



BEST IN SHOW
Winners at the Crosby Bicentennial Car Show on Sept. 23 were Dan and Jennifer Meaux in their 1968 Ford Shelby Mustang. See MORE Below

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star Courier

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2023

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

Crosby/Huffman Chamber Luncheon & Board Election Thursday October 19

Monthly Luncheon and Yearly Board Election, Thursday Oct. 19 starting at 11:30am. Crosby Church, 5725 Highway 90, Crosby. Lunch catered by Teapot Depot, \$20 per member. RSVP to 281-328-6984 or email chamber@crosbyhuffmancc.org.

Annual Fish Fry at Highlands Methodist Saturday Oct. 21

You're invited to the Highlands Methodist Church 31st Annual Fish Fry, Saturday Oct. 21 from 11am to 2pm at the church, 107 W. Houston Street, Highlands. Catfish Dinners, Silent Auction, and Bake Sale.

Leadership Change at Crosby EMS

Christy Graves Retires; Gonzalez appointed new EMS Chief

Graves steps down from EMS post after 27 years of service

By David Taylor

CROSBY – After nearly three decades of service to the community, a Crosby icon has taken retirement citing exhaustion and a need for change.

Crosby EMS Chief Christy Graves announced her retirement on Thursday, September 21 after an extended vacation that provided some much-needed clarity for one of the most recognized paramedics in east Harris County.

"For many years I have dedicated my life to every soul in Crosby and Barrett Station," Graves said in a Facebook post. "I never once said no or even regretted the countless hours."

It was during her vacation at the end of August and early September, that Graves spent time with



CHRISTY GRAVES

her children and recognized the hectic pace and stress of her job.

"I began to realize that I wasn't getting any younger, and that I should take some time to enjoy my family life," she said in an interview on Sunday.

When Graves first became chief in 2004, the patient load for the EMS service was near 100 patients per month. Since then, it has tripled and instead of

one ambulance, they now staff seven.

"I have a daughter that's a senior graduating college this year and I came back with a clear mind and decided this was best for me. I found a great deal of peace on our vacation," she said.

In her years at the helm, Graves and her team accumulated numerous awards and accolades, but first as chief, she had to lead a successful campaign to keep the doors open with an initiative that guaranteed financial support.

She led an effort with then commissioners for a sales tax collection of one cent, which had failed two times prior, conducting townhall meetings giving a comprehensive plan of action alongside.

"We've been able to keep the tax rate under a penny as promised by continuing to shop local with small business within the district," she said.

The one-cent sales tax has supported the Emergency Services District all those years since.

"As Crosby and the surrounding area grows, so does demand for quality ambulance service," Graves said in a September 15, 2005, interview following the passage of the measure.

Even now, Graves has guided the EMS through growth that includes the con-



GERARDO GONZALEZ
New EMS#% Chief

CROSBY – Harris County ESD 5 would like to introduce the new Chief of EMS, Gerardo Gonzalez. Gerardo started with ESD 5 in 2013 and has held multiple positions within the agency including Field Paramedic, Captain, Clinical Director, and Deputy Chief. Gerardo has shown commitment, dedication, and the leadership skills necessary to serve as the leader of our organization. Congratulations to Gerardo Gonzalez on his well-deserved promotion!

Continued. See CHRISTY GRAVES RETIREMENT, Page 5

Crosby's Bond Election; FAFSA; CEF Donation; Health Museum

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families,

It's finally starting to feel like Fall! The arrival of the cooler temperatures makes many of us look forward to wearing jackets and light sweaters, sipping cocoa, and savoring the changing of the seasons.

Autumn also means election season. Election Day is approaching on November 7, 2023. Early voting begins October 23 and runs through November 3. Crosby ISD will have one proposition on the ballot. "Proposition A" will allow Crosby ISD to build Phase 1 of Middle School #2, build a new elementary school #6, and perform dis-



Paula Patterson
Crosby Superintendent

trict-wide repairs and renovations. We have held a series of town hall informational meetings since September, allowing voters and taxpayers to ask questions. Our next town hall will be:

Thursday, October 19
Community Town Hall
(Barrett Station) 6pm
Riley Chambers Community Center
808 Magnolia Ave, Crosby, TX, 77532

We have made our presentations available for review at our website: www.crosbyisd.org/BOND2023. We also have a sample ballot, polling locations, voting times, and frequently asked questions posted there.

October is Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Month, and we wanted to bring your attention to a new exhibit at The Houston Health Museum. I'm proud to serve on the Steering Committee for the "Drugs:



Crosby Education Foundation awards Crosby High School a check for more than \$24,000 to fund innovative teaching grants. In all, CEF donors sponsored more than \$75,000 in grants.

Costs and Consequences" exhibition here through June 2024. Through interactive displays and videos,

you can see the story of illegal drugs, view actual wreckage from a drug-related car accident, and see

the bedroom of a young teen who bought illegal Continued. See CROSBY SUPERINTENDENT, Page 5

Bicentennial Car Show Winners

Car Show was held at the American Legion Hall during the Crosby BiCentennial Event on September 23rd



Wayne Bragg won Best Interior at the Crosby Bicentennial Car Show for his 1967 Chevrolet Chevelle on Sept. 23.



Best Paint winner was Danny Oliver for his 1932 Ford at the Crosby Bicentennial Car Show on Sept. 23.



Judges Choice was awarded to Dennis Malek for his 1969 Chevy Camaro at the Crosby Bicentennial Car Show on Sept. 23.



Oldest Vehicle winner was awarded to Kerry Olderkamp for his 1923 Ford T-Bucket at the Crosby Bicentennial Car Show on Sept. 23.

Rotarians enjoy Halloween



HIGHLANDS ROTARIANS participated in the Senior Citizens Halloween lunch last week at the Highlands Community Center. Rotarians provided and served lunch, then played a friendly game of bean bag baseball with the seniors. A good time for all. Rotarians included Ricky Garcia, Connie Russell, Patricia Scott, Jennifer King, Martha Sutton-Lee, Cora-Lynn Miller, Mary Nelson, Charley Shiflet, and Denise Smith.

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Southern Cooking Buffet -- NOW OPEN
14280 FM 2100 (Across from Walmart)
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*APY=Annual Percentage Yield. Rates are available for new money and money currently on deposit with CRCU. Minimum \$100 deposit is required. Penalty for early withdrawal. Fees may reduce earnings. APY's, terms, and conditions are accurate as of 09/13/23 and are subject to change without notice. After the promotional period ends, the 9-month CD will renew at 12 months. Promotion does not apply to IRA and HSA CDs. Certificates of Deposit are non-transferable and non-negotiable. Offer subject to change or cancellation at any time. Please contact a representative for more details. CRCU membership required.

NCUA

GOOSE CREEK CISD NEWS

San Jacinto Elementary Hosts Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Garden

By: Susan Passmore

Following an uplifting version of “The Farmer Plants the Seeds” by the second-grade music students, directed by music teacher J. Danny Mejia, Luis Muñoz, principal of San Jacinto Elementary, welcomed those in attendance to the Planting Seeds to Grow Giants Garden Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

Nicandro Arguello, youth pastor of the Life Church, gave the invocation, and Julian Gerst and Mia Garcia led the pledges to the American and Texas flags. Muñoz introduced special guests, including ExxonMobil Baytown Technology and Engineering Complex (BTEC) representatives Aaron Stryk, Connie Tilton and Susana Muñoz, SJE’s Partner-In-Education through the Baytown Chamber of Commerce and sponsor of the garden. Also in attendance were Clifford Hatch, director of parks and recreation for the City of Baytown; Richard Clem and Jim Campisi, members of the Goose Creek CISD board of trustees; Dr. Randal O’Brien, Goose Creek CISD superintendent; Susan Jackson, deputy superintendent of curriculum and instruction; Dr. Anthony Price, assistant superintendent of operations officer; Karen Thomas, area executive director and other district administrators.

Also present were Goose Creek CISD Facilities Planning and Construction Department’s Brenda Garcia, Ed Martir and Bruce Riggs, who designed the plans for the garden; Clem Medina from L.A.N.; Kami Johnston, agriculture and natural resources coordinator for the Early Learning Academies; SJE staff members and Lalynda Clements, assistant principal;



San Jacinto Elementary principal Luis Muñoz (middle, with scissors) prepares to cut the ribbon on the Planting Seeds to Grow Giants Garden, sponsored by ExxonMobil BTEC.

Kirk Ehlig, art teacher, whose students decorated rocks for the garden; Harris County Resources representatives Sonya Fowler, Kristen Ballard, Cherease Glasper and La Danta Jack; MMS Contractors and parents of many of the students.

Patricia Fless with Harris County Youth Services spoke about her mentorship program, which includes 17 young men who will take care of the garden, including third graders Davis Martinez, Dominic Martinez, Walter Wittmer, Jashiah Bush and Ricardo Rodriguez; fourth graders Ethan Brathwaite, Lorenzo Gonzalez, Matthew Saucedo, Ethan Vega, Trent Williams, Giovanni Hernandez, Spencer Rigby and Malachi Smith and fifth graders Jahsiah Charles, Christian Gibbs, Michael Jackson and Rogelio Rodriguez. Her father, Fidel Tovar, also has volunteered his time to help with the garden.

In the Planting Seeds to Grow Giants Garden, also

called the Reflection Garden by the students, each flower bed is named to reflect a specific word, so that people who visit can connect with at least one part of the garden. The names are The Garden of Hope, The Garden of Happiness, The Garden of Friendship, The Garden of Strength, The Garden of Kindness, The Garden of Peace, the Garden of Control, The Garden of Compassion and The Garden of Remembrance.

O’Brien recognized ExxonMobil BTEC, long-time partner to Goose Creek CISD schools, for giving students the opportunity to learn about nurturing the plants and watching them grow.

“I’d like to thank ExxonMobil BTEC for generously donating to this project, which students, staff and the community will enjoy for years to come,” O’Brien said.

Aaron Stryk, public and government affairs manager from ExxonMobil, explained the purpose of the



Music students Nicholas De La Cruz-Guerrero, Madelain Garcia, Mia Garcia, Julian Gerst, Joselyn Gonzalez, Itsayana Granado Lerma, Florentina Juarez, Arielynn Mora, Rayne Roberston, Olivia Sandoval, Axel Valdivia, Alexia Valenzuela and Eliseo Villeda sang “Growing Smart” to conclude the program. After the ribbon cutting, guests toured the garden.

garden.

“I know this garden has been under construction for quite a while now, but I can tell you the idea was germinating several years ago when we found out about the new San Jacinto Elementary campus, and we wanted to figure out some sort of gift that would pro-

vide a lasting legacy for the students,” Stryk said. “And I just couldn’t think of a better opportunity to provide this garden, and I think the name of it is perfect as far as Planting Seeds for Growing Giants. And in all honesty, I love the values that they will instill, because, quite hon-

estly, every action, big or small, good or evil, all seeds are going to bear fruit, and I think this one is eventually going to reap a harvest. I think that’s also going to help us to raise up strong men and women of faith and character ready to make a difference in this world.”

Three Schools in Goose Creek CISD Recognized as America’s Healthiest Schools for Dedication to Student, Staff, and Family Health

Alamo Elementary, IMPACT Early College High School, and Harlem Elementary nationally recognized for implementing best practices in up to nine health categories.

Three schools across Goose Creek CISD are among the 781 schools nationwide to be named as America’s Healthiest Schools for the 2022-2023 school year. The recognition, awarded by Alliance for a Healthier Generation (Healthier Generation), a leading children’s health organization, honors schools’ dedication to supporting the health and well-being of students, staff, and families.



This year, Alamo Elementary of Goose Creek CISD was recognized in four topic areas, including:

- *Increasing Family & Community Engagement
- *Improving Nutrition & Food Access
- *Implementing Local Wellness Policy
- *Enriching Health Education

IMPACT Early College High School of Goose Creek CISD was recognized in three topic areas, including:

- *Improving Nutrition & Food Access
- *Implementing Local Wellness Policy
- *Supporting School Health Services



Harlem Elementary of Goose Creek CISD was recognized in the topic area for implementing local wellness policy.

“Goose Creek CISD is honored to receive this national recognition for our dedication to supporting the well-being of nearly 24,000 students and 4,000 staff and remain steadfast in our commitment to fostering environments where all members of the school community can learn and thrive,” said Amanda Kennington, GC-CISD Healthy Community School Coordinator.

This year, Healthier Generation continues to meet districts, schools, and educators where they are, recognizing it takes a considerable degree of effort to serve as a model of best practice in whole child health for students, teachers, staff, and community,” said Kathy Higgins, chief executive officer at Healthier Generation. “We commend America’s Healthiest Schools for demonstrating resilience and adaptability amid challenging times for our nation’s schools.

America’s Healthiest Schools remains one of the country’s longest-running, nationwide recognition programs honoring schools for achievements in supporting whole child health equity for students, teachers, and staff. Any school can connect with Healthier Generation to access training, resources, and technical assistance by visiting HealthierGeneration.org.

Visit HealthierGeneration.org/HealthiestSchools to view all 781 America’s Healthiest Schools for the 2022-2023 school year.

About Goose Creek CISD

Goose Creek CISD’s mission is “Developing the Whole Child.” Goose Creek CISD develops and enhances each learner’s intellectual, social, and emotional well-being facilitated by a highly qualified team committed to Growth, Community, Collaboration, Innovation, Success and Determination. The district’s vision states, “We empower every student with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in a global community.” Goose Creek CISD has identified five major goals in its strategic plan that focus on the following areas: academic performance, community engagement, operational excellence, organizational development, and financial stewardship.

About Alliance for a Healthier Generation

Alliance for a Healthier Generation is a leading children’s health organization that advances equitable whole child health. Driven by our passion to ensure that every mind, every body, and every young person is healthy and ready to succeed, our work has reached over 31 million young people across the country. To learn more and help make a difference, visit HealthierGeneration.org And Join us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.





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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2023

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Join Together to Support The Annual Days of Caring

Baytown, Texas (October 9, 2023) United Way of Greater Baytown Area and Chambers County is preparing for Days of Caring, the biggest service event of the year for the nonprofit. Volunteers from the community are encouraged to register for a project that will support the Baytown and Chambers County communities.

Days of Caring has been mobilizing volunteers throughout Baytown and Chambers County for more than 20 years, creating lasting change through the power of volunteer work. Volunteers help community resource providers expand their capacity to serve others, collectively lifting the community through volunteer service. Days of Caring is an extension of the work United Way seeks to do every day – supporting our community through collective action.

"Days of Caring is a great opportunity to connect with your community and make a difference in the lives of children and families," said the 2023 Days of Caring chairman, David Lehman, ONEOK.

Volunteers work directly with community organizations to do meaningful work that help them reach people in the Baytown area and Chambers County every day. From painting, landscaping, deep cleaning, to building and installing new wooden shelves, there is something for everyone. This year, volunteers can choose to serve on Friday, October 20th or Saturday, October 21st. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering for the Days of Caring, follow this link, https://volunteer.unitedwaygbacc.org/need/index?need_id=859511&need_init_id=8486

Need more information about Days of Caring? Please call 281-424-5922 or email admin@unitedwaygbacc.org.

Tumbling with Stacey Svegliato

Next session is Sept. 5th - Nov. 30 Experience the magic of gymnastics with the expertise of local tumbling expert, Stacey Svegliato, who brings over 30 years of coaching mastery to Eagle Pointe. From beginners taking their first steps to elite students aiming for the stars, Stacey's classes cater to a wide range of skill levels. Through her carefully crafted programs, your child will not only develop agility, motor skills, and flexibility but also discover the joy of movement in a supportive and encouraging environment. Join us for an unforgettable summer of growth and achievement!

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.
Ages 3-6 years old \$85 per tumbler per month

The 36th Lee College Foundation Gala

BAYTOWN, TX, Oct. 11, 2023 – The 36th annual gala hosted by the Lee College Foundation was a remarkable success that will go down in the record books. The glamorous event, held to honor the generous donors, raised an unprecedented sum of nearly \$225,000 with a record-breaking turnout of close to 400 guests.

This year, the celebration moved to the new Hyatt Regency Baytown. Guests toasted 55 years of the Foundation and student success – with the Fred Hartman Bridge as a picturesque backdrop for the festivities.

"It was indeed a great night. We could return to Baytown now that we have a venue large enough to hold all our foundation friends, both new and old," said Steve DonCarlos, gala master of ceremonies and past chair of the Lee College Foundation Board of Directors.



The 36th Annual Lee College Foundation Gala was held at the Hyatt Regency Baytown on Friday, Sept. 29

tors. "We raised a record amount of money for the foundation and had fun doing it"

The \$225,000 was made possible through ticket sales, sponsorships and proceeds from the live and silent auctions. The funds will be used to further the mission of the Foundation and the college's Student Resource and Advocacy Center (SRAC), which supports unmet basic needs such as childcare services, food, emergency aid and text-

book assistance.

"This demonstrates the college's comprehensive commitment to supporting students in all aspects of their educational experience, ultimately contributing to their overall success and growth," said Dr. Lynda Villanueva, Lee College president.

Breana Escobar, a recent Lee College graduate, was the evening's keynote speaker. She shared her inspiring story of success and how the

Foundation and the SRAC had a profound impact on her educational and career goals. The mother of two young children graduated from the Nursing program in August and is now a practicing licensed vocational nurse.

"I have the amazing opportunity to be considered the first college graduate in my family, and I can be the pioneer for my children," Escobar shared with the audience. "I can show them anything is

possible regardless of any obstacles. I am so grateful for Lee College. It will forever be a part of me."

During the 2023 academic year, the Lee College Foundation awarded nearly \$800,000 in scholarships to 824 hard-working students.

While the gala traditionally celebrates current donors, it is also an opportunity to bring in the next generation of individuals advancing Baytown's philanthropic mission. This year, the Foundation documented a 44% increase in sponsorships compared to last year's event. Additionally, 18% of the event's returning sponsors increased their giving levels, demonstrating the community's ongoing support for the Foundation's work at the college.

For more information about the Lee College Foundation and the various ways to give, visit the Foundation's website.

Creighton Statement on S.B. 1, Empowering Texas Families and Students with School Choice

Austin, Texas– Today, Senator Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) filed Senate Bill 1 for the 3rd called session of the 88th Legislature. He offered the following statement:

"Educating the next generation of Texans is a fundamental responsibility, and it is my belief that empowering parents with school choice will encourage competition, innovation and ensure that every student in Texas has the opportunity to find an educational path for their unique needs. S.B. 1 creates education savings accounts (ESA) up to \$8000 per student, providing Texas families the power to determine the best school for their child, with their tax dollars.

Currently, 31 other states and Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. offer school choice, and there is no reason Texas should not offer the same options to our students and families.

This bill provides \$500

million from general revenue, completely separate from the funds appropriated in S.B. 2. (public school funding), and will be administered through the Comptroller's office for approved education-related expenses, rather than the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

Senate Bill 1 works in tandem with Senate Bill 2, demonstrating that lawmakers can provide school choice options and lift up public schools. We will provide across the board pay raises for Texas teachers, infuse historic new funds into public education and school safety, and finally deliver education freedom for the 6 million students in Texas."

Key Provisions of Senate Bill 1:

*Students would be eligible to receive an ESA if they are enrolled in a public school or from grades Pre-Kindergarten – 12th, or enrolling in Pre-K or Kindergarten for the first time.



State Senator Brandon Creighton

*The Comptroller's Office will administer the ESA program and funding for approved education-related expenses.

*Robust fraud prevention and audits administered through the Office of the Comptroller

*The ESAs use general revenue, funded with sales tax and severance tax, and are not funded with Foundation School Program dollars allocated for public schools.

*ESA funds may be used only for the following educa-

tion-related expenses incurred by a child participating in the program:

*tuition and fees for a private school;

*purchase of textbooks and other instructional materials for a required course;

*uniforms required by a school;

*costs related to academic assessments;

*fees for a private tutor or teaching service;

*fees for transportation;

*fees for educational therapies or services provided by a practitioner or provider.

*Private schools must be accredited to participate

Eligibility:

*Students who are currently enrolled in a public or private school, or are entering pre-kindergarten or kindergarten for the first time.

Prioritization of ESA Recipients:

If there are more applicants than available positions in the ESA program, a certified educational assistance

organization shall prioritize eligible students in the following order:

1. 40% of the available positions will be prioritized for students that qualify for free or reduced lunch who attend public school last year or are entering PreK or Kindergarten for the first time.

2. 30% of the available positions will be prioritized for students whose parents earn between 185% and 500% of the federal poverty line who attended public school last year or are entering PreK or Kindergarten for the first time.

3. 20% of the available positions will be prioritized for students with a disability who attended public school last year or are entering PreK or Kindergarten for the first time.

4. 10% of the remaining available positions are available to students who attended public, private or homeschool to gain access to the ESA program.

Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown

What to Know Before Your First Mammogram

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and detection is key to successful treatment. Turning 40 means scheduling your first mammogram. You may know what a mammogram is and how important they are, but that first one can be intimidating. Here's some insight from an expert, Dr. Ana Benveniste, a breast imaging radiologist with Houston Methodist Breast Care Center at Baytown.

IT IS NOT AS UNPLEASANT AS YOU MAY IMAGINE.

"There's definitely pressure and possibly some discomfort during a mammogram," said Benveniste, "but the process is usually not painful and very fast."

IT WON'T TAKE VERY LONG.

The whole mammogram process is quick and easy, sometimes lasting only five minutes. After removing your top and bra, a technologist positions one breast

on the specialized X-ray machine. Next, the machine compresses the breast for a few seconds while the technologist takes an X-ray. This process is repeated two or three times for each breast.

YOUR TECHNOLOGIST WILL WALK YOU THROUGH EACH STEP.

Mammogram technologists are always female and completely professional. She clearly explains the process while maintaining enough casual conversation and keeping you stress-free.

YOU MAY GET CALLED BACK FOR MORE IMAGING.

"No one wants to get that call," offered Benveniste, "but sometimes the breast imaging isn't perfectly clear. Do not panic or assume the worst because the call back is often precautionary."

DO YOUR HOMEWORK WHEN PICKING A FACILITY.

The mammogram pro-



Dr. Ana Benveniste

cess itself may look the same, whether in a general imaging facility or one specializing in breast imaging. Many breast imaging facilities seem more spa-like, with a calm atmosphere and décor. But do make sure your mammogram is done in a breast-dedicated facility with up-to-date technology and read by a specially trained breast radiologist, an expert in diagnosing tumors. The radiologist will guide you to the most appropriate treatment options if necessary.

ASK FOR A 2D OR 3D MAMMOGRAM.

"With recent technological advances, a 3D mammogram provides a clearer picture of the breast," stated Benveniste. "This reduces the possibility of being called back for follow-up imaging and improves the chance of catching breast cancer as early as possible."

STICK WITH YOUR IMAGING FACILITY.

Staying with one imaging facility is convenient and ensures your doctor can easily access past mammograms when looking for any changes. It decreases the chance you are called back for extra images and allows for seamless communication between your doctor and the radiologist. You can request past images be sent to another doctor's office, but it's easier to research and find a specialized breast imaging center that you'll stick with.

IT'S WORTH THE PEACE OF MIND.

Lastly, remember that it

is much easier to treat breast cancer when it's caught early. Getting yearly mammograms is the best way to provide doctors with the necessary information, ensuring your peace of mind.

ADVANCED BREAST IMAGING AT HOUSTON METHODIST BAYTOWN HOSPITAL.

A recent addition to Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital is contrast-enhanced mammography. "This technology is used to determine the extent of cancer in newly diagnosed patients and monitor those undergoing treatment," said Benveniste. "It can also help screen women who are at a high lifetime risk for developing breast cancer."

You do not need a doctor's referral for a yearly mammogram screening if you're over 40.

To schedule, please visit houstonmethodist.org/breast-care or call 346.292.7465.

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OPINION

Mayor Sylvester Turner

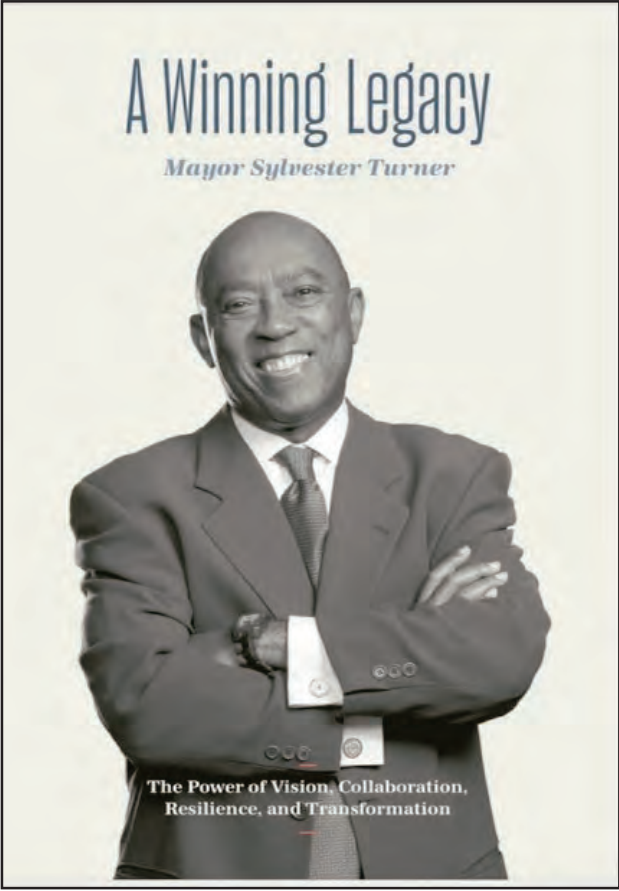


Mayor Turner’s 2023 State of the City

“I am proud of the city that I shall pass forward.”
--Mayor Turner Delivers Final State of the City Address

HOUSTON - Mayor Sylvester Turner delivered his eighth and final State of the City address Wednesday to a sold-out audience of 1,500 community members and business leaders. The mayor began his remarks by thanking Houstonians for their support and highlighting the work of all City of Houston employees. He gave special recognition to 35 outstanding municipal workers who have demonstrated dedication and passion for serving the public. A highlight of the event included the release of “A Winning Legacy,” a book detailing the mayor’s achievements and legacy of resilience and transformation during his administration.

A copy of the book is available online: [Download/Read the Mayor’s Legacy Book](#)



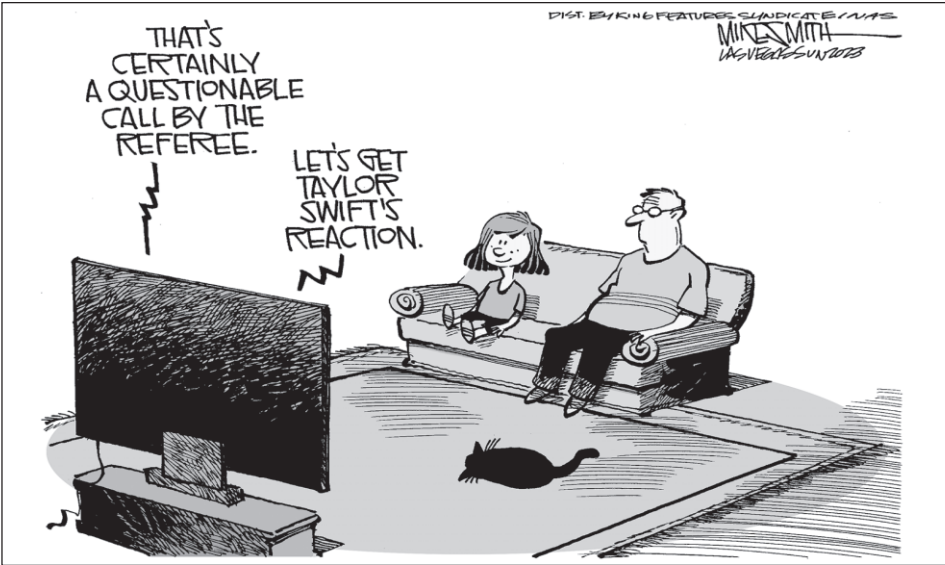
“Together, we have faced many storms – seven federally declared disasters in eight years. From floods or a freeze, from a Super Bowl or the pandemic, we rose and met the challenges of the day,” said the mayor. “From inequities in neighborhoods investments to billions of dollars in pension unfunded liabilities, from One Safe Houston to One Clean Houston, we confronted each issue head on and set the City on firmer footing.”

Speech Highlights:

- During the address, Mayor Turner announced the City of Houston and FEMA have reached an agreement on building a new municipal courts building damaged during Hurricane Harvey.
- His administration will leave a \$420 million surplus to the next mayor’s administration. When Mayor Turner was elected, the City faced a \$160M deficit.
- The City’s pension liability has been reduced from \$8.2 billion when he became mayor to \$2.2 billion.
- Houston will get nearly \$2 billion in the coming years to transform the convention center and the surrounding district, a project that will catalyze further development in that part of downtown.
- The Sunnyside Solar Farm will be operational in 2024.
- Groundbreaking of a new cutting edge Solid Waste Northeast Transfer Station to open in 2025.
- The North Canal Stormwater Project and the Lake Livingston Flood Water-gates in Kingwood are in the design stage.
- The I-45 Expansion Project is moving forward.

“We are diverse, yet inclusive. We are greener, more compassionate, more united, and more forward-moving than we ever imagined, but at the same time, we work every day to be inclusive. We are greener, more compassionate, more united, and more forward-moving than we can ever imagine,” said Mayor Turner. “What I can say to Houstonians is that I have given you my best, and I am proud of the city that I shall pass forward.”

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.*



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Abbott Ties Voucher Passage to Teacher Pay, School Funding

Gov. Greg Abbott, just hours after the Senate initially approved a school voucher measure, said he would add teacher raises and increased public school funding to the on-going special session agenda if the Texas Legislature passes his voucher plan, the Texas Tribune reported.

“I want to make sure we provide a carrot to make sure this legislation gets passed,” Abbott said of vouchers. “Once [education savings accounts] are passed, I will put on the legislative agenda full funding for public education, including teacher pay raises for teachers across the state.”

However, Democratic and rural Republican legislators remain opposed to vouchers, maintaining vouchers would drain funding for public schools, the Texas Standard reported.

“Every dollar that we spend on a voucher is going to be a dollar that is taken away from being able to invest in public education,” Rep. Stan Lambert, R-Abilene, said.

State Sen. Robert Nichols, R-Jacksonville, called Abbott’s approach a “political threat.” He said most constituents in his district would find it a hardship to send their children to private schools because of the distance and cost.

“Most of my constituents, even with an \$8,000 discount, the private school is probably so far away, they’re going to have to travel 30 or 40 miles to get to a private school,” Nichols said. “And they still won’t be able to afford the balance of what’s owed.”

The Senate bill initially approved would give families who opt for private schools \$8,000 of public money each year.

PATRICK: NO REASON TO RETURN PAC MONEY

Lt. Gov Dan Patrick says he has no intention of returning \$3 million in political contributions received from a political action committee whose leader met with an avowed Nazi sympathizer earlier this month, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

Former state representative Jonathan Stickland, now head of the Defend Texas Lib-



erty PAC, met with white supremacist Nick Fuentes for several hours, prompting a number of Republican lawmakers to donate money they received from the PAC to pro-Israel charities at the urging of House Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont.

Patrick and Phelan have been feuding for months, especially over the impeachment and ultimate acquittal of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton. Patrick called on Phelan to resign after the speaker demanded he return the \$3 million.

“I didn’t think even Dade Phelan would stoop this low,” Patrick said in a statement. “He has now absolutely hit rock bottom. His latest stunt is disgusting, despicable and disingenuous.”

Phelan pushed back. “I didn’t take \$3 million from a PAC that associates itself with Nazis and Nazi sympathizers. That’s not my problem,” he said.

TWO TEXAS CONGRESSMEN OPPOSE BULLET TRAIN

Two Texas congressmen are trying to stop funding for a bullet train from Houston to Dallas, the Houston Chronicle reported. U.S. Reps. Jake Ellzey and Michael McCaul, both Republicans, have asked the federal Department of Transportation to deny federal funding for the project, announced recently as a collaboration between Amtrak and Texas Central Railroad.

The proposed route of 240 miles would have a travel time of 90 minutes – less than half the time it takes to travel by car.

“At its core, this project is

intended to take land from American citizens and put it under the control of a Japanese company, which is itself subsidized using money from U.S. taxpayers,” the two congressmen wrote in part.

A number of Texas landowners have expressed concern about the route cutting through their farmland.

“Landowners deserve to have their land rights protected against the unrealistic and financially infeasible rail project proposed to be funded through these applications,” McCaul and Ellzey said in their letter.

ONLY TWO TEXAS UNIVERSITIES CRACK TOP 100

Only two Texas universities managed to crack the top 100 in the Wall Street Journal’s annual ranking, the Houston Chronicle reported. Texas A&M was ranked 38th, while Rice University came in at 64th. The University of Texas came in at No. 118, according to the rankings.

“To generate the rankings, the Journal partnered with research groups College Pulse and Statista to analyze a mountain of data, measuring everything from expected student salaries and years needed to pay for attendance to the quality of the school’s ‘learning-related facilities’ and on-campus diversity,” the Chronicle reported.

Twenty Texas colleges and universities made the top 400. Princeton University was ranked No. 1 overall.

MORE THAN 50,000 MIGRANTS BUSED ELSEWHERE

The state of Texas has bused more than 50,000 migrants to what Gov. Greg Abbott terms sanctuary cities since the launch of Operation Lone Star, his office announced. The migrants have been bused to Washington, D.C., New York City, Chicago, Philadelphia, Denver and Los Angeles since April 2022.

Enhancing border security is one of the items Abbott has called upon the Legislature to address in the special session now underway. He is proposing a law that allows all licensed law enforcement officers in Texas to arrest anyone who illegally enters Texas.

INCREASED FOCUS ON PEDESTRIAN SAFETY THIS MONTH

Last October marked the highest number of vehicle-pedestrian crashes, which is why the Texas Department of Transportation is pleading with drivers this month to be more aware of “our most vulnerable road users.”

“As we shift to fewer hours of daylight, it’s up to drivers and pedestrians to adapt and help keep our roads safe,” said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. “Motorists need to stay alert and look for people walking, and pedestrians can take measures to be seen by drivers who may be inattentive behind the wheel.”

In 2022, 5,764 traffic crashes involving pedestrians occurred in Texas, resulting in 829 deaths and 1,526 serious injuries.

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Talking to Dogs

It’s no secret that I love dogs.

I love dogs, and I don’t have one right now because, traveling as much as my husband, Peter, and I do, having a dog makes no sense. We know this. We have discussed this. There are times I would like to have a dog so much it makes my heart hurt. And then I realize how easy it is to get on a plane without worrying about the welfare of a dog, and I know we have—at least for now—made the right decision.

And so my solution is to talk to other people’s dogs.

I’m sure I’m not the only one who talks to dogs on my daily walk. I’d be surprised, however, if anyone was more enthusiastic about it. I am also (if I say so myself) very good at it. This is because I have a secret method for talking to dogs.

I start before the dog (and their person) have even met me on the sidewalk. I see them coming, and I make a little noise. It is my secret little dog call. It is a high little squeak, and every dog can hear it, and most of their owners cannot. This little noise gives me my edge.

The dog is alert. “That person is talking to me!” the dog says. It looks at me closely. If it has ears that go up, they are at attention.

“What a sweet pup!” I then say, loud enough for the owner to hear. There is almost no one who does not like to hear they have a sweet pup.

I imagine every one of these pups has been something less than sweet at some time or another (maybe just last night), and the owner of that dog appreciates a total stranger—with no investment in the matter whatsoever—confirming their bias that this is an obviously special dog, a dog well worth any trouble they might have caused.

At this point, since the dog and I have already been having a conversation and the owner is now looking at me, most dogs figure I am “A Friend.” If their owner was nervous around me or disinterested, some of them would pretend they were disinterested as well. But once their owner confirms that I am “A Friend,” the dog almost always rushes over to become better acquainted.

I try not to hold them up too long. I don’t stop runners because that seems rude. But most people strolling along with their dog don’t seem to mind me scratching their dog’s ears and maybe getting a dog kiss.

If the conversation is going well, I sometimes learn the dog’s name. Learning his name is Barney extends our meet-and-greet time because then I get to say, “Oh, Barney! What do you think of this weather?”

Barney is even more delighted because not only am I “A Friend,” I am “A Friend Who Knows His Name!” which is the very best kind. This seems to work equally well in English and Spanish, in the city or hiking through the woods.

Then I say goodbye, and I always thank the owner for sharing their dog. I go on my way, and I am aware—right there on my walk—that I feel better than I did before I met that dog. My heart is lighter. My step is quicker. My day, even if it was good already, has just improved.

So that is my secret for talking to dogs. It is also the secret to being a little bit happier every day.

Till next time,
Carrie

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

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CROSBY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

TEXAS

\$20 MILLION CROSBY MUD BOND ELECTION

November 7, 2023

• NO TAX RATE INCREASE.

• DISTRICT TAX RATE HAS DECREASED BY APPROXIMATELY 15 CENTS OVER LAST 10 YEARS.

• \$20,000,000 bond authorization, however bonds will be issued only on an as needed basis.

• Bond authorization is needed to repair and install water, sewer and drainage facilities to serve District customers and keep system in compliance with law.

• Early Voting by Personal Appearance is at Crosby Branch Library at 135 Hare Road, Crosby, Texas 77532, or at any of the early voting polling locations to be published on www.HarrisVotes.com the following days and times:
Monday, October 23 through Saturday, October 28: 7:00 am – 7:00 pm
Sunday, October 29: 12:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Monday, October 30 through Friday, November 3: 7:00 am – 7:00 pm

• November 7, 2023 Election Day Voting from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm is at Crosby Branch Library at 135 Hare Road, Crosby, Texas 77532, or at any of the polling locations to be published on www.HarrisVotes.com.

For more information, please see the District's website at www.crosbymud.org or call 281-328-4242. We strongly encourage you to vote at the election.

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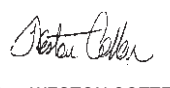
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 493382; Estate of CLINTON ORVILLE BOND Deceased; In Probate Court No. 1 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on OCTOBER 11, 2023.

YOUNGSUN BOND

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

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

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
Dated this OCTOBER 16, 2023


by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

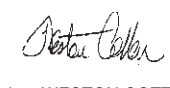
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 518893; Estate of RUTH G. STRAUSSER Deceased; In Probate Court No. 4 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on OCTOBER 2, 2023.

DONNA JOY STRAUSSER PILGRIM
SUSAN MARGARET STRAUSSER

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

c/o Weston Cotten
1500 E. Wallisville Road
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All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
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NOTICE OF ELECTION FOR PUBLICATION

To the registered voters of Crosby Independent School District, Texas: Notice is hereby given that the polling places below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on November 7, 2023 for voting in a special election to consider the following: Proposition A: The issuance of \$85,000,000 of bonds by the Crosby Independent School District for school facilities and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds. This is a property tax increase.

- Registered voters can cast their election day ballots at any vote center listed on the County’s website. Sites subject to change. Vote centers in the District are:
- Newport Elementary, Gym, 430 N. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, TX 77532
 - Crosby Elementary, Gym, 14705 Farm to Market Rd. 2100, Crosby, TX 77532
 - Crosby Branch Library, Meeting Room, 135 Hare Rd., Crosby, TX 77532
 - Harris County WCID 70, Main Room, 2935 Foley Rd., Crosby, TX, 77532
 - Crosby Kindergarten Center, Science Lab/Room 102, 805 Runneburg Rd, Crosby, TX 77532
 - Riley Chambers Community Center, Large Assembly Room, 808 1/2 Magnolia Ave., Crosby, TX 77532
 - Charles R. Drew Elementary School, Gym, 223 Red Oak Ave., Crosby, TX 77532

For early voting by personal appearance at the dates and times below, registered voters can cast ballots at any of the locations listed on the County’s website. Sites subject to change. The location in the District is Crosby Branch Library, Meeting Room, 135 Hare Rd, Crosby, TX 77532. The main location is NRG Arena, Hall D, Gate 9, 1 NRG Parkway, Houston, TX 77054.

October 23-28, 2023 ● 7:00 am – 7:00 pm
October 29, 2023 ● 12:00 pm – 7:00 pm
October 30-31, 2023 ● 7:00 am – 7:00 pm
November 1-3, 2023 ● 7:00 am – 7:00 pm

Applications for voting by mail should be received no later than the close of business on October 27, 2023. Applications should be sent to: Early Voting Clerk; mailing address: P.O. Box 1148, Houston, TX 77251; physical address: 1001 Preston Street, 4th Floor, Houston, TX 77002; phone: (713) 755-6965; fax: (713) 755-4983; ABBM email: vbm@vote.hctx.net; FCPA email: fpca@vote.hctx.net.

District’s website: <https://www.crosbyisd.org/>
County’s website: <https://www.harrisvotes.com/>

AVISO DE ELECCIÓN PARA PUBLICACIÓN

A los votantes registrados del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Crosby, Texas: Se les informa que los lugares de votación a continuación estarán abiertos de las 7 a.m. a las 7 p.m. el día 7 de noviembre de 2023, para votar en una elección especial para considerar lo siguiente: Propuesta A: La emisión de \$85,000,000 en bonos por parte del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Crosby para instalaciones escolares y la imposición de un impuesto suficiente para pagar el capital y los intereses de los bonos. Este es un incremento del impuesto a la propiedad.

- Los votantes registrados podrán emitir su voto el día de la elección en cualquiera de los centros de votación incluidos en el sitio web del Condado. Los lugares están sujetos a modificación. Los centros de votación en el Distrito son:
- Primaria Newport, Gimnasio, 430 N. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, TX 77532
 - Primaria Crosby, Gimnasio, 14705 Farm to Market Rd. 2100, Crosby, TX 77532
 - Biblioteca Sucursal de Crosby, Sala de Reuniones, 135 Hare Rd., Crosby, TX 77532
 - Distrito 70 de Mejoramiento y Control Hidráulico del Condado de Harris County (WCID), Sala Principal, 2935 Foley Rd., Crosby, TX, 77532
 - Centro de Jardín de Infantes de Crosby, Laboratorio de Ciencias/Sala 102, 805 Runneburg Rd, Crosby, TX 77532
 - Centro Comunitario de Riley Chambers, Salón de Actos Grande, 808 1/2 Magnolia Ave., Crosby, TX 77532
 - Escuela primaria Charles R. Drew, Gimnasio, 223 Red Oak Ave., Crosby, TX 77532

Para la votación anticipada en persona en los días y horarios siguientes, los votantes registrados pueden emitir su voto en cualquiera de los lugares identificados en el sitio web del Condado. Los lugares están sujetos a modificación. La ubicación en el Distrito es la Biblioteca Sucursal de Crosby, Sala de Reuniones, 135 Hare Rd, Crosby, TX 77532. El Lugar principal es la Arena NRG (NRG Arena), Sala D, Puerta 9, 1 NRG Parkway, Houston, TX 77054.

23-28 de octubre de 2023 ● 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
29 de octubre de 2023 ● 12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
30-31 de octubre de 2023 ● 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
1º-3 de noviembre de 2023 ● 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Las solicitudes de votación por correo deben ser recibidas a más tardar al cierre de operaciones del 27 de octubre de 2023. Las solicitudes deben enviarse a: Early Voting Clerk (*Secretario de Votación Anticipada*); Dirección para enviar por correo postal: P.O. Box 1148, Houston, TX 77251; dirección física: 1001 Preston Street, 4º Piso, Houston, TX 77002; Teléfono: (713) 755-6965; fax: (713) 755-4983; correo electrónico para una solicitud de una boleta de votación por correo (ABBM): vbm@vote.hctx.net; correo electrónico para una Solicitud de Tarjeta Postal Federal (FCPA): fpca@vote.hctx.net.

Sitio web del Distrito: <https://www.crosbyisd.org/>
Sitio web del Condado: <https://www.harrisvotes.com/>

CÔNG BỐ THÔNG BÁO BẦU CỬ

Gửi các cử tri đã đăng ký của Khu Học chánh Độc lập Crosby, Texas: Qua đây thông báo cho biết rằng các địa điểm bỏ phiếu dưới đây sẽ mở cửa từ 7 giờ sáng đến 7 giờ tối ngày 7 tháng 11 năm 2023 để bỏ phiếu trong một cuộc bầu cử đặc biệt để xem xét các vấn đề sau đây: Dự luật A: Phát hành các trái phiếu trị giá \$85,000,000 của khu học chánh độc lập Crosby cho các cơ sở trường học và đánh thuế ở mức đủ để trả tiền vốn và lãi của các trái phiếu đó. Đây là khoản tăng thuế bất động sản.

- Cử tri đã đăng ký có thể bỏ phiếu trong ngày bầu cử tại bất kỳ trung tâm bỏ phiếu nào được liệt kê trên trang web của Quận. Các địa điểm có thể thay đổi. Các trung tâm bỏ phiếu trong Khu Học chánh là:
- Trường Tiểu học Newport, Phòng tập thể dục, 430 N. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, TX 77532
 - Trường Tiểu học Crosby, Phòng tập thể dục, 14705 Farm to Market Rd. 2100, Crosby, TX 77532
 - Thư viện Chi nhánh Crosby, Phòng Họp, 135 Hare Rd., Crosby, TX 77532
 - Quận Harris WCID 70, Phòng Chính, 2935 Foley Rd., Crosby, TX, 77532
 - Trung tâm Mẫu giáo Crosby, Phòng Khoa học/Phòng 102, 805 Runneburg Rd, Crosby, TX 77532
 - Trung tâm Cộng đồng Riley Chambers, Hội Trường Lớn, 808 1/2 Magnolia Ave., Crosby, TX 77532
 - Trường tiểu học Charles R. Drew, Phòng tập thể dục, 223 Red Oak Ave., Crosby, TX 77532

Để đến trực tiếp bỏ phiếu sớm vào những ngày và giờ dưới đây, cử tri đã đăng ký có thể bỏ phiếu tại bất kỳ địa điểm nào được liệt kê trên trang web của Quận. Các địa điểm có thể thay đổi. Địa điểm trong Khu Học chánh là Thư viện Chi nhánh Crosby, Phòng Họp, 135 Hare Rd, Crosby, TX 77532. Địa điểm chính là Sân Vận động NRG, Hội trường D, Cổng 9, 1 NRG Parkway, Houston, TX 77054.

Ngày 23-28 tháng 10 năm 2023 ● 7 giờ sáng – 7 giờ tối
Ngày 29 tháng 10 năm 2023 ● 12 giờ trưa – 7 giờ tối
Ngày 30-31 tháng 10 năm 2023 ● 7 giờ sáng – 7 giờ tối
Ngày 1-3 tháng 11 năm 2023 ● 7 giờ sáng – 7 giờ tối

Đơn xin bỏ phiếu qua thư phải được nhận không muộn hơn giờ kết thúc làm việc vào ngày 27 tháng 10 năm 2023. Đơn đăng ký phải được gửi đến: Early Voting Clerk (Thư ký phụ trách Bỏ phiếu Sớm); địa chỉ gửi thư: P.O. Box 1148, Houston, TX 77251; địa chỉ thực: 1001 Preston Street, 4th Floor, Houston, TX 77002; điện thoại: (713) 755-6965; fax: (713) 755-4983; ABBM email: vbm@vote.hctx.net; FCPA email: fpca@vote.hctx.net.

Trang web của Khu học chánh: <https://www.crosbyisd.org/>
Trang web của Quận: <https://www.harrisvotes.com/>

選舉通知公告

致得克薩斯州克羅斯比獨立學區的登記選民：特此通知，於 2023 年 11 月 7 日舉行特別選舉，投票站的開放時間為上午 7:00 至晚上 7:00，以考慮以下內容：提議 A: 克羅斯比獨立學區為學校設施發行 85,000,000 美元的債券，並徵收足以支付債券本金和利息的稅款。這將增加財產稅。

登記選民可以在該縣網站上列出的任何投票中心投票。投票中心可能會更改。以下是區內投票中心：

- 紐波特小學，健身中心，430 N. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, TX 77532
- 克羅斯比小學，健身中心，14705 Farm to Market Rd. 2100, Crosby, TX 77532
- 克羅斯比圖書館，會議室，135 Hare Rd., Crosby, TX 77532
- 哈里斯縣水利控制改善中心 70，主室，2935 Foley Rd., Crosby, TX, 77532
- 克羅斯比幼兒園中心，科學實驗室/102 房，805 Runneburg Rd, Crosby, TX 77532
- 萊利錢商會社區中心，大型會議室，808 1/2 Magnolia Ave., Crosby, TX 77532
- Charles R. Drew 小學，健身中心，223 Red Oak Ave., Crosby, TX 77532

有權親自提前投票的選民可以在以下日期和時間以及縣網站上指定的任何提前投票網站進行投票。投票站可能會更改。該學區的地點是克羅斯比圖書館分館，會議室, 135 Hare Rd, Crosby, TX 77532. 主要地點是 NRG 競技場，D 廳，9 號門, 1 NRG Parkway, Houston, TX 77054.

十月 23 至 28 日，2023	早上 7:00 – 晚上 7:00
十月 29 日, 2023	中午 12:00 – 晚上 7:00
十月 30 至 31 日, 2023	早上 7:00 – 晚上 7:00
十一月 1 至 3 日, 2023	早上 7:00 – 晚上 7:00

通過郵寄投票的申請應在 2023 年 10 月 27 日營業時間結束之前收到。申請應發送至：申請應發送至： Early Voting Clerk; 郵寄地址: P.O. Box 1148, Houston, TX 77251; 實際地址: 第 4 層樓, 1001 Preston Street, Houston, TX 77002; 電話號碼: (713) 755-6965; 傳真號碼: (713) 755-4983; 郵寄投票申請的郵箱: vbm@vote.hctx.net; 聯邦郵寄卡的郵箱: fpca@vote.hctx.net.

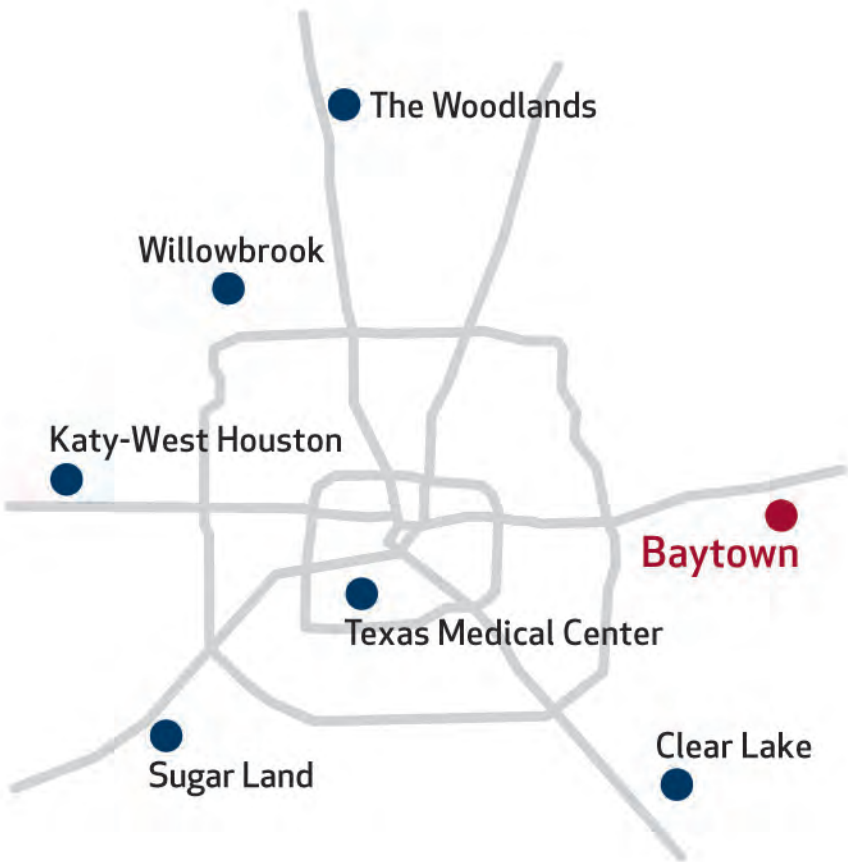
學區網站: <https://www.crosbyisd.org/>
縣網站: <https://www.harrisvotes.com/>



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