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Asst. Chief White of Crosby Fire Department, receives a check and thanks from Jim Ferris of Wismer Distributing, FULL STORY, Page 3

VOL. 70, NO. 47 - \$1.00 © Copyright 2023

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023

P.O. DRAWER 446, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

Santa at Crosby Christmas Festival & Parade

Holiday **Events**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7 Bob's Christmas Tale Crosby High School Performing Arts Center

333 Red Summit Drive, Crosby, TX 77532 7 p.m. / \$10 for adults, \$7 for

students

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 Bob's Christmas Tale **Crosby High School Performing** Arts Center 333 Red Summit Drive, Crosby,

TX 77532 7 p.m. / \$10 for adults, \$7 for students

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce Children's Festival The CHCOC invites the

community to their 25th annual Children's Festival at Crosby Church on 5725 US-90, in Crosby, TX 77532. The festival runs from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Santa Claus will be available for photos from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Vendors are still welcome to sign up and sponsors are needed. Please contact Tiffany Muller at 281-328-1310.

Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce Christmas Light Parade

The CHCOC invites the community to their annual Christmas Light Festival at 6 p.m. Lineup is at 5 p.m. and anyone is welcome to participate. Show up at the Crosby Middle School parking lot between the school and the stadium to be assigned a spot in the parade. The only requirement is to decorate your vehicle in Christmas lights and décor. The parade begins at Crosby Middle School and heads north on FM 2100, down First Street to Wahl Street where they'll make a left. The parade goes down Wahl to FM 2100 and then turns left and heads back to the middle school. For more information, please call Eddie Foster at 281-794-

Bob's Christmas Tale **Crosby High School Performing** Arts Center 333 Red Summit Drive, Crosby,

TX 77532 2 p.m. matinee; 7 p.m. / \$10 for adults, \$7 for students

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 Big Red Machine Free Holiday Band Concert **Crosby High School Performing Arts Center**

333 Red Summit Drive, Crosby, TX 77532 7 p.m.

CMS Choir Winter Concerts Crosby Middle School 14703 FM 2100, Crosby, TX 77532

6 p.m. & 7 p.m. / Crosby Middle School Auditorium

Crosby Kindergarten Center Pre-Kindergarten Winter Wonderland with Santa 805 Runneburg Rd., Crosby, TX 77532

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Festivities all day Saturday Dec. 9 By David Taylor

Managing Editor

Here comes Santa Claus! The jolly guy is pretty booked making his pre-Christmas Eve visits listening to children make their wishes known for gifts this season, but his

schedule will bring him to the Crosby area on December 9, 2023, for the 25th annual Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce Christmas Festival. "We're looking forward

to a great crowd with lots of children. It's a family event and we want the town to celebrate," said Tiffany Muller. The festival kicks off at

1 p.m. with all activities at the Crosby Church on 5725 U.S. 90.

This will be followed by the traditional Christmas



Parade on FM2100, starting at 6:00pm.

"This is a great opportunity for our local businesses to sell their goods and give back to the community," she said.

While parents shop, children can enjoy face painting, a petting zoo, hayride, get a designer balloon and all are free, courtesy of local business sponsorships.

"Families can also enjoy free hot dogs, popcorn and cotton candy," she said.

Then at 2 p.m., the sound of hooves on the rooftop will resound as Santa Claus arrives at the event to hear children's wishes and take photos and receive a goodie bag.

"That's also free to the public," she added, "and the only thing where there is a charge is for products or gifts that people buy from our vendors.'

The market and festival have events both inside the Family Life Center and outside as well.

"We have vendors who are just doing giveaways while others will be selling Christmas items and other gift-type items," Muller said.

From wreaths to yard art, unique Christmas items, all of the items are from local companies or businesses and support the Crosby economy.

Any business that wishes to participate can visit the chamber website at www.crosbyhuffmancc.org to sign up.

Fees to participate vary. For chamber members it's \$30 for a 10-foot by 10-foot space with electricity, \$45 for non-members, and \$20 for any non-profit organizations.

"We have a wide variety of wares including bakeries, a scholastic book fair, lots of Christmas gifts and decorations and much more," she said.

The free items are sponsored by local businesses who benefit from additional publicity and naming rights for different events.

"Some are \$500 that come with a booth, a Silver Bells sponsorship at \$250, and Jingle Bells sponsorship at \$100," she

Muller said they still have some spots left for sponsorships and invited anyone in the community to help.

To contact Muller directly, email her at info@crosbyhuffmancc.org.

The festival closes at 5 p.m. to give everyone an opportunity to get over to FM 2100 and secure a spot for the Christmas Light

Continued. See SANTA AT CROSBY CHRISTMAS, Page 7

Rotary plans 49th Annual Chili Feast Feb. 3

HIGHLANDS - The Rotary Club is preparing to hold their 49th Annual Chili Feast, on Saturday, February 3, 2024. A chili lunch will be served from 11 am to 3 pm or until the chili runs out, according to Chili Feast chairman GayLynn Milliorn. A live auction will Noon as well as a silent auction.





Winner of the Chili Feast Raffle will have their choice of a 2024 Chevy Trailblazer take place starting at or a 2024 Chevy Trax SUV, from Turner Chevrolet.

lic Church social hall on The event is being held Main Street in High-

at the St. Jude's Catho- lands. The club president, Denise Smith, invites the whole

community to participate in this event, which benefits Rotary projects throughout the year.

The club members are continuing to sell raffle tickets. There are 700 tickets available for a \$100 donation. A ticket entitles you to two bowls of "Chester's Famous Recipe" chili, and a chance to win one of 17 raffle prizes, all worth more than the \$100 tick-

Continued. See ROTARY CHILI FEAST, Page 5

Vice President Harris visits Houston

Holds Forum discussion at Hardy Senior Center with Hispanic Caucus

Kamala Harris touts White House record

ALDINE - Vice President Kamala Harris visited Houston on Monday, speaking at a Forum held at the Harris County Hardy Senior Center in Aldine. She pitched Latino Texans on the White House's record of advocacy for them, as President Joe Biden prepares to face voters again next year.

Several hundred invited guests listened to the Forum speakers, which lasted for over 30 minutes before Harris left for a fund raiser in Houston.

"We are living in a moment where there is a fullon attack on hard-won freedoms and rights," Harris said, addressing the challenges ahead. "In the next 11 months, we've got



Vice President Kamala Harris, at right, participates in Congressional Hispanic Caucus event at Hardy Senior Center in Aldine. At left, US Congresswomen Sylvia Garcia, and Nanette Barragan, chair. Also participating with opening remarks were Mayor Sylvester Turner, and Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo.

a lot of work to do to make true the promise of who we are as America."

Harris spoke as part of a moderated conversation with U.S. Reps. Sylvia

Garcia, D-Houston, and Nanette Barragán, D-Calif., chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Harris attended a Biden campaign fundraiser after-

Harris specifically touted the administration's efforts to help minority-owned businesses, saying she and Biden



at a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Forum at the Hardy Senior Center

"understand the history of disparity." She noted the White House has committed to a 50% increase in federal contracts for such businesses and has invested \$12 billion in community lenders to expand access to capital for entrepre-

But Harris also spoke Continued. See VICE-PRESIDENT IN HOUSTON, Page 5

RACHEL'S DINER

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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.

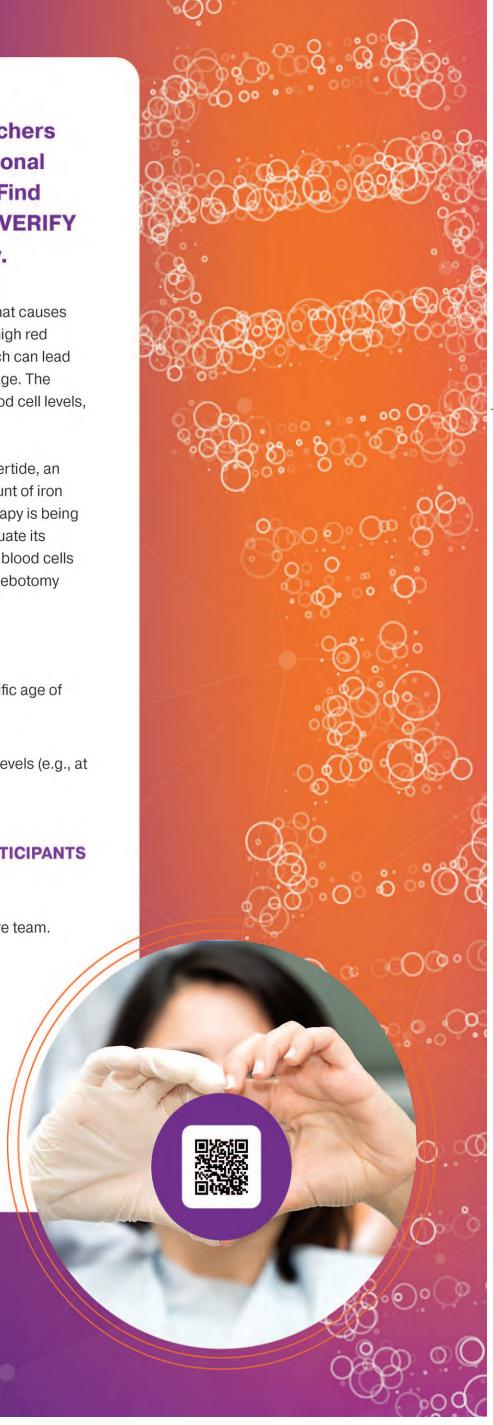
THOSE WHO QUALIFY TO BE STUDY PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE AT NO COST:

- · 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.







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VOL. 28, NO. 47

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Lee College Employee to Receive Prosthetic Leg Thanks to Rotaract Students

Attention Beach City Residents



SANTA ON THE BAY This year, the Santa On The Bay Parade will take place on December 8th and 9th.

Friday, Dec. 8th the parade will start on the south end of town on Cedar Point Rd. near TriCity Grocery store and progress northward and finish up the night with the Northpoint subdivision.

Saturday, Dec 9th, the parade will pick up just north of Northpoint and finish the parade just north of the city's northern boundary along Texana. The BCVFD will be throwing out candy to all the children along the route and Santa will most certainly be in his usual festive spirit. The volunteers of the fire department, and with help from the Beach City Mayor and City Council, will be collecting Food donations for our local food pantry and also financial donations to the Food Pantry or Fire Depart. Make checks out to 'Food Pantry" "BCVFD" whichever you prefer.

If you are new to the area, please plan to bring the kids out to watch the parade when it comes down your street. This is fun for everyone with the decorated fire trucks, Christmas music, sirens and the star of course, Santa. Who I might say can really cut a rug when he comes to Beach City. The parades will start around dusk each night and believe me, you will be able to hear them in advance of coming down your road. Let's make this the best one yet!

Ken Pantin Mayor,

Breakfast With Santa



Meet us at the Hilltop for this extra-special Santa event! Bring the family out and capture a special moment with Santa at our selfie station while we cater a tasty breakfast. After breakfast, keep the kids engaged with a special

Saturday, December

at Eagle Pointe Pointe Dr.

CHOOSE FROM 3

- 8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.
- 10:00 a.m. 11:00





Titan Tullous, a Lee College employee and Hall of Fame student, will soon be able to walk again, thanks to a group of Lee College Rotaract students. This fall, they organized a successful car wash fundraiser so Titan could get a new prosthetic leg. With the nearly \$10,000 raised, Titan can proceed with having the prosthesis made, and he expects to have his new leg by the end of the year.

"I feel blessed and joyful that people want to support me. I've had people from the president of Lee College to janitors donate. And now, I can't wait to walk up the stairs again."

Wismer Distributors Boosts Area Fire Departments Coffers

By David Taylor

A near tragedy at the Jim Ferris home became the impetus for a new program at Wismer Distributing in Mont Belvieu. Back in July, the coowner of the Anheuser-Busch distributorship found himself at the mercy of local first responders who saved the Ferris home from certain destruction. Now four local fire departments are financially better equipped to do their work with a \$15,000 donation.

"We had just finished stacking the round bales of hav." Ferris said. "about 72 of them when the fire spread."

Ferris was at work when he received the urgent call that a tree fire had gotten away from one of his employees. When he arrived, he worked alongside his employee to try and put out the fire himself.

"I had a shovel, and we were fighting it. I was down in the gully and winning the war. He was around by the barn fighting from there. It was bad," he described it.

What they didn't see was a line of fire crawling its way towards the 72 bales of hay. All of it amid a drought, something Ferris was not happy about.

"You should have seen it when it hit (the bales)," he said. The sound of the instant burst of fire when it hit the hay led Ferris to call 911 for assistance then.

"When Baytown arrived, they realized it was going to be bigger than they anticipated so they called Crosby who had a water truck," he said.

Ferris' property is out in the country and a long way from a fire hydrant and fire fighters needed water. He said the departments used something that looked like a swimming pool and filled it with water. The fire trucks, in turn, would draw from the pool to fight the fire.

"They would come and dump it into that pool and suck it out of there to put out the fires," he said.

In the permeating heat and drought, the fire remained stubborn and burned for two more days.

All four departments remained on the scene into the night.



Jeremy Rawlinson, EMT-P, Administrative Captain at Mont Belvieu Fire Department and his crew accept a \$3,750 check from Wismer Distributors in Mont Belvieu following a fundraising effort by the company during the months of September and October. The money is a first-time donation and Jim and Tanya Ferris, their son JamesPaul Ferris, and brainchild of the fundraiser Miguel Nigrinis, senior commercial director for Anheuser-Busch pledged to do the fundraiser again next year.



Cove Volunteer Fire Department Chief David Clark accepts a \$3,750 check from Wismer Distributor's Jim and Tonya Ferris, their son JamesPaul, and Miguel Nigrinis, senior commercial director for Anheuser-Busch. The money was raised during the months of September and October in a campaign to give



Firefighters and paramedics from Mont Belvieu Fire Department receive a check for \$3,750 from Wismer Distributing. Front row, from left, Jeremy Rawlinson, administrative captain; Devonna Dorsey, paramedic; Alison Antu, paramedic; James Lofton, deputy chief; and Tonya and Jim Ferris, co-owners of Wismer Distributing. Second row from left, Mike Lilley, captain; Seth McGlothlin, paramedic; Jacob King, paramedic; Jeremiah Starkey, paramedic; Miguel Nigrinis, senior commercial director for Anheuser-Busch; and JamesPaul Ferris of Wismer.

Whataburger and bought 30 boxes of hamburgers to feed them while they fought the fire," he said.

"Those guys work hard, and I felt like we needed to do something to give back to them for their service," he said.

Miguel Nigrinis, senior commercial director for Anheuser-Busch and good friend of Ferris, came up with an



The Highlands Volunteer Fire Department was the recipient of a \$3,750 check. Accepting the check on behalf of the department is Ryan Hotchkiss, assistant chief; Patrick Brown, captain; Tanner Scarbrough, firefighter; Ryan Lopez, firefighter; and joining them is Tanya and Jim Ferris. Back row, Matthew Bennett, firefighter; Miguel Nigrinis, senior commercial director for Anheuser-Busch; and JamesPaul Ferris of Wismer Distributing.



Crosby Volunteer Fire Department First Assistant Chief Russell White receives a check from Tanya and Jim Ferris, and their son JamesPaul Ferris of Wismer Distributing, and they are joined by Miquel Nigrinis, senior commercial director for Anheuser-Busch at the presentation. The money was raised by the company during September and October with case sales

of Bud Light to their vendors.

"It was a great way for us to thank our customers, retail accounts, the bars, restaurants, grocery stores, and convenience stores selling Bud Light. The more drinkers bought, the more we were

Over the two-month peri-

Belvieu, and Highlands Volunteer Fire Departments

equally divided. "We've already been a partner with Folds of Honor, our main charity, for nearly 30 years. Those donations have funded scholarships across the country for the families of military servicemen, families, and widows," he said. "This year we added first responders to that list, so we donated \$3 million nationally for first responders and then added this 'cents per case' program locally."

Ferris said their vendors embraced the idea and promotion and were willing participants.

"They were excited about it and ready to do it again next year," he said.

During Hurricane Harvey, the brewery shut down and revamped to bottle and can

"Since 1988, we have records that show we've distributed over 90 million cases of water," Ferris said. During Harvey, they drove through the neighborhoods with their trucks handing out as many cases of water as families needed. The water was also donated to local fire departments and most recently to the victims of the fire in Maui, Hawai'i.

"We'll do this again next year during the same time period and hope we can give even more back to the local first responders," Ferris said.

Each department was presented with a check for \$3,750.





Christmas craft.

9, 2023

Location: The Hilltop Address:12430 Eagle Mont Belvieu, TX

TIME ALLOTMENTS:

• 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

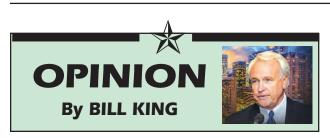
ran down to

idea to give back to the departments who could use the

"We began running the promotion during September and ended in October but for every case of Bud Light that we sold to our vendors, we donated 25 cents," Nigrinis said. Many customers may not have realized it but every case they helped sell, brought money back into the commu-

able to donate," he said. od, Ferris said they collected enough to make a \$15,000 donation to Cove, Crosby, Mont

★ OPINION PAGE ★



A House Divided

"Our politicians draw their strength from the division between us. They take the 10%-20% disagreement between us and turn it into the main thing, because that's what gives them a mandate to 'represent' us, to fight in our name. They do it at the expense of our security, our welfare, our taxes, and our freedom."

When you read this quote, I am guessing that you expected I was going to tell you it was from a contemporary commentator on the state of American politics. Rather, it is a quote from an Israeli tank commander currently in combat against Hamas, writing about his concerns over the divisions in his country.

Israel has a storied military and intelligence history. Its agencies have executed spectacular operations, such as the stunning 1976 rescue of over 100 hostages at Entebbe Airport in Uganda after their plane had been hijacked by Palestinian terrorists. The contrast of that vaunted history with the utter failure to detect or counter Hamas' attack on Oct. 7 could not be more stark.

While we do not know the details of the intelligence and military response failure that led to the Oct. 7 massacre, the letter from the tank command clearly attributes the deep divisions within Israel as part of the reason for the failure. His words are a cautionary tale for America.

Our country faces unparalleled challenges. These challenges mostly arise from truly epic demographic and technological changes that are spreading across the world. However, our dysfunctional political system, based on an anachronistic two-party system, is utterly impotent to marshal a fact-based, logical approach to addressing those challenges. Instead, we have devolved into a bizarre world of conspiracy theories and petty, partisan blame-gaming.



At the Republican convention in 1858, Abraham Lincoln told the conventioneers that "a house divided against itself cannot stand." The issue upon which our country was so divided at that time was slavery. Lincoln predicted that "I do not expect the house to fall – but I do expect it will cease to be divided." His prediction was proved by history although it took a bloody civil war to do so.

Today, we do not face an issue with the moral imperative of the abolition of slavery. But we do face demographic and technological changes that will upend existing social and economic norms that in some ways will be at least, if not more, disruptive. Americans can embrace those changes and lead the world through them, or we can continue our inane partisan bickering and suffer the consequences.

Lincoln ended his speech with a political call to arms. "To meet and overthrow the power of that dynasty is the work now before all those who would prevent the consummation [of the abolition of slavery]. This is what we must do." The "dynasty" to which Lincoln referred was the corrupt, morally bankrupt Whigs and Democratic parties of his day. It took the nascent Republican Party to disrupt that dynasty by electing Lincoln as president just two years later and eventually making the abolition of slavery a reality.

Does America still have the character and fortitude to throw off the current corrupt and intellectually bankrupt two-party dynasty that refuses to address the challenges of the 21st century? That is the task I believe Lincoln would be laying before us today.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5906 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.



Letters to Santa will appear in our next two issues. Your child can write a Letter and send it to SANTA, 5906 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 for possible publication. See Form in this issue, or use your own format.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

Texas Supreme Court Hears Abortion Ban Challenge

The Texas Supreme Court heard oral arguments last week in a case that could decide whether medical exceptions to the state's abortion ban are written clearly enough to protect pregnant women who face serious health risks, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

The 22 plaintiffs include women who contracted sepsis while waiting to terminate a nonviable pregnancy, and women who traveled hundreds of miles for abortions of a nonviable twin in order to protect the healthy fetus. An attorney for the plaintiffs argued the vague language in the law has left doctors unable or unwilling to perform abortions.

An attorney for the state argued the law is clear and that doctors are responsible for denying abortions allowed during medical emergencies.

"Some of these women appear to have fallen within the exception but their doctors still said no. That's not the fault of the law, that's a decision of the doctor," Beth Klusmann, assistant solicitor general, said.

An opinion in the case is likely to take several months.

BORDER CAR CHASES LED TO 74 DEATHS IN TWO YEARS

At least 74 people have been killed and 189 injured during high-speed car chases near the U.S.-Mexico border since Gov. Greg Abbott launched Operation Lone Star, a multi-billion dollar border security initiative, according to a report published by Human Rights Watch, a nonprofit agency.

The group analyzed data obtained from the Texas Department of Public Safety from March 2021, when Operation Lone Star began, through July 2023. It indicates more than two-thirds of vehicle pursuits conducted in the state during that period occurred in the 60 counties involved in Operation Lone Star.

"Operation Lone Star puts undue pressure on law enforcement to chase cars, sometimes with very little basis, resulting in deaths of drivers, passengers, and even bystanders," said Norma Herrera, a Texas-based consultant to Human Rights Watch. "Our review of the cases over 29



months identified at least 7 bystanders killed in these car crashes, including a 7-year-old girl out to get ice cream with her grandmother."

Col. Steve McCraw, DPS director, in an interview with The New York Times, said the department relies on its own troopers to decide when it is appropriate to give chase, and that a trooper who did not use appropriate caution would be held accountable.

FOOD BANKS UNDER EXTREME PRESSURF

A study from the U.S. Department of Agriculture indicates that 15.5% of Texas households are "food insecure," meaning they lack consistent access to health and affordable food – the second-highest rate in the nation. Food banks across the state are warning those challenges could get worse, the Texas Tribune reported

About 3.3 million Texans receive assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, with the number of older Texans getting SNAP benefits rising. From January 2020 through October 2023, the number of Texans aged 65 and older rose 28%, while the increase was 19% for those aged 60-64.

Operators of food banks, which are nonprofit organizations, blame rising housing costs during the pandemic for the increase in demand for its services.

"The rising cost of housing is the problem," said Teresa Jackson, founder and CEO of Sharing Life, a Mesquite charity that offers food, clothing, medicine, and educational programs. Sharing Life distrib-

utes food to more than 100 food pantries around southeast Dallas.

Adding to the distress is that thousands of Texans are waiting for months to receive new food stamp benefits, according to the Statesman. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is supposed to process applications within 30 days but is only hitting that target about 75% of the time. That leaves about 138,000 unprocessed applicants who must wait longer for benefits.

Food stamp recipients are required to work unless they are elderly, disabled or caring for children. Nearly 80% of Texas food stamp recipients are in families with children.

REAL CHRISTMAS TREES BOOST STATE ECONOMY

More than four million real Christmas trees are sold in Texas each year, providing nearly \$400 million in direct contributions to the state's economy, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service. The Texas Christmas tree industry employs nearly 4,000 people with a payroll of more than \$97 million.

"The process of going as a family to pick out a tree is a fun activity that supports rural economies across the state," Aaron Stottlemeyer, with the service, said.

Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states, with the first recorded tree planting in Texas occurring in Jasper in 1935. Texas ranks second in the South in Christmas tree production.

FIRST-EVER SIGHTING IN TEXAS OF RARE BIRD

Bird watchers recently flocked to a state park in hopes of seeing a little bird only rarely seen in the United States and for the first time in Texas. The gray-collared becard is a tropical bird that lives in Central America. Texas State Parks posted a "Rare Bird Alert" that alerted bird watchers of the sighting at Resaca de la Palma State Park in Brownsville, The News reported

The bird has only been seen in the United States twice before, both times in Arizona.

MEANWHILE, SCORPIONS ARE IN STRONG SUPPLY

Texans are reporting an invasion of scorpions in their homes, according to numerous online reports. Wizzie Brown with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service told the Houston Chronicle that these distant cousins to spiders often move indoors with changing weather conditions, such as rainfall or dropping temperatures.

The striped bark scorpion is the most common and one of the most venomous in Texas. They measure about 3/8 inches in length and are yellowish tan in color. While venomous, scorpions found in Texas are not considered lethal.

Brown advises sealing cracks and crevices on the outside of homes, not stacking firewood or other items against the house, and trimming trees and shrubs so they don't touch or hang over the roofline.



A Few Words

We had dinner with friends last night.

There is nothing unusual about that, except these were all people I did not know; people my husband, Peter, had met while taking his daily hike in Mexico.

This was not the first gathering of Peter's friends we've had. My self-professed introvert of a husband has become something of a social butterfly outside of the U.S. He goes to the same botanical nature reserve to hike every day and he meets new people and forms new friendships. Peter still professes to be a shy person. He is not.

But last night was particularly special because these were not visiting Americans or Canadians or even Norwegians—all of whom Peter has met and introduced me to. These friends were the Mexican employees of the nature reserve.

We invited them over to our hotel, which usually serves only breakfast and lunch. But our kind host, Jorge, insisted they would love to serve dinner to us, and they put together a feast. The temperature was cool, but everyone brought a coat (they know the climate, after all). There was a tasty appetizer and fish tacos and a chocolate mousse for dessert, and it was a perfect night—in spite of the fact that Peter really speaks no Spanish at all, I only speak a little, and three of our four guests spoke either very little English or none at

It helped that there was one truly bilingual person. Emiliano is only 18, but he speaks excellent English, and when conversation got completely gummed up, he would sort things out. But it was astonishing how few words we needed to have a good conversation.

I am all about words. Words are what I do, so I am used to thinking that having precisely the right word is important. And sometimes it is. But there are many ways to say the same thing, and a few hand gestures, a facial expression, maybe a moment of pantomime, and the missing word can be guessed, and the conversation can continue. Most of the time, Emiliano didn't have to bail us out at all.

What did we talk about for this two-hour dinner? We talked about our families, of course. We talked about what Emiliano was going to study at college (he still doesn't know). We talked about this town and the celebrations that had just passed and the celebrations that were about to begin. Peter asked if anyone had pets, and Marcela laughed and said she had 11 dogs.

"You have 11 dogs?" I asked Marcela in Spanish, sure I must have misunderstood.

She nodded and laughed again. "And three cats! All from the streets."

And all the while, I wished I had a few more words. I wished I could understand just a bit better. I no longer care if I use the wrong form of a verb, or forget a word, or say something embarrassing. It makes no difference at all. What I care about, more than ever, is being able to understand these people—my new friends.

We said goodnight. Marcela gave me a headband and a pair of fingerless gloves she knit herself. Peter said he would see them all the next morning at the nature reserve. Jorge was pleased that the dinner went well, and took some pictures of the beautiful meal to put on his website.

It was a wonderful night and, for a person who is always trying to find the best words, a reminder of how much can be said using very few words at all.

Till next time,

Carrie



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SPORTS PAGE

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 15

Texans look to remain in AFC Wild Card race against Jets: Cowboys host Eagles in key NFC East game in prime time

The 2023 NFL season is heading into the home stretch as the calendar has turned to December and a number of teams are still alive in the playoff hunt, just what the NFL wants.

One of those teams is the hometown Houston Texans who despite losing a tough 24-21 decision to Jacksonville two weeks ago at home, are very much alive in the AFC Wild Card race.

DeMeco Ryan's' team can help their cause this Sunday with a win against a struggling New York Jets team at The Meadowlands.

The AFC South is probably out of reach for the Texans due to their loss to the Jags. That defeat left the Texans two games behind in the division with just five games left to play. The Jags are rolling and could cause trouble in the playoffs.

Although the Jets are having a rough season, especially on offense, they are solid on defense and will be ready for rookie QB C.J. Stroud on Sunday. The NY offense could get a big boost if Aaron Rodgers, their big acquisition in the offseason, returns from the Achilles injury he suffered on his fourth play as a Jet. If I'm New York management. I would hold the future Hall of Famer out for the remainder of the season because the Jets aren't going to the playoffs and if Rodgers reiniures his Achilles, he might be gone for next season as well.

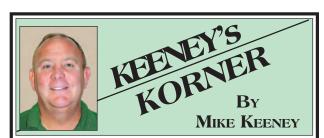
While the Texans hit the road to New Jersey, the Dallas Cowboys host the Philadelphia Eagles in a key NFC East game on Sunday Night Football. Like the Texans, the Cowboys chances of winning the division are slim, but a win over their heated rivals would do a lot for their confidence down the stretch and could position them as the fifth seed in the NFC playoffs.

But it won't be easy. Two weeks ago, the Eagles overcame a 10point halftime deficit (they trailed at KC 17-7 on Nov. 20 before rallying for a 21-17 win) to defeat a game Buffalo team 37-34 in overtime in the rain in Philly

The Cowboys have been tough to beat at home and took a 13-game home winning streak into last Thursday night's home game against Seattle.

This should be one of the best regular season games to watch

come Sunday night. Other key games this weekend



Detroit at Chicago: Two weeks

ago, the Lions lost at home on

Thanksgiving to a sub-500 Green

Bay team, so look for Detroit head

troops focused when they face NFC

coach Dan Campbell to have his

North rival Chicago on Sunday in

the Windy City. The Lions will look

offense led by QB Jared Goff (3,075

yards, 18 TDs), and running backs

TDs) and Jahmyr Gibbs (566 yards,

David Montgomery (648 yards, 8

5 TDs). Once those two soften up

the Bears defense, look for Goff to

make plays down field to wide

tight end Sam LaPorta (55

Detroit 33, Chicago 18

Bears, once again, are simply

playing for next season. My pick,

Houston at New York Jets: If

the Texans are going to continue to

supposed to win and that will be the

case on Sunday when they face the

Jets. Stroud (3,266 yards, 19 TDs)

will face a tough Jets defense, but

he has shown thus far he is up to

Texans back two weeks ago against

the task. He almost brought the

the Jags and this week he will

downfield to Nico Collins (50

continue to need to make plays

receptions, 899 yards, 5 TDs) and

rookie Tank Dell (47 receptions, 709

yards, 7 TDs). Look for the Houston

offense as the Texans pick up a nice road win. My pick, Houston 26,

Jacksonville at Cleveland:

This will be a tough road test for the

Cleveland December weather. This

game will test Jacksonville's mettle.

yards, 12 TDs) has been on a roll as

Jags QB Trevor Lawrence (2,746

of late, but he will face a solid

Browns defense that is led by

defensive end Myles Garrett (13

Jags when they face a very good

Cleveland defense and the

defense to get after a putrid Jets

New York Jets 13

have postseason dreams, they

need to win games they are

receiver Aman-Ra St. Brown (82

receptions, 993 yards, 5 TDs) and

receptions, 539 yards, 5 TDs). The

for a big game from their potent

have the Lions taking on the Bears in Chicago, while Jacksonville visits Cleveland in a key game for the Browns and their playoff hopes. For the second time in two weeks, Seattle takes on the 49ers, this time in San Francisco. The 49ers dominated the Seahawks in Seattle on Thanksgiving night, 31-13, and can pretty much wrap up the NFC West with a win on Sunday. Buffalo visits Kansas City in what should be an offensive shootout, while the hot Denver Broncos take on the disappointing Los Angeles Chargers. For the third time this season, we get two Monday Night Football games as the Packers visits the Giants (yawn), while the Titans visit the Dolphins.

By this time next week, we should know the four teams that will make up the College Football Playoffs (CFP). There are a number of contenders for the four spots and once the dust settles from last weekend's conference title games, the four CFP spots should be decided.

Off the field, Texas A&M hired Duke head coach (and former Aggie defensive coordinator) Mike Elko to replace Jimbo Fisher. I think it's a good hire. Elko won at Duke, and if he could win at a basketball school, imagine what he can do at a place like A&M and all of the resources that will be available to him.

Locally, the University of Houston fired head coach Dana Holgerson, which many thought was coming at UH finished 4-8 in its first year in the Big 12. It will be interesting to see who the powers that be at UH select to succeed Holgerson. My pick would be UTSA head coach Jeff Traylor, but they aren't asking me

Before we take a look at this weekend's NFL games, let's review last week's record. A 9-3 week brought the season record to 91-43

Now, onto this week's game.

sacks, team has 34). Look for the Jags to feature running back Travis Etienne (726 yards, 8 TDs), which should open up Lawrence to make plays to wide receivers Christian Kirk (56 receptions, 761 yards, 3 TDs) and Calvin Ridley (47 receptions, 663 yards, 5 TDs). The Browns are down to their third QB, so they will hope running back Jerome Ford (628 yards, 3 TDS) has a big day. The Jags continue their roll as they get a big road win in Cleveland. My pick, Jacksonville 23, Cleveland 20

Seattle at San Francisco: The

beat up Seahawks visit the surging 49ers on Sunday as SF looks to take control of the NFC West. Seattle will have three extra days to prepare for this one having played a Thursday nighter two weeks ago at Dallas. QB Geno Smith (2,584) yards, 12 TDs/8 interceptions) can use the extra time to mend his injured elbow, and it would help if running back Kenneth Walker III (613 yards, 6 TDs) is back from an oblique injury he suffered three weeks ago. It might not matter against 49ers team that is playing well on defense and has an explosive offense led by QB Brock Purdy (2,871 yards, 19 TDs), running back Christian McCaffrey (939 rushing yards, 11 TDs/48 receptions, 389 yards, 5 TDs), and wide receiver Brandon Aiyuk (45 receptions, 881 yards, 5 TDs). Look for the 49ers to roll on Sunday. My

pick, San Francisco 36, Seattle 17 Buffalo at Kansas City: When the season began, many thought these two teams would once again be in the hunt for the AFC title. Well, the Chiefs certainly are, but the Bills are on the cusp of not even making the playoffs. Injuries on the defense have had a lot to do with Buffalo being a 6-6 team heading into last week's bye week. They trail Miami by two games in the AFC East and after the KC game, they will still have to face Dallas, the Chargers and Miami. To say head coach Sean McDermott's seat is getting warm would be an understatement. This should be a high-scoring game as Josh Allen (3,214 passing yards, 24 TDs/342 rushing yards, 9 TDs) and Patrick Mahomes (2,917 yards, 21 TDs) trade big plays. Both teams have decent running games, with the Bills being led by James Cook (731 yards, 1 TD) and the KC being led by Isiah Pacheco (669 yards, 5 TDs) and both have big-play receivers in Buffalo's Stefon Diggs (83 receptions, 969 yards, 8 TDs) and KC's Travis Kelce (70 receptions, 732 yards, 5 TDs). KC has the better and healthier defense and they will be the difference maker at the Bills fall to below .500 on Sunday in KC. My pick, Kansas City 32, Buffalo 26

Denver at Los Angeles

Chargers: Don't look now, but the Denver Broncos are the hottest team in the NFL. Two weeks ago, Sean Payton's team won its fifth straight game to move within two games of the Chiefs in the AFC West. Denver has received solid play from QB Russell Wilson (2,199 yards, 209 TDs) and big plays from wide receiver Cortland Sutton (48 receptions, 560 yards, 8 TDs) and an opportunistic defense. This week, they visit the underachieving Chargers, who have a load of talent but just can't seem to win close games. LA has a talented QB in Justin Herbert (2,826 yards, 209 TDs), a versatile running back in Austin Ekeler (428 rushing yards, 4 TDs/29 receptions, 286 yards, 1 TD) and a big-play wide receiver in Keenan Allen who is having one of the best years of his nine-year career (97 receptions, 1,117 yards, 7 TDs). This one should be close, but look for Wilson to make one or two more plays than will Herbert as the Broncos keep on rolling. My pick, Denver 26, Los Angeles Chargers 23

Philadelphia at Dallas: The Game of the Week and a good one for the Sunday Night Football crew pits the Eagles against the Cowboys. These two teams don't care one bit for one another and this is one of the most heated rivalries in the NFL. A year ago, the Eagles jumped out to a 10-0 lead, but the Cowboys rallied for a 40-34 win. This game features two of the hottest QBs in the NFL in Philly's Jalen Hurts (2,697 passing yards, 18 TDs/410 rushing yards, 11 TDs) and Dallas' Dak Prescott (2,935 yards, 23 TDs). Both teams have explosive receivers as the Eagles feature A.J. Brown (73 receptions, 1,050 yards, 7 TDs) and DeVonta Smith (55 receptions, 738 yards, 5 TDs) and the Cowboys will counter with CeeDee Lamb (78 receptions, 1,066 yards, 6 TDs) and Brandin Cooks (33 receptions, 452 yards, 4 TDs). After a slow start to the season, Cooks has been on fire the last four weeks. Dallas has the edge at tight end with second-year man Jake Ferguson (40 receptions, 421 yards, 4 TDs). Two weeks ago, the Eagles rallied in the rain at home to defeat Buffalo on Hurts TD run in overtime, while the Cowboys dominated Washington 45-10 on Thanksgiving Day. There should be plenty of big plays in this one, so the team that plays the best on defense should come out on top. The Eagles are beat up on that side of the ball, while the Cowboys are rolling behind Micah Parsons (11.5 sacks, team has 37). Dallas knows if it hopes to catch the Eagles in the NFC East race they must win on Sunday and it says here they will get the job done. My pick, Dallas 31, Philadelphia 27

Tennessee at Miami: The Dolphins high-scoring offense gets to strut its stuff in prime time on Monday Night Football and I have a feeling they won't disappoint those who will be watching. Miami has weapons all over the field led by QB Tua Tagovailoa (3,177 yards, 22 TDs), running back Raheem Mostert (785 yards, 15 total TDs) and speedy wideouts Tyreek Hill (88 receptions, 1,324 yards, 10 TDs) and Jalen Waddle (52 receptions, 691 yards, 3 TDs). The Titans are in rebuild mode, which means this one could get ugly early. My pick, Miami 36, Tennessee 13



SCORES & SCHEDULES <u>Last week's results</u> North Shore 34, Atascocita 28

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Galena Park North Shore Mustangs (14-0, 7-0) vs. Austin Westlake Chaparrals (14-0, 8-0) on Saturday, December 9, 2023, at 3 p.m. at the Pfield in Pflugerville, Texas for the State Semifinal title in UIL Class 6A Division 1. For ticket information, call the Galena Park ISD Athletics Office at 832-386-4330.

HOW THEY GOT HERE: North Shore 38, The Woodlands 17 North Shore 53, Spring 0* North Shore 45, Spring Westfield 9* North Shore 49, Beaumont United 7 North Shore 42, C. E. King 6*

North Shore 31, Summer Creek North Shore 62, Beaumont West Brook 14 North Shore 38, Humble 24

North Shore 61, Atascocita 35* North Shore 55, Kingwood 7 **PLAYOFFS** North Shore 42, Deer Park 14 North Shore 49, Clear Springs

North Shore 45, Cy-Fair 9 North Shore 34, Atascocita 28



VP Harris in Houston,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

she called an "intentional full-on attack" against people's rights, including the U.S. Supreme Court's overturning of Roe v. Wade last year. She harshly criticized states like Texas that after the ruling instituted abortion bans without exceptions for rape

"The idea that after someone has survived a crime of violence to their body, a violation of their body, that they would be told, 'And you have no right to make a decision about what happens to vour body next' — it's immoral," Harris said. "It's immoral."

The conversation was introduced by Harris County Judge Lina Hidal-

more broadly about what go, who spoke about her recent struggles with mental health and the stigma attached to it, especially in the Latino community. Hidalgo took a nine-week leave of absence earlier this year to check herself into an inpatient treatment center in Ohio.

> "It's just something we don't talk about in our culture, but that doesn't mean it's not happening," Hidalgo said.

> Hidalgo said Harris contacted her while she was receiving treatment and was "such a source of support for me."

> The event took place at Hardy Senior Center in Garcia's district, one of the most heavily Hispanic congressional districts in the country.

Harris headed to a private residence afterward for the fundraiser, which was also attended by her husband, Doug Emhoff, as well as Hidalgo and Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner. According to a pool report, Emhoff paid homage to famous Texas Democrats and alluded to the decades-long Republican control of the state.

"We will never give up on Texas," Emhoff said.

Harris' visit comes as the Biden campaign works to shore up Latino support ahead of a potential rematch against former President Donald Trump next year. In Texas, Republicans have been making an aggressive push to win over more Hispanic voters, particularly in South Texas.

Letter to Santa

Dear Santa,		

Rotary Chili Feast Feb. 3rd, **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

et price.

Club members are also selling Chili lunches only, for \$10. Great for extra hungry folks, or to take home for later.

This annual event is a high point for many in the community, who see their friends at least this one time each year, and catch up with stories. It also has great food, and quality auction items.

Raffle prizes this year include gift cards, a 32" smart television, portable ice maker, battery charger, Beats wireless headphones, an air fryer, a 65 qt. Artic cooler, a shotgun, a 28" Black Stone Cooker, an outdoor Propane Fire Pit, a 22-250 Rifle, a 55" Smart TV, and of course the grand prize, a new Chevrolet vehicle, the win-

ner's choice of a 2024 Chevy Trailblazer or a 2024 Chevy Trax SUV.

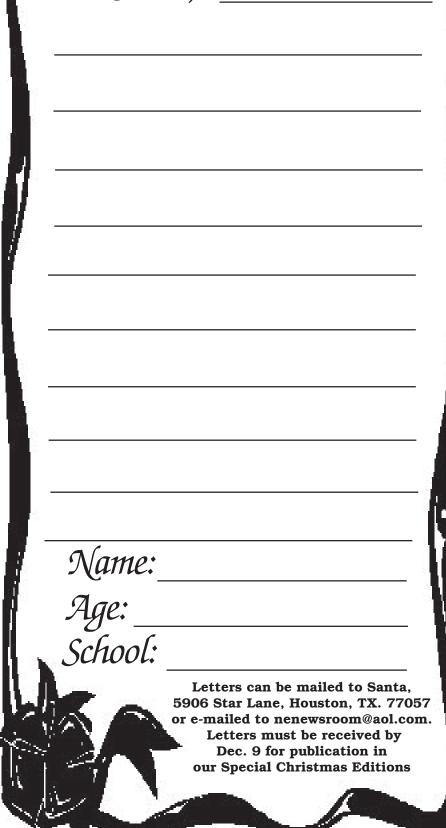
The Highlands Rotary Club uses the proceeds from the Chili Feast for community projects, such as scholarships, library, and fire departments, as well as scouts and other organiztions. Last year they purchased a van to facilitate a mobile library for the community with the help of the Stratford branch library.

The Highlands Rotary Club is now 75 years old, having been chartered in 1948. Fundraising for community projects over all those years has amounted to almost \$1,000,000. Much of this was returned in scholarships, as the club annually awards about \$30,000 to graduating seniors and college students. The club actively supports our local schools, including Interact clubs at Chinquapin and Goose Creek Memo-

The club members are selling raffle tickets and welcome your support. Contact 832-262-6828 or 832-483-3505 for information on how to acquire a ticket, or to become a sponsor.

The club is always looking for new members, also, if you would like to join others in community projects and fellowship.

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Holiday **Events**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 Family Movie Night **Crosby Cougar Stadium** 14703 FM 2100, Crosby, TX 77532 5:45 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14 CMS Fine Arts Fa-La-La Showcase 14703 FM 2100, Crosby, TX 77532 6 p.m. / Crosby Middle School Auditorium

Barrett Elementary School Christmas Program for Kindergarten Parents 815 FM 1942, Crosby, TX 77532 5:30 p.m.

Barrett Elementary School Christmas Program for 1st Grade **Parents** 815 FM 1942, Crosby, TX 77532 6:30 p.m.

Crosby Kindergarten Center Kindergarten Winter Wonderland with Santa 805 Runneburg Rd., Crosby, TX

5:30 p.m.

Newport Elementary 1st Grade Performance

430 N Diamondhead Blvd #8009, Crosby, TX 77530 9:30 a.m.

Newport Elementary 2nd Grade Performance 430 N Diamondhead Blvd #8009, Crosby, TX 77530

2:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 **Christmas Music Recital** The Studio of C. David Taylor invites the community to celebrate the annual Christmas Recital at Church of the

Resurrection, 5202 First Street in Crosby, TX 77532. This is Mr. Taylor's 45th anniversary teaching private piano and voice students. A reception follows the students performances.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19 Crosby Middle School Band Concerts

14703 FM 2100, Crosby, TX 77532 6 p.m. CMS Beginner and Jazz Band 7:15 p.m. CMS Cadet, Concert, &

Symphonics Bands / Crosby

Crosby Elementary School 1st Grade Music Performance for

Middle School Gym

Parents 14705 FM 2100, Crosby, TX 77532

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20 **Crosby Elementary School** 2nd Grade Music Performance for Parents 14705 FM 2100, Crosby, TX 77532

5 p.m.

Drew Elementary School Third - Fifth-Grade Music Program 223 Red Oak Ave., Crosby, TX 77532 2 p.m.

Drew Elementary School Kindergarten - 2nd Grade Music 223 Red Oak Ave., Crosby, TX 77532 6 p.m.

DECEMBER 24 Christmas Eve Service Join the parish of Church of the Resurrection in Crosby at 5202 First Street for their annual Christmas Eve mass at 7 p.m. The service features special

and timpanis. Have a Christmas date we need to include? Please email HYPERLINK

music accompanied by brass

"mabadochidajb@utokom"<u>erbochidajb@utokom</u> and include the who, what, when, where, and why of the

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LEGAL NOTICE

IC: P4YH22

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS CROSBY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S

State Financial Accountability Rating

Crosby ISD will hold a public meeting at 7:00 p.m., Monday, December 18, 2023, at the Crosby ISD Operations Center, 14670 FM 2100, Crosby, TX 77532.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Crosby ISD's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

47-1t

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 519483; Estate of CONRAD VINCENT AUCHTER. JR. Deceased; In Probate Court No. 4 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on NOVEMBER 15, 2023.

BARBARA J. AUCHTER

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 27, 2023

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

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Public Sale of property to satisfy landlord's lien. Sale to be held at STEVE'S STORAGE, LLC at 5625 Hwy 90, Crosby, TX 77532 on December 23, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. Items sold as-is to highest CASH bidder. Property contents of tenant spaces of HENRY CAMPBELL, MIKE GILLESPIE, and FRANK HOWELL: Furniture, tools, etc.

47-2t

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Santa at Crosby Christmas,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Parade which starts at

Eddie Foster, who is chairman of the parade, said there is no entry fee, and all are welcome with one requirement.

"Every entry should be decorated with Christmas lights and decorations," he

The lineup for the parade is at the same location as the bicentennial parade, between Crosby Middle School and the football stadium.

"There's no order, we'll place you when you arrive," he said, "and we ask that everyone arrive at 5 p.m. so we can get everyone set up on time."

The route for the parade is the same as most years.

The parade will proceed out of the parking lot at the middle school and turn left heading north on FM 2100. They will continue north onto First Street and then take a left onto Wahl Street. When they reach FM 2100, they will make a left and head south back to the middle school parking lot.

Santa Claus will be in the parade handing out candy to the children.

"Everyone is welcome to throw out candy to the children as long as they throw far enough to the curb to keep kids out of the street," he requested.

For more information on the parade, please contact Foster at 281-794-5122.



1. The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes (PG-13) Rachel Zegler, Tom Blyth 2. Napoleon (R) Joaquin Phoenix, Vanessa Kirby 3. Wish (PG) Ariana DeBose, Chris Pine 4 Trolls Rand Together

4. Trolls Band Together
(PG) Anna Kendrick, Justin
Timberlake
5. Thanksgiving
(R) Patrick Dempsey, Ty Olsson
6. The Marvels

7. The Holdovers
(R) Paul Giamatti, Da'Vine Joy
Randolph
8. Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour
(PG-13) Taylor Swift, Amanda Balen

(PG-13) Brie Larson, Teyonah Parris

9. Saltburn
(R) Barry Keoghan, Jacob Elordi
10. Five Nights at Freddy's
(PG-13) Josh Hutcherson, Piper

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EVELYN KOTRLA WOTIPKA

Evelyn Kotrla Wotipka, age 92, left this world on December 1, 2023. Evelyn was born on June 1, 1931 in Crosby, Texas to Edward and Lydia Romanek Kotrla. She once wrote a note to her daughter, saying "whatever she was or became in life, that it was because of the work ethic of her parents."

Evelyn attended Crosby Grammar School, Crosby Middle School and Crosby High School where she was the head cheerleader of the Crosby Pep Squad, cheering on the Buffalos. She enjoyed playing on the high school volleyball team and was the secretary of the 1949 senior class. Upon graduation, she received a full scholarship for Mary Hardin Baylor Business College, but turned it down to be a full-time homemaker. While in high school, she worked at Williams & Lord Grocery Store in Crosby starting at \$4.00 a day. She saved \$150.00 and bought a brand-new Singer sewing machine.

On August 5, 1947, 16year-old Evelyn went to a dance at the Crosby Catholic Parish Hall. She remembers that she was wearing a polka-dot dress and saw a handsome man standing at the outside bar and as she would later recall, they "locked eyes". His name was Edgar and he offered to buy her a strawberry soda. They went inside the dance hall and the rest is the beginning of their love story. She taught him to dance and they dated for two years, enjoying movies and a lot of dances. After she graduated, they were married on October 16, 1949 at the Czech Moravian Church in Crosby. They resided in the Baytown-Highlands area for 66 years, where they raised two children, Johnny and Cynthia.

Edgar and Evelyn shared a passion for deer hunting, which brought them to Cat Spring, Texas, an area that they thoroughly enjoyed. They moved to Cat Spring in 1983 and remained there for 7 years before returning to Highlands. They enjoyed traveling to historical sites, museums, dances, festivals and camp grounds throughout Texas and especially gambling trips to Louisiana.

Evelyn liked to sew, quilt, garden, can vegetables and cook for her family. Each year on her daughters' birthday, she



made her a poppyseed cake, until she could no longer do so. She shared her love of pickling and crocheting with her grand-daughter Tara.

Evelyn was very proud of her Czech heritage beginning with her church, Crosby Brethren Church, where she was a life-time member. She was a Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School volunteer and member of the Crosby Christian Sisters. She was part of the kolache making team, who got together monthly to make kolaches as a fund-raising project. Evelyn's freezer always had a couple packages of kolaches in it. Evelyn was a homemaker first, but later enjoyed volunteering at San Jacinto Methodist Hospital. She also worked as a temp at Exxon Chemical and as a desk assistant at the Stratford Branch Library.

Evelyn was a member of the Highlands Home Demonstration Club, the Young at Heart Club and Highlands Hi-Flyers serving as their trip director for fifteen years. She always planned exciting outings for the senior citizens on the county buses. She often played bingo and dominoes at Highlands Community Center and St. Jude's Catholic Church. She wrote weekly columns on the senior activities for the Highlands Star newspaper. Evelyn was also a member of the Cat Spring Agricultural Society and SPJST Lodge #91.

Evelyn inherited her love of reading from her father. She started reading his detective magazines and then went on to read romance and celebrity movie magazines. Later, she would read anything that she could find, a habit that continued until she was unable to do so.

Edgar and Evelyn also loved to dance together with the waltz being their favorite. They enjoyed dancing at the old-fashioned dance halls, feasts and celebrations. One of their favorite dances was "Baca's Famous Waltz." Evelyn loved watching "The Lawrence Welk Show" and learned to play the accordion along with her son.

Evelyn is survived by her son: Johnny Wotipka (Donna) of Onalaska; daughter: Cynthia Boland (Michael) of League City; Grandchildren: Stephanie Manning (Mike) of League City; Tara McKinney and Monica McKinney of Watauga. She is also survived by three great-grandchildren: Hannah Riser Lori, Camden Manning and Keira Manning and one great-great-granddaughter, Emma, all of League City. She is also survived by step grandson Jay Hamilton (Jamie) and step great granddaughters, Alyssa and KK Hamilton of Denver.

Evelyn was preceded in death by her husband Edgar, parents and brother, Rueben Kotrla. Numerous aunts and uncles preceded her in death, but her family knew that the loss of a special uncle, John Romanek, who died as a prisoner of war in a Korean prison camp, affected her very deeply. She named her son after her Uncle John.

A special thank you to all of the caregivers at Regent Care Center for their love, support and compassion during Evelyn's last two years.

Visitation will be held at Sterling-White Funeral Home, 11011 Crosby-Lynchburg Rd. Highlands, on Friday, December 8, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., followed by the memorial service at 1:00 p.m. with Rev. Larry Koslovsky officiating. Pallbearers will be Greg Wotipka, John Romanek, Charles Ripkowski, Calvin Kotrla, Mark Glendenning and Camden Manning. The service will be live streamed for those unable to attend. Interment will be in Sterling-White Cemetery.

For those wishing to honor Evelyn's memory with a charitable donation, the family suggests: Help Our Military Endure, P. O. Box 57636, Webster, TX 77598-7636 or www.helpourmilitary endure.org.



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