

EARLY RESULTS - UNOFFICIAL
 HUFFMAN ISD BOND \$92m - 58% FOR
 CROSBY ISD BOND \$85m - 33% FOR, 67% AGAINST
 CROSBY MUD Bond \$20m - 53% FOR
 Goose Creek Bond A \$342m - 42% FOR, 58% AGAINST
 Goose Creek Bond B \$24m - 34% FOR, 66% AGAINST
 Goose Creek Bond C \$20m - 35% FOR, 65% AGAINST
 HC HOSPITAL DISTRICT \$2.5b - 73% FOR
 HOUSTON MAYOR
 Whitmire - 44%
 Jackson-Lee - 36%
 Christie - 7%
 Garcia - 7%
 Houston Controller - Hollins 48%

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star Courier

Serving Highlands, Crosby, Huffman and Surrounding Communities since 1955 ■ www.starcouriernews.com

VOL. 70, NO. 43 - \$1.00 © Copyright 2023

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

Highlands/Lynchburg Chamber Luncheon Nov. 9

You're invited to the Highlands/Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce November Luncheon. This is an important meeting to further the efforts to revitalize the Chamber.

Jim Wadzinski will be the guest speaker. RSVP for \$15 luncheon, or \$20 at the door.

The Chamber will be conducting its annual food drive in November, and asks for non-perishable foods to be donated at the Community Center.

Also, membership payment are now due for 2023. Mail payments to the office, 127 San Jacinto Street, Highlands, TX 77562. Questions, email to highlandlynchburgchamber@outlook.com.

Holiday Dinner San Jacinto River Coalition Nov. 14

San Jacinto River Coalition will hold a Holiday Dinner on November 14 at 6:00pm at the Highlands Community Center, 604 Highland Woods Drive, Highlands.

Complimentary dinner, hosted by THEA, Texas Health & Environment Alliance. Updates on Superfund Site and recent accomplishments.

For more information see ad on Page 2 or call 281-315-5242. RSVP to info@txhea.org.

Crosby DAR chapter organized with history to boot

Chapter becomes 200th in Texas, on Crosby's 200th Anniversary

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Crosby's bicentennial celebration was the seed for many special events wrapped around the auspicious occasion and none more significant than the charter of the Crosby chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Named for Crosby's founder, the "Old Three Hundred" chapter, the national organization granted the charter on September 5, 2023, and it became the 200th chapter in the State of Texas. Perfect timing for the 200th anniversary of the town.

The timing was worked out perfectly by Alicia Spear who, while living in



Darrell Davis drives the 1939 Dodge antique fire truck with members of the Daughters of the American Revolution during the Crosby Bicentennial Parade and celebration.

Kingwood, joined the Lady Washington chapter after she moved to Texas from Virginia.

"I moved to Texas three years ago and have been a

DAR member in Stafford, Virginia since 2015," she said.

Her move was during the pandemic, and she was seeking connections in her



Members of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Old 300 Chapter, from Crosby ride along in the Crosby Bicentennial Parade.

new community.

"I joined the Lady Washington chapter which is the oldest and largest in Texas," she said.

She later moved to Cros-

by but found it difficult to get to DAR meetings because there were no chap-

Continued. See CROSBY DAR CHAPTER, Page 5

Crosby ISD and Houston Food Bank feed hundreds of families through Mobile School Market

Crosby, TX - Crosby ISD has partnered with the Houston Food Bank to provide free drive-thru grocery distribution every Thursday for community members in need in East Harris County. In the first two weeks of the operation of the Mobile School Market, hundreds of families have been provided much-needed food.

Since starting a four-day instructional week, Crosby ISD has expanded or added three different community outreach programs with the Houston Food Bank to alleviate food insecurity concerns for families in need in the district.



Crosby High School students volunteer for Crosby ISD's first Mobile Market at Cougar Stadium. Free grocery distribution will happen most Thursdays from 9am-Noon during the 2023-2024 School Year.

The Mobile School Market is a student-run distribution program, meaning Crosby High School students sign in families, bag food, and place the groceries in vehicles. Crosby ISD Superintendent Mrs. Paula Patterson says, "This new grocery giveaway defines our 'Portrait of a Graduate' for Crosby High School students. We want our students to be service-minded citizens when they leave high school. Becoming a center for food distribution in East Harris County is just one way we are teaching our students about community service. I am so proud to see our students put kindness into

action like never before." The free grocery distribution program will run most Thursdays from 9am-Noon during the 2023-2024 School Year. Families are asked to line up on the visitors' side of Cougar Stadium so they can be checked in before food is distributed. The Houston Food Bank does not share personal information with any third-parties.

The next distribution is scheduled for October 26, 2023. If any media outlet would like to take video or photos of our weekly event, please reach out to Crosby ISD Director of Communications, Mr. Brett Birkinbine.

County passes \$2.4 billion budget

Tax Rate reduced for 5th year in row

HARRIS COUNTY - County commissioners last week voted for a tax rate decrease for the fifth year in a row, as well as a \$2.4 billion budget for 2024. The vote was unanimous, and taken without the rancor that has accompanied previous budget measures.

Commissioners Court approved an overall tax rate of 53.03 cents per \$100 of assessed value. While that's down from 53.06 cents last year, taxpayers could still end up with a higher bill depending on increases in their appraised property values.

Commissioners also approved the county's operating budget for the upcoming year. Nearly two-thirds of the \$2.4 billion budget is dedicated to justice and safety, a spending plan that includes the sheriff's office,



County Commissioners voted unanimously for a 2024 budget of \$2.4 billion. Pictured above, Commissioners Briones, Ellis, and Ramsey. Not pictured, but voting in favor, was Commissioner Garcia.

the district attorney's office and a large court system.

The allocation reflects that public safety "continues to be a top priority," according to Democratic Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia.

Garcia also said in a statement the county was able to decrease the tax rate without "sacrificing our ability to rebuild our aging infrastructure, create a

workforce for jobs today and into the future, and combat the climate crisis with clean energy."

Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis, a Democrat, said the budget makes the most of limited resources.

"It represents a set of investments in a more just legal system, expanded access to health care, hous

Continued. See COUNTY BUDGET PASSED, Page 7

"Day of the Dead" celebration hosted at Sterling White

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

"Pirito" fought hard to live. He loved his family and was caught off guard by the deadly coronavirus like millions around the world.

Espiridion Lira Parga, born on Dec. 13, 1954, lost his battle with the deadly disease on April 22, 2021. His death was a shock to his family who hoped he would come home from the hospital.

When the pandemic hit the United States, there was panic and uncertainty as the world sought the best way to confront the deadly virus.

For Dora Lira, it was a terrible time as she watched her father struggle for nine months.

Continued. See DAY OF THE DEAD, Page 7



The Lira family gathers together to spend time with their father, son, grandfather Espiridion Lira Parga. Pirito, his nickname, passed away in April 2021 from COVID.



The traditional marigolds on the altar were created by the Crosby High School CTE Floral Design students for the event.

RACHEL'S DINER
 Southern Cooking Buffet -- **NOW OPEN**
 14280 FM 2100 (Across from Walmart)
 281-462-7349

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

WESTON G. COTTEN
 Attorney at Law
 O. 281/421-4050
 F. 281/533-6032
weston@westoncotten.com

STAR-COURIER PHONES: 713-266-3444 • E-MAIL: GRAFIKSTAR @ AOL.COM • FAX: 713-977-1188

Smile & Earn
 Reward Checking
 RECEIVE A **\$150 BONUS***
 WHEN YOU OPEN A FREE REWARD CHECKING ACCOUNT!

Visit creu.org/smile or scan QR code for details

Community Resource CREDIT UNION

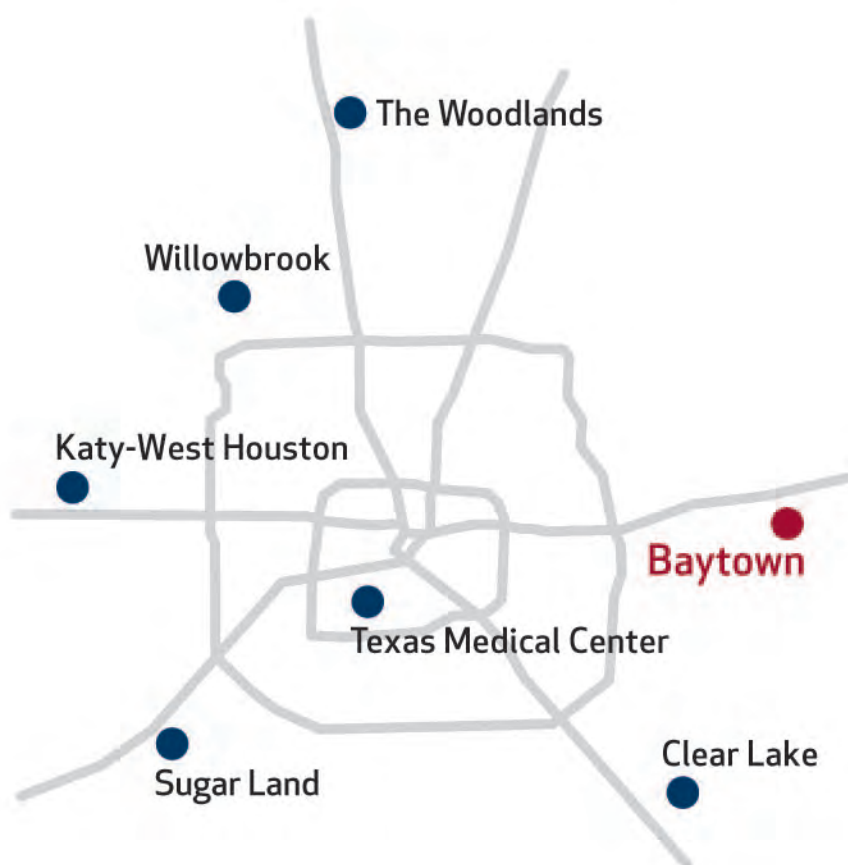
*For the \$150 bonus, a minimum direct deposit of \$400 per pay check is required. \$150 bonus will be made automatically after first direct deposit. If direct deposit is not made within 90 days, \$150 bonus is forfeited. Offer cannot be combined with any other offer and is limited to one \$150 bonus per new personal checking account per member. Offer does not apply to business or multiple checking accounts. Offer subject to change or cancellation at any time. Bonus may constitute taxable income for you. CRCU may issue an IRS Form 1099 to you. For new CRCU members only. Federally insured by NCUA



THERE'S A BETTER APPROACH TO CANCER CARE in Baytown

At Houston Methodist Neal Cancer Center, we treat every aspect of your cancer. Leading oncologists work with our specialists across disciplines to minimize cancer's effects on major organs. One comprehensive team — dedicated to your individual care — uses the latest research, treatments and technology to stop your cancer. From infusion and clinical trials to surgery and reconstruction, our innovative care is available in Baytown.

That's the difference between practicing medicine and leading it.



HOUSTON
Methodist[®]
NEAL CANCER CENTER

281.428.2273
houstonmethodist.org/cancer-baytown



Barbers Hill Press

Dayton

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

VOL. 28, NO. 43

© Copyright 2023

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Football Varsity District Playoff Game - BH vs. McKinney North

Date:
Nov 10 2023 7:00 PM

Location:
Barbers Hill Eagle Stadium
9600 Eagle Drive
Mont Belvieu, TX 77580

This game will be played at BH Eagle Stadium and hope the Eagles can come out on top.

BH enters round 1 with a record of 8-2 and McKinney North comes in with a 7-3 record

Christmas on The Hill Parade

Holiday traditions run deep in the south, and the Christmas on the Hill Parade is one of our most cherished Mont Belvieu traditions. This special event gives the community the opportunity to support our locals and 100% of the parade entry fees brought in from this parade are given directly to the West Chambers County Food Pantry right here in Mont Belvieu. 'Tis the season, so let's give back in one of the most meaningful ways we know how.

Parade info
The Christmas on the Hill parade will be at 6:00 p.m. on December 3, 2023.

2023 Entry Fees
Entry fees are \$50 per entry and an additional \$50 per vehicle included in your parade set up. (Truck + float is 1 entry - limit one float per entry)

2023 Parade Theme
The public has spoken - the 2023 parade theme will be **Gingerbread Village**. This is optional for your entry.

2023 Parade Awards
Best Spectacle - for the Best of the Parade

Deck the Halls - for the most creative entry

Most Festive Spirit - for the most entertaining

Santa's Little Helpers - for the best school

Gingerbread Architect - for the best theme-based float

Santa's Shop Award - for the best business

Community Favorite - public will vote during the parade

Attention Spectators!
Pick your favorite viewing spot on the Barbers Hill ISD side of Eagle Drive. The parade is best viewed from that side of the road and that's where all of the candy & hand-outs are given. Please stay off medians and remain behind the barricades for your safety.

LyondellBasell Launches New Brand Identity Reflecting Its New Company Strategy

October 30, 2023 — LyondellBasell (NYSE:LYB), a leader in the chemical industry, today revealed its new brand identity aligned to its purpose, "creating solutions for everyday sustainable living." The new brand includes a logo, tagline and visual identity and affirms the company's new strategy announced earlier in 2023.

"With our new strategy firmly in place, our employees are adopting new ways of working to generate innovative, value-enhancing solutions to



support our goals," said Peter Vanacker, LyondellBasell (LYB) CEO. "I am especially proud of our teams' recent accomplishments. This includes accelerating our value enhancement program targets and increasing our access to circular and renewable feedstocks through the development of integrated recycling hubs centered in Houston, Texas and Cologne, Germany. I believe our new brand identity will inspire employees by giving them a visual representation of

our vision for the future and a sense of unity toward our purpose and values."

As part of its new brand identity, LYB has also launched a new tagline, "Solutions for a better tomorrow". This tagline captures the company's dedication to creating products and solutions for applications in support of modern living, such as food packaging, healthcare, and transportation, and technologies that enable a circular and low carbon economy.

The good driver shoots quick glances in his rearview mirror fairly frequently. Why? Because he needs to know what's coming up behind him and how it might affect his own journey. Quick lane changes are safe when you are sure about the locations of other vehicles, crazy drivers are less of a hazard when you can anticipate their approach, and it's easier to get out of the way of emergency vehicles when you see them before they get up on your back bumper.

Checking the rearview mirror is important in life as well. Ideally, we should be taking those quick glances frequently as we go through the months, assessing the path we've left behind us. Even if we've not thought to do this, however, pausing for a life check in December can be



THOUGHTS FROM HILLSIDE CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice

In the Rearview Mirror

advantageous and set us up to start the new year right.

You're probably thinking I'm about to bring up the infamous New Year's resolution. I'm not. Honestly, those promises we make to ourselves can prove not only pointless, but downright depressing as they tend to be broken before the end of February. What I'm talking about is the road you've traveled and the miles that have yet to come.

Looking back at 2023, did you have some near

misses because of the way you handled certain situations? Did you occasionally stop and help someone who was broken down by the side of the road? If you got pulled over, perhaps by a doctor who alerted you to potential medical problems, did you take the warning seriously or did you go speeding on ahead as if there would be no consequences?

Most importantly, Christian, did you keep your focus where it belongs or were you constantly distracted by things that were

off to the side instead of "aiming high" as they tell you to do in Driver's Ed? If you were distracted, the path behind you is probably pretty crooked, with wild skid marks giving evidence of a course that was far from straight. You may have even taken detours that mean you are nowhere near as far along in your journey as you had intended to be.

That backward glance may leave you totally satisfied. On the other hand, it might not be so reassuring, but knowing where

you went wrong gives you the information you need to self-correct. It provides that "aim high" reminder to keep your focus on God. Staying focused on Him, and following the course He lays out for us, is what ensures that we will not only reach our ultimate destination but will accomplish those things He has planned for us along the way. Because yes, He has plans for us. He tells us so in Jeremiah 29:11 (CSB): "For I know the plans I have for you"—this is the LORD's declaration—"plans for your well-being, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

So I encourage you to take that backward glance today, to assess the path behind you and adjust accordingly so you can drive confidently into 2024.

www.myhillsidefamily.com
@myhillsidefamily

Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown

Breast Cancer Under 40: A Young Mother's Fight

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time to reflect on the prevalence and impact of this all-too-common disease. Breast cancer is the second most common cancer among women in the United States. While most breast cancers are found in women 50 years old or older, the disease can also affect younger women. Women such as 39-year-old Bambi Stewart of Mont Belvieu.

The single mother of three recalls the moment when her life took an unexpected turn. "It was Thanksgiving week last year. I just noticed some swelling in my breast," said Stewart. She immediately scheduled an appointment with her OBGYN, who first prescribed a week's worth of antibiotics to see if the spot might be an infected duct. But, after six days of the drugs, Stewart said nothing had changed.

"That is when he sent me to the Breast Care Center at Houston Methodist Baytown with orders for imaging," said Stewart. "The following week, I went for the mammogram and ultrasound and that's when they found five small tumors in my breast."

When Dr. Ana Benveniste, breast radiologist at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital, saw the tumors in Stewart's images,



she asked her staff to clear the next afternoon's schedule for a biopsy.

"We diagnosed Bambi with stage 3C, invasive ductal carcinoma. This is the most common breast cancer and makes up about 80% of all breast cancers," Benveniste explained.

On December 16, Stewart got the call with the di-

agnosis, and she was shocked. "I have no family history of cancer, and I wasn't even supposed to get my first mammogram for another year and a half. The swelling I experienced literally showed up overnight, so I really wasn't thinking cancer," said Stewart.

The new year brought



the beginning of Stewart's treatment. As a single mother of three, she opted not to tell her children initially but soon realized she needed to have the incredibly tough conversation.

"Finally, I took them to their dad's, and we sat them down together and told them. Of course, my 9-year-old and 11-year-old thought this meant I would die. I was careful not to make promises but told them that was not the plan and that we would fight. Our plan is to win," said Stewart. "My children are the inspiration for my fight, I have to be there for them."

Stewart's treatment plan included 20 weeks of chemotherapy and a mastectomy. Now, she is undergoing radiation, which she will complete next month.

"I have a hysterectomy scheduled because my cancer is hormone driven, and then I will take a chemo pill for two years," said Stewart.

Stewart has also made it her mission to educate as many people as possible about breast cancer, especially those who don't yet qualify for a mammogram or have no family history.

"God gave me a platform to share my story because there are people out there who will face this and have no idea what they will face. I want to be that friendly face that is there to help," said Stewart.

She also has advice for everyone, "Listen to your body. When you think something is wrong, be your own advocate and find a doctor who will listen to you and fight for you. I am thankful I had that with all of my doctors."

Dr. Benveniste agrees, "No one knows your body better than yourself. If you notice any change in your breasts - the shape, nipple changes, palpable findings or nipple discharge, please make an appointment with your physician. If you are 40 or over, be sure to schedule your yearly mammogram; it is a single, cheap and fast study proven to save lives."

For more information about breast cancer, visit houstonmethodist.org/cancer/breast-cancer. You can also call the Breast Care Center at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital at 346.292.7465.

OPINION PAGE

COUNTY MATTERS
Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo




Judge Lina Hidalgo reading letters of support on her return to work.

Glad to be Back

Harris County, it feels so wonderful to be home! I've been living with depression for a very long time, and this summer I finally sought the treatment that I needed. Right now I am feeling so lucky — lucky that I had the doctors to help me pinpoint what was wrong, lucky that I had the support system to help me get the care I needed, and lucky that you, the constituents that elected me as County Judge, have shown me so much support and understanding. The messages and calls I have received were so incredibly powerful and encouraging.

I know I'm not alone in facing depression. In our country, there's a perfect storm brewing when it comes to mental health. Even before the pandemic, mental illness was one of the most common health problems among adults in the U.S. As a result of COVID, in Harris County we saw an increase in substance abuse, and many residents reported heightened stress and anxiety. Two years into the pandemic, the Texas Children's Hospital recorded an 800% jump in children and youth intakes related to behavioral health. And in Texas, 62% of people living with a mental illness do not receive any treatment.

I am coming forward and speaking about my experience because I don't want other people to feel like they have to suffer in silence. I was fortunate enough to be able to get treatment, and I want to demystify mental health care so that others feel comfortable getting treatment as well. This month is National Depression and Health Screening Month, and there is never a better time than the present to seek help. If you are in need of mental health resources, please contact the Harris Center or your health provider. Below are some resources you can reach out to:

The Harris Center: You can call Harris County's 24/7 crisis line at 713-970-7000 or visit www.theharriscenter.org.

The National 988 Suicide and Crisis Line: If you know someone outside of Harris County who needs help, encourage them to call the National Crisis Lifeline at 9-8-8.

I know that my story won't singlehandedly change the way we think about mental health, but I hope it does bring us one step closer to ending the stigma. My journey fighting depression isn't over, but now I have the tools I need for the road ahead. I am dedicated to making those tools accessible to everyone in Harris County who needs them.

Sincerely,
Lina Hidalgo

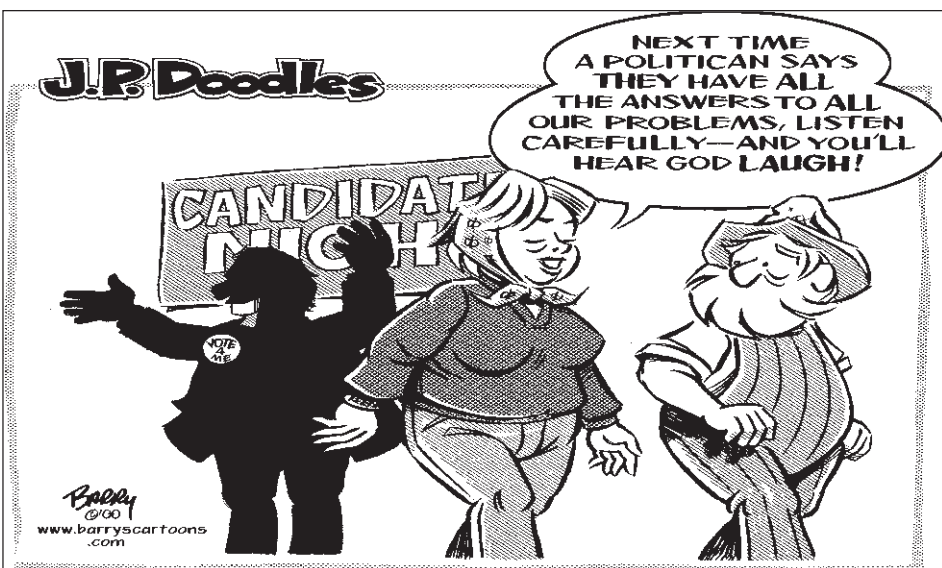
COUNTY NEWS
Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo



New Childcare openings created

Research shows us that kids who participate in a high-quality early childhood program are more likely to graduate from college and less likely to be involved in the criminal justice system, become homeless, or struggle with food insecurity. Despite this, there are not enough high-quality child care seats for kids in Harris County.

In October, Harris County Commissioners Court approved four awards totaling \$15.5 million to community organizations Children at Risk, the East Harris County Empowerment Council, VN Teamwork, Inc., and the YMCA of Greater Houston to form the Early Learning Quality Network. Together, the organizations will support and connect child care providers in establishing guidelines for high quality care in the community. The initiative is another piece of Harris County's much larger strategy to invest in early childhood education and quality child care. Based on other cities who have implemented similar programs, an estimated 4,000 children in Harris County will receive a higher-quality child care experience as a result of this program.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders



Special Session Likely to End with No Voucher Deal

As the clock ran down on the Legislature's third special session, Texas House and Senate leaders exchanged barbs over Gov. Greg Abbott's school choice bill and border security proposals, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

In a social media post, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said House Speaker Dade Phelan "wasted another special session" as that chamber failed to even consider Abbott's measure to use public money for private tuition, commonly known as vouchers.

The Senate early in the session passed a school choice measure that has gone nowhere in the House, where a combination of Democrats and rural Republican lawmakers have stood firm in opposition to vouchers since the regular session began in January.

Caught in the rift between the two chambers' leaders is a House border security bill that originally allowed law enforcement officers to expel anyone who illegally crosses the border. Patrick led efforts in the Senate to change the bill to require officers to hand over illegal migrants to federal authorities.

"The Speaker is desperate to improve his border credentials with conservatives and sent the House version of HB4 over to the Senate," Patrick said. "The bill's author claimed it's the toughest border bill ever, but it is simply a Texas-sized catch-and-release bill."

Phelan called the Senate's revamped version "a long-term, state-funded hospitality program for illegal immigrants" and said the House would not accept the Senate's version, the Statesman reported.

Abbott is considered likely soon to call a fourth special session.

PAXTON'S SECURITIES FRAUD TRIAL SET FOR APRIL 15

More than eight years after being charged with securities fraud, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton will go to trial in Houston on April 15, according to the Texas Tribune. State District Judge Andrea Beall scheduled the



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

trial during a hearing last week. Paxton is accused of trying to solicit investors in a McKinney technology company without disclosing the company was paying him to promote its stock, a charge he has denied.

Paxton was acquitted in September in an impeachment trial in the Senate.

Beall also ruled last week that Collin County must pay special prosecutors \$300 an hour for their work in the case. The county had attempted to limit their pay to \$2,000 total, according to The Dallas Morning News. The judge called that amount "wholly unreasonable" and "arbitrary and capricious." The legal fees have been estimated in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Paxton could face up to 99 in years in prison if convicted of the most serious charges.

TEXAS IS WORLD'S BITCOIN MINING CAPITAL

For better or worse, Texas is now the Bitcoin mining capital of the world, which could have an impact on the ERCOT-run power grid, according to The News.

Bitcoin mining requires vast amounts of electricity. Companies are also earning millions of dollars in energy credits by voluntarily shutting down when the grid is reaching capacity. For example, a large-scale Bitcoin operation in Rockdale received \$31.7 million in energy credits for powering down — nearly four times what it made actually mining Bitcoin that month, according to Texas Monthly.

Bitcoin mining companies

in Texas now account for about half of all Bitcoin mining in the United States, which also makes it the world leader. Bitcoin mining accounts for up to 3% of industrial power usage in Texas, according to The News.

TEXAS JOB GROWTH FALLS BELOW NATIONAL RATE

For the first time since last November, Texas job growth fell below the national rate in August, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. However, from last December through August 2023, the state's job growth outpaced the U.S.

The state comptroller's office has pulled back from a January prediction of a mild recession for Texas.

"We anticipated slower growth in our revenue estimate, but we also know that Texas' economy is better positioned than other state economies and the national economy to absorb slower growth rates," Comptroller Glenn Hegar said.

His office credits a diverse economy and relatively low taxes and regulation for the state's economic successes. Migration also plays a crucial role, according to Pia Orrenius with the Fed.

"Really, the secret sauce in Texas is the economic growth that is sustained by both firms and people moving to the state," she said.

STATE FUNDING DOESN'T COVER SCHOOL SECURITY MANDATES

New laws that require school districts to enact a number of safety measures in the wake of the Uvalde school shooting are costing school districts far more than the \$1.4 billion that was allocated, superintendents across the state told the Texas Tribune.

A measure that would have allocated an additional \$4.5 billion died because of squabbling over voucher programs, and the same appears to be likely in the latest special session.

Hearne ISD superintendent Adrain Johnson said his rural district has been forced to spend its own money on new safety measures.

"It's disappointing that we didn't get the funding to do it at a level that doesn't hurt the district and allows us to keep most of our funding dedicated to the education of children," he said.

TEXAS STILL TOP STATE FOR DOMESTIC MIGRATION

Texas in 2022 continued to be the leading destination for people moving to another state in the U.S., according to the Texas Demographic Center.

"Texas has consistently been one of the fastest-growing states in the country, and the flow of individuals and families moving to the Lone Star State has played a pivotal role in this growth," according to the TDC.

Most of the people moving to Texas came from California, Florida, Oklahoma and Colorado, the report said.

THE POSTSCRIPT
By Carrie Classon

Fancy New Gloves

My Auntie Jo gave me a beautiful pair of gloves yesterday. They are elegant, with embroidery on the top, and I immediately did what I usually do—I put them away for safekeeping.

"I'll wear these to something special!" I told myself.

I have a date to go with my niece to see "Peter Pan" in December. I decided I would wear those gloves when I go out with my beautiful 20-year-old niece before she heads out to Spain to study for a semester in Madrid. That will certainly be an occasion worthy of these gloves, I thought.

"I might need a hat to wear with these gloves," I got to thinking.

Winter hats, to be brutally honest, are usually one of two things. They are fashionable, or they are warm. I know there are a few that straddle the gap between the two, but it is rare. I went browsing online, looking for a hat that might be worthy of these gloves. I thought how nice it is to have things to look forward to.

My husband, Peter, and I will be returning to Mexico for a few weeks before Christmas, and I am looking forward to that. I look forward to seeing our friends down there and finding out what changes there have been at the hotel. Peter already has his suitcase out and is steadily popping things into it. I know he enjoys this. He enjoys the process of planning his trip, one item at a time. I usually wait until a day or two beforehand and stuff everything in at once.

But I have other things to look forward to as well.

Yesterday, I went to church with my Auntie Jo and my sister. My sister's husband is a newly ordained minister, and he just began work at his first church. It is a late-in-life new career, and he is very good at it. His congregation was warm and welcoming, and he preached a great sermon. Afterward, my sister and my aunt and I went out, had a cup of coffee and split a couple of pastries at a Mexican mercado. My sister told us about her gardening plans. I talked about our planned trip to Mexico. My aunt told us both how much she enjoyed spending time with us.

"We have to do this again!" Auntie Jo said.

"When I'm back in December, for sure!" I answered.

When they dropped me off at home, my aunt gave me the little gift bag with the gloves inside.

"What is this?" I asked. "It's for your birthday," she told me, which was surprising, since my birthday was three months ago.

Time passes so quickly. We will be in Mexico soon and back before we know it. Another Christmas will come, and a new year will be here.

I thought of how quickly the months go by. Then I went to the coat closet, reached up on the shelf, pulled down those beautiful gloves my aunt had just given me, and I put them on.

There is no need to save these gloves for a special day.

Because this day—this going to church together and having coffee and sharing pastries and plans day—was as special as any day could be. I don't know how many more days I will spend with my sister and Auntie Jo. I hope there will be many. But I don't know. None of us do.

So I put on my fancy new gloves with my jacket and my walking shoes, and I headed out the door.

Till next time,
Carrie

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

Star Courier
USPS 244-500
Barbers Hill ★ Dayton PRESS
NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

Editor & Publisher..... Gilbert Hoffman
Associate Publisher..... Mei-Ing Liu Hoffman
Assignment Editor..... Julieta Paita
Website Editor..... Kristan Hoffman
Marketing Executive..... Willie Glasgow
Production Manager..... Gerardo Hernandez

Entered as Periodicals Clats at Highlands Post Office, Highlands, TX 77562. Under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Published 50 weeks per year, on Thursday, by Grafikpress Corp., 5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057. Opinions in this paper are those of the authors, and not necessarily this newspaper's. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by fax, or by email, to grafikstar@aol.com.

GRAFIKPRESS is publisher of community newspapers, including Highlands STAR-CROSBY COURIER, Barbers Hill Dayton PRESS, Northeast NEWS, North Forest NEWS, North Channel STAR. Combined circulation of these newspapers exceeds 20,000. Readership exceeds 50,000 according to industry standards. We also print dozens of school, ethnic, and government publications on contract. Call for information to 713-977-2555.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In-county, \$28.00 per year. Out of county, \$35.00 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Star-Courier, P. O. Box 405, Highlands, TX 77562

News and Ad Phones... 713-266-3444
FAX Line... 713-977-1188
email: grafikstar@aol.com
Member Texas Press Association

OBITUARIES

Thomas Joseph White

Thomas Joseph White, 84, passed away on October 29, 2023, surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Carneigh, PA, to his parents, John and Edna White. Thomas had a deep passion for life and enjoyed a variety of hobbies. He was an avid bass fisherman and skilled hunter, finding solace in the great outdoors. He had a green thumb and delighted in growing the juiciest tomatoes. Thomas was also a fan of rodeos and bull riding, and he often shared stories of his adventures. He had a special place in his heart for his two feline companions, Blue Boy and Tiny, who brought him great comfort and joy. Thomas is predeceased by



his father, John L. White, his mother, Edna White, and his brother, Billy. He is survived by his beloved wife, Paulette White, and his children, Michael (Eve) White, Patrick (Kathy) White; Mark (Mary) Street, Richard (Rosaura) Street; John Street. He leaves behind many cherished grandchildren, and

great-grandchildren. Thomas touched the lives of many and will be remembered for his zest for life, his love of family, and his diverse interests. He will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. Visitation will be at Sterling White Funeral home Thursday November 2, 2023 10:00am-12:00pm with the funeral service to follow in the chapel at 12:00pm. The family wishes to express their gratitude for the outpouring of support and condolences during this difficult time.

STERLING ~ WHITE FUNERAL HOME & CEMETERY

HIGHLANDS ROTARY CLUB NEWS

Highlands Horizons visit Rotary



Highlands Horizons members Delene Cotten and Chrissa Cotten Teel are guests at the Highlands Rotary Club luncheon last week. Club president Denise Smith thanks them for all they do for the community.

Crosby DAR Chapter,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ters nearby. "I approached the state organization and explained they could benefit from a chapter in this area," she said. It took a couple of years to get final approval, but Spear received notification the application had been approved in December of last year for her to begin organizing and building an interest list. "Our list grew to 80 and I hosted several interest meetings and we had 25 at their first meeting in October," Spear said. Founded in 1890, the National Society of the Daughters of the American

Revolution have dedicated themselves to historical preservation, promotion of education, and encouragement of patriotic endeavor for more than a century. The national organization's work is accomplished with the grassroot efforts of local chapters who encourage members to get involved in those endeavors. "The DAR is the largest women's service organization in the country. We're a non-partisan service group and our motto is God, home, and country. That's who we serve," she said. Spear said one of the

best parts of DAR is the camaraderie and friendships created performing service in the community. Since the group is named the Daughters of the American Revolution, members must have some connection to a patriot. "Our eligibility requirements are a female over the age of 18, and you have to prove lineal descent to someone who served or rendered aid during the war," she explained. "They don't necessarily have to have been a soldier, but they could have been a shop owner who donated supplies to the troops or many other avenues," she

triot for her, which was really exciting," she said. "That's a really big deal." The naming of the chapter as the Old 300 Chapter was a nod to Humphrey Jackson who established Crosby and was granted just in time for the 200-year anniversary of the town. On September 24, the day following the bicentennial celebration, the organization hosted their organizing celebration. "We've already performed our first service project at the Lynch Cemetery in Crosby where the Humphrey Jackson monument is placed. We did some beautification, weed pulling and made it easier

to get into the cemetery. It will be an ongoing project since there's a lot to be done," she said. The fence is collapsing around the cemetery and they're working with a fence company to help. They also discovered the monument was listing to one side and are searching for a foundation company that can help them level the marker. At their organizing meeting, they hosted the great, great grandson of Humphrey Jackson. To learn more about the organization and their work, contact Spear at HYPERLINK "mailto:old300chapter@gmail.com".

ENTERTAINMENT

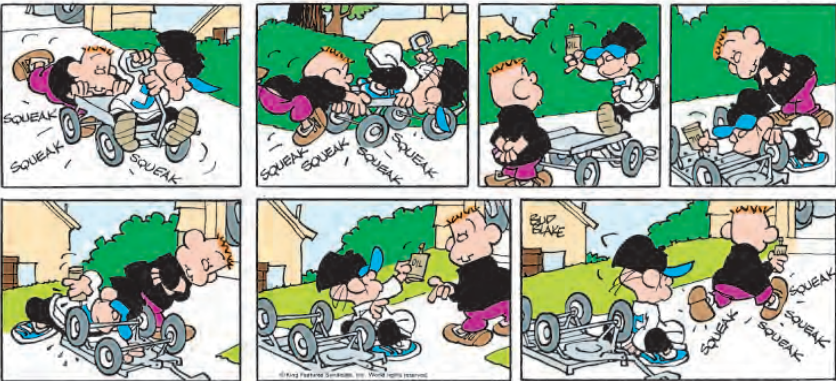
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



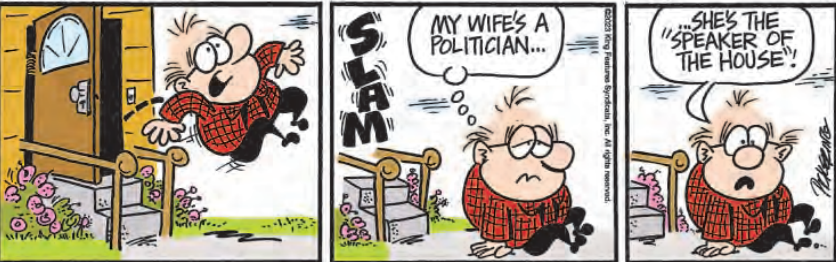
TIGER

by BUD BAKE



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. Includes a 9x9 grid and difficulty level: Moderate.

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF. Includes a cartoon and a puzzle: Find at least six differences in details between panels.

November 6, 2023 Posting Date King Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with ACROSS and DOWN clues. Includes clues like 'Angelic ring', 'Little rascal', 'Burlap fiber', etc.

Trivia Test Answers: 1. Argentina; 2. Mitchell; 3. Isaac Newton; 4. Stanley Kowalski; 5. White Russian; 6. "Cheers"; 7. The American Express card; 8. Distribution of light and dark in drawing and painting; 9. The Dakota apartment building; 10. Venus.

FOOTBALL SCORES & SCHEDULES. Includes last week's scores for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and the current week's schedule for 6A D1 and 6A D2 playoffs.

SPORTS PAGE

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 11

Longhorns looking to take care of business at TCU: Texans face tough road test against hot Bengals

As the college football season enters its final three weeks, things are starting to heat up in a number of conferences.

In the Big 12, Texas will hit the road to Fort Worth to take on a TCU team that has struggled this year. Last year, Sonny Dyke's Horned Frogs made it to the College Football Playoff title game, where they were routed by Georgia (65-7). It's been a tough year for the Frogs this year, but an upset win over No. 7-ranked UT would make their season.

Texas head coach Steve Sarkisian is well aware his team needs to win out to have a shot at playing in the Big 12 title game in Arlington on Dec. 2. Two weeks ago, Texas dominated BYU with back-up Maalik Murphy who filled in admirably for starter Quinn Ewers, who missed the game with a shoulder injury. Murphy tossed two TD passes and led the UT offense to 35 points. If Ewers is out again this weekend, the UT offense should be in solid hands with Murphy under center.

Other key games this weekend has Miami visiting No. 4-ranked Florida State as the two long-time and bitter rivals meet in Tallahassee. The Seminoles won their first eight games and have their sights set on not only an ACC title, but a spot in the CFP playoffs.

No. 8-ranked Alabama hits the road to take on a Kentucky team that could prove to be a thorn in Nick Saban's side. The Crimson Tide will be coming off an emotional and physical game against LSU the previous week, so it will be interesting to see what they have left in the tank.

There's a big one in the Big 10 at No. 2-ranked Michigan visits No. 9-ranked Penn State. PSU head coach James Franklin is 4-15 against Ohio State and Michigan, and the Nittany Lion faithful are sick and tired of losing to the two premiere teams in the conference. Michigan has been embroiled in a bit of controversy as the NCAA and the federal government are investigating charges that the Wolverines have been stealing signs from opponents over the last couple of seasons.

In the SEC, No. 11-ranked



KEENEY'S KORNER BY MIKE KEENEY

Mississippi visits No. 1-ranked Georgia as Lane Kiffin's high-powered offense will take on the stingy Bulldog defense between the hedges on Saturday.

In the Pac 12, No. 24-ranked USC visits No. 6-ranked Oregon, in what should be an offensive shootout. The Trojans can score with any team in the country, their problem is their defense is horrendous. In their last five games, the USC defense has given up 213 points (47 points per game). That unit had better get better quickly if they hope to slow down the high-scoring Ducks.

In NFL action this weekend, Week 10 features some interesting matchups. Cleveland visits Baltimore in a key AFC North contest. The Browns hope to have starting QB Deshaun Watson back. Watson has missed much of the season dealing with an injured throwing shoulder.

The Texans, who two weeks ago dropped a tough 15-13 decision at Carolina, have a tough one this Sunday when they visit Cincinnati to take on a very hot Bengals team.

The Cowboys host the hapless Giants, while the struggling 49ers (losers of three straight games heading into last week's bye) take on the surging Jaguars in Jacksonville. Sunday Night Football features the Jets at the Raiders, and week 10 concludes on Monday Night Football with the Broncos visiting the Bills.

Let's review last week's record. A 9-3 week brought the season record to 63-35 (66%).

Now, onto this weekend's game.

NCAA

Miami at Florida State: This used to be one of the biggest games

annually in college football, but both programs have been down a bit over the last decade but it appears Florida State is on its way back, while Miami is still looking to regain that old magic form. FSU is ranked No. 4 in the country, while Miami has won six of its first eight games. The Seminoles have one of the top dual-threat QBs in Jordan Travis (2,109 passing yards, 18 TDs/205 rushing yards, 6 TDs), and he has plenty of weapons in running back Troy Benson (574 yards, 7 TDs) and wide receivers Keon Coleman (35 receptions, 538 yards, 9 TDs) and Johnny Wilson (25 receptions, 415 yards, 2 TDs). Miami is led by QB Tyler VanWinkle (1,884 yards, 16 TDs/8 interceptions). Look for FSU to roll over their in-state rivals on Saturday. My pick, Florida State 34, Miami 16

Alabama at Kentucky: The Crimson Tide visit Kentucky after coming off what should be an emotional and physical game against LSU. Saban will have his team ready to take on a Wildcats team that has a suspect defense. Look for 'Bama QB Jalen Milroe (1,617 yards, 13 TDs) running back Jase McClellan (569 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receiver Jermaine Burton (23 receptions, 505 yards, 5 TDs) to carve up the Kentucky defense. My pick, Alabama 33, Kentucky 14

Michigan at Penn State: A big one in the Big 10 has the Wolverines visiting the Nittany Lions in a game PSU head coach James Franklin badly needs to win. As mentioned earlier, Franklin is just 4-15 against the league's top two teams, Ohio State and Michigan. His offense could be in for a long day as it will face a Wolverine defense that allows just 6 points per game (Michigan has

allowed just 47 points in its first eight games). PSU has some weapons on offense led by QB Drew Aller (1,655 yards, 16 TDs), running back Kaytron Allen (482 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver Keandre Lambert-Smith (43 receptions, 550 yards, 4 TDs). Michigan is pretty good on offense as well led by QB J.J. McCarthy (1,789 yards, 18 TDs), running back Blake Corum (605 yards, 13 TDs) and wide receiver Roman Wilson (27 receptions, 446 yards, 10 TDs). Look for the Michigan defense to put the clamps down on the Penn State offense as the Wolverines set their sights on a showdown with No. 3-ranked Ohio State on Thanksgiving weekend. My pick, Michigan 26, Penn State 8

Mississippi at Georgia: Lane Kiffin and his No. 11-ranked Rebels will try to end Georgia's 26 game winning streak. Good luck with that. The Bulldogs lost a ton of talent from last year's national championship team, but head coach Kirby Smart has simply reloaded. First-year starting QB Carson Beck (2,462 yards, 14 TDs) has the offense humming. He has a solid running back in Daijun Edwards (555 yards, 8 TDs) and wide receiver Dominic Lovett (35 receptions, 365 yards, 1 TD). Ole Miss has some offensive weapons of their own in QB Jaxon Dart (2,080 passing yards, 14 TDs/326 rushing yards, 7 TDs), speedy running back Quinshon Judkins (691 yards, 9 TDs) and big-play wideout Jordan Watkins (39 receptions, 580 yards, 2 TDs). Look for the Georgia defense to slow down the speedy Rebs as the 'Dogs look to wrap up the SEC East. My pick, Georgia 36, Mississippi 18

Texas at TCU: No. 7-ranked Texas visits TCU on Saturday looking to remain in the hunt for a spot in the Big 12 title game on Dec. 2. UT might still be without starting QB Quinn Ewers (1,915 passing yards, 13 TDs) who injured his shoulder on Oct. 21 and backup Maalik Murphy (217 yards, 2 TDs) took care of the 'Horns offense two weeks ago in a 35-6 win over BYU by throwing two touchdown passes. Head coach Steve Sarkisian said he's confident the UT offense will be fine with Murphy under center. Texas has one of the nation's best running backs in Jonathon Brooks (923 yards, 7 TDs) and an explosive wide receiver in Xavier Worthy (44 receptions, 572 yards, 4 TDs). TCU has struggled this year and is down to its second QB, but they have a

solid running back in Emani Bailey (851 yards, 2 TDs). Look for the UT defense to bottle up Bailey and attack TCU early and often on offense. My pick, Texas 38, TCU 12

USC at Oregon: No. 24-ranked USC visits No. 6-ranked Oregon in a key Pac 12 game for both teams. USC had national title aspirations when the season began, and while they have a lot of talent on offense led by last year's Heisman Trophy winner in QB Caleb Williams (2,646 passing yards, 25 TDs/130 rushing yards, 9 TDs), running back MarShawn Lloyd (766 yards, 8 TDs) and wide receiver Tahj Washington (35 receptions, 711 yards, 5 TDs), their defense has been dreadful in their last five games. That unit has given up 213 points (47 per game) and if they don't improve by Saturday, it could be another long day for Lincoln Riley's team. The Ducks are loaded on offense led by QB Bo Nix (2,337 yards, 21 TDs), running back Bucky Irving (732 yards, 8 TDs) and wide receiver Troy Franklin (52 receptions, 867 yards, 9 TDs). Look for the Ducks offense to roll the USC defense as Oregon looks to land a spot in the Pac 12 title game. My pick, Oregon 41, USC 26

NFL

Cleveland at Baltimore: The Ravens host the Browns in an important AFC North game for both teams. The Browns have remained in the division race thanks to a stout defense, but they need to get Deshaun Watson (683 yards, 4 TDs) back under center if they hope to remain in playoff contention. Cleveland has found a capable replacement for the injured Nick Chubb at running back in Jerome Ford (381 yards, 2 TDs), but he will face a stout Ravens defense that will look to take him out of the game plan early. The Ravens appear to be putting things together on both sides of the ball. The offense has put up 69 points in wins over Detroit and Arizona. QB Lamar Jackson (1,767 passing yards, 9 TDs/380 rushing yards, 5 TDs), has been playing well and has been getting help from running back Gus Edwards (426 yards, 5 TDs) and tight end Mark Andrews (32 receptions, 397 yards, 6 TDs). Look for the Baltimore defense to make some big plays in the fourth quarter to pull out the win. My pick, Baltimore 23, Cleveland 13

Houston at Cincinnati: Just

when Texans fans thought they might have a playoff team, the hometown team lays an egg and loses to a winless Carolina team two weeks ago. Things get decidedly more difficult this week when Houston travels to Cincinnati to face a red hot Bengals team. Houston QB C.J. Stroud (1,800 yards, 9 TDs) and wide receiver Nico Collins (33 receptions, 577 yards, 3 TDs) will have their hands full against a pretty good Cincinnati defense. The Texans defense will also have its hands full taking on a hot Joe Burrow (1,513 yards, 10 TDs), running back Joe Mixon (453 yards, 2 TDs) and big-play wide receivers Ja'Marr Chase (60 receptions, 656 yards, 4 TDs) and Tyler Boyd (33 receptions, 244 yards, 2 TDs). Look for Burrow and Chase to have a big day to make it a long day for the Texans. My pick, Cincinnati 33, Houston 16

New York Giants at Dallas: These two teams met in Week 1 in New Jersey and the Cowboys defense dominated the Giants en route to a 40-0 victory. That game appeared to set the tone for the Giants who have been one of the more disappointing teams this year after making the playoffs in 2022. NY should have starting QB Daniel Jones back for this game after he missed three games with a neck injury, but it won't matter against a stout Dallas defense. Look for Micah Parsons and Co. to shut down NY running back Saquon Barkley (412 yards, 7 TDs) early and then go after Jones. The Dallas offense put up 43 points two weeks ago at home against the Rams and will be going after its 12th straight home win. Look for a big day from QB Dak Prescott (1,637 yards, 10 TDs) and wide receiver CeeDee Lamb (46 receptions, 633 yards, 3 TDs) as the Cowboys win another easy one over the Giants. My pick, Dallas 34, New York Giants 13

Denver at Buffalo: Week 10 concludes on Monday Night Football with the Broncos visiting the Bills. Two weeks ago, Russell Wilson (1,613 yards, 16 TDs) and Denver upset the defending Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs 24-9, while the Bill hung on to defeat Tampa Bay. Buffalo needs to get things going, so look for QB Josh Allen (2,165 passing yards, 17 TDs/189 rushing yards, 5 TDs) and wide receiver Stefon Diggs (64 receptions, 748 yards, 6 TDs) to have a big night as Buffalo looks to get on a roll. My pick, Buffalo 31, Denver 16

CLASSIFIED ADS

Call 713-266-3444

Your AD will reach up to 40,000 readers in our FIVE newspapers, with a combined circulation of 20,000 copies. Get ACTION on your AD. Rates start at only \$18 for 20 words. A bargain!

LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE TRACTOR REPAIR TRACTOR REPAIR TRACTOR REPAIR TRACTOR REPAIR

Notice of Public Sale pursuant to Chapter 59 of Texas property code to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held for Foley Road Boat Camper & Mini-Storage at 1432 Foley Rd, Crosby, TX 77532 on storagetreasures.com starting, 11/2/2023 at 9:00am CST and ending on, 11/16/2023 at 5:00pm CST. \$100 Cleanup deposit is required. The Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Property includes the contents of spaces of the following tenant and is primarily household items. TENANT: KEVIN PIPES 42-21

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 519137; Estate of NORMAN D. (DOUGLAS) SMITH Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on OCTOBER 25, 2023 to: AMANDA JO BALL WOOD 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

Mobile Tractor Repair & Service Oil change, Lube, Light Repair East Harris, West Liberty, Chambers Counties 832-530-0054 38-8T

Notice of Public Sale pursuant to Chapter 59 of Texas property code to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held for Foley Road Boat Camper & Mini-Storage at 1432 Foley Rd, Crosby, TX 77532 on storagetreasures.com starting, 11/2/2023 at 9:00am CST and ending on, 11/16/2023 at 5:00pm CST. \$100 Cleanup deposit is required. The Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Property includes the contents of spaces of the following tenant and is primarily household items. TENANT: TAYLOR HAILEY 42-21

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 NOVEMBER 2, 2023 Weston Cotten by WESTON COTTEN Attorney for the Estate

FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE Reduced by \$25,000 1.6 Acres cleared Mobile or Home pad, 3 car garage, partially fenced, electric pole, driveway \$250,000. Crosby Tx. Call 281-455-7759 37-21

SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money Business Directory SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money HENDERSON GARAGE DOORS 281-428-1187 1-800-345-8471 Sales & Repair Service Baytown, Texas John Henderson 628 Cedar Bayou Rd. CENTRAL AUTO INSPECTIONS FULL SERVICE VEHICLE INSPECTIONS 713-702-3200 JOHNNY GAENE OWNER-INSPECTOR 911 S. MAIN HIGHLANDS TX 77562 Graphics Unlimited, Inc. CORPORATE GRAPHICS AT ITS BEST Signs & Banners 281-462-1200 www.graphicsunlimitedinc.net 213 Kernohan • Crosby, TX 77532 WESTON COTTEN, ATTORNEY HIGHLANDS 281-421-4050 1500 E. Wallisville Rd. NOT CERTIFIED BY THE TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION HILL MATERIALS FILL DIRT BANK SAND ROADBASE LIMESTONE 119 Listi Ln, Highlands hillmaterials.com WE DELIVER TO YOU (281) 843-5000 residential • commercial • industrial SMALL ADS BRING BIG RESULTS Ask about our Business Directory Package 13 Weeks + Story + Display for \$260 Ask about our Ribbon Cutting Package Photo + Story + Web for \$260 713-266-3444 Star Courier Your Hometown Newspaper News tips and Ad Inquiries: 713-266-3444 To advertise in the Business Directory, please call 713-266-3444 for details

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

Barbers Hill Independent School District
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes
in Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Exhibit C-2

| Data Control Codes | | 199 | 599 | 699 | Total | 98 |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| | | General Fund | Debt Service Fund | Capital Projects Fund | Nonmajor Funds | Governmental Funds |
| REVENUES | | | | | | |
| 5700 | Local and intermediate revenues | \$ 107,379,324 | \$ 47,311,742 | \$ 3,611,340 | \$ 5,201,527 | \$ 163,503,933 |
| 5800 | State program revenues | 18,002,797 | 287,348 | 23,053 | 539,804 | 18,853,002 |
| 5900 | Federal program revenues | 729,174 | - | - | 3,697,709 | 4,426,883 |
| 5020 | Total revenues | 126,111,295 | 47,599,090 | 3,634,393 | 9,439,040 | 186,783,818 |
| EXPENDITURES: | | | | | | |
| Current: | | | | | | |
| 0011 | Instruction | 57,991,060 | - | 1,009,425 | 3,142,637 | 62,143,122 |
| 0012 | Instructional resources and media services | 807,633 | - | 53,284 | 62,526 | 923,423 |
| 0013 | Curriculum and instructional staff development | 2,119,544 | - | - | 279,691 | 2,399,235 |
| 0021 | Instructional leadership | 571,412 | - | - | - | 571,412 |
| 0023 | School leadership | 4,976,853 | - | - | - | 4,976,853 |
| 0031 | Guidance, counseling, and evaluation services | 3,931,294 | - | 38,668 | 316,126 | 4,286,088 |
| 0032 | Social work services | 577,466 | - | - | 4,753 | 582,219 |
| 0033 | Health services | 1,198,583 | - | 9,861 | - | 1,208,444 |
| 0034 | Student transportation | 3,776,093 | - | 1,475,844 | - | 5,251,937 |
| 0035 | Food services | 430 | - | - | 4,325,087 | 4,325,517 |
| 0036 | Extracurricular activities | 3,061,677 | - | 422,763 | 757,508 | 4,241,948 |
| 0041 | General administration | 4,128,698 | 125 | 2,282 | - | 4,131,105 |
| 0051 | Plant maintenance and operations | 10,416,696 | - | 1,130,895 | 18,152 | 11,565,743 |
| 0052 | Security and monitoring services | 1,358,692 | - | 215,032 | 319,602 | 1,893,326 |
| 0053 | Data processing services | 1,835,913 | - | 96,992 | 19,355 | 1,952,260 |
| 0061 | Community services | 10,164,804 | - | - | 4,508 | 10,169,312 |
| Debt service: | | | | | | |
| 0071 | Principal on long-term debt | 107,930 | 22,055,000 | - | - | 22,162,930 |
| 0072 | Interest on long-term debt | 494 | 17,566,064 | - | - | 17,566,558 |
| 0073 | Issuance costs and fees | - | 8,750 | 966,325 | - | 975,075 |
| Capital outlay: | | | | | | |
| 0081 | Facilities acquisition and construction | 23,532 | - | 18,743,523 | - | 18,767,055 |
| Intergovernmental: | | | | | | |
| 0091 | Contracted instructional services between schools | 21,584,132 | - | - | - | 21,584,132 |
| 0099 | Other intergovernmental charges | 943,452 | - | - | - | 943,452 |
| 6030 | Total expenditures | 129,576,388 | 39,629,939 | 24,164,874 | 9,249,965 | 202,621,166 |
| 1100 | Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures | (3,465,093) | 7,969,151 | (20,530,481) | 189,075 | (15,837,348) |
| OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) | | | | | | |
| 7911 | Capital-related debt issued (general obligation bonds) | - | - | 104,605,000 | - | 104,605,000 |
| 7913 | Proceeds from leased subscription assets | 180,913 | - | - | - | 180,913 |
| 7915 | Transfers in | 36,627 | - | - | 65,225 | 101,852 |
| 7916 | Premium or (discount) on issuance of bonds | - | - | 8,861,325 | - | 8,861,325 |
| 8911 | Transfers out | (65,225) | - | (36,627) | - | (101,852) |
| 8948 | Tax refund pursuant to Texas Tax Code 313 | (2,466,877) | - | - | - | (2,466,877) |
| 7080 | Total other financing sources (uses) | (2,314,562) | - | 113,429,698 | 65,225 | 111,180,361 |
| 1200 | Net change in fund balances | (5,779,655) | 7,969,151 | 92,899,217 | 254,300 | 95,343,013 |
| 0100 | Fund balances - beginning | 42,991,977 | 20,573,340 | 35,196,058 | 1,797,969 | 100,559,344 |
| 3000 | FUND BALANCES - ENDING | \$ 37,212,322 | \$ 28,542,491 | \$ 128,095,275 | \$ 2,052,269 | \$ 195,902,357 |

The Notes to the Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement.

Day of the Dead Celebration,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"He got sick, was put on a ventilator and never came back from that," she said. On Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023, his family gathered around his tombstone at Sterling-White Cemetery in Highlands to celebrate his memory on Dia De Los Muertos, or Day of the Dead.

The two-day holiday on Nov. 1 and 2 is celebrated in Mexico and other Latin American countries with rituals such as constructing altars, ofrendas, or offerings to the dead which includes decorating the gravesite.

It is the second year that the Sterling-White Funeral Home and Cemetery staff and families have commemorated the holiday with the public.

"The loved one's commune with them on this day with fun music, their favorite food, and flowers. And as you can see, they are visiting with them in the cemetery," said Bella Dion, managing partner at Sterling-White.

The celebration wasn't limited to Sterling-White customers.

"We welcome everybody," Dion said. "We let everyone in the community know that we were preparing this event, and they were invited to participate."

On the tombstone of Piritto lay an apple, a rosary, candle, and other items.

"The apple is part of a tradition where you place some of their favorite foods," his daughter Dora said.

Lira said Nov. 1 is reserved for the young dead.

"Those who died with miscarriages, or babies who didn't make it. So, it's like the angels," she said, and explained Nov. 2 was reserved for the older dead.

Lira said her father's family shows up to Piritto's gravesite on his birthday, the anniversary of his death, and on Dia De Los Muertos.

The family later said a rosary on his behalf.

As part of the celebration, the Crosby High School CTE Floral Design students created floral arrangements for the altar.

"They made a magnificent altar piece for today's Dia de Los Muertos celebration at Sterling-White Funeral Home & Cemetery. Ms. Walton & her students use marigolds to celebrate life and add a pop of color," said a thankful Dion.

More than 200 people participated in the celebration which included a mar-

iachi band, tacos, and face painting.

"Many came as a family to celebrate and that's what we're all about," she said.



DiaDeLosMuertos 05 - The Parga tombstone is decorated with relics that are reminders and favorites from his life.



A mariachi band played during the Dia De Los Muertos celebration at Sterling-White Funeral Home and Cemetery on Thursday, Nov. 2.



Little Kendra gets her face painted by Nancy Rodriguez, one of the counselors for Sterling-White Funeral Home.

County approves Budget,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

\$116M

FOR THE HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE; \$17M INCREASE FROM FY 2023

\$293M

FOR THE HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PATROL & ADMINISTRATION INCLUDING SALARY INCREASES & INCIDENT RESPONSE FUNDING

\$79M

FOR THE HARRIS COUNTY ENGINEERING; \$20M INCREASE FROM FY 2023

\$3.7M

FOR NEWLY CREATED CRIMINAL COURTS INCLUDING MORE STAFFING, EQUIPMENT, & SUPPLIES

\$128M

FOR HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL; \$14M INCREASE FROM FY 2023

\$66M

INCREASE TO HARRIS HEALTH TO PROVIDE BASIC HEALTH & EMERGENCY CARE TO A GROWING POPULATION

\$42M

FOR PRECINCT 2 NEIGHBORHOOD, INFRASTRUCTURE, & DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS; \$5M INCREASE FROM FY 2023

\$383K

TO IMPROVE PROGRAMMING FOR SMALL BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BUILDING A BETTER TOMMORROW

ing, and jobs, and the advancement of fair and free elections," Ellis said in a statement.

Ellis is temporarily presiding over Commissioners Court while County Judge Lina Hidalgo is on an extended medical leave. Hidalgo is expected to return to work full time on Oct. 2.

The meeting was notably amiable, particularly compared to last year's partisan budget showdown over allegations that the Democrat-controlled court was "defunding" law enforcement.

On Tuesday, Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey, the lone Republican on the court, struck a conciliatory tone, praising the budget office, law enforce-

ment allocations and even his colleagues on the court.

"I want credit where credit is due," Ramsey said. "We focused on what was important to the people of Harris County."

Garcia and Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones said they appreciated Ramsey's leadership.

Ellis held back from complimenting Ramsey, joking that he wasn't sure whether praise from him "would help you or not."

Ramsey has indicated he would support a tax rate increase for the Harris County Flood Control District next year.

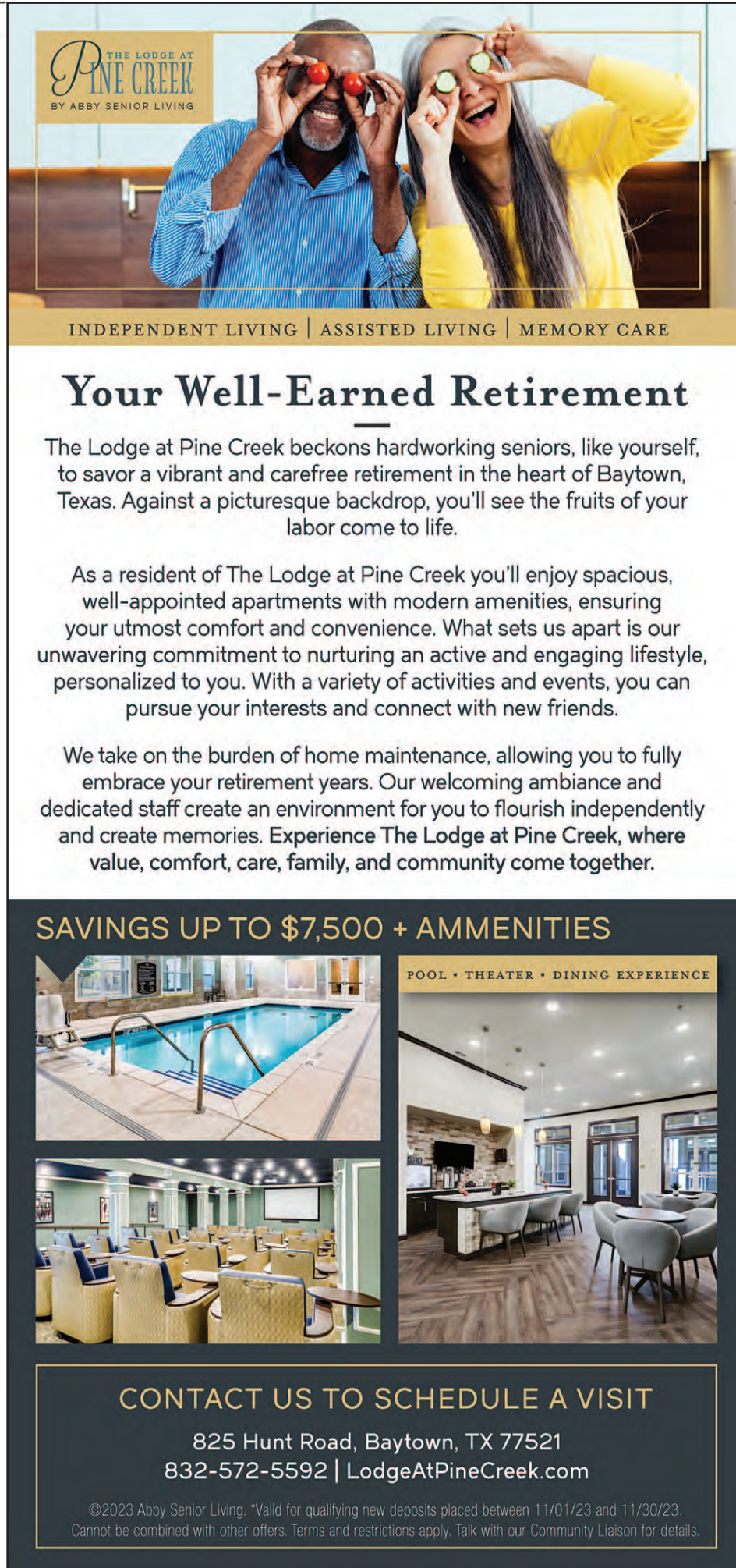
"The number of bayous and drainage ditches and culverts that we have to maintain in the county, that's not sustainable in

terms of how much we currently fund it," Ramsey said.

The state limits how much Commissioners Court can increase tax rates without seeking voter approval. Ramsey said he would like to ask voters for a substantial increase.

"What I'm advocating is that we increase the amount that flood control gets every year much more," Ramsey said.

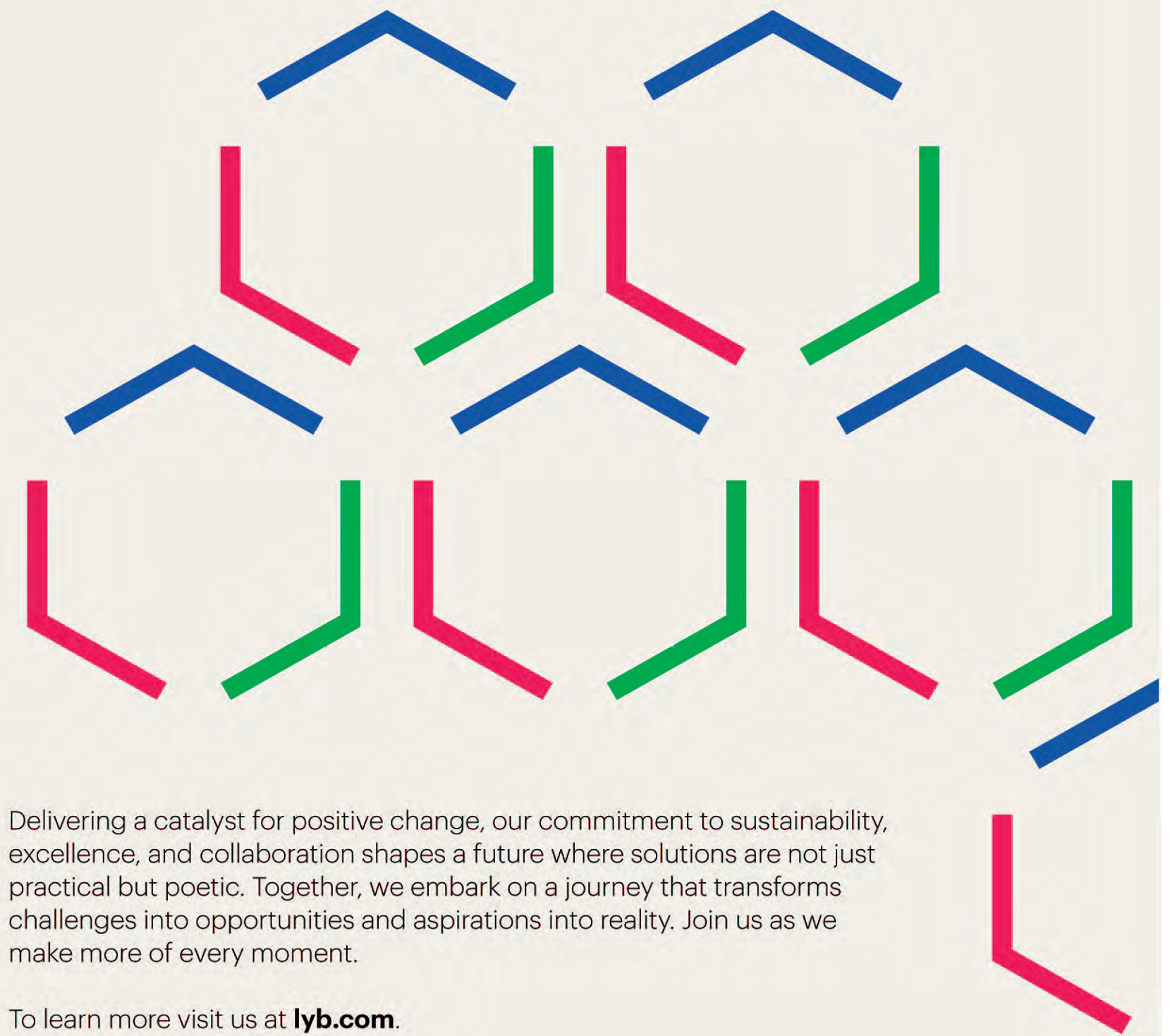
Ellis took a shot at those state-imposed limits on Tuesday. While he called the newly approved budget a "step in the right direction," he said "progress was made despite Austin politicians slashing vital services by restricting our ability to fund county government adequately."





LyondellBasell

Solutions for a better tomorrow



Delivering a catalyst for positive change, our commitment to sustainability, excellence, and collaboration shapes a future where solutions are not just practical but poetic. Together, we embark on a journey that transforms challenges into opportunities and aspirations into reality. Join us as we make more of every moment.

To learn more visit us at [lyb.com](https://www.lyb.com).