Goose Creek CISD News, Page 2

County Spay \& Neuter Event,
Page 7

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Chamber Gala Feb. 22nd
The Crosby/Huffman
Chamber of Commerce will hold its Annual Awards
Banquet on Thursday. Banquet on thursay
Feiruary 2 nd from $6: 30$
8:30 at Stonebridge 8:30 at Stonebridge at
Newport, 16401 Country Newport, 16401 county
Club Dive, Crossy.
Reservations and Reservations and
Sponsorships. contact
chamberecrosbyyuffimancc.ors chamberẹ
or call.
You are You are asked to nominate
Best Businest Best Business non-profit,
volunteer, citizen and ambassador. Vote hittps:///
mww.surveymonkey.com $/ r /$ 2XNKDSTV.

Community Meeting Feb. 10: Examining Crosbys' Future

Historical Society presents 'Future of Crosby' program By David Taylor
Managing Editor
CROSBY-A communi ty meeting to explore the unprecedented growth in Crosby is planned for this
Saturday, Feb. 10 at 2pm by the Crosby Historica Society.

Highlands Chamber elects new Board, officers; Gala


The Highlands-Lynchurg Chamber of Commerce ed members of our Board of Directors from the January 11 election: Tonya Kostka, Kathlyn Singleton, Sherry ee, Ana Clark, Randy Casey, Bella Dion, Jim Wadz and Ziomara Andrade. We invite our entire co unity to connect with us

 ical Society presents four programs for the public" Alliance Properties Real programs for the public," tor, Broker, and Owner
said Jody Fuchs, vice Velma Ellison. chairman of the Crosby The series of meetings Historical Society and one have been ongoing fo of the presenters at the more than 40 years, prior
program.
to the origin of the coming Fuchs has assembled a
team of four including eam of four, including
himself, Crosby ISD Superintendent Paula Patterson, Crosby Municipal Utility District President Steve Schreiber, and
to the origin of the coming "The Coming historica growth in Crosby seemed like a topic of interest," he Continued. See CROSBYS FUTURE,

## SUPER BOWL LVIII

49ers, Chiefs meet in rematch for Lombardi Trophy: A KC win would put Mahomes in select $Q B$ company

## RACHEL'SS DINER <br> Southern Cooking Buffet -- NOW OPEN 14280 FM 2100 (Across from Walmart) <br> 14280 FM 2100 (Across from Walmart) 281-462-7349

| The ultimate game of the 2023 season takes place in Las Vegas on Sunday February 11 when the defending Super Bowl champs the Kansas City Chiefs (14-6) take on the San Francisco 49ers (14-5) in Super Bowl LVIII (58). <br> The Chiefs will be looking for their second straight Lombard Trophy (they defeated Philadelphia $38-35$ on a last-second field goal a year ago) and the fourth in team history, while the 49ers will be looking for their sixth Super Bowl win, which would tie them with Pittsburgh and New England as the only three NFL franchises with six Lombardi Trophies. <br> SF and Dallas currently have five SB titles each. <br> You can bet the 49er faithful would like nothing more than to stick it to Jerry Jones' team psyche and win No. 6. <br> Before we take a look at the game and some of the historical aspects of it, 'l'd be remiss if I didn't mention the amazing job first-year Houston Texas head coach DeMeco Ryans and rookie quarterback C.J. Stroud did for |
| :---: |
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|  |  |
|  |  |



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## GOOSE CREEK CISD NEWS

Read Aloud Day


By Norma Martinez
Students around Goose Creek CISD celebrated February 1. World Read Aloud Day was first launched in 2019 and is day dedicated to reading. aged to use the power of stories to increase social bonding and empathy as isteners relate to chara

GCCISD Ignites Black History Month
 terling Steppers Jayla Vaughn, Aaleyan Wright, and Kianna Massicot perform
heir Step routine for the Sterling HS Black History Month Program (Photo by
Carrie Pryor-Newman) Carrie Pryor-Newman)

By Norma Martinez
Students at Ross S.
Sterling High School kicked off Black History Month on February 2, with special program at the day. This year's theme African Americans and the Arts," examines the significant impact that Af made in visual and performing arts literature fashion, folklore, language film, music, architecture, culinary arts, and variou ther forms of cultural ex pression.
To ali month's theme, the pro
gram featured a choir formance by the Sterling
Show Choir, a recitation of an excerpt from Amanda Gorman's inaugural poem in 2021 by Nathan Malon tine by the Sterling Steppers, accompanied by an explanation of Step. SIChools in Goose Creek tradit have embraced th celebrating Black history, offering presentations, projects, and exhibits hon oring the great lives and culture of African Ameri cans. Dr. Randal O'Brien urges the community, "A
we enter Black History we enter Black History Month, we celebrate the
rich tapestry of contribu-
tions that Black individurich tapestry of contribu-
tions that Black individuals have made throughout
history. Our commitment history. Our commitment to nurturing an inclusive and equitable learning en-
vironment remains steadfast. This month serves as ant. This month serves as
an opportunity for reflection, education, and appreciation of the diverse perspectives that shape our district. Let us honor he achievements, resil-
ence, and cultural richness of our Black community, and continue working together towards a more just and bright
future for all citizens."

Alamo Elementary's Lizzet Austin Receives National Honor


Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman: Ms. Lizzet Austin works with students in her fourth-grade math and science class. Goose Creek CISD is proud to announce Lizzet Austin, fourth grade teacher at Alamo Elementary as the Progress Learning Educator of the Year. This national Learning: Learning, Diversity, Professionalism, and Unity

GCCISD Names HAABE District Teachers of the Year


Alamo Elem, Minerva Donan
by Norma Martinez
 our Emergent Bilingual students, we are thrilled that they will be representing GCCISD at the HAABE re-
gionwide competion. gionwide competitio

## 100 Days Smarter



Larissa Richards and her second-grade class dressed like 100-year-olds. (Photos by
Carrie Pryor-Newman)


Jordan Pulido, Kindergartner, working on a cereal string as he counts to 100 while his teacher Maria Fuentes looks on.

## By Norma Martinez

Goose Creek CISD students have been in school for 100 days have been in school 10 Days
and for that, they are 100 Days
Smarter! February 5 marked Smarter! February 5 marked
the $100^{\text {th }}$ day of school for the district and campuses found fun ways to celebrate the occ
sion. ond grade students were invit ed to dress up like '100-year-olds.' Kindergarteners at Lamar Elementary al jewelry. Students at Banue los Elementary were asked to bring 100 of something in dif ferent ways, like in collections or on t -shirts and posters.
Celebrating 100 . school marks a significant mile school marks a significant mile-
stone, filled with countless moments of growth and learning. As students embark on the second half of the academic year,
the excitement builds, fueled by the excitement builds, fueled by the anticipation of completing
the year with even more achievements, memories, and success stories.

huncy Solis things on her shirt

## Barbers Hill㰦 Dayton

Serving Mont Belvieu, Dayton, Baytown and surrounding communities since 1995
ON THE
HIUL

Lee College Awarded \$750,000 for Innovative Pathway Program for Incarcerated Students

Friends of The Library Meeting Feb. 20 "Please join the
Friends of the Library group for the Chambers
County Library System! We are in need of an
Whty executive board, in-
cluding a president. cluding a president,
treasurer, and secre-
tary.
Join us for an informa tional meeting at the Chambers brary in Anahuac on February 20th from 6-1 pm."

Mont Belvieu 2024 Events Calendar

## $\frac{\text { Spring Sprint }}{\text { Saturday, Marc }}$

Saturday, March 23, 2024
8:00 a.m 8:00 a.m. | City Park
This event is a family 5 K run/walk and kids fun run.
The 5 K course starts and ends at Mont Belvieu City Park. Run on City streets
and sidewalks finishing and sidewalkss finishing
last mile on the gravel trail
around the City Park. Visit around the City Park. Visst
our Spring Sprint page for
info
$\frac{\text { Easter Eqq Hunt }}{\text { Satur }}$ Saturday March 30 th,
$2024 \mid$ City Park, Litle 20244 City Park, , ititle
League Soccer Fields
You dont You don't want to miss all
the EGG-citement at Mont the EGG-citement at Mont
Belvieu's yearly Easter Egg Hunt. This event is held at the soccer fields at City
Park on Eagle Drive and Park on Eagle Drive and event is broken into three age groups: 1 -4-vear-olds,
$5-7$-year-olds
and 8 -lo 5 ---year-olds, and
year-olds. That way, year-olds. Ina way
everyone is sure to have
fun and fun and get a lot of egg
Children must be Children must be
accompanied by an adur and they must bring their
own baskets. Ater the own baskets. After the
event, families can stay event, families can sias
refreshments and kids can have their pictures made
with the Easter Bunny.

Patriots Dav
$\frac{\text { Celebration }}{\text { Monday, April lst, } 2024 \text { | }}$ 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. I City Park
Celeb Celebrate our local
heroes at the Annual Patriots Day Celebratio collaboration with the Chambers County Veterans
Association! Join us for a Association day filed with military appreciation, thrilling
activies, and herte activities, and heartfelt
recognition of our service members in and around Chambers Country. Enjoy games and explore military vehicles at the touch-a-truck exhibin
get up close with local get up close with loce vehicles from Mont Belvieu
Police \& Fire Departments Police \& Fire Departments,
and experience the and expenience
excitiement when a excitement whena
helicopter touches down at
the stage field.You have the stage field.You have
your marching orders! See you at the park on April lst! Movies Under the Stars The Mont Belvieu Parks and Recreation Department andine the best of
binlywin Hollywood to Cily Park with
our fanily-friendly outdoor our family-friendly outdoor
film series. All of the shows
are tree and begin are free and begin at dusk. Bring your own chairs and
blankets; refreshments are bavailable on site. Coolers
are permited but are permitted but alcoolol is
not permitted in the park.


Center is the largest prison education program in the state and the seco "The data is clear ab the positive results of offe ing higher education opportunities for incarcerated Foundation's Executive Director Kristin Boyer. "Ensuring that support continues through the completion of a degree or credential is the ultimate goal. We're excited to support the tween Lee College Huntsville Center and the Lucile Plane State Jail to expand these resources in the Gulf oast region.
"Pathways from Prison to Postsecondary Education" will encompass a
range of educational opportunities and support tailored to the unique needs of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals. Program components in-

## clude:

*Expanding access for students at Plane State Jail to receive stackable credentials which will be transfer rable to Lee College's
Baytown campus after re lease. Enrollment atter release. Enrollment at Plane State is 161 - the highest
since 2020 when the Huntsville Center began offering technical programming with logistics and horticulture, as well as an associate of applied science
degree in business manage degree
ment.
*Placing a new reentry specialist at the Baytown campus who will provide
holistic support services and case management for program participants. *Providing formerly in carcerated program participants critical wraparound services that will be delivered through the Lee College Foundation and
Student Resource and AdStudent Resource and Ad
vocacy Center. They in clude housing, childcare certifications disrupts the cycle of generational poverty for many of our students. Lee College and the Lee College Foundation are students with quality educational opportunities that meet their unique needs as learners," said Selah Tacconi, executive director, Lee College Foundation and "The ability to earn a living wage after being released from incarceration is often the key to avoiding recidivism for our formerly incarcommitted to forging the partnerships necessary to continue our educational programs behind the prison walls in Texas.
And this strategy is paying off. According to the National Institute of Justice nearly $44 \%$ of formerly in
lease leased return before the Texas, the three-yearr. In ivism rate is just over $20 \%$, ivism rate is just over in the
among the lowest in the among the lowest in the
country. At Lee College, the most recent data says $94 \%$ of Huntsville Center's prison education program students obtain employment and avoid recidivism afte entering society
"Justice-impacted individuals are critically under-
served in higher served in higher
education," said Sue McMillin, president and CEO Greater Texas Foundation. "Our mission is to ensure all Texas students, regardless of background, have
access to, and succeed in, postsecondary education. Lee College has been a pio neer in providing higher education in Texas prisons for decades. We are so pleased to support them as they ex-
pand their reach at their Bayd their reach

## West Chambers County Pilot Club 2024 GALA Fundraiser March 23



## Baytown Man Sentenced to 50 Years in Prison for Molesting Three Girls



## assaults, whic

 The inves howed that Pena also mo lested an 8 -year-old whenhe was about 19 in 1982 After he was convicted, Pena opted to be punished by the judge, who handed down a 50 -year sentence. The four-day trial was
prosecuted by Assistant prosecuted by Assistant Stafford and Andrew Sanchez, who are both assigned to the DA's Crime

Against Children Division
"This case shows that it's never too late to say what happened," Stafford said. "These women have
grown up, were able to tel grown up, were able to tell their story and testify Through their strength and love for each other they were able to get the
justice they deserve" justice they deserve."
Pena will have to serve at least half of the prison sentence before he will be eligible for parole.


Houston METRO's Purple Line:
A Case Study of the Insanity of Building Light Rail

In 2015, Houston Metro opened its Purple Line (aka
Southeast Line) The Purple Line is a light rail facility that snakes 6.5 miles from downtown by Texas Southern and the University of Houston, ultimately terminating at Palm Center
on Griggs Road.
When Metro first proposed this line in 2008, it estimated that the cost would be $\$ 591$ million and the line would carry 28,750 weekday riders. As of September 2020, the project had cost
taxpayers $\$ 787$ million and is projected to ultimately cos $\$ 822$
million, $39 \%$ higher than projected. That equates to a cost of just over $\$ 126$ million per mile. The line's actual weekday ridership last month was 5,230 , less than $20 \%$ of what Metro originally
projected. As a result, Metro spent about $\$ 150,000$ per daily projected. As a result, Metro s.
How did Metro get it so wrong?
We happen to know a lot about this particular project because it was partially funded by the Federal Transioc Adminis-
tration (FTA), which required Metro to file an Environmental tration (FTA), which required Metro to file an Environmenta
Impact Statement (EIS) with the Houston Galveston Area Council (HGAC). Also, the FTA included the Purple Line in a analysis it did of about thirty transit projects, known as a
Projected versus Actual Study, in 2020. Here is what those Projected versus Actual Study, in 2020. Here is what those
records show.
This project was originally conceived as part of the Metro Solutions program that Metro put before the voters in 2003. By with a proposed route, which in transit vernacular is called the with a proposed route, which in transit
"Local Preferred Alternative" (LPA).
The EIS filed with HGAC included a chapter on how the would be built, including a projection of ridership. Below is the table from that chapter which showed Metro's average daily
dership projection or the Purple Line at 28,750
By the time Metro got around to applying for FTA funding for
he Purple Line in 2011, it had quietly dropped its daily the Purple Line in 2011 ,it had quietly dropped its daily
ridership projection to 17,200 dership projection to 17,20
While transit ridership projections are notorious for their
exaggeration, Metro's ridership projection on the Purple Line exaggeration, Metro's ridership projection on the Purple Line its 2020 study. The report notes that Metro's Purple Line projection was the worst of the thirty projects it reviewed. This is a chart that the FTA included in its final report showing what an outlier Metro's projection was.
Because of this, the FTA asked Metro for an explanation of
how the projection could possibly be so far off Specificaly the how the projection could possibly be so far off. Specifically, the make the projection.
However, by that time Metro had lost access to the software and the data used to make the original projection. So, instead of
providing the FTA with the detailed modeling data it asked for, Metro sent an email to the FTA in which it speculated that the earlier projection models had relied on the assumption that all of the light rail lines included in the Metro Solution program including the Richmond/Westpark and to each airport) would have be
Line.
The FTA skeptically responded, "It leaves us still pondering The FTA skeptically responded, It leaves us still pondering
how changes in the transit network - by themselves - could
tripe the for how changes in the transit netwo ridership compared to the .
triple the forecast of Purple Line
the actual outcome." Its skepticism was well founded because the actual outcome." Its skepticism was well founded because
there was nothing in the 2008 EIS referencing the other light there was nothing in the 2008 EIS referencing the other light
rail lines, other than the Main Street (Red) Line which had been in place since 2003. I think it is fair to conclude that the original after the fact as an excuse
Metro also admitted in the correspondence with the FTA,
that it had run a new projection in 2013 that showed average that it had run a new projection in 2013 that showed average daily ridership would only be about 6,500. Metro pressed the
FTA that the 6,500 projection should be used in its study and not the earlier projections of 17,000 or 28,000 . The FTA
responded, "While METRO and the FTA no doubt wish that hose revised assumptions had been used in the forecast in play at the time of the FFGA decision, we cannot substitute the revised forecast for the forecast actually provided to FTA at the time of the FFGA."
The significance here is that the FFGA is the point in time when the FTA had committed to financially supporting the project. If Metro submitted a projection of 6,500 daily riders, the
FTA would almost certainly have never approved funding the TA would almost certainly have never approved funding the original projection of 28,500 riders per day had been reduced by nearly $80 \%$.
Last year, the total trips on the Purple Line were just under 1.2 million. In 2016, Metro estimated that the operating cost of the Purple Line was just under $\$ 13$ million. Of course, that is andoubtedly higher today. So, the Purple is costing Houston
axpayers something like $\$ 12$ per ride in operating costs.
However, that does not include the capital cost of building
the line. If you assume that the capital cost of $\$ 822$ million is, say $5 \%$; that would add another $\$ 41$ million of annual cost, or additional $\$ 32$ per ride. So, the actual ongoing cost of the
operations and the opportunity cost of the capital is about operations and the opportunity cost of the capital is about $\$ 44$ per ride. And that is before you even think about trying to ecover the capital investment.
Keep in mind that any trip on this line is, at a maximum, 6.5 miles. A ride sharing trip would cost a small fraction of what
taxpayers are paying to provide this service to Metro's taxpayers are paying to provide this service to Metro's
riders. By the way, according to a Metro study, the avera speed is 14 miles per hour, and it takes about 30 minutes to travel from one end of the 6.5 -mile line to the other.
In 2019, Houston voters approved the Metro Next plan, in rail. Of course, Metro did not share with the public its abysmal record on the Purple Line; or the Green Line which is equally orrible and I will be writing more about soon.
Based on inflation since the Purple Line was completed, that
additional 16 miles of light rail would cost something close to $\$ 200$ million per mile. If dropping another $\$ 3.2$ billion on light $\$$ rail in Houston is not the definition of insanity, I cannot image what is.
EDITOR'S NOTE: Reader comments on this or any article are welcome.


Standoff at Border Continues between State, Feds

A standoff at an Eagle Pass
park continues as the Department of Homeland Security has sent a second letter to Gov. Greg Abbott demanding access
to the Rio Grande park that is to the Rio Grande park that is
now under state control.Abbott contends the state has the right to defend itself from what he called "record-smashing levels of illegal immigration," The Dallas Morning News reported. The U.S. Su-
preme Court ruled last week that the Border Patrol can resume cutting or removing raor wire that the state installed to deter
migrants.Citing that ruling, HS sent a second letter dePatrol agents "full access to the Shelby Park area currenty obstructed by Texas."A DPS spokesman said the state is installing more razor wire along
the riverbank. U. S. Rep. Joaquin Castro, D-San Antonio, has urged President Joe
Biden to federalize the Texas Biden to federalize the Texas
National Guard if the state deNational Guard if the state de-
fies the Supreme Court ruling.

## JUDGE REJECTS PAXTON'S

 MOTION TO BLOCK DEPOSITIONA Travis County judge
again blocked a motion by Texas Attorney Genorion ben Texton to stop a deposition in a wrongful termination lawsuit brought by former top aides in his office, the Austin Amerideposition is scheduled for deposition is scheduled for
Feb. 1. The four aides went to the FBI to complain about the embattled attorney general's actions in helping developer Nate Paul. The aides were sub-
sequently fired and filed suit sequently fired and filed suit
in 2020.Earlier in January, Paxton tried to end the matter by saying he would no longer contest the facts of the case and accept whatever judgment he continued to deny any wrongdoing. He condemned the judge's latest ruling, saying Travis County Judge Jan Soifer was "recklessly disregarding legal precedent, abus-
ing the litigation system, and displaying $\begin{array}{r}\text { system, and } \\ \text { shocking }\end{array}$ bias."Before Paxton filed his latest motion attempting to avoid testifying, both the state Texas Court of Appeals and the

ploded during a launch and hurled debris thousands of feet into the air. They have also
expressed concern for possible loss of wildlife and habitat since the launch site is within
miles of the state park and miles of the state park and
wildlife refuge.

## RECORD NUMBER OF TEXANS

 ENROLL $\operatorname{IN}$ ACAMore Texan More Texans than ever have signed up for health care
coverage under the Affordable Coverage under the Affordable federal health data released last week and reported by
the Texas Tribune. The numthe Texas Tribune. The number of Texans in ACA pro-
grams, which offer inexpensive grams, which offer inexpensive
or free health care coverage, rose $37 \%$ to nearly 3.5 million - or 1 in 9 residents.National enrollment is at record highs
as well, with more than 163 as well, with more than 16.3
million people signed up for million people signed up for
plans under ACA. That is douplans under ACA. That is dou-
ble the number of Americans signing up for ACA plans since it was launched in 2014."."The clear takeaway is that Texans
want coverage that is affordwant coverage that is afford-
able and comprehensive and able and comprehensive, and
when you make sure they have that - and it's easy to know about, and it's easy to get signed up - they sign up in
droves," said Stacey Pogue, a droves," said Stacey Pogue, a
health $\begin{aligned} & \text { care } \\ & \text { policy }\end{aligned}$ health care policy
analyst.Texas continues to lead the nation in the number
of uninsured residents, with of uninsured residents, with
nearly 5 million Texans living without health insurance coverage. That's nearly double the
national average.

## DSHS LAUNCHES NEW TOO TO TRACK RESPIRATORY <br> TO TRACK RESPIRATORY

VIRUSES
The Texas Department of ated a respiratory virus dashboard that shows trends in the three major respiratory illnesses mostill illnesses,
rious
hospitalizations, and deaths-COVID-19, influenza and RSV."Those data points demonstrate the diseases' most se-
vere effects on people,
communities and the health care system," said DSHS Commissioner Jennifer Shuford.
"The dashboard provides a near real-time look at conditions, so people can make in-
formed decisions on formed decisions on
precautions for themselves and their families, and health
care professionals can make recommendations to their
patients."The site can be acpatients."The site can be ac-
c e s e e d e
athealthdata.dshs.texas.gov/
at healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/
Home.
FORMER PUC DIRECTOR IS NOW CHARRMAN
The former executive director of the Public Utility Com-
mission was sworn in last week as chairman of the commission. Thomas Gleeson, who has worked at the PUC for 15 years, most recently as the
agency's executive director, agency's executive director,
was appointed to the commission by Abbott in mid-
January."As a long-time employee of the PUCT, I'm deeply familiar with the duties
and responsibilities of the and responsibilities of the
agency. Even more importantly, as a husband, dad, and ratepayer, I know how the decisions we make here impact
the daily lives and finances of the daily lives and finances of
Texas families," Gleeson said.

Enough
My husband, Peter, and I are headed out to Mexico again, and before we do, I
thought it was a good time of year to check in with
some folks I care about to some how 2024 had been treating them so far. First, I had dinner with
my oldest friend, Andrew. my oldest friend, Andrew
He told me about his mother, who lives alone and has been feeling her 92 years. Her activities are becoming
more limited, and she more limited, and she may
move into a smaller place. move into a smaller place
She's figuring out what she She's figuring out what she
is still able to do, and how much is enough. Andrew prepares taxes,
and so this is abous the and so this is about the last chance I would get to see
him in three months, even him in three months, eve Mexico. He will be working long hours, making most of the money he makes in the year in a short time, and
still caring for his mom. "Take care of yourself!" say because Andrew is single, and I worry he won't get
enough rest. I worry he will eat poorly. "I do!" he insists. I don't know if this is true. But
hope he gets enough food and sleep and sunshine dur ing this season of cold and gray and taxes.
Then I had Then I had lunch with Dane, the cousin who
closest in age to me. This is quite a distinction, because I have 36 cousins. Dane is good about calling me up when he is nearby so we can
have lunch. He didn't have have lunch. He didn't have
a lot of news. Work was goa lot of news. Work was gopected. He'd had two flat tires hauling a trailer across
the country. Dane's sister the country. Dane's sister
had successfully nagged had successfully nagge
him into scheduling a phys ical and making a will.
"You need to have regu lar physicals!" I' told him. "I know. I've got one scheduled."
I did not a had been since his last ang it "I'm getting my teeth cleaned, too," he added, as if he read my thoughts.
I was glad to I was glad to hear he was
taking care of himself (with taking care of himself (with
his sister's urging). Then Dane said something unexpected.
"I realized the other day
how unimportant how unimportant money is
to me." to me." $\quad$ This was a surprisin thing for him to say. Dane works hard for his money. He gets up before the sun and does a lot of hard labor and drives a trailer in ad-
verse weather. He's a guy who paid off his mortgage early, doesn't buy new furniture and doesn't take a lot of vacations.
"Oh?"
"I found a $\$ 20$ bill on the sidewalk. I picked it up, and it was wrapped around two $\$ 100$ bills."
"Wow. Any idea where it "No idea. I kept it, but I ing a lot of money and Ijust felt bad there was no way of getting it back to them." I looked at my cousin. Like me, he was getting old-
er. Like me he had a pretty good life. "It's good to have good ife. Ish, isn't it?" I said. Dane nodded. Dane is happy with what he has,
and he has enough and he has enough. Peter and I are leaving
for Mexico soon. We'll be staying in our little one-bedroom apartment, and Ill be writing at my little green Formica desk. It's not the fanciest place. It's nowhere
near as nice as the homes of most of our friends. But every night our landlord, Jorge, will greet us and the
colorful suns hang colorful suns hanging from the walls around us will know we have everything ed. We have more han enough.
Till next time,


## Send your Love a Special Message in our Valentine lssue



## SUPER BOWL LVIII

49ers, Chiefs meet in rematch for Lombardi Trophy: A KC win would put Mahomes in select QB company

routes to get to Vegas. The Chief struggled during the
regular season as the offense sputtered and Mahomes lacked a go-to receiver. Even reliable tight
end Travis Kelce 93 receptions, end Travis Kelce 93 recentions,
984 yards, 5 TDs was not his usual dependable self, but he he and his QB have come alive in the
playoffs. Mahomes (4, 183 yards, 27
TDS/14 interceptions during regular interceptions during regular season) and Kelce have
been on a roll in their first hhee been on a roll in their first three
playoff games. Mahomes has playoff games. Mahomes has
campleted $70-103(68 \%)$ passes completed yards, with four TDs and no interceptions, while Kelce has
grabbed 23 passes for 262 yards grabbed 23 passes for 262 yards
and 3 TDs. While Mahomes struggled to find a dependable wide receiver during the regular season, he seems to be clicking
with rookie wideout Rashee Rice with rookie wideout Rashee Rice
(79 receptions, 938 yards, 7 TDs (in receeptions, 938 yards, 7 TDs latched on to 20 passes for 23
yards and one $T D$ in the yards and one e in the
postseason. Having a second go to guy has been a huge boost to Mahomes and the KC offense. The Chiefs also have a solid
running game led by second-year running game led by second-year
man Isiah Pacheco ( 935 yards, 7 man siah Pacheco 935 ards ,
TDs in regula season as the former seventh-round draft choice has picked up 254 yards on 63
carries 4 yards a carry) with carries 4 yar
three TDs.
Many figured the Chiefs would be finished when they lost the home field advantage to Baltimore and had to play back-
to-back playoff games on the (0.-adec playoff games on
road the first time in Mahomes' career. KC accepted
the challenge with the challenge with a $27-24$
Buffalo and a $17-10$ win at Buffalo and a $11-10$ win at
Balimore in the AFC title game. While the offense appears to have found itself, the dffense has
carried this team for much of the (75 receptions, 1,342 yardss 7
TDs ) and tight end George kittle
( 65 receptions, 1,020 yards 6
TDs). In the playoffs, , Samuel was
iniured early in the Green Bay injured early in the Green Bay
game but returned for the NFC game but returned or the
titile game and has grabbed 10 passes for 111 yards, while Aiyuk
has 6 catches for 100 ards has 6 catches for 100 yards and
TD. Kittle also has 6 catches for TD. Kittle also 156 catches
108 yards and a TD in the 108 yards
playoffs.
The Chieff front seven must first slow McCaffrey, which is a
tall task. Don't tall task. Don't be surprised
head coach Kyle Shanahan head coach Kyle Shanahan
(whose father Mike won back-to(whose father Mike won back-10.
back Super Bowls with Denver) has Purdy come out throwing it
over the place to help calm him over the place to help calm him
down and keep the KC defense on its toes. If the 49ers can be successful early with the passing game, that will make McCaffrey
all the more dangerous as the all the more dange
game progresses.
The 49ers defense has some issues in the secondary, but its front seven can rust the passer
as well at Nick Bosa (10.5 sacks) as well at Nick Bosa ( 10.5 sacks
and Co. recorded 46 sacks and picked off 21 passes this season. Mahomes, though, is such a cool customer who can move
around in the pocket to avoid around in the pocket to avoid
pressure. The $K C$ offensive line is a veteran bunch and takes pride in keeping Mahomes upright.
SF linebackers Fred Warner and Drew Greenlaw have the
speed and duickness to keep up speed and quickness to keep up
with Kelce. I would expect them to be tasked with keeping tabs on the tight end with the famous girffriend I I won't me
name) all afternoon. This game should be
competitive competitive and could be high
scoring since it will be played on a fast turf indoors at Vegas
Allegiant Stadium. I expecs Allegiant Stadium. I expect
another nailibiter, ust like las year's game.
Purdy has proven he can Shake off a bad start and be ther when his team needs him the
most, but ti's tough to bet agains most, but it's tough to bet agains
Mahomes and Reid. All the y've Meard all year is that their time at the top has come to an end, but all they've done is keep proving
the critics wrong.
he
to beok tor Mahomes and Kelce stretch, as Mahomes leads the
Chiefs to their second straight Chiefs to their second straight Super Bowl win and third in
last five years. It's been an amazing ride, and it's not done
lat yet. My pick, Kansas City 3
San Francisco 31

## 

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## GET TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

This special edition will run the week of February 27-30 and salutes the strength of the east Harris County area economy with local business and industry. With features and a history of area iconic work, the community can learn about your business/industry and how it contrib utes to the success of the area-Highlands, Crosby, Huffman, Dayton, Barbers Hill, North Shore, Channelview, Sheldon, Galena Park, and Jacinto City. With one of the three sizes listed below, your business can summit a photo and article (dependent on the size of the ad) to go with your ad.

FULL PAGE AD B\&W $\$ 900$ +half page editorial/photo* COLOR \$1,100 + half page editoria/photo*

HALL PAGE AD B\&W \$495+quarter page editorial/photo* COLOR \$695+quarter page editoria//photo*

1/4PAGEAD B\&W $\$ 250+$ eighth page editorial COLOR \$350 + eighth page editorial

1/8 PAGEAD B\&W \$140 COLOR \$245
*Onine inform ito will beodeded the weedof fee. 27.30


## AD DEADINE I FFRIAYY, EBRUARY 16at NOON-NO EXCPPTIONS.

For ad specs and additional information, plesese all $1713-266-3444$ and speak to Gil Hoffman or David Taylor at 832 - $53-6-737$.

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## 49th Chili Feast 2024 Photo Album

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 -- photos by rotarian gilbert hoffman


Hundreds spent last Saturday enjoying Rotary's famous Chili, and
renewing friendshiss with community friends and Rotarians.


Auctioneer Mark Tauber takes bids on these Valentine themed items in the
Live Auction.

Highlands Rotary Chili Feast RAFFIE 2024 HIST OF WINNERS

| Ticker mumer | Priz etscalpion | mawe Thekr | name on поскer |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Early Bird | spocircano | 623 | Sherrill Sautank |
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| $50^{\text {TH }}$ | ${ }_{3} \mathrm{r}$ smantin | 548 | Kewnefl forrest |
| 100 ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ | pornateices mux | 471 | Chad Griffis |
| $150{ }^{\text {mm }}$ | szoeric caso | 392 | David Kadjar |
| 200'4 | AIR COMPRESSOR BATTERY CHARGER | 172 | Karsie Torina |
| $250{ }^{\text {TM }}$ |  | 598 | Ricky Jacksow |
| 300'4 | zeneoricaso | 317 | Gener Parsisk |
| $350{ }^{\text {TM }}$ | AR Rexter | 470 | Dale Giles |
| $400^{\text {TM }}$ | wsorrac coour | 483 | John Painter |
| 450 ${ }^{\text {TH }}$ | surocour | 23 | Sandra Bell |
| 500 ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ | senogif cano | 58 | Keith Marshall |
| 550 ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ | 2- Luckstoue cooker | 311 | Diana Weaver |
| 600 ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ | OUTDOOR PROPANE FIRE PIT | 96 | Westow Cotten |
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| 69974 | ass manern | 560 | Diane Painter |
| 700'4 | $\begin{aligned} & 2024 \text { CHEVY TRAILBLAZER } \\ & \text { OR TRAX } \end{aligned}$ | 228 | Jack Clacox |

 A unique commemorative GBOGH Cody Foundation Bet Buckle was
auctioned to a l lucy bidder by Auctioneer Mark Tauber. auctioned to a lucky bidder by Auctioneer Mark Tauber.

Call 713-266-3444
Your AD will reach up to $\mathbf{4 0 , 0 0 0}$ readers in our FIVE newspapers, with a combined circulation of 20,000 copies. Get ACTION on your AD. Rates start at only $\$ 18$ for 20 words. A bargain!


## PET MATTERS

In Memory of
Susan Hoffman
Harris County Pets offers Low-Cost Spay and Neuter Events

| Events will offer spay and neuter surgeries for $\$ 25$ per pet! <br> HOUSTON - Harris County Pets Resource Center (HCP), the open-admission animal shelter for unincorporated Harris County, will offer five low-cost spay and neuter events in February in observance of Spay and Neuter Awareness Month and Responsible Pet Owners Month. These events aim to promote responsible pet ownership and address the ongoing pet overpopulation issue. <br> "Spaying and neutering your pet is one of the most important things you can do as a responsible pet owner," said Corey Steele, the Veterinary Public Health Division Director for Harris County Public Health (HCPH), which operates HCP. "Harris County continues to face a high stray animal population. Spaying and neutering your pet addresses these challenges head-on. By preventing unwanted litter, we also minimize the risk of stray animals contributing to spreading disease and posing potential threats to public safety. These events make it easier and more affordable for pet owners in our community to spay or neuter their pets." <br> Each event will provide spay and neuter surgeries for $\$ 25$ each for a total of 35 owned pets in unincorporated Harris County (outside the City of Houston). Licensed veterinarians conduct the surgeries. <br> Pet owners must: <br> - Call (281) 999-3191 to schedule an appointment. (Walk-ins will not be accepted.) <br> - Show proof of residency in unincorporated Harris County (e.g., driver's license or any other valid ID indicating the current address) <br> The Harris County Pets Resource Center, located at 612 Canino Road in Houston, will host all events on the dates below: <br> - Tuesday, Feb 6 <br> - Saturday, Feb. 10 <br> - Saturday, Feb. 17 <br> - Tuesday, Feb 20 <br> - Saturday, Feb. 24 <br> For more information about the spay |
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and neuter events or other HCP programs, please visit CountyPets.com or
call (281) 999-3191. BENEFITS OF SPAYING AND NEUT
In observance of Spay and Neuter
Awareness Month and Responsible Pe Owners Month, HCP and HCPH encourage pet owners to make the responsible choice of spaying or neutering their furry companions. This simple, safe proce-
dure offers numerous benefits for pets dure offers numer
Benefits for Your Pet:
${ }^{-}$Improved health: Spaying and neutering can significantly reduce the risk of certain cancers and infections in dogs and cats

- Longer lifespan: According to the studies show that spayed and neutered pets live longer, healthier lives. - Reduced behavioral issues: Spaying and neutering can help to calm aggres-
sive behavior, make pets more trainable sive behavior, make pet rom.
Benefits for Our Community:
- Reduced pet overpopulation: Uncrowding of animal shelters, leadingereuthanasia. Spaying or neutering helps to prevent this heartbreaking reality. can pose health risks to the community can pose health risks to the community
and often face harsh lives on the streets. Spaying or neutering helps to keep pets in loving homes and reduce the number of strays.
ulation reduces Controlling the pet pop shelters and rescues, leading to lower costs for taxpayer-funded animal control services.

Harris County Pets understands that cost can be a barrier for some pet owners. If you cannot sign up your pet for any of the spay and neuter events in February, you can visit CountyPets.com
for a list of low-cost spay and neuter serfor a list of low-cost spay and neuter seracross the county. Also, follow HCP on Facebook and Instagram to learn about future events.

Crosby's Future meeting,
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
said.
Fuchs claims it's one of only a handful of changes the year.
"From 1860 to now, this
would probably be the would probably be the second or third most historic change in the community,
he said he said Fuchs said just looking
at land prices in the by community have tripled in value. He estimated about half a dozen of those
large land parcels that large land parcels that
have already been sold have already been sold
were formerly grass farms. "People fleeing Houston looking for small town living are still considering Crosby and Huffman as
two of the last bastions left two of the last bastions left
in Harris County," he said. He attributed the growth to Houston residents moving out, an influx from out of states like California, and many oth-
er states.
"This will change what people view of Crosby as a farm town. We're still surrounded by numerous
grass farms, but those, too,

## Wishing our libra fans a Happy <br> Valentine's Day!

We have dozens of authors
of romance novels of romance novels to offer
a special Valentines sale. We can meet your We can meet your
romantic gesture with a paperback from our sales
section of the Corsby section of the Crosby
Library. Pick up 4 romance Library. Pick up 4 roman
paperbacks for $\$ 1.00$ or another paperback of a different genre for .50 cents each for your special
Valentine. This offer is good thru the
month of February.
All proceeds from the book
sale benefit the Library and sale benefit the Library
support the Summer Reading programs.
Ouestions call
$832-927-7790$
will disappear over the
next 10 years," he predict-
He said most homes curently being built are rela. tively small costing between $\$ 250,000$ to $\$ 350,000$ which is still considered a lot of money, but on the lower end of new
homes. According to Fuchs, the homes are also being built into densely packed subdivisions. "It's not going to be a master-planned) Kingers on the horizon, it will be a lot of homes and fast," he said.
Most
the Crosby Islamic Con for the Crosby Islamic Cen ter at 19455 Ramsey Road According to their website
the Sunni Mosque is a non jami mosque, meaning it does not hold the typical Friday congregational prayer. Services are in En-
glish making it accessible to a wide range of people in the community. They have not returned calls to the Star-Courier for more information There is only a small house on the property that's visi-
ble currently and no devel opment of the property at the beginning of January. Fuchs promised much more information will be
presented by himself, the presented by himself, the
superintendent on the future of the district, Crosby MUD and the increase in new taps, and Velma Elli son on the real estate land scape.
The The meeting is Satur day, February 10 at 2 p.m at the Crosby Brethren
Church, inside the church gymnasium at 5202 First gymnasium at 52
Street in Crosby.


## ENTERTAINMENT




is.amsuv isal mandi

February 5, 2024 Posting Date King Crossword

?Trivia
test $_{\text {Rodiniue }}^{\text {bif }}$
"May the odds be ever in your favor"? 2. GEOGRAPHY: Which country possesses
Battin Island? Battin IIland?
3. AD SLOGANS: Which company's slogan is,
"YOu're in 4. LaNGUAGE: What is a common saying for
the Latin phase "lapsus lingue"? the Latin phrase "lapsus linguae",
5. MUSIC: What country was home to reggae singer Bob Marley?
6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is an example of a macropod?
7. TELEVISIN: Gordon, Percy, James, Toby
and Emily are characters on which children's and Emily are characters on
show?
8. MATH: What is $1 / 60$ of a degree 9. LITERATURE: Who wrote the book series
"The Chronicles of Narnia"? The Chronicles of Narnia?
sta. ACRONYMS: What does the acronym SPF stand for? $\qquad$


## THERE'S A <br> BETTER APPROACH

TO CANCER CARE in Baytown

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

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


