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WELCOME!
NEW
ODEDUCATORS

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THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE

Turner Chevy donates to Crosby Sports Assoc.

EVENTS Back-2-School First Day of Classes:

DISTRICT: DATE:
ALDINE AUG 10 THU
HISD AUG 28 MON

CROSBY AUG 7 MON HUFFMAN AUG 9 WED GOOSE CREEK AUG 14 MON GALENA PARK AUG 9 WED

CHANNELVIEW AUG 16 WED

DAYTON AUG 9 WED

BARBERS HILL AUG 16 WED

AUG 9 WED

SHELDON

Crosby B2S BASH Saturday, Aug. 5

Crosby ISD will hold a Back2School Bash at the High School, Saturday Aug. 5 from 9am to 1pm. Free Backpacks, Free Haircuts, Food Trucks, Petting Zoo, Bounce House, Student Performances, Houston Food Bank and more than \$10,000 in Fun Giveaways.

B2S Sales Tax Holiday Aug 11-13

Avoid paying the Texas Sales Tax (8.25%) on every purchase for school supplies, on August 11,12, and 13 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday). Savings includes clothing, footwear, school supplies, and backpacks - any item priced below \$100. Complete list of exempt items is at www.TexasTaxHoliday.org.

MILESTONES BIRTHDAYS

Jul 26–Elton Sanders Heidi J. Shepard Jul 27–Rick Galvan Timothy Lamm Jul 28–Lee Henning

Martin Hernandez Joyce Holleman Haley Jo Maxey Jul 30–Janis Parker Jul 31–Cliff McKee

Richard Turvil
Aug 1–Kenneth Boudreaux
Calvin Finnell
Mildred Miller
Randall "Oscar" Stone

Barbara Statts

Mona Bowman

Aug 2–Joe Luis Rodriguez

Katerina Horn

Katerina Horn Aug 3–Mrs.W.E.Gentry Nita Sloan

Aug 4–Stacey Glover Brittany Hahn Aug 5–James Bobalik

ANNIVERSARIESJul 26-Kenneth & Lisa

Boudreaux
Jul 29–Marcelino & Marie
Estrada
Jul 30–Johnnie & Barbara

Aug 1-Doug & Cathy Wagner Christina & Troy Woodall

Stotts

Aug 2–Rusty & June Ressler Aug 5–PeeWee & Patti Farmer

Aug 6–Sue & Steve Norris

Jan & Mike Gucker

DEATHS

Bobby Dean Horn, Jr., Dayton



Turner Chevrolet General Manager David Mendez and a Chevrolet representative are shown on the Minute Maid park giant scoreboard with the Donation Check to the Crosby Sports Association in April.

families and communities together to show their support. Turner Chevrolet Crosby and Chevrolet Youth Baseball & Softball are proud to participate in a sport that brings so many smiles to kids and families in Crosby." said David Mendez, General Manager for Turner Chevrolet Crosby. "Chevrolet believes in the power of play as a way for young people to build the skills needed to be successful in the future and supports the spirit of teamwork that baseball and softball instills in its players."

This is the eighteenth year of Chevrolet's Youth Baseball & Softball program and has benefited over 9 million players since it launched in 2006. Last year, more than 1,200 Chevrolet dealers participated across the country.

Turner Chevrolet Crosby will present Crosby Sports Association an equipment kit that includes useful items such as equipment bags, first aid

kits, batting tees, and ball buckets. The sponsorship also includes youth clinics featuring current and former MLB/MiLB players and coaches, or instruction from Ripken Baseball.

In addition, Turner Chevrolet Crosby will present a check representing a one-time donation to Crosby Sports Association. Sponsored leagues across the country will have the chance to earn additional funds to support the league as community members take test drives at their partnering dealership.

"Chevrolet designs and builds its vehicles with busy families in mind, featuring a comprehensive

See CSA DONATION, page 2

Crosby Superintendent explains new schedule

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families,

nity members to earn do-

nations for their league via

softball helps kids develop

skills like leadership, coop-

eration, and sportsman-

ship while bringing

"Playing baseball and

a test drive fundraiser.

The 2023-2024 Academic Year begins on Monday, August 7th. We are anxiously awaiting the return of our students. Our District Leadership Team has worked all summer preparing for the start of classes. We hope your family's summer break has been wonderful and refreshing. We're ready to teach and learn!

There is a lot that's new this year, so let's go into some detail about some of the biggest changes. The first thing to know is that the 2023-2024 Academic Calendar is a hybrid calendar, starting and ending the year with 5-Day Instructional Weeks and with 4-



SUPERINTENDENT PAULA PATTERSON

Day Instructional Weeks running September 8, 2023 – April 12, 2024. All of August will be a traditional structure with students in class Monday through Friday. This is a good stretch for students and staff to acclimate to the back to the school routine. Once we pass Labor Day, students begin to

have Fridays as Student Holidays. This four-day schedule continues through April 12th, which is approximately 27 Fridays. We switch back to a five-day week from April 15th though the last day of school on May 30th. The change back to a fiveday week avoids interfering with the testing season. We have a colorcoded calendar on our website www.crosbyisd.org/ backtoschool so parents can print it out and post on their refrigerators at home.

Also this year, school hours are changing at all campuses. Let's start with Crosby High School and Crosby Middle School. Hours on those two secondary campuses will be 7:10am until 3pm. For our elementary campuses and Crosby Kinder-



New Crosby ISD Motto and LOGO

garten Center, hours are 8am until 3:50pm. Our days are extended by 20 or 25 minutes, as we exceed the state mandate for required instructional minutes. Our hybrid Aca-

demic Calendar is nearly the same number of instructional minutes we've implemented in the last few years.

Continued. See CROSBY SUPERINTENDENT, Page 2

Highlands Horizons to hold Purse Bingo Aug 4



Highlands Horizons ladies pose for a group photo. They invite you to join them for their Purse Bingo Fri. Aug. 4

The Highlands Horizons will hold a Purse Bingo event on Friday, August 4, 2023 from 6pm to 11pm at the Baytown Youth Fairgrounds. Tickets are available on Facebook with a link to Eventbrite.

Pct. 3 sets Community Meeting Aug. 1

HIGHLANDS – Harris County Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey has scheduled a Community Meeting to discuss the 2024-2028 Consolidated Plan, and invites all interested parties in East Harris County to attend the workshop/discussion meeting.

The Community Meeting will be held Tuesday, August 1 from 4:30 to 7:30pm at the San Jacinto Community Center in Highlands, 604 Highland Woods Drive.

The goal of the meeting is to identify solutions for unmet needs, concerning infrastructure, housing, and homelessness. Citizens will be asked for suggestions involving these issues, to be incorporated

into Harris County's 2024-2028 Consolidated Plan, as well as securing crucial HUD (federal Department of Housing and Urban Develoopment) grant funding for the County.

Ramsey says that the public's active participation and voice are of utmost significance, as we strive together to create a better future for our community.

You can also particii-

pate online by taking the Consolidated Plan Survey. Use the URL bit.ly/HCCS-DConsolidatedPlanSurvey. Website http://csd.harriscountytx.gov/pages/consolidatedplans.aspx. Or send comments to: hcconsolidated at edplan@csd.hctx.net.

RACHEL'S DINER

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





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RV | Travel Trailer | ATV Motorcycle | Boat Personal Watercraft Loans



AED devices now at Crosby Little League fields



After many months of work we are happy to announce the placement of 2 AEDs at the Crosby Little League fields. One at the main facility and 1 at the caboose field and jogging track. Thank you to Cliff Reeves, Harris County Commissioner Tom Ramsey, Christy Sanders Graves and Melody Stephens for everything you did to protect our community from heart attacks and sudden cardiac arrest. Keep going big. Hopefully these lifesaving devices will be in place by fall ball. www.codystephensfoundation.org for more

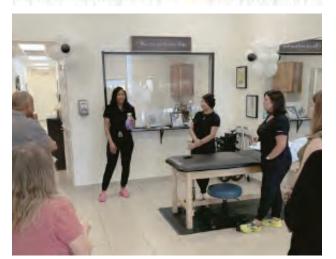




Business Networking Mixer



We want to THANK Absolute Pain & Wellness for hosting a Business Networking Mixer. The food and conversation was amazing! We took a tour of the facility and was amazed at all the services they offer right here in Crosby. Just a few of the things they offer are Primary Care, Chronic Pain, Physical Therapy, Botox, Weight Loss; this a just a few! They are located at 15107 FM 2100 in Crosby. Check them out at absolutepaints.com or their Facebook pagel





Crosby Superintendent,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We are pleased to offer our families childcare options on Fridays during our 4-Day Instructional Weeks. Crosby ISD has partnered with The YMCA of Greater Houston to launch childcare for students ages five and up at Crosby Elementary School on Fridays. Registration links are being sent out. We are happy to be able to offer 50% off the standard rate for one full day of childcare. Simultaneously, we are launching programs at Drew Elementary and Barrett Elementary, to offer high impact tutoring and after-school programs. Families of preselected students have been contacted already regarding their eligibility of these exciting new programs. These offerings are free, because Crosby ISD was awarded a grant as part of the 2023-2024 21st Century Nita M. Lowey program. The grant will support our creation of academic enrichment opportunities outside of regular school

We have also worked this summer to ensure Crosby ISD families who need food assistance have many options during the 2023-2024 School Year. We want to thank the Houston Food Bank for being huge supporters of our efforts in Crosby and Barrett Station. Here is what families can expect this year:

The Houston Food Bank will supply breakfast, lunch, and snacks for our students involved in the YMCA and 21st Century childcare programs. The meals include breakfast, lunch, and snacks on Student Holiday Fridays.

An expanded Backpack Buddy program. The Food Bank will provide an extra day's worth of food on Thursdays for students who qualify for the Backpack Buddies program. They will receive three days' worth of food to take home for the long weekend.

We are opening a 3. "School Market" in conjunction with the Food Bank. The market will be set up at Crosby High School every Thursday. The school market is set up like a small grocery store on campus, where families can easily access the items for home. The best part is that the "School Market" will be run by our students for our students and their families.

We are closing in on the first day of school, and we're throwing a partv to welcome our families. Don't miss our FREE Back to School Bash on Saturday, August 5 from 9am-1pm at Crosby High School. Students of all ages and their families are invited. We'll feature free backpacks, free haircuts, food trucks, student performances, a petting zoo, a bounce house, soccer fun with the Houston Dynamo, and more than \$10,000 in grocery gift card giveaways.

Finally, I wanted to share our District theme for the 2023-2024 School Year. We are Moving Forward! There's no looking backward. We are throwing away our rear-view mirrors. We are ready to create the future now, while celebrating our Crosby and Barrett Station traditions. We hope you join us on this year's adventure.

We are Moving Forward! Go Coogs!

LETTERS To The Editor

Highlands History Group closing soon, act now

The Highlands, Texas History group has been in existence for over 12 years and we have thousands of photos, files & memories of the great small town that we grew up in. We will soon be "pausing" the group for an indefinite period. If you are a member when it closes, you can still view the group content so we encourage you to join through the link below. (All membership questions and agree to the rules must be answered or your request to join will be declined).

https://www.facebook.com/groups/ Highlands.Texas/

--Cynthia Wotipka Boland

Donation to **Crosby Sports** Association,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

suite of available safety features: technologies that make the journey more comfortable and engaging for the entire family; and the space and flexibility needed to haul people and cargo. We encourage ev-

eryone to take a look at what Chevrolet has to offer," said Mendez.

For more information about Chevrolet Youth Baseball & Softball, please visit www.chevrolet.com/ youthsports.com.



Turner Chevrolet GM David Mendez at Minute Maid Park with check to Crosby Sports Association.





CONDADO DE HARRIS PLAN CONSOLIDADO 2024 - 2028 REUNIONES COMUNITARIAS

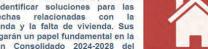
MARTES, 1 DE AGOSTO 4:30-7:30 PM

SAN JACINTO COMMUNITY CENTER

604 HIGHLAND WOODS DR **HIGHLANDS** ¡Te necesitamos!

Únase a nosotros para marcar la diferencia asistiendo a nuestras próximas reuniones comunitarias, donde nuestro objetivo es identificar soluciones para las necesidades insatisfechas relacionadas con la infraestructura, la vivienda y la falta de vivienda. Sus valiosas sugerencias jugarán un papel fundamental en la configuración del Plan Consolidado 2024-2028 del Condado de Harris, así como en la obtención de fondos de subvención cruciales del HUD (Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano) para el Condado. Su participación activa y su voz son de suma importancia ya que, juntos, nos esforzamos por crear un futuro mejor para nuestra comunidad.





También puede participar en línea respondiendo a nuestra Encuesta de planes consolidados; consulte la URL a continuación.











COMPROMISO Y PARTICIPACIÓN DE LA COMUNIDAD

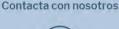
Complete nuestra



http://csd.harriscountytx.gov/ Pages/ConsolidatedPlans.aspx



bit.ly/HCCSDConsolidatedPlanSurvey







HARRIS COUNTY 2024 - 2028 CONSOLIDATED PLAN COMMUNITY MEETING

TUESDAY, AUG 1 4:30-7:30 PM

SAN JACINTO **COMMUNITY CENTER** 604 HIGHLAND WOODS DR **HIGHLANDS**



Join us in making a difference by attending our upcoming Community meetings, where we aim to identify solutions for unmet needs concerning Infrastructure, Housing, and Homelessness. Your valuable suggestions will play a pivotal role in shaping Harris County's 2024-2028 Consolidated Plan, as well as securing crucial HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development) grant funding for the County. Your active participation and voice are of utmost significance as - together - we strive to create a better future for our community.

You can also participate online by taking our Consolidated Plan Survey - see the URL below.













COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION







Complete Our

bit.ly/HCCSDConsolidatedPlanSurvey



& INSIDE HEB - Mont Belvieu, TX branches, we have planted our roots. 281-385-6455 || www.bhbank.net Independently Owned and Operated with Locations across Chambers and Liberty County!



Barbers Hill * Dayton

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

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THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2023

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Victim Identified in Fatal Hit-and-run on Highway SH 146 in Dayton

11402 Eagle Dr.

Mont Belvieu, TX 77523

DIVE-IN MOVIES AT THE WAVE POOL



WHAT TO BRING

Bathing suit Towel Friends & Family A couple of dollars for the concession stand

AUGUST 5 Luca Movie Cover LUCA (2021) PG | 95 minutes

On the Italian Riviera, an unlikely but strong friendship grows between a human being and a sea monster disguised as a human.

Movie begins at 7:00 Admission: \$10 each

MONT **BELVIEU 811** DAY + TOUCH-A-TRUCK

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2023 AT 9 AM - 12 PM811 Day + Touch-A-Truck Mont Belvieu City Park Details Event by Mont Belvieu Parks & Recreation Mont Belvieu City Park Duration: 3 hr Public · Anyone on or off Facebook FACT: Mont Belvieu has more underground pipeline than any other town in the United States! Join us at the Mont

Belvieu City Park on August 12th for a morning of fun & awareness. You'll find representatives from local industry leaders, info on how to start a project at home that involves digging, and lots of hands-on activities.

TOUCH-A-TRUCK

EXHIBITS Our Touch-A-Truck exhibits will feature local industry leaders, earth movers and heavy equipment used by MB Public Works, training and life saving apparatuses used by MB Fire & EMS, and MBPD plans to bring the noise with their

FUN & GAMES We'll have interactive

display.

games and exhibits for kids & adults! **FOOD** We'll bring out a couple

of our local food trucks to serve up some snacks & snow cones to keep us cool. 811 - Call before you

DAYTON - Two days aftermine the exact time of

ter the body of a deceased man was found along the southbound shoulder of SH 146 south of Dayton, authorities have now identified the victim of the fatal hit-and-run accident as William Thomas Wegner, 41, of Dayton.

Wegner's body was spotted by a passing motorist on Monday afternoon, lying in a roadside ditch. From the advanced state of decomposition, authorities believed he had been lying on the ground for at least a couple of days, though an autopsy was ordered to de-

death.

According to Capt. David Meyers, a spokesperson for the Liberty County Sheriff's Office, investigators have been diligently working the case since the body was found on Monday and they now have leads on the victim and driver believed to have caused Wegner's death.

On Wednesday evening, Meyers told Bluebonnet News that investigators are currently in the process of taking the suspect into custody and impounding the vehicle. The sus-



ACCIDENT SCENE ON HIGHWAY SH 146

pected driver is also from the Dayton area. Meyers said one of the explanations he has heard for Wegner riding his bike along the highway at the time he was killed is that he was on his way to pick up bottled water.

Wilson Diesel Repair Ribbon Cutting

BAYTOWN - Wilson Diesel Repair, located at 5750 North Main Baytown, TX 77521, celebrated its Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with the Baytown Chamber Ambassadors and staff. A Baytown business committed to providing reliable truck and auto repairs with integrity. Wilson Diesel Repair started their business five years ago in Huffman Texas, facing many natural disasters which took a toll on business, but has



Pictured left to right: Sherman Benson, Wayne Burton, John McKee, Karla Opryshek, Jeff Walters, Carmen Parris, Justin Wilson (Owner), Blythe Adam, Cristal Villegas, Michele Buitron, Darius Handy.

never failed to preserve and become a stronger business! A family-owned and operated business that takes pride in being an auto shop people can trust. Offering a wide range of services to provide safety to its customers, WDR follows through in providing the best service possible. Today Wilson Diesel Repair officially cut the ribbon! To find out more information call (281) 324-1843 or visit <u>wdrrepair.com</u>

Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown

Guys: 5 Signs It's Time to Talk to The Doc



Dr. Samantha Malave

Hey guys, can we get real for a minute? I know checking in on your health isn't always the first thing on your long to-do list. Guys, you are strong and resilient, but those annoying aches and pains you're ignoring could be much more than normal aging, so it's important to see your doctor regularly.

According to data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 13% of men over age 18 are in poor health and only about 28% meet physical activity guidelines. To make things worse, about one-third of men don't even have a primary care doctor. That's a recipe for sickness.

"Do not put yourself behind, when you work together with your doctor, we can spot any health problems before they become serious and keep you in top shape for everything you love to do," said Dr. Samantha Malave, a family medicine physician at Houston Methodist Primary Care Group at Baytown.

In the meantime, here are a few warning signs every man should take seriously.

SKIN CHANGES: SKIN CANCER White men older than age 50 are more than twice as likely as women to develop and die from skin cancer, yet when surveyed men admit to not wearing sunscreen or knowing cancer warning signs.

Look out for subtle skin changes, such as new growths, spots, bumps or patches. Take note of slow-to-heal sores or cuts and remember the ABCDE guide:

Asymmetry: One part of the

mole is shaped differently than the rest. Border: Edges of the mole are irregular or blurred. Color: Take note of moles that are more than one color. **Diameter:** Is it larger than a pencil eraser? Evolving: Note changes in shape, size or color

"During your annual check-up, explain to your doctor any mole or skin spot that worries you. We can examine the area and see if you need further testing," said Malave.

BACK NUMBNESS, TIN-GLING: STENOSIS, HERNIAT-ED DISK If it feels like your back is trying to tell you something, pay attention. If you experience tingling or numbness, this nerve superhighway could be on the way to herniated disks or spinal stenosis, which share symptoms.

The rubbery disks between the bones of your spine can give out over time, spilling their jelly-like center and irritating nearby nerves. This herniation can also cause ongoing pain along the sciatic nerve, which runs from the lower back down the leg.

Spinal stenosis is when the open spaces in the spine get narrower, putting pressure on the nerves and spinal cord. "The result can be numbness in the neck, back and arms as well as problems with bladder and bowel function," explained Malaye.

LEG PAIN, POPPING, OR SNAPPING: ACHILLES TEN-DON RUPTURE The cord connecting your calf muscle to your heel at the back of your leg is called the Achilles tendon. It can tear or stretch too far, usually during sports involving pivoting, jumping and sudden acceleration.

"See a doctor if you feel a sudden pain in your lower leg or hear a pop or snap. Treatment, which could involve surgery, is required," said Malave.

SHORTNESS OF BREATH: **HEART ATTACK** A heart attack doesn't always feel like a sudden, intense pain in your chest, so it's important to know other signals. Sometimes a heart attack can feel like pneumonia, asthma or fatigue. Shortness of breath may be your only sign to call 911 and get life-

saving treatment in time. Men are at a greater risk for heart attack than women, and at earlier ages. "Be especially aware of these symptoms if you smoke, are physically inactive or overweight, or if you have high cholesterol, high blood pressure or diabetes," said Malave. "All these things increase your risk of a heart

attack." URINE CHANGES: PROS- TATE PROBLEMS, CANCER Guys, if you've been rushing off to urinate more frequently or urgentlv or have trouble emptying your

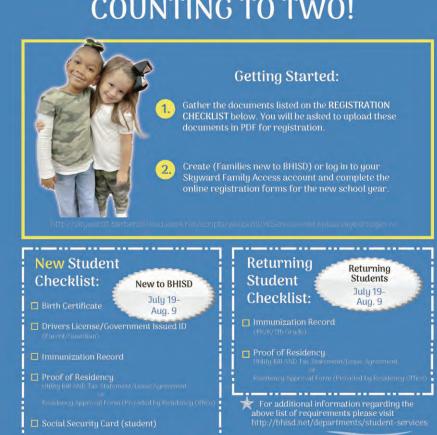
bladder, your prostate gland could be the reason and it isn't always cancer.

Conditions sometimes share symptoms, so having an enlarged prostate doesn't mean you have cancer or are more likely to get cancer. The most common culprit is benign prostate hyperplasia, in which abnormal cell growth causes the enlarged gland to press against the bladder and urethra.

"Don't wait — troubling symptoms like bloody urine, pain when urinating, or inability to urinate should send you to the doctor immediately so we can get you checked out," said Malave.

Need a primary care physician? Visit houstonmethodist.org/pcg/ east or call 713.441.7965 to make an appointment.

SCHOOL REGISTRATION MADE SIMPLE FOR YOU, IT'S AS EASY AS **COUNTING TO TWO!**



BARBERS HILL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

★ OPINION PAGE ★



By Dean Ridings CEO America's Newspapers

Local Newspapers are Good for Business

It's no secret that recent years have been tough on small businesses and on newspapers. A bipartisan bill, the Community News & Small Business Support Act, that has been introduced in Congress would offer relief to both newspapers and local businesses. For too many newspapers, help can't come soon enough. Economic challenges have resulted in too many communities seeing their local newspapers being forced to lay off staff, cut back on publication days or – worse yet – close. On average, two newspapers are closing each week. That hurts local businesses and residents in the long (and short) run. However, despite the challenges, what remains true is that local newspapers make a difference in their communities.

But, don't just take my word for it. Let's look at the numbers and why America's Newspapers has been pushing for the Community News & Small Business Support Act to be introduced.

A recent national study of 5,000 Americans over the age of 18 was conducted by the independent research firm Coda Ventures for America's Newspapers, and provides compelling evidence of the importance, relevance and vitality of today's newspapers in the American media landscape.

Readers told us that their local newspaper makes a difference. The study shows that 79 percent of Americans read/use local news "to stay informed" about their cities, counties and communities. They also said they rely on their local paper to feel connected to their community, to decide where they stand on local issues, to find places and things to do, to talk with people about things happening in the community, because they find it enjoyable/entertaining and to be a better citizen.

And, contrary to popular belief, readers across all age groups turn to local newspapers and their digital products to stay informed about their communities.

Readers also told us they need more local news from their community paper. As one survey respondent in California said, "Our paper keeps getting smaller. I would like to see more news items, what's happening in town, what's new in politics, etc. And they need to be quicker to respond to breaking news."

All of that takes a committed, local staff – something the legislation introduced by Congresswoman Claudia Tenney (NY-24) and Congresswoman Suzan DelBene (WA-1) will help to make happen.

So, what would this legislation mean to your local community?

Local businesses with fewer than 50 employees would receive a five-year non-refundable tax credit of up to \$5,000 in the first year and up to \$2,500 in the subsequent four years based on their spending level with local newspapers and local media. Our study showed that six out of 10 American adults use newspaper advertising to help them decide what brands, products and local services to buy. Newspaper readers also are almost twice as likely to purchase products from a number of important advertising categories than non-newspaper readers, including: automobiles, trucks and SUVs; home furnishings; home improvement products and services; and home services like pest control, plumbing, heating, etc.

With this legislation, we expect to see more businesses being able to afford to advertise to consumers, which – in turn – helps communities thrive.

For local newspapers, a five-year refundable tax credit would help them hire more journalists to bring you more news! It's a win-win for local communities. Newspapers would receive a tax credit to be used for the compensation of journalists. The credit would cover 50% of journalists' compensation in the first year and 30% of compensation (up to \$50,000) in the subsequent four years. This tax credit would only be available to local community papers with fewer than 750 employees and, if they don't invest in their newsroom, they don't get the credit.

And these tax credits are only available to local newspapers. National newspaper outlets are not eligible.

The importance of local newspapers and local business is the reason Reps. Tenney and DelBene introduced the legislation. We are most grateful for their support.

We need your support, as well, to encourage legislators to enact this legislation. Please contact the offices of your senators and representatives in the U.S. Congress and encourage them to add their support to this legislation. These tax credits aren't permanent; they will sunset in five years. But, these critical five years will allow the newspaper industry the time needed to address the challenges that it is facing from Big Tech, which often uses newspapers' content without compensation, as well as other technological and market challenges. Visit www.usa.gov/elected-officials for the contact information for your legislators.

More local reporting means more access for hometown news that citizens like you rely on. And stronger newspapers mean stronger advertising vehicles for local business-

On behalf of its approximately 1,700 newspaper and Solutions Partner companies, America's Newspapers is committed to explaining, defending and advancing the vital role of newspapers in democracy and civil life. We put an emphasis on educating the public on all the ways newspapers contribute to building a community identity and the success of local businesses. Learn more: www.newspapers.org

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

Tax-relief Plan Headed to Governor

Proponents are calling it the "biggest property tax cut in Texas history." Both chambers of the Texas Legislature passed an \$18 billion package during the second special session, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

If signed as expected by Gov. Greg Abbott, the bill raises the homestead exemption to \$100,000, with an additional \$40,000 exemption for owners 65 and older. It also dedicates more than \$12 billion to lower school property taxes.

Agreement on a tax cut plan took months of haggling between competing plans in the House and Senate. After House Speaker Dade Phelan and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick met, a plan began to fall into place.

"I thank my partners in the Texas Legislature for coming together to honor the best interests of hardworking Texans who want to own their property—not rent it from the government," Abbott said in a statement following the passage of the tax plan.

The Legislature adjourned after passage of the bill in the House. Another special session is likely in the fall to address Abbott's bid to enact a school voucher plan.

ABBOTT AIDE NAMED INTERIM ATTORNEY GENERAL

A longtime aide to Abbott was named as the second interim attorney general, replacing John Scott, who served in the role a little over a month. Angela Colmenero has been serving as Abbott's deputy chief of staff. Previously she worked in the attorney general's office for nearly a decade.

"John Scott faithfully executed his duties as the interim Attorney General of Texas, and I thank him for his leadership in stepping up to serve his fellow Texans in this role," Abbott said.

Ken Paxton was suspended from that position after being impeached on 20 counts by the House and awaits a trial in the Senate on Sept. 5.



Scott told the Texas Tribune that he will "return to working as a consultant, attorney and board member for a broad variety of companies." He previously

torney and board member for a broad variety of companies." He previously served as Abbott's secretary of state before returning to the private sector.

SECOND HEAT WAVE MEANS RECORD DEMAND ON GRID

The second heat wave of the summer means the state's power grid is breaking records for demand almost daily, the Houston Chronicle reported. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas is forecasting several thousand megawatts of excess supply, with demand late last week exceeding 84,000 megawatts. ERCOT manages the power grid serving about 90% of the state, except for part of East Texas and the El Paso area.

Excessive heat warnings have been issued for much of the state, with heat index values topping 117 degrees around the Houston area. Much of the state is also experiencing triple-digit temperatures with high humidity.

The latest heat wave is baking much of the Southwest, with all-time record highs expected in Phoenix, Las Vegas and Palm Springs, California.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS

EXPECTED TO EXPAND

A hotter and drier June for much of the state means 45% of the state may slip back into drought conditions, according to Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board. At the end of June, about a fourth of the

state was in drought, a marked reduction from winter conditions, thanks to ample rainfall. "The latest seasonal

drought outlook from the National Weather Service anticipates that drought will expand to cover most of central, southern, and West Texas by the end of September," Wentzel wrote.

However, the recent switch to El Niño weather conditions typically bring cooler and wetter-than-normal conditions this fall and winter.

FIRST CASE OF WEST NILE VIRUS REPORTED THIS YEAR

Public health officials have confirmed the state's first case of West Nile virus, occurring in Dallas County, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

The virus is transmitted through mosquito bites. Most people do not get sick, but about 20% develop symptoms such as headaches, fever, muscle and joint aches, nausea and fatigue. Less than 1% of those infected develop more serious symptoms, including death.

"It's important for people to be aware that there are many diseases transmitted by mosquitoes found in Texas," said DSHS Commissioner Jennifer Shuford. "Most of these diseases cause mild illness but in rare instances diseases like dengue or Zika can cause severe illness. We've even had a locally acquired case of malaria in Texas this year, which underscores the importance of taking precautions to prevent mosquito bites."

DSHS urges people when outdoors to wear long sleeves and pants, apply insect repellent, remove standing water in yards, such as in plant pots, and buckets. The state had 41 cases of West Nile disease last year with seven deaths.

STATE SLIPS IN BUSINESS-FRIENDLY RANKINGS

An annual ranking of the most business-friendly states in America has always included Texas among the top five, but not this year, the Texas Standard reported. The latest rankings in CNBC's report had the state coming in sixth, behind North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia and Minnesota.

and Minnesota.

The study has been undertaken since 2007. Business reporter Erica Greider with the Houston Chronicle cites several factors, including the electric grid, which averages about 20 hours a year without power on average in the state — third worst in the country. Other possible factors are quality of life issues, such as the environment and crime.

"It could be that maybe there's an element of, you know, the state's been coasting on its laurels because we've been so used to this growth and success that it's become a little bit less of the top line issue," Greider told the Standard.



"All the Flowers"

I was reluctant to come back from Mexico this spring, knowing it would still be cold and wet and cloudy. But I'd gotten used to looking for pretty things while in Mexico. I wanted to share the festivals and the art and the colors. I'd been taking pictures and sharing them on Facebook so my friends and family could see a little bit of the world that surrounded me.

Then I got back up north, and it seemed like everything had turned to gray.

"This is not a reason to stop taking pictures!" I thought.

And what I meant was that it was no reason to stop looking for beautiful things. My time in Mexico had trained me to be on the lookout for things that were interesting and lovely, and to share those things with others. I said it was for my friends and family, but it was really me who benefited most. I noticed more. I remembered more. I appreciated things more deeply when I took a picture.

So, I decided I would continue.

It was slow going at first. The first spring flowers poked their heads through the mud, and I took a picture. It didn't look like much on a gray day. But when I later looked at the little purple flowers up close on my computer, I saw details I hadn't noticed earlier, and I realized that, tiny as they were, they had a powerful beauty.

Then spring came in earnest. Suddenly, there were so many flowers to photograph, I started posting several photos a day. Every day, I walked by beautiful gardens and discovered new things that had emerged overnight.

Then it got very hot, and all the spring flowers withered and finished.

"Well, that was fun while it lasted," I thought.

But within a few days, the hardier summer flowers started making an appearance, undaunted by the heat. I saw enormous thistle flowers blooming, and the first sunflower burst open. There were hollyhocks and hostas and lilies in profusion. I kept taking

And here's the funny thing. I never really noticed flowers before.

My mother and sister are avid gardeners. Both of my grandmothers were. I have always been the black sheep in a family of gardeners—and I still am. I don't enjoy digging in the dirt. I don't have a green thumb. It always feels like work to me, and reading a book always sounds like more

But it turns out that I love flowers far more than I knew. I love the shapes and the colors and the varieties and the seasons. I love how some will take over for a while, commanding attention, and then they fade and something new comes to the fore.

And I know that none of it happens by accident. I now appreciate gardeners and gardening in a way I never have in my life.

"What's this called?" I ask when I post a photo. "Isn't this beautiful? Does anyone know its name?" And someone always does, and I learn something new and appreciate these flowers even more.

I will never be a gardener, and that's OK. Not everyone is a musician or a writer or an actor, but we all get to enjoy the music and the books and the plays they create.

I am now an avid fan of gardens. And, whenever I get a chance to see the folks responsible, I make sure to let them know.

"I've been watching your garden all summer," I tell them. "I took pictures!"

So far, they all seem very pleased.

Till next time. Carrie



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BOBBY DEAN HORN JR

June 12, 1970 ~ July 8, 2023 (age 53)

Reverend Bobby Dean Horn, Jr., 53, of Dayton, Texas, passed away, on Saturday, July 8, 2023, in Houston, Texas. He was born in Beaumont, on June 12,1970, to Bobby Dean Horn, Sr. and the late Julia Delores Knight. Bobby graduated from Robert E. Lee High School, in Baytown, class of 1988. He went on to further his education obtaining an associate degree, in humanities, from Lee College, in Baytown. Bobby was the Editor-in-Chief of the Crosby-Highlands newspaper the Star Currier for fifteen years before finding his true calling of sharing God's word. He was the current minister for Wild Country Mission in Livingston.

Bobby pursued many interests, some of which were reading his Bible, photography, birdwatching, watching baseball and collecting baseball cards. He was extremely



family oriented. Bobby was proud of his family and their accomplishments. He worked hard to make sure they were well taken care of. Bobby was compassionate, always looking at how he could help others. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who knew and loved him.

Bobby was preceded in death by his mother; his sister Claudia Gammon; his maternal grandparents Juanita and James Knight; his paternal grandparents Marvin and Josie Horn; and his mother-in-law Linda

Carwile. He leaves behind to cherish his loving memory his father; his beloved wife of twentyeight years Melinda Horn of Dayton: his children Katerina Rose Horn and Bobby Dean Horn III both of Dayton; his brother Frank Hatfield of Deerborn, Michigan; his father-in-law William Don Carwile and wife Pat of Dayton; his brother-inlaw William Daniel Carwile and wife Krystal of La Porte; his sisters-inlaw Sandra Davis of Livingston, and Amanda Olecki and husband James of Spring: along with a host of other loving relatives and friends.

A memorial service for Bobby will begin at 1:00pm on Saturday, July 15, 2023, at Wild Country Mission, 16245 N. Highway 146, Livingston, Texas 77351.

Condolences can be shared online with the family by visiting www.SterlingFuneralHome.com



SUMMER PET CARE

By Allan Jamail

July 18, 2023- Dog owners in Texas are being watched more closely now with the extreme heat wave bearing down on pets. Dogs must have free easy access to fresh cool water and must get at least one ounce of water per pound in normal temperature conditions. Dogs outside or going walking needs more, and on hot days, water bowls kept outside should be poured out regularly and replaced with cool water placed in the shade.

According to animal experts temperatures between 80-90 degrees means your dog is a lot hotter than a human because of the dog's hair. If a dog must get outside with those temperatures it should never be for long periods of time and then it should only be in the shade and have plenty of cool fresh water. Dog owners sometime fail to realize the pavement temperatures is hot on the dogs paws exactly as it would be on their own

 $Dog \ must \ have \ adequate \ shelter \ from$ the outside elements, which means a sturdy shelter and not a cardboard box. With enough room that allows the dog while in the shelter to stand erect, sit, turn around and lay completely down in a normal position. Dogs must be allowed to have shade from direct sunlight and or getting over heated and have an area which allows the dog to avoid standing in water and exposure from animal waste (urine and or feces).

A dog collar must be of a comfortable band width of material (not a chain) specifically designed for dogs that doesn't choke or interfere with its normal breathing or swallowing. Harnesses must be made out of materials specifically designed to fit comfortably.

Texas law forbids dog owners or those in custody of a dog to leave a dog outside unattended unless they have adequate shelter from inclement weather as, wind, rain, severe cold or hot weather, access to fresh food and water, and are not leashed (tethered) by a chain, weighted chain or object, or other unsuitable restraints. It also specifies that the length of an outdoor restraint must be at least five times the dog's length measured from the nose to the base of its tail or never shorter than ten feet.

The law does not apply to a dog left



Isaiah Jamail with Bloo, a 2 year old Golden Retriever. (Photo by Allan

unattended in an open-air truck bed that's not exposed to harsh weather providing it's only for a reasonable time necessary for the person responsible for the dog to complete a short temporary task. Nor does the law prohibit a person from walking a dog on a hand held leash on a surface that's not too hot for its paws.

Isaiah Jamail, a college student and son of parents Al Jr. and Rachel Jamail of Crosby make sure their pet dog Bloo is kept healthy and never exposed to high temperatures or freezing temperatures.

Isaiah said, "Never leave your dog unattended in direct sunlight or in a closed vehicle. Heatstroke can occur and lead to brain damage or death. Signs of heatstroke are panting, drooling, rapid pulse and fever. Immediately immerse the dog in cool water and seek emergency veterinary as-

"The outdoors exposes dogs to the elements. Dogs may need extra brushing and bathing to stay clean and healthy," Isaiah

Call your local law enforcement agency any time you suspect an animal's basic needs are not being met. Phone numbers to keep in your cell phone for reporting any $crime: Houston\ Police-713-884-3131, Har$ ris County Sheriff Office 713-221-6000, Jacinto City Police - 713-672-2455, Galena Park Police - 713-675-3471, Constable Pct. 2 Jerry Garcia - 713-477-4070, Constable Pct. 3 Sherman Eagleton - 713-274-

HIGHLANDS ROTARY **CLUB NEWS**



Rotary Club hears from Vietnam Veterans group

Rotary Club of Highlands TX

Ivan Berman and Rosendo Lopez with The Vietnam Veterans of Baytown visited our club today and shared the work they do for Veterans and their families. Highlands presented a donation to help with their efforts Thank you for your service



Rotary Exchange Student returns home to Belgium



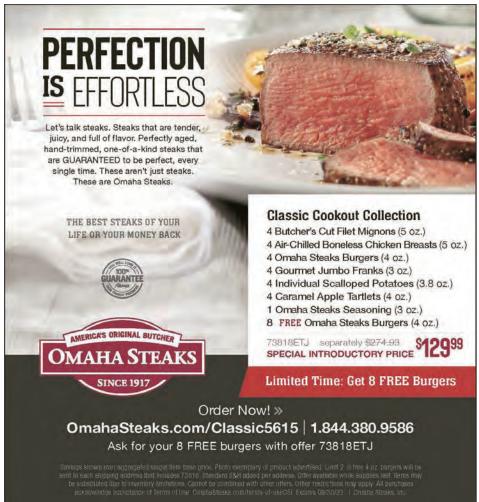
Rotary Club of Highlands TX

Axelle Vankeerberghen - July 19 at 2:45 PM · 3

Hi there Edouard is back home. Thanks to all of you for the extraordinary experience you offered him



ABOVE, an email from the mother of Edouard VanHove, the exchange student from Belgium, expresses their gratitude for the year spent in Highlands. The Rotary Club of Highlands has a long tradition of hosting exchange students from all over the world. Edouard attended Goose Creek Memorial High School while here, and lived with the Cotten and Teel families. He is from Pietrain, a small town near Brussels, Belgium. His family is seen in the photos above welcoming him back at the airport in Belgium.





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CISD Special Education department provides screenings for children with suspected disabilities in an effort to identify every student with a disability who lives within the district's boundaries. Crosby ISD is committed to providing excellence in education to all students, and the screenings are designed to help identify children who may qualify for the district's special education programs. Eligible students with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21 can be provided with services to ensure their successful participation in school. These services and supports may be provided through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act. Special education services are also available starting at birth for eligible children who have a visual and/or auditory impairment.

If you know a child who may be challenged with a disability, please contact the Crosby ISD Special Education office at 281-328-9200, Extension 1108. If the child is already a student in Crosby ISD, please contact the counselor at the child's school. The counselor will be happy to assist you.

The special education personnel will coordinate efforts to evaluate the student and, if eligible, ensure that the student is provided with supports and services needed to benefit from instruction.



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Margot Robbie stars as the title character in "Barbie" (2023)

"BARBIE"

Q: I just read that Margot Robbie has been married for several years. I've never seen her husband walking the red carpet with her at award shows. Who is he? — O.T. A:The twice-Oscar-nominated actress and star of the upcoming film "Barbie" has been quietly married since 2016 to film producer Tom Ackerley. They met a decade ago on the set of Robbie's movie "Suite Française" where he was the assistant director. The two now own a production company and have produced several of Robbie's films, including "I, Tonya." As for red carpet appearances, the couple did appear before photographers on the pink carpet at the world premiere event for "Barbie" at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. They'll also be producing partners for her upcoming film, a yet-to-be-titled "Ocean's Eleven" sequel. At only 33 years old each, the couple will hopefully have many more years together conquering Hollywood.

Q: Whatever happened to the older woman who was chosen as "The Bachelorette" and left early in the season because she found "the one"? Are they still together? — J.K. \mathring{A} : Only in Hollywood is 39 considered old, but that's how old Clare Crawley was when she was chosen by ABC to be their "Bachelorette" for season 16 of the show. She surprised viewers by quitting after just 12 days of filming because she said she already found her man — 31-year-old contestant Dale Moss. Alas, Crawley didn't find her happily ever after with him. The couple did get engaged, but had a rocky onand off-again relationship, finally breaking up for good in September 2021. After getting her heart broken, Crawley found love the following year with Mascot Sports CEO Ryan Dawkins. She told People magazine, "He's not after fame and ... he is so consistent and so vocal about how much he loves me." Crawley won't be competing on any reality dating shows anymore, since she happily said "I do" to Dawkins earlier this year and is expecting her first child, via surrogate, in January 2024.

Q:I'm really surprised

Carol Burnett didn't get nominated for an Emmy for "Better Call Saul." Isn't there a special category for guest-star parts? I thought she'd be a shoo-in. — G.M. A: Comedy legend Carol Burnett did a spectacular job in her impactful role on the final season of "Better Call Saul." However, according to Rolling Stone, she wasn't eligible for the Outstanding Guest Actress category because she appeared in "one episode too many" and was thus submitted for consideration in the Supporting Actress category instead. Alas, that category was highly competitive and saturated with actresses from "The White Lotus," leaving Burnett off the nominations list. "Better Call Saul" aired its series finale right after voting ended for last year's Emmys, putting it at a disadvantage for this year's nominations. Bob Odenkirk and Rhea Seehorn are contenders in their respective acting categories, and the ceremony is expected to air on Fox this September.

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

HULLYWUU II by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Is Disney bleeding out? Disney+ has drastically lost subscribers, and their stock value has dropped. Their last four recent releases have underperformed.

"Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania" (released on Feb. 17) only grossed \$476.1 million against a \$200 million cost, despite Paul Rudd being named as People magazine's "Sexiest Man Alive" back in 2021. Meanwhile, "Ant-Man and the Wasp" (2018) grossed \$623 million against its approximated \$200 million cost. "The Little Mermaid" (released on May 26) grossed \$547.5 million against its \$250 million cost. (The original 1989 animated version cost only \$40 million and grossed \$235 million.) "Elemental" (released on June 16) has only grossed \$311.7 million against its \$200 million cost, and "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny" disappointed over the Fourth of July weekend, grossing \$302.4 million against a \$300 million cost.

Come Sept. 15, we'll get the third Agatha Christie adaptation from Kenneth Branagh — "A Haunting in Venice" (with Branagh, Tina Fey and Michelle Yeoh). Nov. 22 will bring the animated "Wish," which features the voices of Chris Pine and Ariana DeBose. "The Marvels," starring Brie Larson and Samuel L. Jackson, is due on Nov. 10, and "Next Goal Wins," with Michael Fassbender and Elisabeth Moss, opens on Nov. 17.

Looking ahead to next year, a new liveaction "Snow White," starring Rachel Zegler, Gal Gadot, Martin Klebba and Andrew Burnap, comes out on March 22, 2024. "Captain America," with Anthony Mackie (as Captain America) and Harrison Ford, drops on July 26, 2024. "Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes" is due on May 24, 2024, and a live-action prequel of "The Lion King," starring Seth Rogen, escapes on July 5, 2024. Not the most exciting or inventive slate, but Disney has found that tried and true is their safest bet.

Has war been declared between the Hallmark Channel and the Great American Family network yet? It appears



Paul Rudd in "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania"

Great American Family has poached Hallmark bread talent Candace Cameron Bure and made her an executive at Great American. Danica McKellar, Jen Lilley, Jessica Lowndes and Trevor Donovan are among others who've joined Bure. Both stations ran Christmas movies in July nonstop, and while Great American has 21 new holiday films slated to start in October, Hallmark promises 40 new holiday films in October. In addition, Great American picked up the Hallmark series "When Hope Calls" for its second season and hired Lori Loughlin, who was dropped from Hallmark as a result of the college scandal that gave her jailtime, to star in "Fall into Winter," which premiered this past January. While the stars are nonexclusive, Great American is tying up their schedules with so much shooting that they won't have time for Hallmark films.

Happy birthday to the legendary producer Norman Lear, who turns 101 on July 27. The creator of "All in the Family," "The Jeffersons" and "Maude," among others series, has left a deeper impression on us than "King Lear!" (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.



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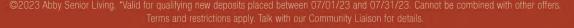
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