending gun violence

One year ago, 19 students and 2 teachers were senselessly murdered, and 17 others were injured at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas—making it the deadliest school shooting since Sandy Hook Elementary in 2012.

No family should ever experience the pain of losing a loved one to gun violence.

As your representative, I've been listening to your voices and working tirelessly to address this issue. Recently, I conducted a district-wide text message survey on gun reform, and the responses were striking. An overwhelming majority of TX-29 residents expressed support for common-sense measures:

- 77% support an assault weapons ban.
- 92% support red flag laws.
- 94% believe domestic abusers should be disarmed.
- 95% agree that background checks should be required for all gun sales.

Last year, Congress took a significant step forward with the passage of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, signed into law by President Biden.

This law will save lives because it delivers the following:

- \$750 million for states to create laws that keep guns out of the hands of people who are dangerous to themselves and/or others;
- enhanced background checks for people under age 21;
- more than \$2.3 billion for school safety programs, mental health support for students, and improved learning conditions; and
- \$250 million in community-based violence prevention programs.

This is the most significant gun violence reduction effort in the last 30 years. But we must do more to protect families and children.

Progress is possible. I remain dedicated to fighting for comprehensive gun reform policies, including:

- Raising the age to purchase an assault rifle from 18 to 21.
- Strengthening gun storage requirements.
- Cracking down on gun trafficking.
- Outlawing high-capacity magazines.

When it comes to keeping our communities safe, there can be no debate. The time for action is NOW. I will always put the children of Texas and the safety of my constituents first. No child deserves to live in fear that they will become the next school shooting victim. Schools are meant for books, not bullets.

I won't stop until we are all safe from preventable gun violence.

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.*

Memorial Day 2023

In Flanders Fields

by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you, from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow,
In Flanders fields.



★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

Texas House Impeaches AG Paxton

The Texas House voted overwhelmingly to impeach Attorney General Ken Paxton Saturday, only the third time in the state's history that has occurred.

The Austin American-Statesman and numerous news outlets reported the chamber voted 121-23 to remove Paxton, 60, from office while he awaits a trial in the Senate during a special session yet to be called.

Last week a House investigations committee heard evidence from investigators and sent 20 articles of impeachment against Paxton.

The evidence presented by investigators against Paxton included a 2015 state securities case, an ongoing federal probe into his connection with campaign donor Nate Paul, an Austin real estate developer, and an extramarital affair he tried to conceal from his wife, state Sen. Angela Paxton, R-Allen.

Adding to Paxton's legal woes, a \$3.3 million settlement with some of his former employees who were whistleblowers fell apart after the House refused to approve paying it with taxpayer money. The case remains pending.

Rep. Andrew Murr, R-Junction, chair of the investigations committee, in closing remarks Saturday urged House members to vote in favor of impeachment.

"The evidence is substantial. It is alarming, and it is unnerving," he said.

Paxton called the bipartisan vote — 61 Democrats and 60 Republicans voted for impeachment — "politically motivated."

"The ugly spectacle in the Texas House today confirmed the outrageous impeachment plot against me was never meant to be fair or just," Paxton said in a statement.

BILL ENDING VEHICLE INSPECTIONS HEADS TO ABBOTT

Vehicles registered in Texas would no longer be required to pass safety inspections under a bill headed to Gov. Greg Abbott's desk, the Houston Chronicle reported.

House Bill 3297, sponsored by Rep. Cody Harris, R-Palestine, also creates a new annual \$7.50 inspection replacement fee that will be



added to annual vehicle registration fees. Thus, owners won't save any money but will not have to take their vehicle to a licensed inspection station.

The measure passed the Senate along party lines, 20-11, with the Republican majority arguing the annual inspections are a burden to residents without making Texas roads safer.

Sen. Nathan Johnson, D-Dallas, told his fellow senators that a recent study by the American Society of Civil Engineers found fewer highway fatality deaths in states with an inspection program.

"It found that states that have vehicle safety inspections have 5.5% fewer fatalities per year than states that don't have inspection programs. In Texas, that's 261 dead people every single year," Johnson said.

If Abbott signs the bill or allows it to become law without his signature, it will go into effect Sept. 1.

Texas is currently one of 15 states still requiring regular inspections. Although the statewide inspection rule is on its way out, vehicle emission inspections will still be required in 17 metropolitan counties.

HOUSE APPROVES CHANGES TO UNIVERSITY TENURE POLICIES

The House last week gave approval to a bill changing tenure policies at the state's colleges and universities, the Statesman reported. The lower chamber's measure differs somewhat from the Senate version, which would completely ban public colleges and universities from grant tenure to faculty members beginning in 2024.

The House version "provides a framework to the state's universities about what the Legislature expects regarding tenure, including how tenure is granted to faculty members, how tenured faculty are reviewed and when tenured faculty can be dismissed," the Statesman reported.

The bill now goes back to the Senate in an effort to work out differences in the two measures.

BUDGET WRITERS STRIKE \$321.3 BILLION TWO-YEAR DEAL

Budget writers for the Texas House and Senate have come to agreement on a \$321.3 billion two-year budget that includes \$12.3 billion for property tax cuts and provides considerable new funding for higher education, the energy grid, mental health and broadband, according to the Texas Tribune. The property tax reductions are dependent on passage of a constitutional amendment in November.

A \$15 billion supplemental spending proposal uses some of the state's record surplus to provide funding for a higher education endowment, enhanced retirement for public school teachers, border security, Medicaid costs and state debt reduction, according to the Tribune.

Both plans were expected to get floor votes in each chamber before session adjournment on Monday night.

BOATERS URGED TO 'CLEAN, DRAIN AND DRY'

Texans have begun heading to state lakes and waterways as Memorial Day weekend kicks off the summer boating season. Officials with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department urge boaters and paddlers to protect Texas lakes from invasive aquatic species.

"Memorial Day weekend is the unofficial kick-off to boating season in Texas, and while we want everyone to have a great time, we also want them to avoid giving free rides to invasive species and helping them travel to new lakes," said Brian Van Zee, TPWD Inland Fisheries regional director. "The best way to prevent the spread of many harmful aquatic invasive species is to clean, drain and dry your boats and equipment — every time."

The biggest threat to Texas lakes is zebra mussels and giant salvinia, which continues to spread to new areas of Texas. Other invasive species that can be spread include quagga mussels, crested floating heart, and water hyacinth.

Giant salvinia is now found on 27 East Texas lakes and numerous creeks, marshes and rivers between Houston and Beaumont, according to TPWD. Zebra mussels are now found in 36 Texas lakes and in rivers downstream of infested lakes,

TPWD urges boaters to follow three simple steps to reduce the risk of spreading invasive species: 1. Remove mud, plants and debris. 2. Drain all water from the boat and gear. 3. Once home, open all compartments and let everything dry completely for at least a week, if possible.

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

"Too Old"

My new friend, Betty Lou, started a book club, and she asked me to join.

I was delighted. I hadn't been in a book club for a long time. Because she is a librarian, Betty Lou knows better than most the importance of reading a variety of things and so, at the very first meeting, we read a graphic novel.

None of the members of this group are young, and this was the first graphic novel most of us had read. We weren't sure what to say about it.

"This book is very heavy!" one member finally said.

"It's a doorstop!" said another.

We all agreed we were not crazy about the weight of the book. I wondered if a book club should really be concerned with how much a book weighs, but I figured it was a legitimate concern if you could injure yourself by dropping it. And we did, eventually, get to what was inside.

There were a lot of pictures," I pointed out.

Since it was a graphic novel, this should not have been a surprise. Still, there were a lot more pictures than I expected, and I didn't want to look at them all. I wanted to get on with the story. But the story wasn't being told with a lot of words- it was being told with pictures. I realized this, but it didn't make me want to look at the pictures, it just made me want more words. I began to think that I was not a good reader for graphic novels.

"Are we just too old for this?" one of the members asked. The question hung in the air.

"It's an important story!" another member said, and we all agreed.

We talked about all the important things the book was saying, and we all agreed they were things that should be said.

"But shouldn't it be more entertaining?" I asked.

I felt a little like the boy pointing out that the emperor had no clothes. Everyone looked a little relieved. We all agreed that it should be more entertaining than it was -at least for us. We suspected other people (younger people) might have more fun reading this than we were.

I don't think of myself as being too old for very much. I know younger people are better at some things (anything involving technology), but I don't consider myself too old to learn.

Still, there might be things I am simply too old to enjoy. Graphic novels might be one of them. I'm not sure if that's a bad thing or not.

There are things I know I will not try because I am no longer young - skateboarding, for instance, video games, learning more languages or how to draw. Theoretically, I could learn to do any of these things, and yet I am pretty sure I will not.

It occurs to me it would be good to take at least one of those activities off the "Things I Will Never Do" list and move it over to the "Things I Just Started Doing" list. And yet my day already seems filled with the things I'm doing, things I already enjoy.

And so I'm glad Betty Lou got us to read a graphic novel, even if it was not my favorite book. Now I can say I've read one, and I am reminded that there are many ways of telling stories, even if not all of those stories are interesting to me.

It was a good reminder. It's just the sort of reminder you might expect from a librarian.

Till next time,

Carrie
To see photos, check out CarrieClassonAuthor on Facebook or visit CarrieClasson.com.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE:

Graduation Day at Crosby ISD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

quiet coffee time ... and spending precious moments with our loved ones.

I think a school year can best be painted with a picture. So, today, let's paint by numbers!

- Maintenance and Operations teams completed 3200 work orders this year. Wow!

- The Special Education Department was 100% compliant with our TEA Special Education audit. Great work!
- Our school nursing staff logged more than 33,858 office visits this year, seeing 5470 students across the District. Thank you for keeping our kids healthy!

- Nutrition Services served more than 2,400,000 meals this school year. That's a lot of brain food!
- Technology Services handled more than 11,000 work orders for the year. What would we do without you?!
- Counselors had more than 3148 office visits this year,

guiding 1368 children to make good choices and choose career paths.

- Our third graders dominated the "Read to the Final Four" competition by reading more than 12,000,000 minutes!
- You all cared for more than 6700 students. You watched them learn, nurtured them, coached them, fed them, and poured your

time and energy into them.

- Crosby ISD is 850 staff members strong. Each year, we prove we are stronger than any head winds that come our way. Our communities are better, because you put kindness into action each day.

I pray you have a wonderful summer. This is your time. Take every op-

portunity to unwind and reflect on the importance of our work. To the support staff and administrators working this summer, thank you.

Be safe. Be well. Happy Travels.

Remember, we are **#BetterTogether** as we are **#MovingForward**. Go Coogs!



Crosby High School graduates walk onto the field at Cougar Stadium for graduation on Friday, May 26.

HES students receive bikes from Rotary for perfect attendance,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Huffman man sentenced,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

red-handed and has now been sentenced to more than 17 years in federal prison," said Special Agent in Charge James Smith of the FBI. "We hope his lengthy sentence sends a clear message to others who think they can mask their criminal and corrupt behavior with their uniform, gun and badge."

On or about Dec. 5, 2020, Reyes escorted a tractor-trailer in a marked constable vehicle through Houston with the assistance of his then girlfriend, Priscilla Yvette Cervantes, 46, Huffman. They both

believed it contained 10 kilograms of cocaine.

For their assistance, Reyes received a total of \$6000 in cash.

However, the drug load was actually part of an undercover operation and included "dummy" or fake cocaine. Prior to the escort, Reyes and Cervantes had traveled twice to Lake Charles, Louisiana, to transport a total of \$350,000, proceeds allegedly from the sales of narcotics.

Reyes has been and will remain in custody pending transfer to a U.S. Bureau

of Prisons Facility to be determined in the near future.

A federal jury convicted Cervantes in October 2022. She has since been ordered to prison for 121 months.

The FBI conducted the investigation with assistance of Harris County Precinct 1 Constable's Office, Houston Police Department and Texas Department of Public Safety.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Carolyn Ferko and Heather Winter prosecuted the case.



GRADUATION PHOTOS, clockwise from above:

Graduate Mariela Rivera waves moments before receiving high school diploma.

JROTC cadets post colors as graduation ceremony begins at Cougar Stadium.

Superintendent Patterson hugs a graduate minutes before ceremony.



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MILLIONS OF TEXANS STILL NOT WEARING SEAT BELTS

TxDOT partners with law enforcement to urge everyone to “Click it or Ticket”

AUSTIN – It has been nearly seven years since Eden Ganzerla lost control of her car while driving to work and crashed into a retaining wall, breaking nearly every bone in her body. Since then, she has endured thousands of hours of physical, occupational and speech therapy, the result of one fateful decision to not wear her seat belt.

Ganzerla now struggles with a traumatic brain injury, speaks with the aid of a computer, and is slowly learning how to walk and talk again.

“Before the crash, Eden was very outgoing and talkative, living life to the fullest with her animals and friends,” said John Ganzerla, Eden’s father. “Now, she lives with us in Dripping Springs and is dependent on her mother and me for even the simplest everyday tasks.”

Unfortunately, choosing to not wear a seat belt is an all too common mistake in Texas. In 2022 there were 1,258 people killed who were not wearing their seat belt, a 2.5% increase from the year before.

“It’s critical for everyone to take just a few seconds to buckle up, every ride, every time,” said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. “Wearing a seat belt is one of the most important precautions motorists and their passengers can take to protect themselves in a crash. Whatever reason you may have for not buckling up, I promise it’s not worth your life.”

While more than 90% of Texans make the right choice to wear a seat belt, that still means 10% of Texans make the dangerous choice to stay unprotected on the road. TxDOT’s goal is to get 100% of drivers and passengers to wear their seat belt 100% of the time.

From May 22 through June 4, including Memorial Day Weekend, law enforcement from around the state will be working overtime ticketing motorists who are not buckled up. State law requires that every person in a vehicle be secured by a seat belt whether riding in the front or back seat. Fines and court costs for failing to fasten seat belts can add up to \$250 or more.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that the Click It or Ticket initiative has saved more than 7,399 lives, prevented more than 120,000 serious injuries, and resulted in \$28.5 billion in economic savings since its inception in 2002.

TxDOT’s Click It or Ticket campaign is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel to help end the streak of daily deaths. Nov. 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on Texas roadways.



COUNTY CONNECTION

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo



County Offers 10% Discount for EZ Tag Drivers of Two-Axle Vehicles

Here in Harris County, we know that transportation is not a luxury. That’s why Commissioners Court has approved to cut the toll road rates by 10% for two-axle vehicles. This will put more money in the pockets of our residents and taxpayers to spend on gas, groceries, and other essentials. The updated policy will allow those without bank accounts to pay for EZ tag fees using cash.

County Approves Climate Action Plan, Taking Significant Step in Our Commitment to Sustainability and Fighting Climate Change

Harris County takes the threat of climate change to our region and its residents seriously. That’s why Judge Hidalgo and Commissioners Court approved a bold Harris County Climate Action Plan (CAP). The CAP’s goal is to guide the County toward reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 40% by 2030 through emission reduction in our buildings, fleet and commuting, procurement, and waste management. The CAP was designed using nationwide best practices and crafted alongside community partners to transition our entire region and its residents towards a more climate prepared, environmentally just, and economically vibrant future.

County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council to Receive \$4.7 Million in ARPA Funding

Domestic Violence is connected to a third of the homicides in Harris County. To help families suffering the trauma of domestic violence and put a stop to related crime, Judge Lina Hidalgo and Harris County Commissioners in March made a historic commitment to the Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council with the award of \$4.7 million. With this award, the Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (HCDVCC) created a process to grant 20 community organizations this much-needed critical capital. These flexible funds will serve more than 3,000 families with over 6,600 individuals by providing direct financial assistance to support their immediate needs such as rental and utility assistance, safe hotel stays, moving assistance, car repairs, basic needs, childcare, mental health services, and legal services.

County Eliminates Library Late Fees

Harris County residents who check out a book from their Harris County-run public library will no longer need to pay library fees for returning their books after the due date. Harris County Commissioners Court passed a motion to make Harris County Public Library a fine-free library system which effectively eliminates fines for late returns of borrowed items. Research has shown that these fines tend to deter library use rather than influence people to return items on time, or even at all. Fines often only account for a small portion of a library system’s budget but are usually an administrative burden for staff.

Apply to Serve on a Harris County Board!

Did you know Harris County has over 60 boards and commissions that residents can serve on? From housing finance to local history, the boards cover a wide range of topics, and we’re always looking for candidates to fill these roles. Your work background or lived experience might make you a perfect fit. If you are interested in contributing to the success of the County by serving, we encourage you to learn about the county boards and fill out our online application! For more information, click here.

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