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**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2023** 

P.O. DRAWER 446, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

# IN THE

# Early Voting starts Nov. 27 in Run-off Election

Voters Focused on Mayoral Race; Seven Council races also on Ballot

#### **EVENTS**

#### **Cookies & Photos** with Santa in Highlands Dec. 5

The traditional Arrival of Santa in Highlands will be indoors at the Highlands Community Center Tuesday Dec. 5 f rom 5pm to 8pm.

Cookies. Hot Chocolate. Pizza, and Pictures of your child with Santa.

Hosted by Precinct 3, Peet & Georgiana Bighorse, Highlands Chamber, Highlands Horizons, Rotary Club of Highlands, and Seniors Helping Seniors High-Town.

#### **Christmas Trees!**

The Community Center invites you to share your tree, and decorate a tree the week after Thanksgiving, from 8am to 7pm daily.

#### Crosby 25th **Annual Christmas** Festival Dec. 9

Crosby/Huffman Chamber presents its 25th Annual Christmas Festival, Saturday Dec. 9 from 1pm to 5pm at Crosby Church, 5727 Hwy 90, Crosby.

Event includes Christmas Market, Entertainment, Holly the Elf, Pictures with Santa and Goody Bags 2pm-4pm, Petting Zoo 2pm-5pm, Hayride, Balloon Artist,

and MORE. Lighted Parade at 6pm!

#### **Crosby 25th Annual Christmas Parade** Sat. Dec. 9 at 6pm

Crosby/Huffman Chamber presents its 25th Annual Christmas PARADE with Santa & Mrs. Claus. Starts at 6pm at Crosby Middle School, travels down FM2100 and returns By David Taylor Managing Editor

With early voting beginning on Monday, November 27, 2023, the race is on for several city of Houston spots including the mayor's office.

Former State Representative John Whitmire led all voters in the mayoral election garnering 106,735 votes or 43.04 percent of the vote to runner-up Congressman Sheila Jackson Lee's 86,371 votes at 34.83 percent of the vote. The turnout was a disappointing 247,969 votes cast in the mayoral election.

The city of Houston has become accustomed to runoffs in their mayoral elec-



MAYORAL CANDIDATES JOHN WHITMIRE & SHEILA JACKSON LEE

tions. The 2023 election is no different becoming the third in a row dating back to 2015 when former State Representative Sylvester Turner won a runoff election against former Kemah

Mayor Bill King by one of the narrowest margins in Houston elections, a mere 678 votes or approximately 0.4 percent margin.

According to Texas Secretary of State Jane Nelson's website, the city boasts 2,568,463 registered voters with the largest turnout in three decades coming in the 2020 presidential election where 1,633,557 constituents cast their vote. The largest percentage vote came in the presidential election in 1992 that produced a 71.68 percent turnout.

The last Houston mayoral runoff, in 2019, Turner emerged the leader in a field of 12 and runner-up attorney Tony Buzbee followed closely behind. However, Buzbee was not able to turnout his voters in the

Continued. See RUN-OFF ELCTION,



CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE RICHARD CANTU

Cantu is running for an At-Large City Council position. There are also six other Council seats contested. Races on the Ballot include four At-Large City Council seats, three Single District Council seats, and City Controller.

# Crosby: All-District Athletes; Testing; Holiday Performances

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD fami-

It is officially the holiday season and there is a chill in the air. As we enjoy this time of year, let's also celebrate our students. Congratulations to the following Crosby High School students who were recognized as All-District athletes, making the grade and being among the best at their sport.

In volleyball for District 17-5A: Kaley Adair (Aca-2<sup>nd</sup> Team All District); Emma Hattaway (Academic All District); Samantha Bell Land (Academic All District); Kate Valt (Academic All District and 1st Team All



Paula Patterson Crosby Superintendent

District); Maya Grace (Academic All District and 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All District); Kydemic All District and lie Green (Academic All District); Hannah Daniel (Academic All District); Erica Oney (Academic All District): and Kali Mason (Academic All District).

> In cross country for District 17-5A: Ivan Armen

dariz (2<sup>nd</sup> Team All District).

In tennis for District 17-5A: the doubles team of Brendan Berry and Miranda Perez (Honorable Mention All

In football for District 8-5A: Copelin Windfont (Academic All District and 1st Team All District); Levi Fontenot (Academic All District and 1st Team All District); Malik Windfont (1st Team All District); Brandt Wright (2nd Team All District); Wesley Yarbrough (2nd Team All District); Chad Burks (2nd Team All District): Devin Holman (Honorable Mention); Joel Paredes (Honorable Mention); Kade Eudy (Academic All District and Honorable Mention All District); Luis Juarez (Honorable Mention); Evan Egans (Honorable Mention); Jordan Bass (Honorable Mention); Jonah Griffin (Academic All District and Honorable Mention All District); Cole Langley (Honorable Mention); Gabriel Fernan-

Continued. See CROSBY SUPERINTENDENT, Page 7



Crosby Elementary Principal, Ms. Dana Kratky-Fox, with a student celebrating the campus Turkey Trot just before the Thanksgiving Break.

# Fifth Gun Buyback event nets 500 guns

HOUSTON - More than 500 guns were collected at the City of Houston's fifth gun buyback event that was held Saturday at the METRO facility on Harwin. The gun buyback program is part of the One Safe Houston Initiative the city launched in 2021 to decrease violent crime.

City officials said 559 guns were handed over and \$77,850 in gift cards were distributed to attendees who turned in guns.

Like past gun buyback events, the city partnered with the Harris County Sheriff's Office to make it all happen. HCSO Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said it's an opportunity for law enforcement to serve the community in a different



Sheriff Ed Gonzalez speaks about the Gun Buyback program. Others include Mayor Sylvester Turner, Fire Chief Pena, Pct. 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones, Police Chief Troy Finner, and Constable Al Rosen.

way.

RACHEL'S DINER

Southern Cooking Buffet -- NOW OPEN

14280 FM 2100 (Across from Walmart)

281-462-7349

"On a number of occasions, we've heard from individuals that said, 'My loved one passed away. They had weapons. I do not want them in the house and I did not have a safe way of disposing of them," the sheriff said. "This provides that option. We want to make sure we're preventing those instances where maybe someone is perhaps breaking into a home and someone comes across those weapons and now it lands on the wrong hands."

Gun locks and gun safes were also distributed at the event.

# **CATCH** award at **Highlands Elementary**

By Amanda Kennington, Healthy Community School Coordinator

GCCISD Healthy Community School Coordinator, Amanda Kennington, presented Highlands Elementary School with a \$500 gift card donated by CATCH Global Foundation.

Highlands Elementary was selected in a random drawing to win the CATCH Healthy School Award for parent Tammy Earl's participation in CATCH's Family Engagement: Health Ed Journeys MVP Gameshow(opens external link in new window). Ms. Earl submitted a photo of her daughter riding a bike for Challenge #1: Show Us How You MVP. The prize also includes a schoolwide license to CATCH's program portfolio for one school year.

Twenty-four K-8 campuses in GCCISD implement the



Amanda Kennington presents Highlands Elementary coach and student with CATCH donation Receiving the prize is Highlands PE Teacher & Certified CATCH PE Community Trainer, Joel Kunz, and student Kendra Earl.

CATCH program and will have additional opportunities to win this fall. GCCISD is proud to partner with CATCH Global Foundation and encourage a healthi-

er community.

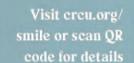




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Community



# BEPART OF POLYCYTHEMIA VERA (PV) RESEARCH

You may be able to help researchers learn more about an investigational study drug for people with PV. Find out if you qualify for the global VERIFY Phase 3 clinical research study.

Polycythemia vera (PV) is a rare blood disorder that causes the body to make too many red blood cells. The high red blood cell count can make the blood thicker, which can lead to strokes, heart attacks, organ, and tissue damage. The established goal of therapy is to maintain red blood cell levels, as measured by hematocrit, below 45%.

Protagonist Therapeutics, Inc. is developing rusfertide, an investigational drug designed to control the amount of iron available to make red blood cells. Rusfertide therapy is being studied in the VERIFY Phase 3 clinical trial to evaluate its safety and ability to control the production of red blood cells in the blood, potentially reducing the need for phlebotomy treatment and improving patients' quality of life.

### WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO JOIN THE STUDY?

- At least 18 years old (or meets country-specific age of consent).
- · Diagnosed with polycythemia vera.
- Frequent blood draws to control hematocrit levels (e.g., at least 5 in the past year).
- · Other requirements will apply.

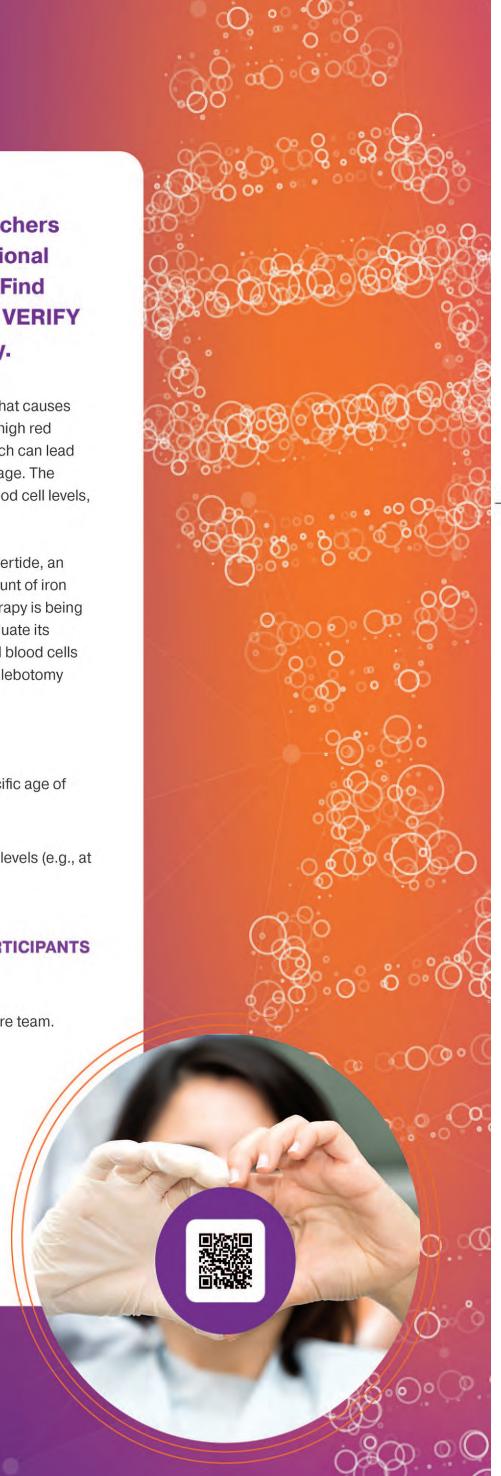
### THOSE WHO QUALIFY TO BE STUDY PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE AT NO COST:

- Access to the study investigational drug.
- Study support and monitoring by a healthcare team.
- · Education about PV.
- The opportunity to help advance PV research.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION':

- US-Toll Free: 1-888-899-1543
- ptgxclintrials@ptgx-inc.com
- · polycythemiavera-clinicaltrial.com

\*More details about the study will be provided by the study team.









# Barbers Hill PICSS \*\*Dayton\*\* Dayton\*\* Dayton\*\*

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2023

**MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580** 

#### ON THE HILL

#### Barbers Hill ISD Student Suspended Over Hairstyle returns to class while lawsuits are pending

BARBERS HILL – After serving more than a month of in-school suspension over his dreadlocks, a Black high school student in Barbers Hill ISD has resumed his classroom instruction, according to school officials.

Darryl George, 18, is a junior at Barbers Hill High School in Mont Belvieu and has been suspended since Aug. 31. He was sent to EPIC, an alternative school program, from Oct. 12 through Nov. 29 for "failure to comply" with multiple campus and classroom regulations, the principal said in a letter provided to the Associated Press by the

The family and the school district have filed countersuits in an attempt to resolve the matter.



Darryl George and Mother

Principal Lance Murphy said in the letter that George has repeatedly violated the district's "previously communicated standards of student conduct." The letter also says that George will be allowed to return to regular classroom instruction on Nov. 30 but will not be allowed to return to his high school's campus until then unless he's there to discuss his conduct with school administrators.

Barbers Hill Independent School District prohibits male students from having hair extending below the eyebrows, ear lobes or top of a T-shirt collar, according to the student handbook. Additionally, hair on all students must be clean, well-groomed, geometrical and not an unnatural color or variation. The school does not require uniforms.

George's mother, Darresha George, and the family's attorney deny the teenager's hairstyle violates the dress code. The family last month filed a formal complaint with the Texas Education Agency and a federal civil rights lawsuit against the state's governor and attorney general, alleging they failed to enforce a new law outlawing discrimina-

tion based on hairstyles.

The family allege George's suspension and subsequent discipline violate the state's CROWN Act, which took effect Sept. 1. The law, an acronym for "Create a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair," is intended to prohibit race-based hair discrimination and bars employers and schools from penalizing people because of hair texture or protective hairstyles including Afros, braids, dreadlocks, twists or Bantu knots.

A federal version <u>passed</u> in the U.S. House last year, but was not successful in the Senate.

The school district also filed a lawsuit in state district court asking a judge to clarify whether its dress code restrictions limiting student hair length for boys violates the CROWN Act. The lawsuit was filed in Chambers County, east of Houston.

George's school previously clashed with two other Black male students over the dress

Barbers Hill officials told cousins De'Andre Arnold and Kaden Bradford they had to cut their dreadlocks in 2020. Their families sued the school district in May 2020, and a federal judge later ruled the district's hair policy was discriminatory. Their pending case helped spur Texas lawmakers to approve the state's CROWN Act law. Both students withdrew from the school, with Bradford returning after the judge's ruling.

# Cassie Smith marches in Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

Following its amazing inaugural appearance in the 2022 Rose Parade,® the Saluting America's Band Directors project is again bringing together band directors from across the country to New York City on November 23, 2023 under the theme, "America's band directors: We teach music. We teach life."

Cassie Smith, an Assistant Band Director at Robert E Lee High School, has been selected to join a marching band of 400 band directors from across the country in the historic Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade® on November 23, 2023.

The Saluting America's Band Directors pa-



Cassie Smith at a concert

rade entry will again convey its theme, "America's band directors: We teach music. We teach life." to recognize the extraordinary dedication and accomplishments of band directors and music educators everywhere. Throughout their careers, the music edu-



Cassie Smith
Assistant Band Director – Lee HS
Goose Creek CISD

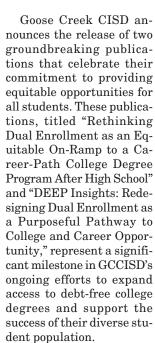
cators in this band have collectively mentored and taught hundreds of thousands of students. These professionals not only teach and direct

music, they teach about life itself.

The band will be directed by nationally known music educator and innovative band director Jon Waters.

The sponsoring organization behind the Saluting America's Band Directors project is the Michael D. Sewell Memorial Foundation, based in Pickerington, Ohio. The foundation was created to recognize and carry on the work of the late Mike Sewell, who dedicated his life to the school and community music programs in Pickerington and the Central Ohio area for almost 40 years

# GC ISD Celebrates Dual Enrollment Success with Two Groundbreaking Publications



In the first publication, "Rethinking Dual Enrollment as an Equitable On-Ramp to a Career-Path College Degree Program After High School

Columbia University presents a compelling case for a new approach to dual enrollment. In a partnership with Lee College, GC-CISD offers evidence for the four areas of DEEP (Dual



Keyanna Jackson, RSS Future Education Academy student working with the GCCISD Early Learning Academy students. From left: Aislynn Gutierrez, Magnolia Provenzano and Kennadi PruittAll from Madisyn Cates and Kelsey Roark's Homerooms. Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman.

**Enrollment Expansion and** Equity Pathways) practice and delves into the potential costs, incentives, and opportunities for scaling these practices. The DEEP approach marks a transformative shift from traditional thinking, which often viewed dual enrollment as "programs of privilege" or "random acts." Instead, the district prioritizes outreach to communities underrepresented in higher education and at high schools with lower college-going rates.

The second publication, also written sponsored by Columbia University, "DEEP Insights: Redesigning Dual Enrollment as a Purposeful Pathway to College and Career Opportunity."

offers invaluable ideas for redesigning dual enrollment based on field research at six promising community college-K-12 partnerships in Florida and Texas. These partnerships have extended guided pathways practices to dual en-



Eunmi Delos Santos, student of the Digital Communications Academy. Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman.

rollment offerings, achieving impressive results in expanding college access and opportunities for Black, Hispanic, and low-income high school students. This report highlights key components observed in each of the four areas of DEEP practices, showcasing inspiring examples from Lee

College and GCCISD.

These publications are a testament to the incredible work being done in the district and the positive impact it has on the students' futures. GCCISD is com-

mitted to providing exceptional educational opportunities to all students. The district believes in the power of education to transform lives, and the dual enrollment initiatives exemplify their dedication to expanding access to college and career pathways for every student. With a focus on equity and innovation, GC-CISD continues to set new standards in education and inspire excellence in students, educators, and communities.

## Travis Students Load up Boxes for Thanksgiving



Travis Elementary School students eagerly load Thanksgiving boxes, filled with essentials and holiday treats, to distribute to families in need. The compassionate act reflects the students' commitment to community service and the spirit of giving during the Thanksgiving season, from left Rene Reuda, Addy Coronado and Chance Kelly all in first grade.

# Christmas Ranch Opens from now through New Year's Eve!



We are a Free drive-thru display located in Cleveland, Texas! 14651 FM 1725

14651 FM 1725 Cleveland, Texas 77328

Hours: Daily from 6-10pm, Thanksgiving thru New Years Eve.
Drive Thru Display Only. We ask all visitors to stay in the car's at

#### OPINION PAGE $\bigstar$



#### November is Native American Heritage Month

Lone Star College-Montgomery celebrates Native American Heritage Month with monument



Lone Star College-Montgomery will unveil its Land Acknowledgment Monument Nov. 29 at noon in the Garden Area. The event offers attendees a glimpse into the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe culture, who previously inhabited the land that now sits LSC-Montgomery.

HOUSTON (Nov. 24, 2023) - The United States of America recognizes November as Native American Heritage Month to honor the rich history and contributions of Native Americans.

'November heralds a season of celebration, recognition and the month when we honor Native American Heritage," said Carlecia Wright, LSC chief culture and engagement officer. "Lone Star College delves into and values the deep-seated traditions and significant impacts of Native Americans on our community through various educational enrichment

Lone Star College-Montgomery Office of Culture and Engagement will continue the celebration with its Monument Unveiling Ceremony and Reception on Nov. 29 at noon in the Garden Area between Buildings E and F.

"Lone Star College-Montgomery offers educational opportunities that teach, learn and celebrate diverse groups that reflect our growing community," said De' Reese Reid-Hart, Ed.D., LSC-Montgomery president. We invite everyone to join us as we recognize the rich history and traditions of Native Americans who paved the way for the college's existence through reflection and celebration."

The LSC-Montgomery Monument Ceremony and Inveiling Reception is part of the college's Nativo American Heritage Month Series. "Our Stories. Our Nations." The Land Acknowledgment Monument is a collaboration between the LSC-Montgomery Multidisciplinary Native American Employee Resource Group and the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe in Livingston, Texas. The purpose is to honor all Native American people, particularly the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe, who inhabited the land where LSC-Montgomery sits.

'We hope this event will mark the beginning of a long-lasting partnership with the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe," said Kerri Steen, LSC-Montgomery lead of the Native American Employee Resource Group. "Through this partnership, we hope to share knowledge, resources and experiences that will benefit both Lone Star College-Montgomery and the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe."

LSC-Montgomery's land monument is a native Texas Moss Rock boulder with a metal solar cross in a circle, which is one of the most sacred symbols of Native Americans that represents the sun, moon and fire. Robby Wood, LSC-Montgomery art professor, designed the cross and Anthony Bess, LSC-Montgomery welding professor, created it.

The college will host members of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribal Council and community who have been key in developing this significant project. After the unveiling ceremony, tribal members will provide a glimpse into Alabama-Coushatta culture through a dance and drumming performance in the college's Maverick Conference Center.

"The importance of honoring Native people runs deeper than this one month of celebration and reflection," said Yolanda Lopez, Ed.D., LSC-Montgomery culture impact manager. "We have been working on creating strong relationships across campus and with the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe to ensure we foster spaces of open dialogue, understanding and collaboration that are sustainable, mutually beneficial and long-lasting."

Visit LoneStar.edu/Culture-Montgomery for more information on LSC-Montgomery's Monument Unveiling Ceremony and Reception or other Office of Culture and Engagement campus events. Learn more about the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas at Alabama-Coushatta.com.

Lone Star College enrolls over 80,000 students each semester providing high-quality, low-cost academic transfer and career training education. LSC is training tomorrow's workforce today and redefining the community college experience to support student success. Mario K. Castillo, J.D., serves as Chancellor of LSC, the largest institution of higher education in the Houston area. LSC has been named a 2023 Great Colleges to Work For® institution by the Chronicle of Higher Education and recognized by Fortune Magazine and Great Place To Work® as one of this year's Best Workplaces in Texas<sup>TM</sup>. LSC consists of eight colleges, seven centers, eight Workforce Centers of Excellence and Lone Star Corporate College. To learn more, visit LoneStar.edu.:



# STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

**By Gary Borders** 



#### Abbott: Battle Continues Over Vouchers

As time runs out next week on the fourth special session, Gov. Greg Abbott said he will continue to fight for school choice, despite the Texas House once again decisively rejecting it when 21 Republicans largely from rural districts joined Democrats in stripping it from a \$7.6 billion education bill. The Austin American-Statesman reported it is unclear what Abbott's next move will be.

"I will continue advancing school choice in the Texas Legislature and at the ballot box and will maintain the fight for parent empowerment until all parents can choose the best education path for their child," Abbott said. "I am in it to win it."

However, Abbott has not said whether he will call a fifth special session. He has previously said that he would back primary opponents to those who rejected the voucher plan.

"I don't know whether the Governor will call us back for a 5th special session or not," state Rep. Cody Harris, R-Palestine, said in a Facebook post Sunday. "Either way, I look forward to the next time I have the opportunity to provide much needed teacher pay raises, increased funding for our local schools, and parents with the opportunity to choose the system of education they believe is best for their child."

The filing period for the March primary is underway and ends Dec. 11

#### WIDESPREAD POWER **OUTAGES POSSIBLE THIS** WINTER

The agency in charge of the state's power grid is warning that Texas could face widespread power outages this winter if temperatures plunge below freezing for several days in a row, as occurred last year. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas raised the alarm after canceling a plan to ask power plant operators to reactivate some closed natural gas and coal plants. It received few offers to do so, The Dallas Morning News reported.

ERCOT is predicting a 14.4% chance of rolling



By Gary Borders

riences a severe cold snap such as occurred just before last Christmas. Those chances grow to 16.8% in January, according to the report.

"The resource mix that's changing on the grid isn't really helping to pick up the growing peaks in the winter," ERCOT CEO Pablo Vegas said in a recent interview. "That's why there's this growing risk profile that we need to deal

Population and business growth are the main drivers of energy shortages on the ERCOT grid, The News re-

After the February 2021 inter storm, the Legislature put in place weatherization standards for power plants and is conducting widespread inspections of power plants to make sure they are complying.

#### **TEXAS STATE TO HOST FIRST** PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

The first presidential debate for the 2024 general election will be held at Texas State University in San Marcos, the Statesman reported. The Sept. 16 debate will be the first of four to

take place next year. Kelly Damphousse, president of Texas State since July 2022, said he believes the university, with nearly 39,000 students, was chosen because of its legacy with former President Lyndon Johnson, who graduated from there, and its facilities.

"Texas State looks a lot like the state of Texas demographically. We are almost all Texas students here, more than 95%," he told the Statesman. "And so I think

in many ways we look like a great opportunity for them. Not just our facilities, not just our campus, but just the entire story must have looked attractive to them."

The debate will be held in the school's event center, the Strand Arena. Hundreds of media outlets and attendees are expected, and Texas State has set aside \$5 million to prepare for and run the debate.

#### MORE THAN 800,000 TEXAS CHILDREN LOSE HEALTH CARE

Of the 1.4 million Texans who have lost health coverage through either Medicaid of the Children's Health Insurance Program, 58% — or 812,000 — are children, The News reported. This follows the end of pandemic-era continuous Medicaid renewals.

We knew we were going to have problems, to be candid. I'm sorry we're seeing the kind of numbers that we're seeing," said Steve Love, president and CEO of the Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council. "This is going to really exacerbate the problems we already have with the uninsured in Tex-

Nearly 70% of people who lost Medicaid coverage in Texas were booted off for procedural reasons, such as failing to return renewal packet requests. The state has the highest rate of uninsured people in the coun-

#### **TEXAS LEADS NATION IN** ANNUAL JOB GROWTH AGAIN

The state again reached a record high nationally with 14.536 million Texans at work, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. The state's seasonally adjusted jobless rate held steady at 4.1%.

"The Texas economy continues to grow, and there are nearly 480,000 job listings for individuals with the right skills, which TWC can help provide," TWC chairman Bryan Daniel said.

The latest report marks the 10th consecutive monthly increase in jobs, with the addition of 21,000 more Texans on payroll, TWC report-

#### WE'RE NUMBER ONE! IN FERAL HOGS.

It likely comes as no surprise to rural residents, but even city dwellers are having their yards and gardens ravaged by feral hogs, which have been reported in 99.6% of Texas counties. The only exception thus far is El Paso County, according to new data from the University of Georgia.

Rounding out the top five in sightings of the invasive species are Georgia, Florida, Mississippi and Oklahoma. Feral hogs have a high fertility rate and can eat nearly anything.

Texas A&M researchers have found a warfarin-based toxicant that is effective in reducing the feral pig population, but it is not yet being widely used. Hunting and trapping remain the most highly used methods of eradication, but so far the hogs are winning the battle.



# Thanksgiving Prayer

I have always liked Thanks-

I know its origins are dubious. I cringe a little when I think about the construction paper American Indian costumes and the happy story I learned as a child about that first Thanksgiving. I cringe a little more when I read about people missing their holiday meal so they can work at retail jobs where customers trample one another at the store's entrance to get in and buy things. I don't understand this, I have to confess. I have never been in such a hurry to buy anything in my life.

But even if the mythology of Thanksgiving is a little suspect and the current traditions can be a little crass, I like Thanksgiving because I cannot dislike a day dedicated to feeling thank-

My first Thanksgivings were spent at the farmhouse where my mother grew up. If I had to put my finger on the moment that made it Thanksgiving, I would say it happened in the stillness—after all the food had been piled onto the big dining room table, and grandma (for just a moment) had her apron off, and the cousins (for just a moment) had been herded together into some sort of group, and everyone (for the one and only time all day) had fallen more or less quiet. Then we would sing the blessing. My mother's family had a lot of good singers in it, sisters who played the piano and sang harmony in church. And so someone, an aunt I am sure, would begin:

"Be present at our table, Lord." We didn't ask for help, or intercession or forgiveness. We just asked the God we believed in to be there with us.

"Be here and everywhere adored." And not just with us. We asked for God's presence to be everywhere it was welcomed.

"These mercies bless and grant that we..." We asked for all this abundance to be blessed-everything on our table and in our hearts, and everyone standing there beside us, singing in the farmhouse. Then, in my family, we concluded:

"May strengthened for Thy service be." I have since learned there are several ways to finish this prayer. The more common ending is: "May live in fellowship with Thee." Some families sing, "May feast in Paradise

But my mother's family was a Swedish farming family, and we asked for strength to keep on working. Feasting in Paradise might have been fine for some, but that was a little more than any of us could imagine. Asking for strength so we could keep on doing what we had been doing seemed like a pretty safe bet and, perhaps, not too much to

Then we sang "Amen," and we ate. There were many more people than chairs, so the cousins sat on the stairway, and the aunts squeezed side by side on the couch, and some uncles ate standing up-despite my grandmother's repeated warnings that this would lead to fat feet. And the table would be filled with enough pies to nearly cover its surface, served with whipped cream and weak coffee. And a cold wind would rattle the last stubborn leaves hanging on the trees, reminding us that colder days were ahead.

And so, even though I am many miles away from my family and years away from that farmhouse, I am going to sing today.

"Be present at our table, Lord,

Be here and everywhere adored.

These mercies bless and

May strengthened for Thy

service be." Because it's a simple request,

and a good one.

Till next time, Carrie



GRAFIKPRESS is publisher of community newspapers, including Highlands STAR-Crosby COURIER; Barbers Hill Dayton PRESS; Northeast NEWS; North Forest NEWS, North Chan-

nel 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.

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#### SPORTS PAGE $\bigstar$

#### **SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 14**

#### Alabama, Georgia meet for SEC title: Texans host hot Broncos in rare 3 p.m. start

The first Saturday in December brings with it conference title games across the country. The only league title game that was set prior to press time was in the SEC where No. 8-ranked Alabama will try to end No. 1-ranked Georgia's 29-game winning streak and its stranglehold on the SEC and college football.

The Bulldogs have won two straight national titles and Nick Saban would like nothing more than to gum up Georgia's dreams of a third straight College Football Playoff (CFP)

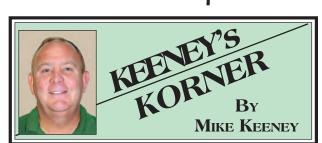
Saban knows it won't be easy, but he has his team playing its best football of the season and the veteran head coach is one of the best in the history of game planning for an opponent. Georgia head coach Kirby Smart worked for Saban as his defensive coordinator, so Smart knows Saban as well as anyone.

It's going to be an interesting afternoon in Atlanta on Saturday.

In the Big 12, Texas needed to win its season finale at home against Texas Tech to land a spot in the Big 12 title game this Saturday in Arlington. UT should land a spot after winning back-toback road games in Weeks 10 and 11. The win over lowa State gave Texas its first 10 win season since 2009. Tech would like nothing more than to spoil the 'Horns conference title changes, but something tells me UT head coach Steve Sarkisian had his team ready for the Red Raiders last Friday.

The winner of the Ohio State-Michigan game will face an offensively-challenged lowa team in the Big 10 title game with the winner earning a CFP

While the college season



winds down and teams wait for their bowl assignments, the NFL is heating up, especially the hometown Texans.

Two weeks ago, rookie QB C.J. Stroud shook off a threeinterception day to lead the Texans to a 21-16 home win over Arizona to improve to 6-4 on the season and remain one game behind Jacksonville in the AFC South race. On Sunday, the Texans host one of the hottest teams in the league when the Denver Broncos come calling. Two weeks ago, Denver defeated Minnesota 21-20 at home to win their fourth straight game.

Week 13 kicks off on Thursday Night Football with the Cowboys hosting Seattle. Other key games this weekend have the Dolphins visiting Washington, San Francisco visiting Philadelphia in a rematch of last year's NFC title game, Kansas City visits Green Bay on Sunday Night Football and a Joe Burrowless Bengals team plays at Jacksonville on Monday Night Football.

Before we take a look at this weekend's games, let's review last week's record. A 10-2 week upped the season record to 82-40, 67%).

Now, onto this weekend's games.

#### NCAA

SEC title game, Alabama vs. Georgia: This game pits

the two best teams in the SEC and it should be a fun game to watch. The Crimson Tide have a dual-threat QB in Katy Tompkin product Jalen Milroe (2,267 passing yards, 19 TDs/ 332 rushing yards, 12 TDs). He will get a stern test from a Georgia defense that is one of the best in the county and does an excellent job of taking away opposing team's best offensive weapon. Saban knows this and might feature running back Jace McClellan (737 yards, 6 TDs) to keep the 'Dawgs defense on its heels. Georgia is a special team led by sophomore QB Carson Beck (3,320 yards, 21 TDs). He has his top weapon back in tight end Brock Bowers (51 receptions, 660 yards, 6 TDs) and a solid runner in Daijun Edwards (725 yards, 10 TDs). Georgia rises to the occasion and while I think 'Bama will be in the game until late, look for the Bulldogs to come up with key defensive stop to win their 30th game in a row. My pick, Georgia 26, Alabama 24

#### NFL

Seattle at Dallas: Both teams will have three extra days of rest having played on Thanksgiving Day, as Dallas hosted Washington and Seattle hosted San Francisco. Two weeks ago, the Cowboys dominated Carolina on both sides of the ball and left Charlotte with a convincing 33-10 win, while Seattle lost late against the Rams, 17-16.

Dallas QB Dak Prescott (2,604 yards, 19 TDs) is having one of the best years of his career, as is wide receiver CeeDee Lamb (74 receptions, 1,013 yards, 7 TDs). Look for the Dallas defense to force Seattle QB Geno Smith (2,404 yards, 12 TDs/7 interceptions) into some mistakes as the Cowboys win at home and set their sights on their rematch against Philly the following week. My pick, Dallas 27, Seattle 18

Los Angeles Chargers at New England: Two of the league's most disappointing teams meet in Foxborough on Sunday. It's gotten so bad in New England, that head coach Bill Belichick's job could verv well be in jeopardy. Think about that, if one of the greatest head coaches in NFL history's job is on the line, what does that say for LA head coach Brandon Staley whose team continues to underachieve. LA has too many good players to have a losing record. Look for QB Justin Herbert (2,609, 9 TDs), running back Austin Ekeler (396 rushing yards, 4 TDs/24 receptions, 254 yards, 1 TD) and wide receiver Keenan Allen (83 receptions, 1,011 yards, 7 TDs) to take their frustrations out on Belichick's team on Sunday. My pick, Los Angeles Chargers 31, New

England 16 **Denver at Houston**: Two of the hottest teams in the NFL meet on Sunday in a rare 3 p.m. home start for the Texans. Two weeks ago, Houston held on for a 21-16 win over Arizona despite Stroud's (2,962 yards, 17 TDs) three interceptions. Denver won its fourth straight with a 21-20 win over Minnesota as QB Russell Wilson threw the game-winning touchdown with 63 seconds left in the game. The Houston defense needs to corral Wilson, who is having a pretty good season under firstyear head coach Sean Payton. Stroud will look to make more plays in the passing game to Nico Collins (43 receptions, 696 yards, 4 TDS) and rookie

Tank Dell (42 receptions, 659 yards, 6 TDs). The running game has improved behind Devin Singletary (471 yards, 2 TDs). Look for the Texans to pick up another home win as they look to remain in the AFC South race and the AFC Wild Card race. My pick, Houston 23, Denver 20

Miami at Washington: The Dolphins and their highpowered offense visit a Washington team that lost at home two weeks ago to a twowin Giants team. Things won't get any easier on Sunday when Tua Tagavailoa (2,934 yards, 21 TDs), Raheem Mostert (691 yards, 11 TDs) and Tyreek Hill (79 receptions, 1,222 yards, 9 TDs) come calling. Washington has one of the top passers in the NFL in Sam Howell (3,038 yards, 18 TDs), but not much else. Look for the Dolphins to roll come Sunday. My pick, Miami 33, Washington 16

San Francisco at Philadelphia: The 49ers return to Lincoln Field where their season ended a year ago at the hands of the Eagles in the NFC title game. The 49ers lost the game and QB Brock Purdy (2,662 yards, 18 TDs) to an elbow injury. Purdy is back, as is running back Christian McCaffrey (825 rushing yards, 9 TDs/43 receptions, 364 yards, 5 TDs), wide receiver Brandon Aiyuk (43 receptions, 831 yards, 4 TDs) and tight end George Kittle (43 receptions, 648 yards, 5 TDs). SF will be out for revenge, but they will face a tall task when they face Jalen Hurts (2,497 passing yards, 15 TDs/345 rushing yards, 8 TDs), running back D'Andre Swift (690 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receivers A.J. Brown (68 receptions, 1,013 yards, 6 TDs) and Devonta Smith (48 receptions, 632 yards, 4 TDs). The one thing that might work in the 49ers favor is the fact Philly is coming off a game at KC, and plays at Dallas in a week. Look for the 49ers to help out the Cowboys in the NFC East race as they pull off the upset. My pick, San Francisco 26,

**Hang your Christmas** 

Card on our Tree

Philadelphia 24

Kansas City at Green Bay: The Chiefs visit Green Bay on Sunday Night Football looking to get into their annual late-season roll. These two teams met in the first Super Bowl, with the Packers winning in a 35-10 route against the lesser AFL. KC has come a long way since that game in 1967 and has won two Super Bowls in the last four years behind star QB Patrick Mahomes (2,619 yards, 19 TDs) and tight end Travis Kelce (64 receptions, 641 yards, 5 TDs). GB first-year starting QB Jordan Love (2,331 yards, 16 TDs/10 interceptions) has struggled at times this year, but did lead the Packers to a 23-20 win over the Chargers two weeks ago. The Chiefs are a lot better than the Chargers and will make that point painfully apparent come Sunday night. My pick, Kansas City 34, Green Bay 20

Cincinnati at Jacksonville: Week 13 concludes on Monday Night Football with the beat up Bengals visiting the Jaguars. Cinci will be without starting QB Joe Burrow, who sustained a ligament injury to his throwing hand two weeks ago in his team's loss at Baltimore. Jake Browning is now the new starting QB for the Bengals and he has some weapons to help him out in running back Joe Mixon (605 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase (71 receptions, 833 yards, 6 TDs). The Jags have a healthy QB in Trevor Lawrence (2,382 yards, 11 TDs), a solid running back in Travis Etienne (670 yards, 7 TDs) and a solid receiver in Christian Kirk (52 receptions, 672 yards, 3 TDs). Look for the Jags defense to force a turnover or two from Browning as Jacksonville continues the Bengals woeful season. My pick, Jacksonville 31, Cincinnati 17

### Run-Off Election,

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

er 113,262 to 88,844 or 56 to 44 percent.

Both Whitmire and Jackson have name recognition in the community and whoever is best organized to get voters to the polls a second time will have the advantage. OTHER RACES

The mayor's race isn't the only one headed to a runoff. Four of the five At-Large positions on City Council and Houston City Council Districts D, G, and H all have runoffs. The Controller's office also has a runoff with former Harris County Clerk Chris Hollins facing off against former Harris County Treasurer Orlando Sanchez. Hollins won the

or 27.27 percent. In the city council elections, in At-Large Position 1. Julian Ramirez will face off against Melanie Miles. A mere 1,697 votes separated them in the November election. In At-Large

field during the November

election earning 95,382

votes or 44.84 percent of

the vote to Sanchez 57,996

runoff and lost to Turn- Position 2, Willie Davis vote from municipalities will battle Nick Hellyar after the two were the top vote-getters in the first election. Richard Cantu and Twila Carter will meet for the At-Large Position 3 runoff. Cantu captured 43,065 votes or 22.09 percent while Carter picked up 40,334 or 20.69 percent of the vote. Neither were able to win the majority in a field of nine candidates. The final city council position runoff is between Roy Morales and Letitia Plummer. Plummer almost secured the spot with 47.97 percent of the vote to Morales 33.23 percent.

For county residents, particularly in area municipalities, the city elections have meaning.

In one case, many are forced to purchase their water from the city of Houston.

Since Houston is the only owner of surface water in the area and their representatives also stack a majority of the positions on the subsidence district's board, it's difficult to outvote them with a minority who want to keep rates for

their customers low. Most local cities like Galena Park, Jacinto City and others purchase their surface water from the city of Houston as part of a long-range mandate by the state legislature to convert from ground water to surface water avoiding a growing subsidence issue.

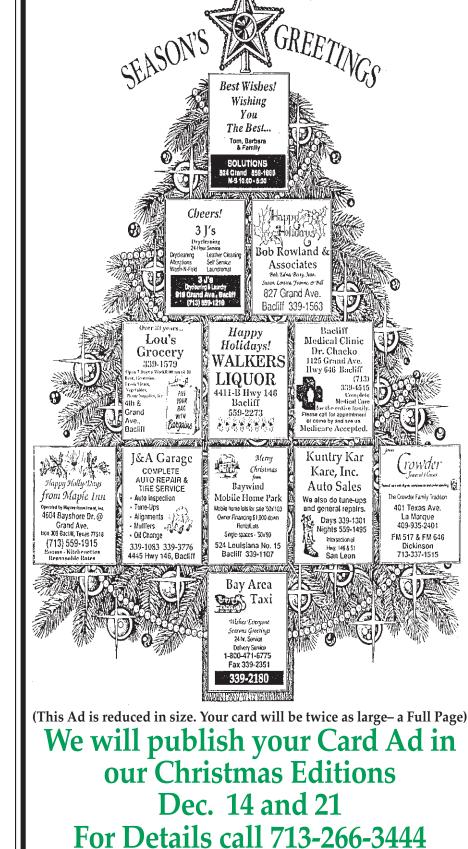
EARLY VOTING 11/27 THROUGH 12/5

On Monday, November 27, the Harris County County Clerk's office says 41 Early Vote Centers will open across the area from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., through December 5 from Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and on Sunday from noon to 7 p.m.

There will be 450 Vote Centers open on Election Day, Saturday, December 9, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. You can vote at any location.

The deadline to apply for a mail ballot is Novem-

To see a sample ballot for your area, please visit the County Clerk's website at harrisvotes.com.





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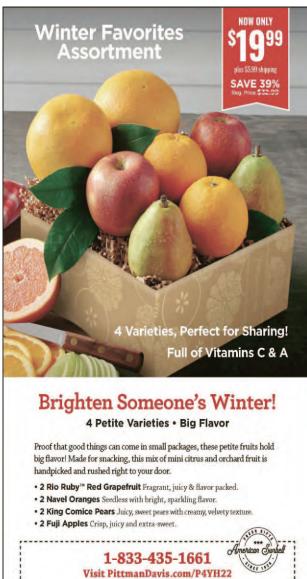
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**LEGAL NOTICE** 

**LEGAL NOTICE** 

**LEGAL NOTICE** 

**BID NOTICE** 

IC: P4YH22

#### **NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 505643; Estate of RONNIE CHARLES PETERS Deceased; In Probate Court No. 4 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on NOVEMBER 16, 2023.

#### **REGINA GAY PETERS**

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 NOVEMBER 21, 2023

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** 

NOVEMBER 17, 2023.

**LEGAL NOTICE** 

**LEGAL NOTICE** 

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 519650; Estate of JOHN RAYMOND McDANIEL Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on NOVEMBER 16, 2023.

#### **HUGH ERNEST McDANIEL**

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 NOVEMBER 20, 2023

by WESTON COTTEN Attorney for the Estate **BID NOTICE** 

**BID NOTICE** 

Barbers Hill ISD is requesting bids for Erate eligible Internal Connection and Managed Internal Broadband Services. Additional information is available at www.crwconsulting.com/ifcb.

Bids will be opened 01/04/24 at 2:00 PM at the Barbers Hill ISD Technology Integration Center.

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by WESTON COTTEN Attorney for the Estate

#### c/o Weston Cotten

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

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters

Testamentary for Docket No. 518377 Estate of HENRY MARVIN COOK

Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2 of Harris

County, Texas, were issued on

MARY RUTH HOLLEY

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 NOVEMBER 30, 2023

by WESTON COTTEN Attorney for the Estate

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JOHNNY GAEKE OWNER-INSPECTOR

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#### Crosby Superintendent,

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

dez (Honorable Mention): Jake Brown (Honorable Mention); Nathan O'Flaherty (Academic All District and Honorable Mention All District); Aanson Johnson (Honorable Mention); Cash Glover (Academic All District and Honorable Mention All District); Gavin Ramirez (Academic All District); Hank Barrientes (Academic All District); Johnnie Carter (Academic All District): and Nicholas Samuel (Academic All District).

As we wrap up the first semester of school, we're entering the heart of the testing. Elementary campuses (Drew, Barrett, Crosby, and Newport) will be holding milestone testing on December 4th through 6th. During these dates and times, we kindly ask that no visitors come to campuses: Monday, December 4: 5th Grade Science Milestone testing; Tuesday, December 5: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Milestone testing; and Wednesday, December 6: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Milestone testing. Please also note that Crosby High School and Crosby Middle School students will be taking final exams throughout December. The campuses will share the testing schedule with parents as we get closer. We appreciate your cooperation on those days so students and staff can be focused in a quiet, learning environment.

We invite families to enjoy our December holiday performances, most of which are free to attend. I wanted to share the list from all our campuses to make it easy for you to save on your phone or calendar and to share with family members who might like to attend.



Elementary students work in small groups to analyze drama unit.

#### **Crosby High School**

Dec. 7, 8, & 9"Bob's Christmas Tale"CHS Performing Arts Center

Dec. 12, 7pmFree Band ConcertCHS Performing Arts Center Dec. 13, 5:45pmFamily Movie NightCougar Stadium

Dec. 14, 7pmFree CHS Choir Holiday ConcertCHS Performing

#### **Crosby Middle School**

Dec. 6, 6:30pmDance Winter

Dec. 12, 6pm & 7pmChoir Con-Dec. 14, 6pmFine Arts Fa-La-La

Dec. 196pm - Beginner Band /

Jazz Band Concert7:15pm - Cadet, Concert, & Symphonic Band Con-

#### **Crosby Elementary School** Dec. 19, 5pm1st Grade Music Performance

Dec. 20, 5pm2nd Grade Music Performance

**Barrett Elementary School** Dec. 14, 5:30pmKindergarten Christmas Program

Dec. 14, 6:30pm1st Grade Christmas Program

#### **Newport Elementary**

Dec. 14, 9:30am1st Grade Performance

Dec. 14, 2:30pm2nd Grade Performance

#### **Drew Elementary School** Dec. 20, 2-4pm3rd-5th

grade Christmas Music Program Dec. 20, 6-7pmK-2nd Grade Christmas Music Program

#### Crosby Kindergarten Cen-

Dec. 12, 5:30-7pmPre-K Winter Wonderland

Dec. 14,

7pmKindergarten Winter Wonderland

We're looking forward to our families having a chance to make new memories ahead of the Winter Break, which runs from December 22 – January 5 for students.

Finally, the Crosby ISD Board of Trustees recognized student groups for their achievements this semester, from audio-visual students to FFA leaders. Among some of the highlights: the Crosby High School and Crosby Middle School JROTC cadet corps has grown to more than 160 students, and JROTC students have participated in more than 70 community service events. Our fine arts program is also shining. The Crosby High School choir has more than doubled in participation in the last two years, and the band program set a record 12th consecutive year earning all Division 1 ratings at the UIL Region Marching Contest. The Big Red Machine also competed in the UIL State Military Marching Contest at Baylor University in Waco. There is so much to be proud of as we close the chapter on November and prepare to start the Spring Semester in January.

We are Moving 5:30- Forward! Go Coogs!



GUEST

**Cookies & Pictures** with Santa

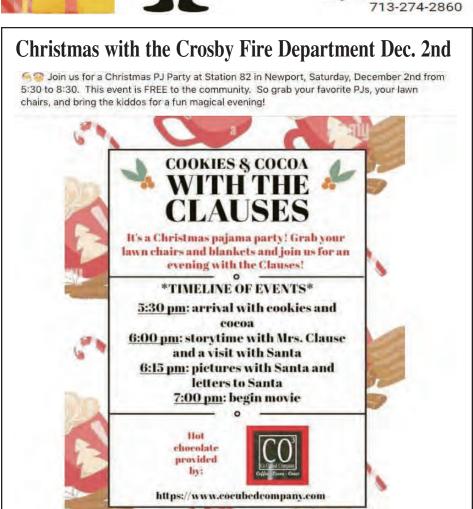
> TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023 5PM TO 8PM

Cookies **Hot Chocolate** Pictures with Santa & Special Guest

#### SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS:

Peet & Georgiana Bighorse Highlands Chamber Highlands Horizons Rotary Club of Highlands

San Jacinto **Community Center** 604 Highland Woods Dr. Highlands, TX 77562





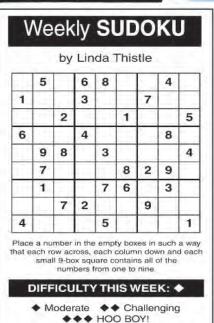
#### ENTERTAINMENT



5. Fear of wealth; 6. 16, eight pawns for each player; 7, Pangea.; 8. Lake Erie.;

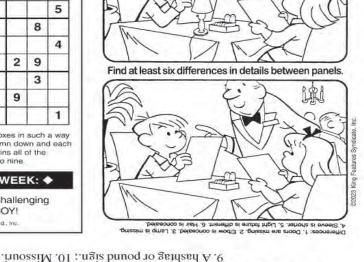
Trivia Test Answerst

1. Capt. Merrill Stubing.; 2. Reese's Pieces.; 3. Paprika.; 4. Borden Dairy Company.;



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7 5 3 6 8 2 1 4 9 Answer Weekly SUDOKU

#### November 27, 2023 Posting Date King Crossword

#### ACROSS

- 1 Microwave Jubilation
- Scruff "- Believer"
- 13 Give temporarily
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- JFK's veep
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  - © 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.
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16 Passing craze

High-five

Sagacious

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10 Top of the

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"Great work!"

- Misery 29 Crystalline
- 30 Skin soother 31
- sky

1. TELEVISION: What is the name of the captain in "The Love Boat"?

2. MOVIES: What is E.T.'s favorite candy in "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial"? 3. FOOD & DRINK: What is Hungary's nation-

al spice? 4. ADVERTISING: Which company's mascot

is Elsie the Cow? 5. PSYCHOLOGY: What fear is represented in

the condition called plutophobia? GAMES: How many pawns are on a chess-

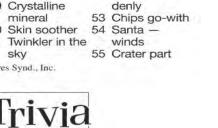
board? 7. SCIENCE: What is the name of the giant land

mass that is believed to have existed on Earth 200 million years ago?

8. GEOGRAPHY: Which of the Great Lakes is southernmost?

9. LANGUAGE: What is an octothorpe? 10. LITERATURE: Where are the novels "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and "Adventures of

Huckleberry Finn" set? © 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.



33 Tropical fruits

35 Leb. neighbor

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46 Denny's rival

47 Inspiration

48 Nuisance

49 Break sud-

40 Calms

38

Former mates 43 "Straight Up"

20 "Survivor" airer 45 TiVo, for



Solution time: 25 mins. RISWERS — King Crossword



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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.

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