HIGHLANDS Star & Courter

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BUSINESS & INDUSTRY SPECIAL EDITION

In this Issue:

Stories and Ads about

Businesses and Organizations in our Community. Special 4-page Pull-Out Section. See Inside

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THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024

P.O. DRAWER 446, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

STARS

CROSBY/HUFFMAN CHAMBER Chamber presents Awards at GALA banquet

EVENTS

Highlands Chamber Luncheon March 14

Highlands/Lynchburg Chamber will hold its monthly luncheon on Thursday, March 14 at the Highlands Community Center. Speaker will be Stephan Gage, AICP Planner for TXDOT. Please RSVP to 281-426-7227. **GOLF TOURNAMENT set** for May 6, at Eagle Drive in Mont Belvieu. Business of the Month is Pickers Dream, a cute little shop at 114 Denny Street. Ambassador of the Month is Xiomara Andrade of Beauty Enhancements.

Crosby Chamber EXPO March 21

Crosby/Huffman Chamber will hold a Business EXPO Thursday, March 21 from 11:30am-1:00pm at the Crawfish Shack, 5822 FM 2100, Crosby. Join the EXPO and chat about everything business in an awesome and fun environment Each Chamber member will have the opportunity to share thoughts and ideas to their business community.

For more information, contact Traci Galvean@marriott.com Crosby/Huffman Chamber, 281-328-6984 or

chamber@crosbyhuffmancc.org.

Deadline to RSVP is March

14. Reserve your table

todav!

Name Davenport, Graves Citizens of the Year

By David Taylor Managing Editor

For 100 years, the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce has celebrated the citizens and businesses of the town and last week's banquet recognizing them spoke volumes on the direction of the organization and their promise to still be around at the next centennial celebration.

The black and gold gala held at the Stonebridge Country Club in Newport last Thursday, Feb. boasted more than 150 attendees present to view the awarding of the plaques and certificates.

Nominees and voting were done through a ballot survey that also includ-



Chamber Board of Directors and Award winners at the Banquet



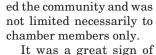
Donna Davenport, Citizen of the Year Crosby, with Tom Richard



Christy Graves, Citizen of the Year



Bella Dion, Sterling-White Business of the Year Crosby



resurrection for the charity, like many others, that had weathered a downturn following the pandemic.

"I'm so fortunate and honored to be able to sav that I was born and raised in Crosby and now chair the chamber of commerce,"

Continued. See AWARDS BANQUET, Page 2



Huffman Cafe, Business of the Year

Bicentennial committee holds final meeting

Bicentennial committee disperses funds, disbands

By David Taylor Managing Editor

The Crosby Bicentennial Committee met for the final time to tie up some loose ends and disperse remaining funds to two area groups who could use the money to benefit the community.

The committee also surprised Donna Davenport



The Crosby Bicentennial Committee honored Chairman Donna Davenport a plaque for her tireless work to ensure the success of the bicentennial celebration.

with a plaque for her hard work in organizing the event and fulfilling her dream for the bicentenni-

"The plaque reads, 'With our greatest appreciation, we hereby present Donna Davenport for your hard work and dedication in making Crosby's 200th birthday celebration a success, you are being honored with much appreciation

Continued. See CBC COMMITTEE FINAL MEETING, Page 2

Moss home in Channelview destroyed by Arson fire

By Jackie Medcalf

CHANNELVIEW -Greg Moss lost his home the first weekend in March to a house fire, which is being investigated as arson. The fire destroyed everything in his home and Greg could use your support as he rebuilds his life. His home is located in an area along the San Jacinto River known as the River Bottom and Greg's business is also located on his property. He repairs boat engines and was at the local boat races when someone set fire to his home.

I am asking for people to support Greg and his dog during this difficult time as he is the kind of guy evervone should be so lucky to have in their community. The River Bottom is a place dogs are often dumped and I've watched Greg save countless dogs



ABOVE: Firemen from Highlands and Channelview battle the blaze at Moss' home in San Jacinto River Estates. RIGHT: The interior of the home was

completely destroyed by the fire and all possessions lost.

and find them homes. Greg is a Veteran and he spends the holidays making meals for homeless and delivering them around Channelview.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/helpgreg-recover-from-losing-his-home-to-<u>a-fire?utm_campaign=p_lico+share-sheet-first-launch</u> <u>&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer</u>



Highlands woman arrested for Jan. 6 involvement

A Highlands woman was arrested last month in Houston for her alleged involvement in the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, when she wore a red "Make America Great Again" hat and took cell phone photos and videos documenting the 37 minutes she spent inside the government building, according to federal court documents. She was arrested and charged with four federal crimes related to the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6,

"Fraize provided the interviewing agents with a video that she had taken inside of the U.S. Capitol and a picture of herself taken at the rally on January 6, 2021," court documents state.

Judy Fraize has been charged with the federal crimes of entering and remaining in a restricted



Judy Fraize in Washington DC on Jan. 6, 2021 wearing MAGA hat (DOJ photo)

building or grounds; disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted building or grounds; disorderly conduct in a capitol building; and parading, demonstrating or picketing in a capitol building, court records show. She appeared before a magistrate judge Monday and was released from jail on a personal bond, with her next court appearance scheduled for Feb. 15.

Fraize is accused of be-

ing part of a crowd of supporters of then-President Donald Trump who disrupted a joint session of Congress and tried to prevent lawmakers from certifying the2020presidential election results in favor of Joe Biden. Five people died during the attack, which injured more than 100 police officers and resulted in millions of dollars in damages and losses, according to federal court records.

FBI agents identified Fraize as being inside the Capitol at the time because of records obtained from Google through a search warrant, which showed a mobile device with her phone number and Gmail address was present at the building that day, court records show. Agents sub-

Continued. See Highlands Woman Arrested, Page 2



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CBC holds final meeting,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Representatives from the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce gratefully accepted a check for \$9,423.63 from the Bicentennial Committee. The money was offered to help strengthen the chamber who has struggled financially since the pandemic.



The Crosby Historical Society happily accepted a donation check from the Crosby Bicentennial Committee for their involvement in the bicentennial celebration. Records, photos and other memorabilia from the event will be stored and displayed at the Crosby Historical Society museum.

and gratitude," read committee member Eddie Fostor

Davenport, who cochaired the committee with Kim Harris, formerly with the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce, opened the meeting by thanking committee members who put in tireless hours over the 18 months leading up to the community-wide event guaranteeing its success.

"This could have never been possible without each of you," Davenport said to the committee. "I've had nothing but wonderful reviews from the bicentennial celebration," she said.

The auction alone raised over \$8,000 for only a few items helping fill the coffers and pay bills.

The committee had ordered 300 cookbooks loaded with Crosby family recipes, many of them the famous kolache and kielbasa delectables, and had to decide how to handle the remaining proceeds.

"We only have a dozen or so remaining and we plan on ordering another 100 for those who didn't know about the cookbook," Davenport said.

One committee member suggested splitting the money between the two groups that hosted the event—the chamber and the historical society.

"They (the Historical Society) don't really have a way to raise money except through their membership fees which are nominal," said Gene Hicks, Jr. "If they have to buy another air conditioning unit or another big-ticket item, it would be difficult for them to raise the money."

Velma Ellison also mentioned that the chamber has also been in dire straits financially following the pandemic

straits financially following the pandemic. "We're refinancing the building to make some

changes. They're strug-

gling more now than they ever have in their existence," she said.

The chamber is a 501(c6) and incapable of receiving tax-deductible donations from the public, however, could receive the funds from the bicentennial committee since its not considered a tax-free donation.

All committee members were agreeable to the split and unanimously voted to award both the chamber and historical society \$9,423.63 in remaining funds.

Hicks recommended the money be split between the two organizations and give the cookbooks to the Historical Society to sell in their gift shop and keep the proceeds.

The final act of the committee was a vote to award all the paperwork from the event to the Crosby Historical Society for safekeeping and for memorial sake.

Highlands Woman Arrested,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sequently interviewed Fraize at her home on July 6, 2021, when she allegedly said she had traveled from Dallas to Washington D.C. to attend a rally supporting Trump and entered the Capitol afterward.

She is alleged to have been inside the Capitol for about 37 minutes, making her way through different areas of the building while occasionally stopping to sit on a bench or pose for photos with others who had gone inside. Fraize had brief encounters with police officers while inside the Capitol, according to court documents, which show that at one point she told an officer, "Blue Lives Matter," after being asked to leave the building. Later, she told an officer, "We gotta take our country back," court records allege.

More than 1,000 people have been arrested in

nearly all 50 U.S. states for crimes related to the Capitol insurrection, with hundreds having been charged with assaulting or impeding law enforcement, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Multiple people from the Houston area have been either charged or convicted of crimes related to the attack, including a Katy-area man who was indicted last month.

Crosby/Huffman Chamber Awards Banquet,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said Crystal Ergorushkin. "I now have a business with two of my partners who are here tonight."

Ergorushkin, who has only been in the chamber the last two years, is excited about the possibilities this year.

"We know the chamber was started in 1924 ccording to the first minutes that were recorded. We have a long history with a ton of people who stepped up to the plate to make things happen," she said.

She said the message of the chamber is a continuance of buying local.

"We can continue to see the businesses prosper and profit and grow our economy," she explained.

"We want to continue to highlight all of the amazing things that our businesses are doing in the community, all the fun activities that are going on, and by keeping our dollars local, we will fuel our own economy," the chairman

The next major event for the chamber will be on April 18 at the Tees 'N Tails 32^{nd} Annual Golf Tournament.

The first award was given to the **Employee of The Year**. Voters were looking for a valued employee who had exceeded their job expectations and demonstrated a great deal of professionalism and integrity. They were also expected to show true knowledge of and concern for the community

for the community. Nominees from Crosby were Shawn Smith, Cassie Rogers, Melissa Murray, Tim Patterson, Tiffany Muller, Kathy Order, Mike Stamper, Isabelle Dion, Kay Sosa, Chandra Calvin, and Michelle Thompson. The winner was Melissa Murray. Nominees from Huffman included Mike Stamper, Rhonda Lockwood, and Kim Harris. The winner was Rhonda Lockwood.

The Citizen of The Year was awarded to a local citizen who was nominated for their service to the community and has exemplified those qualities necessary to create a positive impact or change in the community. It was presented to an individual or businessperson who actively works towards making the community a friendlier, safer, and more enjoyable place to live. This award identifies an individual which has demonstrated a concern for the needs of others and provides that extra effort to the community. The nominees for Citizen of the Year in Crosby are Donna Dayenport, John Webb, James Blaha, Dan Meaux, Michael Stamper, Melanie Webb, Carrie Richards, Christy Graves, Michelle Thompson, Leticia Balderrama, and Keenan Smith. The winner was Donna Davenport. Nominees for Huffman included Christy Graves, Michael Stamper, Rhonda Lockwood. Keenan Smith, and Robin May Lutz. The winner was Christy Graves.

The Volunteer of the Year was recognized for outstanding service for their volunteer work that has enriched the community and who acts as an inspiration to the community and credit to their profession. The nominees for Volunteer of the Year in Crosby are Dan Meaux, Jennifer Meaux,

John Webb, Jody Fuchs, Shirley Ellisor, Isabella Dion, Eddie Foster, Carrie Richards, Susanne Dullack, Carol Becht, Leticia Balderrama, Donna Davenport, Jessica Green, and Sue Fitzgerald. The winner was Susanne Dullack. The Volunteer of the Year for Huffman was Laura Bearden.

The Non-Profit of The Year was presented to a 501(c)(3) organization for developing an outstanding business that is meeting the needs of the community. They must be considered a growing business with innovative services and an approach that is increasing opportunity, overcoming adversity, and providing community contributions. Nominees were the Crosby Fair & Rodeo, Crosby Community Center, Crosby Advisory Council, Crosby Education Foundation, Churches United In Caring, Future Leaders Scholarship Fund, American Legion, Crosby Cares, and Crosby Church. The winner was the **Crosby Advisory Coun**cil. Nominees for Huffman were the Huffman Education Foundation.

Huffman Fire Department, Crosby Fair & Rodeo, Crosby Church, Huffman Food Pantry, and the May Community Center. The winner was the Huffman Education Foundation.

The Business of the Year was awarded to the business for its positive impact on their community. They show a history of business excellence, promotion through extensive marketing programs, quality products and services, actively standing behind excellent employee - employer relationships and significant contributions to the community. Nominees from Crosby are Smoothie King, Crawfish Shack, Southern Routes, Chick-Fil-A, 2100 Properties, Trusted Insurance Group, Ace Hardware, Classic Creole Kitchen, Sterling-White Funeral Home & Cemetery, Hungry Jack's, Deuce Plumbing & Drain Services, Teapot Depot, and Community Resource Credit Union. The winner was Sterling-White **Funeral Home & Ceme**tery. Huffman nominees included Los Compadres, Popp's Parlor & Popcorns, Vista Eye Center, Huffman Café, Texas Turf Tenders, Sterling-White Funeral Home & Cemetery, and Lake Houston Brewery. The winner was Huffman Café.

The final award was giv-

en to the Ambassador of the Year who is considered a very special individ ual that volunteers their time and efforts to make the chamber a success, believes in the chamber's mission, supports the community, and aids with many of the chamber's activities and events. This is done all while being a business owner or having a full-time job in additional to the many Ambassador duties and obligations. The 2023 Ambassador of the Year was awarded to a person who has tirelessly provided and volunteered their time and efforts to make the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce a true success story. This person has not only donated their time and energy, they have also provided their personal services to the chamber. They have assisted in planning and attending every ribbon cutting, festival, parade, monthly luncheons, golf tournament, and community events for the entire year of 2023. The chamber could not have had such a successful 2023, without the help and dedication of the 2023 Ambassador of the Year Sue Fitzgerald.

Bringing Drama to Education

By Norma Martinez

James Bowie Elementary recently celebrated a successful workshop and partnership between Goose Creek CISD and Alley Theatre in a harmonious blend of education and creativity. The collaborative effort showcased the exceptional talents and dedication of first and second-grade students, who took center stage in demonstrating their proficiency in seeking text evidence and solving word problems.

The workshop, facilitated by Alley Theatre's esteemed teaching artists, John Ryan (JR) del Bosque and Gabe Regojo, proved to be a transformative experience for both students and educators alike. The artists engaged the young minds in interactive activities designed to enhance their reading and problemsolving skills. Special to this project was the ability to incorporate teaching strategies for emergent bilingual students, including all Spanish lessons for bilingual classes.

Ms. Mayra Casas, James Bowie's 1st grade Dual Language Teacher, explained the impact on emergent bilingual students, "Alley Theater Staging STEM catered to the diverse learning styles of my bilingual students. Mr. JR fostered a dynamic and enjoyable learning environment that encouraged active participation. Stu-



Ms. Casas's Class performed as jungle detectives, showing the audience one of their strategies for answering questions. (Photos by Carrie Pryor-Newman)



JR del Bosque and students from Ms. Keomanikhoth's Class worked as pet detectives, gathering evidence to make inferences (Photos by Carrie Pryor-Newman:)

dents delved into understanding the main idea, important details, and fact, and opinion of a text. Through Total Physical Response, they enhanced their comprehension of key vocabulary words while having fun through interactive games. This not only kept them actively engaged but also ensured a fun learning experience. Moreover, they had the chance to explore the behind-thescenes process of creating plays and appreciate the hard work and dedication actors invest. Culminating the program, students gained hands-on experience by collaboratively organizing and presenting their play to first graders and parents."

Dr. Regina Patrick-Sims, James Bowie's Principal, is proud and grateful for the opportunity to work with Alley Theatre. She stated, "The educators at James Bowie Elementary witnessed numerous advantages resulting from the incorporation of the Alley Theatre Staging STEM program into their reading and math curricula. These innovative lessons fostered engagement, rendering the learning experience both enjoyable and unforgettable. Students honed their critical thinking and creativity through problemsolving activities and by exploring new means of self-expression. Notably, some initially reserved students showcased remarkable progress in their communication skills, both verbal and nonverbal, over

the two-week program duration. The students' confidence and public speaking abilities soared as they presented in front of their peers. Integrating drama into educational practices enables instructors to cultivate a vibrant and interactive learning atmosphere that accommodates diverse learning preferences and fosters comprehensive development."

GCCISD and Alley Theatre have set an inspiring example for other districts, demonstrating how partnerships with arts organizations can enrich the

learning experience and contribute to the holistic development of students. The workshop has not only achieved its educational objectives but also sparked a newfound eagerness for learning among the students. The celebration of this successful collaboration between GCCISD and Alley Theatre will undoubtedly resonate within the community for years to come, leaving a lasting impact on the students' educational journey. For more information about the Alley Theatre, please visit https://www.alley theatre.org/





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LOOKING TO THE FUTURE:

Explosive Growth in Crosby & East Harris County

Historical Society details coming growth at quarterly meeting

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Growth in East Harris County, and especially Crosby is not new. Explosive growth, however, is and community leaders are trying to brace the residents for the growth that will change the town forever. At their first quarterly meeting of the year, the Crosby Historical Society hosted Crosby ISD Superintendent Paula Patterson, Crosby MUD board member Donna Davenport, and area realtor Velma Ellison who all confirmed to the 250-plus attending the meeting that the small town many of them grew up in will soon be forever changed. In 1970, the census showed Crosby population at 3,868. In 2020, the town has grown almost 10 times that at 32,606. The growth that is coming over the next decade is sure to double the size of the town, according to Jody Fuchs, who presented the information on behalf of the Crosby Historical Society.

Fuchs detailed both large and small developments, Patterson focused on the larger ones that would change the demographics and attendance for Crosby ISD.

"We (the district) have met with 15 of the new developments that are coming and we're future casting $10,\!000$ new homes with an additional $5,\!000$



Hundreds attended a meeting last month abouth the Future of Crosby.

new students in the next 10 years," she confirmed.

Every two years, the University Interscholastic League in Austin does a realignment of all the districts to ensure fair play against schools of similar size. On February 1, they released the newest realignment that keeps Crosby in the large 5A division.

"The next step up is 6A and I believe that at the next realignment (in 2026) Crosby will move up into the largest school division of 6A," she said. Realignment is based off of student enrollment.

Home prices have almost doubled since 2013 when an average home was listed at \$142,142. In 2023, the latest figures show the average selling price at \$281,509.

Currently, the district educates students at one high school (9-12 grade), one middle school (6-8 grade), four elementary schools (1-5), and Crosby Kindergarten.

"The high school is expanding by adding a wing to the building that was built in 2015. I won't say cheap because it's going to be nice, but with a frugal mind, thinking about the dollars," the superintendent said.

Patterson said they are looking towards needs and not necessarily 'wants.'

"We looked at the floor plan of the high school and you know that we have beautiful open spaces, and small group instruction. It's flex space, but because we're concerned about bottom dollar and we need classrooms, we made the decision to turn those into four new classrooms to buy us a little more time," she explained.

Continued. See LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, Page 6

Lee College - Celebrating 90 Years SERVING THE COMMUNITY

A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME Longtime Employees Reflect on Lee College's Transformations

In 1934, history unfolded in remarkable ways. While the criminal exploits of Bonnie and Clyde echoed through the nation, the Federal Communications Commission was established, and baseball icon Babe Ruth marked a milestone with his 700th home run.

During these notable events of 1934, Lee Junior College emerged in Goose Creek, Texas with a vision to pioneer academic and technical excellence for students of all socioeconomic backgrounds. That fall, the school welcomed its inaugural class of 177 students and embarked on a mission that would echo through the decades.

Fast forward 90 years, and Lee College stands as a testament to its founders' dreams. Breaking records and transforming lives, the institution has become a cornerstone of education in southeast

Lee College employee Jim Campisi recalls the day he set foot on campus. It was March 8, 1990. He was the college's first full-time security officer, and in his mind, he was going to give Lee College two years and move on. That was 34 years ago.

Campisi, who is the longest serving full-time staff member at Lee, left his security post after a few years and moved to Shipping and Receiving, where he remains to this day. He's also a proud alumnus – having received an associate degree in business management with honors.

During his career at the school, Campisi says the biggest change he's seen was the evolution and integration of technology.



"When I started, we didn't have computers at our desks," he recalled with a chuckle. "When you wanted to set up a meeting or send a message, you would have to type out a memo, take it to the mailroom and wait for it to be collected and for a response. Who would have thought that now we can walk around campus and check our emails on our phones?"

As you can imagine, the campus also looked vastly different. There were half as many buildings as there are now.

"What we all know today as John Britt Hall was the Social Sciences Building," Campisi explained. "Tucker Hall didn't exist, and now that's an older building. The fountain that is behind Rundell Hall used to be a parking lot for that building."

Mike Spletter came to Lee College in April 2002 as a student activities coordinator. The Wisconsin native was brought to Baytown to help convert the old library into a new Student Center. For him, there's no question October 23, 2004, the day of the ribbon cutting for the first iteration of the Student Center, was his favorite moment as an employee.

Nineteen years later, Spletter, who is now the student engagement manager, would experience another transformative moment — the ribbon cutting for the second renovation of the Student Center. That took place in November 2023 and was made possible by a generous \$5 million donation from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott.

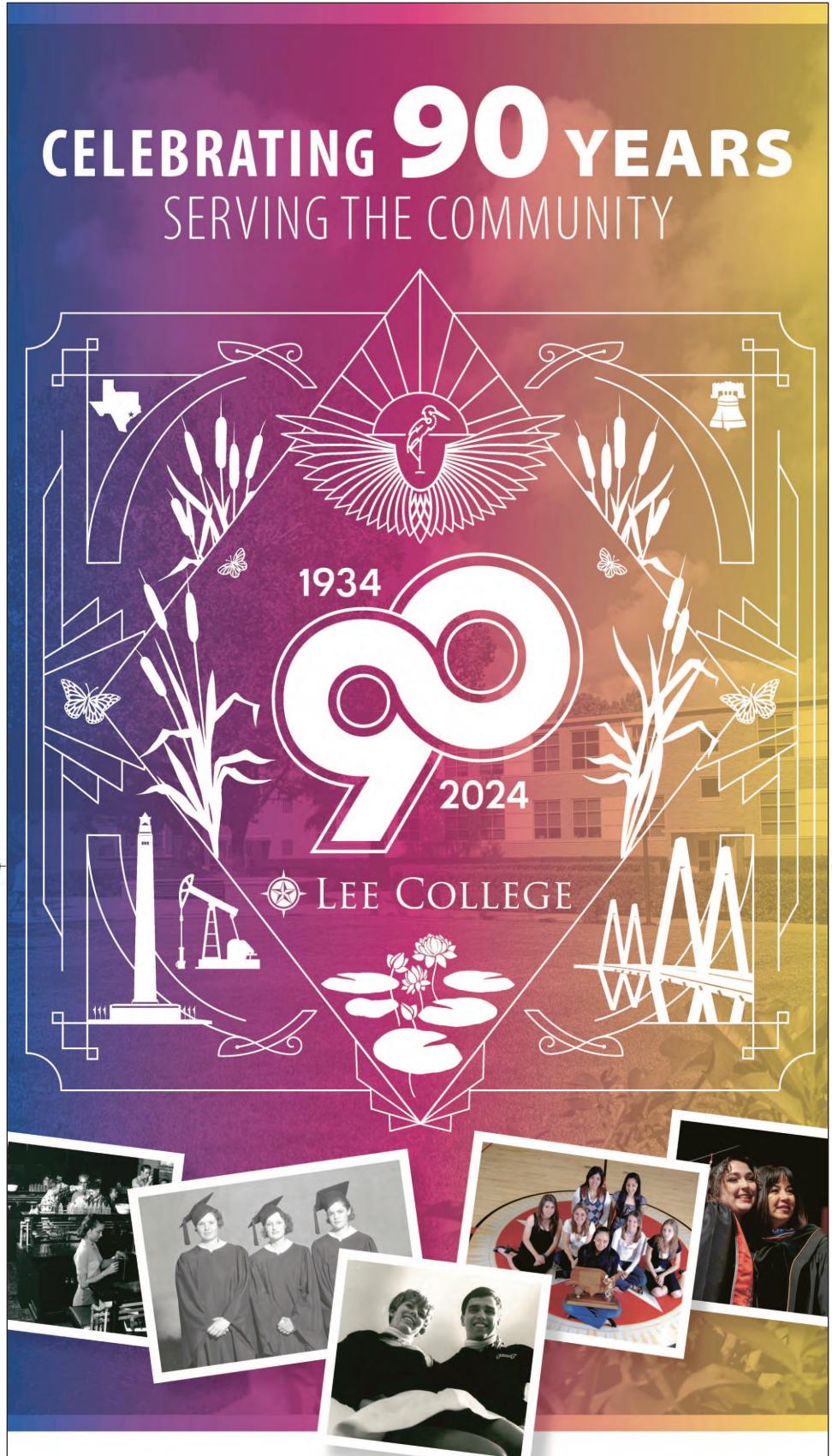
Former athletic director Karen Guthmiller's favorite moment was in 2003 when the new Sports Complex opened. She and her coaches were excited to show off the beautiful new home for athletics, which also hosted playoff games and University Interscholastic League (UIL) tournaments that continue today.

"Our motto was, 'We are the front door of Lee College'," she emphasized. "We did so many amazing things to promote and raise money to support our athletic teams – such as hosting golf tournaments. We held summer camps for kids to bring them to campus and show them athletics is a valuable part of Lee College. We also created the Positive Partner program to promote businesses that would purchase signage in our arena, which was always packed with parents and people from the community."

"I thought I would be here for three years, but there was something about this college that has kept me here since 1993," Guthmiller continued. "Lee College is a place where you can continually grow and improve."

"Lee College has always been student-focused, putting students first," Spletter added.

"You don't stay in one company for this many years," Campisi shared. "It's been like family here. I think because I see the value in education and how we impact the lives of so many people."



n February 24, 1934, residents in Goose Creek, Texas went to the polls and voted overwhelmingly to establish a new local college. When the doors opened on September 3 and registration was complete, 177 students enrolled in classes, exceeding the expected 150.

90 years later, we are still exceeding expectations.

For nine decades Lee College has served our communities in southeast Texas as a beacon for transforming lives through higher education. The power of a college education to elevate careers and families is our legacy, and we invite you to join our Lee College family.

At 90, we are just getting started.



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About Galena Park ISD

The Galena Park Independent School District was established in 1929 with one common school in the city of Clinton, TX. When the City of Clinton was renamed Galena Park for the Galena-Signal Oil Company in 1930, so was the school district.

Today, the district includes the Cities of Galena Park & Jacinto City, a small portion of the City of Houston and several unincorporated communities in **East Harris County such as** Home Owned Estates, Hidden Forest, Cloverleaf, Woodforest, Pine Trails and New Forest.



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Looking to the Future,

CONTINUED

They're about 75 percent in the design phase and the plans are almost done. She predicted that in March 2024 the board would be seeking construction bids with an eye on actual construction beginning in June this year with a scheduled completion date of November 2025.

Since the bond failed, the district is scrambling to find creative ways to pay for HVAC issues that would have been addressed by the bond.

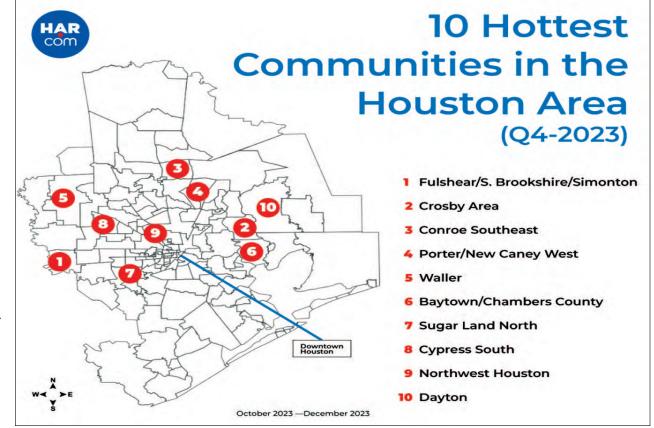
"We have some HVAC equipment in the district that is more than 20 years old. The older it gets, the more likely that it will just stop working and then we're in trouble," she said.

The students are coming. Last May, the district ended the school year with an enrollment of 6,693 students. As of Feb. 7, 2024, there are 6,865, an addition of 172 students. That means at least eight additional staff, several more bus routes, and more students in the cafeterias across the district.

The overcrowding is already noticeable with the middle school whose capacity is 1,525. They are over capacity at 1567 and growing. The high school was built for 1,925 students and currently house 2,008.

"Crosby property values, new homes are selling about as fast as they can build them," said Velma Ellison, owner of Alliance Realtors in Crosby. "We have a very healthy real estate market. The resales continue to maintain good value and they are also selling well. Commercial properties are thriving, and land values continue to appreciate. There are currently 365 homes for sale in Crosby as of this past week. Of those, 217 are single family homes, 19 are country homes and acreage, 84 parcels of land are for sale, and 40 are rentals.

Ellison reported that 667 single family homes were sold in the last year alone, 290 of them being new homes, the remainder as resales or pre-owned



homes.

In the final presentation, Donna Davenport reminded everyone that Crosby Municipal Utility District was established in 1965 and was one of the very first rural MUD districts.

"This means that our infrastructure, water and sewer lines, lift stations, and equipment at our plants are also 59 years old," she said.

Over the years, the MUD district has converted to smart meters allowing them to read the meters from the office.

"It also sees when there are leaks and other issues, we can address much faster," she said.

Over the years, many residents complained

that the MUD district wasn't getting any new restaurants, businesses, or grocery stores because of no water and sewer lines.

"We cannot speculate with your tax money," Davenport explained. We can't just go out and build lines. When they come to us, they ask to be annexed by our engineer who does a feasibility study. Then, if we can, we annex them and supply them with water and sewer," she said.

The developers pay for the build out since it means they can install fire hydrants and having them will lower their insurance rates.

A list of all the new developments coming is available on the video of the meeting on the Crosby Historical Society Facebook page.



FAST FACTS SHELDON INDEPENDENT 2023-24



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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

CROSBY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT will receive electronic bids for construction of "SURFACE WATER TREATMENT PLANT FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS, Project No. 1328-050-00, Contract No. 1; HARRIS COUNTY, Texas" using the CivCast USA ("CivCast") website; www.civcastusa.com. The project includes the relocation of settling basins and addition of on-site pumping station at surface water treatment plant. A Pre-bid teleconference will be held on **Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.** Local Time. To join the prebid via Microsoft Teams use the following contact information (Meeting ID: 259 938 042 555, Passcode: PVieLx or for audio only dial 346-352-9789 Phone Conference ID: 227 182 187#). The Pre-bid teleconference is not mandatory. Bids will be publicly opened and read on **Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.** Local Time. To join the bid opening via Microsoft Teams use the following contact information (Meeting ID: 276 754 527 784 Passcode: j9ovw2 or for audio only dial 346-352-9789 Phone Conference ID: 918 350 138#).

Proposals must be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check or a bid bond from a surety company holding a permit in the State of Texas for an amount equal to 5% of the amount bid. The amount of said certified or cashier's check or bond will be forfeited to the OWNER and the bank or surety shall be liable to the OWNER for the amount in the event the successful bidder shall fail or refuse to enter into a contract or furnish bonds as hereafter required within ten (10) days after the date of notice of award. If a certified or cashier's check is provided, the successful bidder shall deliver, at the ENGINEERS office (IDS Engineering Group, 13430 Northwest Freeway, Suite 700, Houston, Texas 77040), the original certified or cashier's check within twenty-four (24) hours of the bid opening.

The successful bidder must furnish a performance bond and a payment bond on the forms provided, each in the amount of 100% of the Contract price from a surety company licensed by the State of Texas.

Copies of the bidding documents may be reviewed and obtained from www.CivcastUSA.com: search "Crosby MUD SWTP Improvements". Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, and other related documents for this project. There is NO charge to view or download documents.

This project will be federally funded by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Department through the Harris County Community Services Department (HCCSD). Applicable requirements include but are not limited to compliance with the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts, Federal Labor Standards, Equal Employment Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968, and contracting with small, minority, and disadvantage firms. In addition, applicable requirement include compliance with Build America, Buy America Act is defined in 2 CFR § 184.3, as detailed in the project manual.

The OWNER reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities or irregularities in bidding. In case of lack of clarity in stating prices, the OWNER reserves the right to consider the most advantageous construction thereof, or reject the bid.

CROSBY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 521890; Estate of WALTER RAYMOND ALLEN, Deceased; In Probate Court No. 1 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on FEBRUARY 19, 2024 to:

CAROLYN GRACE ALLEN
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 FEBRUARY 22, 2024

by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 522328; Estate of DIANA "DIANE" MAE FRALEY A/K/A/ DIANE MAE (GOFORTH) FRALEY, Deceased; In Probate Court No. 4 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on FEBRUARY 26, 2024 to:

WILLIAM DAVID FRALEY

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.

State Coller

Dated this FEBRUARY 29, 2024

by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

LEGAL NOTICE

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 522452; Estate of GARY AUBIN REYNOLDS, Deceased; In Probate Court No. 4 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on FEBRUARY 26, 2024 to:

GARY DAVID REYNOLDS

he residence address of

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 FEBRUARY 29, 2024

State talk

by WESTON COTTEN

Attorney for the Estate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Of Administration for Docket No. 521192; Estate of BARTON WAYNE BECK, Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on FEBRUARY 20, 2024 to:

BARBARA GIORDANELLI
The residence address of the

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 FEBRUARY 29, 2024

Obtac Oblac by Weston Cotten

Attorney for the Estate

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