



Over 80 Exotic Cars, Trucks, Classic Cars, Cycles and more were on display last Saturday at the Turner Chevrolet Auto Show. See Stories and Photos on Pages 1, 5.

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

# Star Courier

Serving Highlands, Crosby, Huffman and Surrounding Communities since 1955 ■ [www.starcouriernews.com](http://www.starcouriernews.com)

VOL. 71, NO. 20- \$1.00 © Copyright 2024

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024

P.O. DRAWER 446, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

## IN THE STARS

# Rotary awards \$41,000 in Scholarships

22 students from area schools receive 2024 awards

### EVENTS

#### Crosby Fair & Rodeo Schedule

**SATURDAY MAY 11**  
COWPOKE PAGEANT  
10:30 am  
Fairgrounds

**FRIDAY MAY 31**  
COOK-OFF  
BAG OF DONUTS

**SATURDAY JUNE 1**  
COOK-OFF  
LOGAN BEARD  
THE TWENTY TWOS

**JUNE 3-5**  
CROSBY YOUTH FAIR

**THURSDAY JUNE 6**  
LIVESTOCK AUCTION

**FRIDAY JUNE 7**  
RODEO  
RANDALL KING

**SATURDAY JUNE 8**  
RODEO  
DYLAN WHEELER

#### Graduation Schedule

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 22**  
Goose Creek Memorial High School  
Stallworth Stadium  
2102 E. Archer Rd.  
Baytown, Texas 77521  
7:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, MAY 25**  
Huffman Hargrave High School  
Ford Arena  
5115 I-10 Access Rd.  
Beaumont, TX 77705  
4 p.m.

**FRIDAY, MAY 31**  
Crosby High School  
Cougar Stadium  
14703 FM 2100  
Crosby, TX 77532  
7:30 p.m.

HIGHLANDS – The Rotary Club held their annual Scholarship Banquet last Monday night, May 6th, and awarded 22 scholarships totalling \$41,000. This exceeded the totals for the last few years, an accomplishment for the club and the community which supports the yearly Chili Feast.

The venue of the Highlands Community Center was festive and full with scholarship recipients, family and friends, and Rotarians and their families.

The emcee for the evening was the club president, Denise Smith, and the Scholarship program proceeded under the direction of scholarship committee chair Dr. Larry White, with the aid of president-elect GayLynn Milliorn.

The scholarships are a result of the funds raised primarily at the club's Annual Chili Feast in February. At this event, a new vehicle is raffled off to a



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS AT LAST WEEK'S AWARDS BANQUET. IN ADDITION TO THE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS, ALSO SEEN AT LEFT REAR IS DENISE SMITH, ROTARY PRESIDENT; AT RIGHT REAR DR. LARRY WHITE, ROTARY SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR; AND AT FAR RIGHT GAYLYNN MILLIORN, PRESIDENT-ELECT.

\$100 ticket holder, along with 13 other prizes, and the net proceeds are used for the scholarships and other community projects.

Over the years, these projects have included supporting such groups as the

Bay Area Homeless, Baytown Youth Fair, Bras for the Cause, Cody Stephens Foundation, Crosby Fair & Rodeo, Highlands Food Pantry, Harris County Stratford Library, Harris County Seniors program,

Highlands Horizons Miss Highlands Pageant, Highlands Little League, Highlands Volunteer Fire Department, Hurricane Relief, Methodist Church, Northshore Rotary, Partners in Education, Share

Your Christmas, Stratford Library Summer Reading Program, Community Tree Lighting ceremony, Wreaths Across America,

Continued. See ROTARY SCHOLARSHIPS Page 5

## THEA secures grant to study climate impact

Houston, Texas: The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) has announced that Texas Health and Environment Alliance (THEA) is one of only 13 North American nonprofits to receive its EJ4Climate Grant.

THEA will use the nearly \$150,000 grant to address an emerging problem for coastal cities, the potential for flooding and other climate change impacts to release contaminated material from relic



JACKIE MEDCALF  
THEA CEO

industrial sites.

"We are thankful for this opportunity. The Houston-Galveston area has potentially thousands of long-closed and forgotten industrial sites. The area is also experiencing in-

Continued. See THEA CLIMATE GRANT, Page 6

## Sterling White remembers moms, readies for Memorial Day

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

The sweet sounds of singing wafted across the cemetery as Sadie Chamberlain strummed her guitar and sang songs to remember mothers who have passed, and honor those living and still influencing our lives. The stillness and quiet of Sterling-White cemetery on Mother's Day was the

Continued. See MOTHER'S DAY, Page 6



SADIE CHAMBERLAIN STRUMS A SONG OF REMEMBRANCE FOR MOTHER'S DAY OBSERVANCE AT STERLING-WHITE CEMETERY.

# Turner Chevrolet Car Show Shines Amid Houston Area Floods

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

While flooding was going on around the Houston area, nothing could stop the much-anticipated Turner Chevrolet Car Show. For eight years, only skipping during the pandemic, the show has attracted muscle and antique cars and trucks from all over the Gulf Coast including an entry from Marshall, Texas this weekend.

The event is more than a competition—it's family.

Many of the entrants and competitors are friends and covet the time they spend for the weekend here in Crosby.

At least 80 of the 300-plus in attendance on Saturday competed and 20 of those entries scored trophies for their hard work



Crosby's own Eddie Foster (left) helped organize the event and was emcee for the trophy award ceremony.

and investment.

Fans and competitors alike were happy to see owner Robert Turner in attendance with his son Robbie.

"This is our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year owning this dealership," he said. "We also own two other

stores in Nederland, JK Chevrolet and JK Subaru. We've owned those since 2000," Turner said.

It's not how long he's been in the business.

Turner started his car dealership career in 1976 in Dallas, Texas at Freemont Oldsmobile. He



A Vibrant red muscle car stands as timeless symbol of automotive excellence and performance.

worked for several different companies and partnered with some guys in a store called Reliable Chevrolet in Richardson and Showcase Chevrolet in Dallas. He went to work for them in 1989 but sold his partnership and moved to South Texas. He's been here

since.

"Like they used to say, we were selling cars like candy bars," he laughed. That was until manufacturers began making changes and the pandemic hit the auto industry hard.

"Now they want us to do pre-sales. Order what you

want and a few weeks later, it shows up and you take delivery. That's just the way to do it these days," he said.

"We all hated it at first, then we learned to love it."

Turner said they weren't giving all their money to the banks for flooring all those cars and trucks.

"If you're not making the car payments, we are," he laughed. "The less we're having to make car payments on stock on the lot, the better deals we can make for our customers," he said.

Turner said the customer can order custom, and not have to take delivery on options they don't want. Four to six weeks later it's sitting on the lot waiting for

Continued. See TURNER CHEVROLET, Page 7

**HIGHLANDS-LYNCHBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
Highlands Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce  
Monthly Luncheon is 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday  
San Jacinto Community Center -- RSVP at  
[highlandslynchburgchamber@outlook.com](mailto:highlandslynchburgchamber@outlook.com)  
Tel: 281-426-7227

**AUTO & HOME INSURANCE**  
Jeremy Rosenkranz  
State Farm Agent  
440 S. Main Street, Highlands, TX 77562  
281-426-3512  
[jtr@jeremyrosenkranz.com](mailto:jtr@jeremyrosenkranz.com)

**WESTON G. COTTEN**  
Attorney at Law  
O. 281/421-4050  
F. 281/533-6032  
[weston@westoncotten.com](mailto:weston@westoncotten.com)

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

**A SPECIAL MORTGAGE FOR OUR LOCAL HEROES!**  
★ No PMI Required  
★ No Lender Fees

**COMMUNITY HERO MORTGAGE**  
Community Resource CREDIT UNION  
MUST BE CLASSIFIED AS A FULL TIME EMPLOYEE FOR FIRST RESPONDERS, HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, OR TEACHING PROFESSIONALS AND MUST HAVE AT LEAST TWO YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT HISTORY. PLEASE CONTACT A REPRESENTATIVE FOR MORE DETAILS. CRCU MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED. CRCU RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CANCEL OR ADJUST THIS PROMOTION AT ANY TIME.

# GOOSE CREEK CISD NEWS

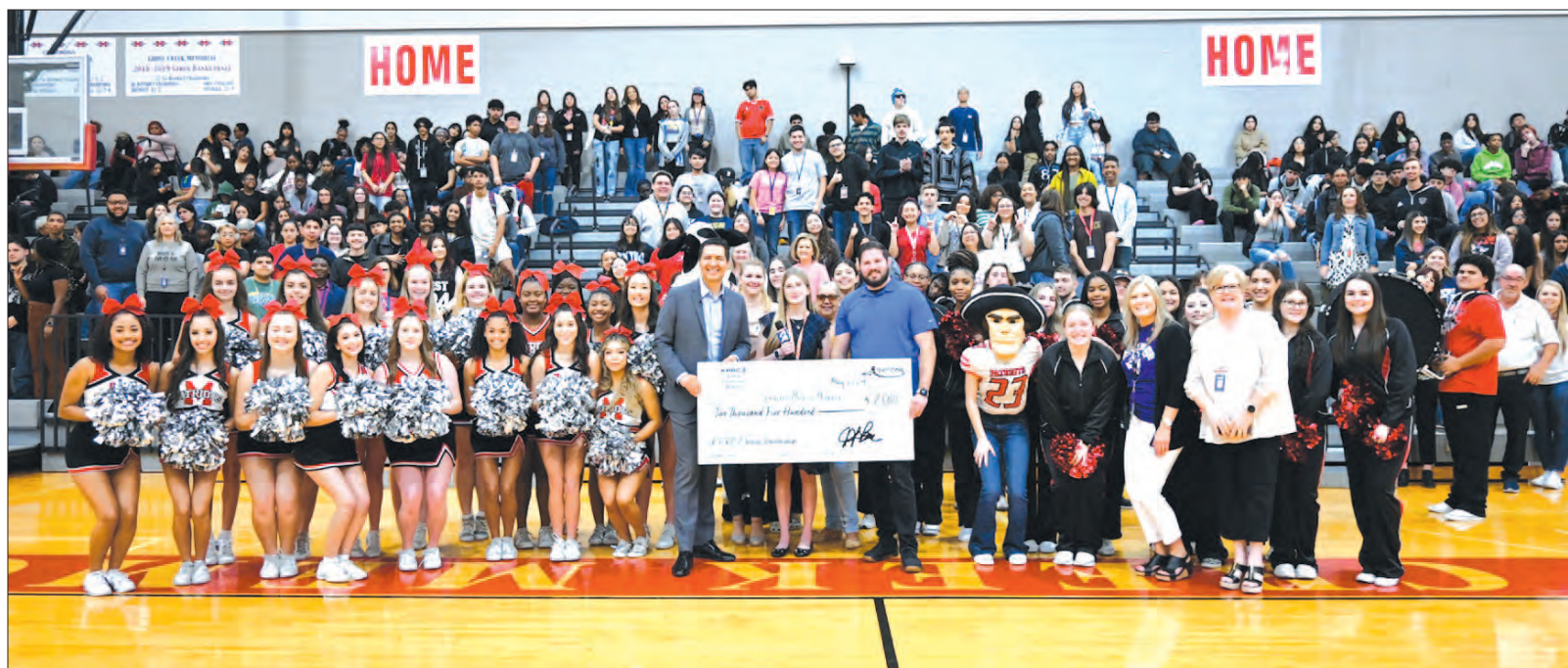
## Goose Creek Memorial High School Senior Surprised with Prestigious Scholarship from KPRC and American Furniture Warehouse

By Norma Martinez

KPRC's scholarship committee surprised Goose Creek Memorial High School senior, Jennifer Monier Mendez as one of 20 distinguished recipients of their scholarship checks this season. Mendez was nominated for her exemplary academic achievements and community involvement.

Joined by KPRC's Anthony Yanez and Mariah Gardner, along with Jacob Colby from the scholarship's sponsor, American Furniture Warehouse, the presentation was a moment of celebration and recognition for Mendez's outstanding contributions. Mendez has not only excelled academically but has also demonstrated a profound commitment to serving her community. Her passion for learning and dedication to making a positive impact have truly set her apart.

As she stood in gym, amidst her peers, Mendez expressed her gratitude for the honor, acknowledging the support of her family, teachers, and mentors who have been instrumental in her journey. Goose Creek CISD along with their community partners, KPRC and American Furniture



Jennifer Monier Mendez is awarded a KPRC 2 scholarship at GCM in front of her peers



Jennifer Monier Mendez poses with her \$2500 check (Photos by Yulia Trujillo-Rodriguez)

Warehouse, remains committed to empowering the next generation of leaders and scholars, and Mendez undoubtedly embodies the spirit of excellence and promise.



Anthony Yanez, Jennifer Monier Mendez, and Jacob Colby pose after the scholarship announcement (Photos by Yulia Trujillo-Rodriguez)

## Apple Distinguished School Program Inspires Innovation at Goose Creek CISD

By Norma Martinez

Goose Creek CISD welcomed visitors from the Apple Distinguished School (ADS) program on their Houston visit from May 7th to May 9th. The visit, highlighting Goose Creek Memorial High School and Crockett Elementary School, marked a significant phase in the district's ongoing commitment to innovation in education.

The Apple team's visit wasn't just a routine check-in; it was an opportunity for both parties to engage in meaningful dialogue. Led by CTO Matt Flood and Superintendent Dr. O'Brien, alongside campus leaders, the meeting served as a platform to showcase GCCISD's strides in integrating tech-

nology into the learning environment and to provide crucial feedback on the ADS program's evolution.

At GCM, secondary campus leaders participated in a roundtable discussion, offering insights, and expressing gratitude for the ADS program's impact. They delved into how Apple's technology has facilitated project-based learning, with students seamlessly integrating iPads into their educational journey.

At Crockett Elementary, the enthusiasm was palpable as 5th-grade Apple students opened the visit with a dynamic Q&A session, showcasing their proficiency and enthusiasm for learning with Apple technology. The tour of the campus provided a

firsthand look at how iPads are transforming education, from kindergarteners mastering math concepts to upper-grade students mentoring their peers using core content vocabulary.

The visit left a lasting impression on GCCISD schools, igniting excitement for the prospect of learning from other Apple Distinguished Schools and, perhaps, securing certification themselves in the coming year. As Goose Creek continues to push the boundaries of innovation in education, collaborations like this underscore the district's dedication to providing its students with the tools they need to thrive in a technology driven world.



Students at Crockett Elementary showed Dr. O'Brien and Apple Distinguished Schools program visitors how they use iPads in their classrooms (Photos by Norma Martinez)



## “Ross S. Sterling High School Senior Awarded Prestigious Scholarship from Gulf Coast Educators FCU”

Moriah Shuttlesworth, senior at Ross S. Sterling High School, has been named one of four exceptional seniors in the Houston area to receive a coveted scholarship from Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union. This prestigious recognition was celebrated at the Bay Oaks Country Club on May 8, 2024.

Each year, Gulf Coast Educators FCU awards scholarships to four deserving students. The scholarship program aims to support promising students within their field of membership. This year, amidst tough competition, Moriah was among the standout applicants selected from a pool of over 30 high school seniors across the Houston area.

To be eligible for this esteemed scholarship, applicants must be graduating high school seniors. Gulf Coast Educators FCU, since 1992, has remained committed to empowering the next generation by awarding over \$400,000 in scholar-



3169- Gulf Coast Educators FCU and Dr. O'Brien of GCCISD pose with scholarship winner, Moriah Shuttlesworth (Photo and Article by Norma Martinez)

ships to deserving students.

Moriah's achievement not only reflects her academic prowess but also her dedication to excellence and commitment to fur-

thering her education. As she embarks on this new chapter, Goose Creek CISD celebrates her accomplishments and looks forward to witnessing her continued success.

Dealing with the loss of a loved one is never easy, but maybe these guys can help!

We're the only funeral home in the Houston area providing full-time, certified therapy dogs for the comfort of our families and guests



Axl and Izzy are both certified grief therapy dogs. You can follow them on Facebook and Instagram @GriefTherapyDood

 **CARTER \* CONLEY**  
FUNERAL HOME

 FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED FOR OVER 30 YEARS 

13701 Corpus Christi St, Houston, TX 77015 • (713) 455-5100  
[www.carterconleyfh.com](http://www.carterconleyfh.com)

# Barbers Hill Press

## Dayton

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

VOL. 29, NO. 19

© Copyright 2024

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

### ON THE HILL

## UPDATE: McGrath RE Partners report to Mont Belvieu city council on development progress at Riceland

### GRADUATION SCHEDULE

#### TUESDAY, MAY 21

Stuart Career Tech HS  
Lee College Sports Arena  
200 Lee Dr.  
Baytown, TX 77520  
5:30 PM

IMPACT Early College HS  
Lee College Sports Arena  
200 Lee Dr.  
Baytown, TX 77520  
7:30 PM

#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

Goose Creek Memorial High School  
Stallworth Stadium  
2102 E. Archer Rd.  
Baytown, Texas 77521  
7:30 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, MAY 23

Ross S. Sterling High School  
Stallworth Stadium  
2102 E. Archer Rd.  
Baytown, Texas 77521  
7:30 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, MAY 24

Dayton High School  
Lamar University Montagne Center  
4401 S. M. L. King Jr. Pkwy.  
Beaumont, Texas 77705  
10 a.m.

Robert E. Lee High School  
Stallworth Stadium  
2102 E. Archer Rd.  
Baytown, Texas 77521  
7:30 p.m.

Barbers Hill High School  
Eagle Stadium  
9752 Eagle Drive  
Mont Belvieu, TX 77580  
8 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, MAY 25

Huffman Hargrave High School  
Ford Arena  
5115 I-10 Access Rd.  
Beaumont, TX 77705  
4 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, MAY 31

Crosby High School  
Cougar Stadium  
14703 FM 2100  
Crosby, TX 77532  
7:30 p.m.

### Calendar of Events

#### Movies Under the Stars

Lights, camera... action! The Mont Belvieu Parks and Recreation Department brings the best of Hollywood to City Park with our family-friendly outdoor film series. All of the shows are free and begin at dusk. Bring your own chairs and blankets; refreshments are available on site. Coolers are permitted but alcohol is not permitted in the park.

#### Rock the Park

Come out and rock City Park with us! Bring a lawn chair, your friends, your dogs (on leashes, please), and your kids for a rockin' good time! All concerts are FREE to attend and in addition to the great music, we also have food trucks and family-friendly activities. We can't wait for you to join us and make more Mont Belvieu memories.

#### Dive In Movies

You've heard of a drive-in movie, but have you ever been to a DIVE-in movie? It's a splash-tastic time for the entire family! Everyone starts the evening with some tasty treats and splash time at the Eagle Pointe Recreation Center wave pool. Then, when the sun goes down, you'll want to stay in your tube and float your way to the best seat in the house to watch a blockbuster on the big screen. Let's face it, there's no better way to beat the summer heat!

MONT BELVIEU - In the burgeoning Mont Belvieu area, a bustling hive of construction activity marks the inception of a grand housing development initiative. Spearheaded by McGrath Real Estate Partners, this visionary Riceland project aims to transform 1,420 acres of pristine landscape into a vibrant community hub, boasting 4,000 new homes alongside an array of recreational facilities, parks, and extensive trail networks.

At the helm of this ambitious endeavor is Randy Hopper, Vice President of Acquisitions and Development, who recently presented the project's progress to the Mont Belvieu City Council. With the initial phase underway on a 143-acre plot, Hopper revealed that 178 lots have already been snapped up by eager home builders.



Randy Hopper  
VP McGrath RE Partners

Among these, 65 homes are rapidly taking shape, with 35 already spoken for by enthusiastic buyers.

The allure of Mont Belvieu's future homes is undeniable, with prices ranging from \$448,000 to \$788,000, attracting a diverse array of potential homeowners, including young professionals and retirees seeking a slice of suburban tranquility. Anticipating the first wave of residents by late summer, Hopper foresees a vibrant community taking root, just in time for the new school year.



Collaborating with esteemed home builders such as Highland, Weekly Homes, Perry Homes, and Chesmar Homes, McGrath Real Estate Partners is poised for a 20-year journey of growth and innovation. The sales offices, strategically positioned along Farm Road 565, serve as bustling hubs of activity, drawing in prospective buyers from near and far.

Reflecting on Mont Belvieu's rich history, Hopper shares a personal connection, tracing his family's roots in the region back two centuries. Their legacy, intertwined with the land, fuels his commitment to creating enduring communities that stand the test of time.

As Mont Belvieu's landscape evolves, so too does the city's vision for planned growth. A recent

decision by the City Council underscores their commitment to thoughtful development, denying a rezoning request that threatened to compromise the integrity of the burgeoning community. With a focus on balancing commercial aspirations with residential tranquility, Mont Belvieu remains steadfast in its dedication to shaping a vibrant, sustainable future.

## Standoff Ends in Tragedy: Armed Man Shot Dead After Holding Ex-Girlfriend and Child Hostage

CHAMBERS COUNTY, Texas — Authorities shot and killed a man armed with an AR-style weapon after he held his ex-girlfriend and their 3-year-old child hostage during a chase, Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez stated last week.

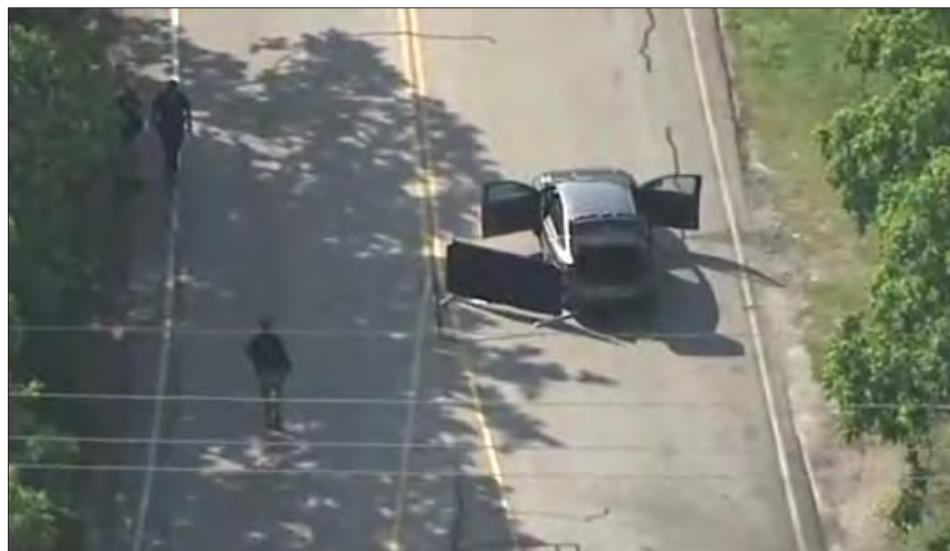
Family members identified the man as Christian Acosta, whom Gonzalez said was 39 years old.

Sheriff's deputies said it began with a phone call from the family member of his ex-girlfriend shortly before 6 a.m.

The relative reported that the suspect kidnapped the 29-year-old woman and the toddler from a home in the 9400 block of Desert Flower near Highway 249 in the Fallbrook area.

Acosta was the child's father, and authorities said he and the woman were in a common-law relationship.

The man broke down



the door, then fired shots before taking off with the pair, officials said.

By 9:15 a.m., the car they were in was spotted in Fort Bend County, and the chase started when the suspect refused to stop. Officers would be in pursuit for the next 45 minutes from Fort Bend through Harris and eventually to Chambers County. The chase reached speeds of 100 mph. An investigator and the woman's stepfather were on the phone trying to convince him to stop.

"I tried my best. I stayed 40 minutes on the phone with him," Arturo Escobedo said.

Officials said the man

continued to refuse to surrender, adding that he spoke of "suicide by police."

Authorities ended up barricading the area of Plantation Drive at Highway 565 to block the suspect from reaching his house in the Cove area of Chambers County.

"We did not want him to get to the house because

there were two more children he was coming to get," Chambers County Sheriff Brian Hawthorne said.

Once deputies stopped him, he reached for his gun, and that's when two snipers with Chambers County's Special Response Team shot and killed him, Gonzalez said.

The woman and child were unharmed. No members of law enforcement were injured either.

According to Gonzalez, there was a history of abuse in the relationship, noting that the suspect had previously threatened to take the woman to Mexico and kill her.

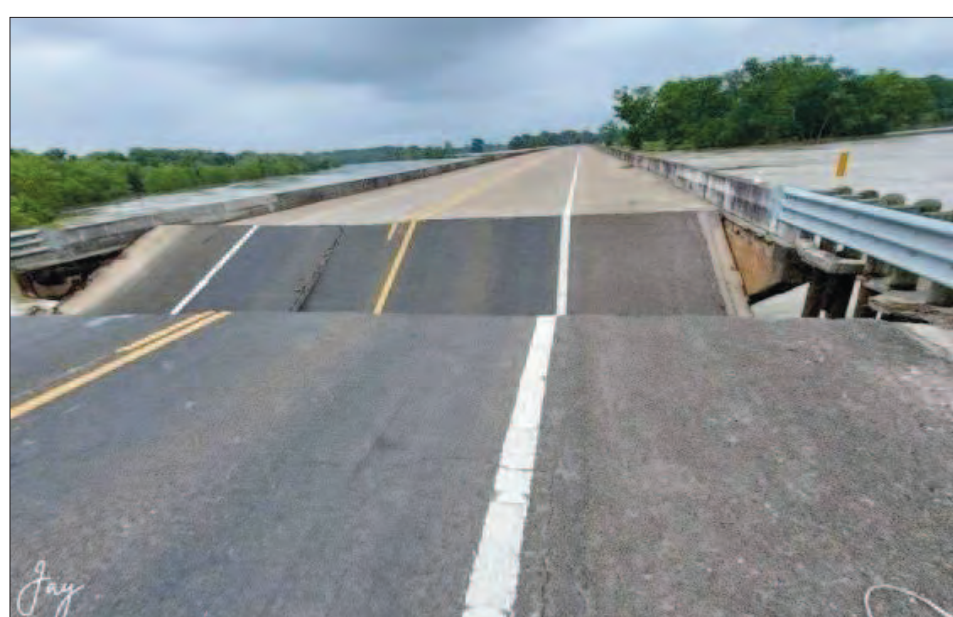
The couple had recently split, and she stayed with relatives to escape him.

"It shows they will hunt you down and find you if they are hell-bent on doing that. Luckily, she didn't die," Gonzalez said.

It's believed no shots were fired during the chase.

## Flood Damage: FM 787 Bridge Collapse

Liberty County Bridge in Romayor over Trinity River closed: Alternates are SH105 or Interstate I-10



Hwy FM787 closed for repair



TSCOT examines Hwy FM787 for repairs.

OPINION PAGE

**COUNTY MATTERS**  
Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo



### Setting Harris County's North Star for the future

Thank you to everyone who came out to the County Judge's Strategic Plan Listening Session! Hundreds of Harris County residents came out to the West Gray Community Center last month to make their voices heard as Harris County worked on creating a strategic plan that will shape county government's priorities for years to come.

At the April 23rd Commissioners Court, Commissioners officially passed the county's strategic plan framework, setting the guiding principles that Harris County government will follow over the next several generations. This is a major step in Judge Hidalgo's work to bring Harris County government into the 21st century. Over the last year Judge Hidalgo and county officials worked with community residents, experts and departments to set the framework that will guide all of the work on Commissioners Court for years to come.



Judge Hidalgo reviews feedback from Harris County residents on the strategic plan

### Fighting for Families in Poverty with Uplift Harris



Moments after Commissioners Court decided to proceed with sending Uplift Harris payments to families as planned, the Texas Supreme Court blocked the payments from being sent out. Guaranteed income is an anti-poverty program that has long existed elsewhere in the state. 1,928 low-income families remain in limbo because of this decision.

Judge Hidalgo, Commissioner Rodney Ellis and County Attorney Christian Menefee promised families that they will keep fighting for this program every step of the way.


### Delivering Federal Funding For Clean Energy Transition and Green Jobs

On Earth Day, Harris County and the Texas Solar for All Coalition received a major federal grant of \$250 million to fund the clean energy transition. Over the past year, Harris County led the Texas Solar for All Coalition, a group of six Texas county and city governments, as well as state energy nonprofits, in applying for this historic federal funding.

As the energy capital of the world, it is a matter of survival for Harris County to be at the forefront of the clean energy transition. This investment will not only protect our environment in a region that has experienced the effects of climate change, but it will also help ensure that energy jobs remain in the region as the world's energy sources continue to evolve.

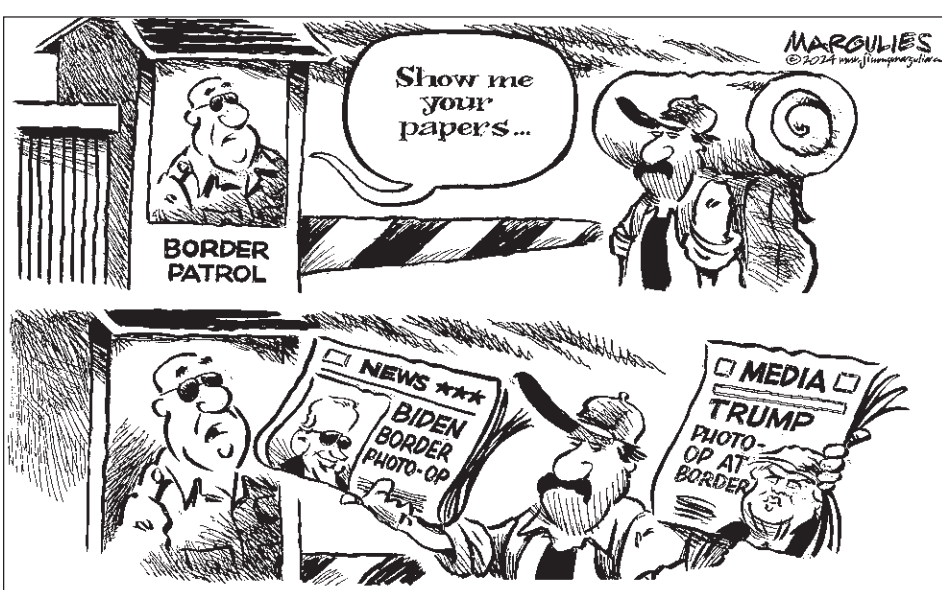
The County Judge's Office collaborated with six different county and city governments from across the state in coming together with the federal government to make this possible. Thank you to the Biden Administration for providing this crucial support.

**Americanisms**



"Create the highest, grandest vision possible for your life because you become what you believe."  
— Oprah Winfrey

© 2022 King Features Syndicate, Inc.



**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
By Gary Borders



### Spate of Tornadoes Far Outpaces the Average Season

April was a busy month for tornadoes across the United States with 373 recorded, bringing the total for the year to 549, the Austin American-Statesman reported. That is nearly double the average at this point in the year, the National Weather Service says.

Texas, as usual, is a leader in tornadic activity, with 14 tornadoes reported within a 24-hour span in Central and East Texas during a spring storm in late April. Luckily, none resulted in injury or fatality. All of the tornadoes reported on April 26 fell within a 70-mile stretch along Interstate 35 and Texas Hwy. 31, around Corsicana, McGregor and Hillsboro.

The weather service reported that tornadoes have nearly reached half the annual average recorded over the past decade, with April alone accounting for more than one-fourth of the annual average.

#### FLOODING PROMPTS DISASTER DECLARATIONS

A total of 59 counties thus far are under state disaster declaration after severe weather and flooding swept much of Central and East Texas, Gov. Greg Abbott announced. More counties could be added as conditions warrant.

The counties added to the disaster declaration include: Anderson, Angelina, Austin, Bandera, Bastrop, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Bosque, Brazos, Burleson, Burnet, Caldwell, Cherokee, Colorado, Comal, Coryell, DeWitt, Falls, Fayette, Gillespie, Gonzales, Gregg, Guadalupe, Hamilton, Hardin, Hays, Henderson, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Lampasas, Lavaca, Lee, Llano, Mason, Medina, Milam, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Panola, Robertson, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Smith, Travis, Van Zandt, Waller, Washington, Williamson, and Wilson counties.

Texans from the Panhandle to the Piney Woods are not out of the woods yet when it comes to severe weather, the Texas Standard reported. Of particular concern is the area north of Houston, with evacuation orders in place in Polk County. The Trinity River overflowed following as much as 23 inches of rain in parts of the Lake Livingston watershed.

#### IT'S OFFICIAL: POWER LINES CAUSED PANHANDLE WILDFIRES

A House committee investigating the deadly Panhandle wildfires concluded the most destructive blazes were caused by power lines that "had not been effectively maintained or replaced by a utility provider and an oil and gas operator," The Dallas Morning News reported.



The findings were released in an interim report last week. The Smokehouse Creek fire started Feb. 26 in Hutchinson County and rapidly became the largest wildfire in state history.

The fire scorched more than a million acres. It killed at least two people and more than 15,000 head of cattle and destroyed an estimated 138 homes and businesses.

The committee's findings included ineffective monitoring of utility, oil and gas providers in the area; a lack of funding for volunteer fire departments; and lack of coordination among first responders and government agencies. "Volunteer fire departments, which the Panhandle region largely depends on, are grossly underfunded, making it virtually impossible for them to obtain the equipment and resources needed to fight wildfires of this magnitude safely and effectively," the report stated.

Both the Smokehouse Creek and the smaller Reamer Creek fires were caused by downed Xcel Energy power poles, while the Windy Deuce Fire was caused by tree limbs rubbing against power lines on a pole.

#### PAXTON SUES TO BLOCK CLOSING 'GUN SHOW LOOPHOLE'

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is suing to stop the Biden administration's bid to close what is known as the 'gun show loophole.'

"We will not let Biden continue this tyrannical abuse of

power," kut.org quoted Paxton as saying. "His war on Second Amendment rights must be stopped."

Paxton was joined by Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach in suing the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to attempt to block a new rule requiring all gun sellers to be federally licensed and to conduct background checks of purchases - including weapons sold at gun shows or in private transactions.

Steven Dettelbach, ATF director, said requiring firearms dealers to have federal licenses to sell guns and conducting background checks on buyers closes a loophole, since licensed gun sellers are already required to keep records of sales.

"We can clearly see that a whole group of folks are openly flouting that law," Dettelbach said. "That leads to not just unfair but, in this case, dangerous consequences."

#### ABBOTT ORDERS TEA TO IGNORE NEW TITLE IX GUIDELINES

Abbott last week ordered the Texas Education Agency to ignore new Biden administration guidelines that add new categories of protection within Title IX to include LGBTQ students, the Texas Standard reported. The new rules also spurred yet another lawsuit against the Biden Administration by Paxton. The state's AG office says, "the Biden administration misinterpreted the intent of Title IX."

However, Joanna Grossman, a law professor at Southern Methodist University who specializes in women and the law, said the Department of Education is charged with interpreting and implementing Title IX, and the governor is exceeding his powers.

"To be clear, a governor of a state does not have the authority to order his people to ignore federal law. A federal law is supreme. So, the idea that he can just sort of pick and choose and decide that Texas isn't going to follow federal law is not one of his options," she said.

#### REFINERIES CAN GET TAX CREDIT FOR CLEANING JET FUEL

Texas Gulf Coast refineries stand to pick up lucrative tax credits if they choose to make jete fuel from ethanol, cooking oil and other renewable substances under new Biden administration rules aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Houston Chronicle reported that the U.S. Treasury Department has rolled out new guidelines for jet fuel producers who use crude oil alternatives. They can claim tax credits worth between \$1.25 and \$1.75 per gallon.

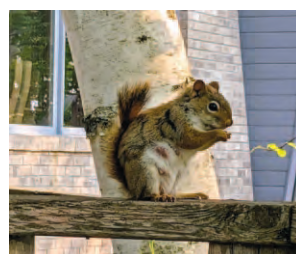
"People say aviation is a 'hard to decarbonize' sector. And while it is difficult, it is a sector we must decarbonize if we're going to address climate change," said John Podesta, Biden's senior adviser for international climate policy.

Refineries operators are taking note. Valero is overhauling its biodiesel plant in Port Arthur to produce up to 235 million gallons of sustainable aviation fuel annually, the Chronicle reported.

"Refiners are making the investments necessary to be part of the solution," the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers trade group noted last year.

**THE POSTSCRIPT**  
By Carrie Classon

### "Stubby is Gone"



It may be that Stubby is gone for good.

In the summer of 2022, I started writing about my mother's new pet, a red squirrel who she reluctantly began to care for.

My parents live on 20 acres in the woods up north in a house my father designed when he retired 35 years ago. The house looks over the lake and, for most of the winter, my parents have few neighbors, except for the birds at their feeder and the deer making their way through the deep snow and, of course, red squirrels.

Red squirrels are not friendly, like chipmunks. They are more rascally than gray squirrels. They are timid around people and aggressive around other squirrels and they will eat all the bird food they can get their paws on. My mother was not a fan of red squirrels.

But when one particular red squirrel began hanging around my parents' house, my mother began to reconsider. Their relationship got off to a rocky start when the red squirrel tossed pine-cone seeds on my father's head and dug up my mother's flowerpots and made a terrible mess of the deck.

But, after the mysterious loss of his tail, my mother began to feel sorry for this little scoundrel. She began to leave him a few seeds on the railing. Eventually, the red squirrel, who we decided to call "Stubby," became quite attached to my mother, and would stand with its little paws knit together, looking into the window after my mother left seeds out for him on the railing.

Stubby now appears to be missing.

There is another red squirrel and, as hard as my mother would like to believe otherwise, it is not Stubby.

"Could it be that his tail has grown back?" my mother asked.

I'd heard of salamanders growing new tails, but this seemed unlikely in a red squirrel. We both stood silently at the window for a long time, trying to convince ourselves that this was Stubby—thinner after the long winter, with a new scar on his side and a much longer tail. But we knew it was not Stubby.

"I saw two squirrels chasing each other around," my mother said. "I thought one of them was Stubby. Do you think this squirrel chased him away?"

Of course, I didn't know. I didn't even know how long red squirrels lived. Three years, I later learned, is average, although some have lived up to 10 years in captivity. But even with a steady supply of seeds, I don't think Stubby was living under optimum conditions. Somebody had already gotten the end of his tail, after all. And we have no idea how old he was when that happened.

"Where could he have gone?" my mother wondered aloud.

We do not know, and I don't suppose we ever will. I had hoped Stubby would be around this summer, tossing more pine-cone seeds onto our heads and peering earnestly at my mother through the window. I would like to believe that, after an extended convalescence, Stubby was well enough to seek out new territory, perhaps find a mate, start a new life with his refashioned tail.

But I know that none of this is likely. And it makes me sad.

Stubby was a good friend to my mother. He made a big impression with his short life and his short tail and his surprisingly courteous manners. He was a fine example of how we can rebound from tragedy, make new and unexpected friends and behave better than people expect.

Till next time,  
Carrie

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

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

Editor & Publisher..... Gilbert Hoffman  
Associate Publisher..... Mei-Ing Liu Hoffman  
Managing Editor..... David Taylor  
Assignment Editor..... Julieta Paita  
Website Editor..... Kristan Hoffman  
Production Manager..... Gerardo Hernandez

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

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In-county, \$28.00 per year. Out of county, \$35.00 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Star-Courier, P. O. Box 446, Highlands, TX 77562

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

# Turner Chevrolet Car Show attracts 80-plus Entries Despite Weather,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the customer. Turner has turned the store over to his son. "I've had a good run. Some people wait too long to hang on. I think that's wrong. I think you turn it over to the next generation when you're young enough to help them launch and recover from any mistakes they make," he said. Turner said they'll make mistakes, but you're there to counsel and coach them through it all. The auto show is in its eighth year and Turner said it's like a family reunion.

"They get to talk to people who can help them with their project, or buy a part they've been looking for, or meet folks who paid someone to do their car," Turner said. "It becomes stories and memories for a lifetime."

Here's a list of the entrants who placed at the car show:

**Turners Choice Award** - Mike Schoch 1967 Chevy Chevelle

**Best Interior** - Anne Woodall 1960 Chevy Impala

**Best Engine** - Raymond Riojas 1966 Chevy Nova

**Best Paint** - Wallace & Martha Arthur 1933 Ford Coupe

**Longest Distance** - Marshall, Texas Clifford Cole 1937 Chevy Coupe

**Best of Show** - Austin Gandy 1963 Chevy Corvette

**Muscle:**  
1st Place - Jennifer Byrd 1969 Chevy Camaro  
2nd Place - Austin Gandy 1967 Chevy Camaro

**Modern Muscle:**  
1st Place - Kevin & Pam Ross 2024 Chevy Camaro  
2nd Place - Stuart Northup 1996 Chevy Corvette

**Sports Car:**  
1st Place - Frank Henderson 1969 Chevy Camaro



More than 80 auto enthusiasts competed for several trophies at the annual car show hosted by Turner Chevrolet in Crosby on Saturday. Despite the bad weather, close to 300 came out to see the beautiful cars and trucks.

2nd Place - Beatriz Riojas 2021 Toyota Supra  
**Antique:**  
1st Place - Dalton Darby 1934 Ford Truck  
2nd Place - Mike Shepherd 1938 Plymouth Coupe  
**Classic:**  
1st Place - Rufus Larkin 1960 Chevy Impala  
2nd Place - Randy Barnes 1967 Chevy Malibu  
**Trucks 1900 - 1969:**  
1st Place - Stephanie Merlos & John Ashley 1941 Ford  
2nd Place - Mike Terry 1965 Chevy C10  
**Trucks 1970 - 2024:**  
1st Place - Charles Cunningham 1984 Chevy C10  
2nd Place - Juhn Hulsey 1972 Chevy C10



Help us Congratulate Joe Hereford on his 2022 Chevy Silverado! #MilitaryNight. We just surprised him with a New Silverado at the Astros game. Thank you, Joe for your Service and God Bless. 100% Donated and Paid For.



# Rotary awards \$41,000 in Scholarships

22 students from area schools receive 2024 awards

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Thanksgiving Turkeys for needy families, and Precinct2gether, as well as many other projects.

The club estimates that since it started awarding scholarships, it has given out over \$6000,000 in scholarships to college bound students. Awards are from \$1500 to \$2500 per school year.

The Scholarship committee had a large field of 59 applications to review. The Review Committee consisted of 8 Highlands Rotarians, with Dr. Larry White as chair.

Committee members included Rotarians Denise Smith, Robert Woodall, Diana Weaver, Cora Lynn, Sheila MacDonald, Patricia Scott, Larry White, and Gaylynn Milliorn.

Dr. White explained that they were evaluated on grades, an essay, extra curricular activities, and recommendations. At the banquet, scholarships were presented by Denise Smith and Gaylynn Milliorn, with special presenters for the named scholarships.

Scholarship Awards this year went to the following:

**From Goose Creek Memorial High School:**

- Veda Fleming
- Swayam Gupta
- Delyla Mayfield
- Viridiana Nunez
- Justin Pham
- Simram Singh

**From Chinquapin Preparatory School:**

- Julia Cepeda
- Hannah Corral
- Betsaida Trujillo



Presenters at the head table included club president Denise Smith and scholarship chairman Dr. Larry White.

**From Crosby High School:**

- Paola Davila
- Ayden Edwards
- Kaylie Hill

**College Students:**

- Austin Martinez
- Jackie Ponder

Named scholarships are in honor of Highlands Rotarians who contributed to the club and the community, and that have passed away. They are presented by a person who was best friends or family to the Ro-

tarian that is being honored.

This year, the following special named Scholarships were:

**Beverly Culbreath Scholarship**, presented by Weston Cotten to Hunter Teel of GCM;

**R.L. Creel Scholarship**, presented by Weston Cotten to Madisyn Allen of Lee College;

**Dr. W.L. & Nell Herndon Scholarship**, presented by Patricia Scott to Alberto Ortegón of GCM;

**Jay E. Bird Scholarships**, presented by Elaine Bird Marshal to Aubrey Bird of GCM; and presented by Dr. Larry White to Maya Campos of Chinquapin Prep;

**Chester Stasney Scholarship**, presented by his best friend Johnny

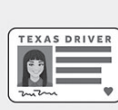
Gaeké to Sydney Hale of Goose Creek Memorial High School; Chester passed away four years ago, but he was known for his famous Chili recipe that is served annually at the club's Chili Feast. This honor has passed to the presenter, Johnny Gaeké.

**Pat McPhee Scholarship**, presented by his widow Barbara McPhee to Natasha Kedzieski of Crosby High School.


**Tony Irwin Scholarship**, presented by Andy Scott to Amber Dillow of GCM.

The Rotary Club of Highlands, and president Denise Smith, say Congratulations to all!


## ARE YOU ID READY?



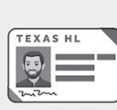
TEXAS DRIVER LICENSE\*




U.S. PASSPORT\* (BOOK OR CARD)



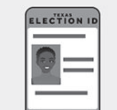
U.S. CITIZENSHIP CERTIFICATE WITH PHOTO




TEXAS HANDGUN LICENSE\*



TEXAS PERSONAL ID CARD\*



TEXAS ELECTION ID CARD\*



U.S. MILITARY ID CARD\*

WHAT IF I DO NOT POSSESS AND CANNOT REASONABLY OBTAIN ONE OF THESE PHOTO IDS?

You can still vote. Simply fill out a Reasonable Impediment Declaration and show a copy or original of one of the following approved IDs:

- Certified Domestic Birth Certificate or Court Admissible Birth Document
- Paycheck
- Current Utility Bill
- Government document with your name and address including your Voter Registration Certificate
- Bank Statement
- Government Check

If you're eligible to vote by mail, learn more about the requirements and how to identify yourself on your ballot by mail materials.

Find out more about voting in Texas at

### VOTETEXAS.GOV

POWERED BY THE TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE

or call 1-800-252-VOTE (8683)

\*For voters aged 18 - 69 years, photo ID can be expired for up to four years. For voters aged 70 and older, photo ID can be expired for any length of time if otherwise valid.

# Mother's Day at Sterling-White,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

perfect backdrop for the Hofius Middle School choir teacher and soprano in Klein ISD to lend her talents for the annual Mother's Day remembrance hosted by the funeral home and cemetery staff.

Sadie is a regular performer for Sterling-White services and special events.

"We invited her to come today and offer a special performance for all our beloved mothers," said Isabella Dion with Sterling-White Funeral Home and Cemetery.

Inclement weather prevented many families from joining in the annual celebration, but it didn't prevent Chamberlain and the cemetery staff from enjoying the afternoon.

"Since some individuals couldn't make it today because of the weather, or distance, or any other reason, we wanted to broadcast it live on our Facebook," Dion said.

Chamberlain sang a song entitled, "Mother" as her first selection.

Her final song was a special one to her and her mom.

"My mother and my grandmother sang it to me, and her mother sang it to her," Chamberlain said. "It's a reminder that even on an overcast day like today, our moms and loved ones can brighten our day." She then sang a Louisiana

favorite, "You Are My Sunshine."

The first noted recording and publishing of the song came in 1940 by Jimmie Davis and Charles Mitchell. Davis went on to become the governor of Louisiana and used the song frequently in his campaign.

"In 1977, the Louisiana State Legislature decreed 'You Are My Sunshine' the state song in honor of Davis," according to Wikipedia.

Dion's mother still lives in Canada so their connection on Sunday was a phone call.

"Mother's Day is a holiday that reminds us of all the maternal love and our heritage, and the things we learned from our mothers. Taking time to visit with them is important," she said.

She was empathetic to those who had lost their moms.

"I can grab the phone and call my mom but for some that don't have this opportunity anymore, they can come and visit here in the cemetery," she said.

The cemetery was brimming with relatives scattered throughout the 80-acre historic cemetery that dates back 200 years.

According to their website, "Rueben White (1795-1848), one of Stephen F. Austin's original 'Old 300' colonists, acquired a Mex-

ican land grant here in 1824. White was part of a large extended family that settled this area, later known as White Settlement. Although White's is the earliest recorded burial here, older gravesites are believed to exist. Formerly set aside as the White Family Cemetery in 1850, it eventually became a community cemetery. Interred here are many area pioneers and their descendants and veterans of conflicts, from the Texas Revolution to the War on Terror."

Dion is learning firsthand about deep family roots.

"I just learned this week that I will be a grandmother for the first time. We're going to have a Christmas baby!" she said excitedly.

Now they turn their sights to the annual Memorial Day celebration on Monday, May 27 at 10 a.m. this year.

"We will host the Crosby High School band, the American Legion, Crosby Junior ROTC students, and Boy Scout Troop 264," she said.

They will serve refreshments for everyone, and the ceremony will occur rain or shine.

"In case of inclement weather, we can move the event inside," Dion said.

# THEA receives \$150,000 climate study grant,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

creased flooding, higher sea levels and the worst land subsidence in the country. That makes for a toxic threat for many of our communities," said Jackie Medcalf, Founder and CEO of THEA.

The CEC is made up of the leaders of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and its sister agencies in Canada and Mexico. "This award shows that the top environmental agencies in North America recognize that threat and are willing to invest in finding solutions," Medcalf said. "It allows us to call attention to the problem and begin training the next generation of environmental leaders to take on the challenge."

The risk that climate change-induced flooding could expose people to chemicals from old waste sites is an emerging issue that has not received enough attention. Houston is particularly vulnerable because:

—It has grown quickly and historically produced many small manufacturing and chemical processing companies.

—Lax zoning meant that homes were built near and even on top of now closed industrial sites.

—The region is already experiencing increased flooding and subsidence is causing some areas to sink by nearly one inch per year.

Additionally, the Houston-Galveston region is already the home to the majority of Superfund sites in Texas and the EPA recently identified climate change as a threat to public safety near several sites.

The EJ4Climate Grants provides funding to community-based organizations for projects that target underserved and vulnerable communities in Canada, Mexico and the United States, to prepare them for climate-related impacts. To learn more

about the EJ4Climate Grant Program, please visit [www.cec.org/grant-programs/ej4climate](http://www.cec.org/grant-programs/ej4climate).

Texas Health and Environment Alliance is the only local Houston-Galveston area nonprofit focused on helping communities address the health threats posed by Superfund and other historic toxic waste sites. Founded in 2015, THEA provides impacted communities with the science and a deep understanding of the remediation process. Armed with facts, residents can make informed decisions about their health and effectively push for their right to a safe environment. Notable successes for THEA have been the EPA decision to begin the cleanup at the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site and the agency's recognition that it was not doing enough to protect residents living near the Jones Road Groundwater Plume Superfund Site.

**Star  Courier**  
 Your Hometown Newspaper  
 News tips and Ad Inquiries:  
 713-266-3444

**CLASSIFIED ADS** **Call 713-266-3444**

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

**inogen**

**PORTABLE OXYGEN FOR YOUR ON-THE-GO LIFESTYLE**



CLAIM YOUR **14-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL!**

Call us toll-free at **855-944-6046**




**It's not just a generator. It's a power move.™**

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase\* - valued at \$535.

Call 713-325-0552 to schedule your free quote!

\*Terms and Conditions apply.

**GENERAC**

**SERVICES SERVICES SERVICES**

**Mobile Home Title Services**

Need assistance with a Mobile, Modular or Manufactured home title, bond or appraisal?



**HOUSTON AUTO APPRAISERS**

[www.texasmobilehometitle.com](http://www.texasmobilehometitle.com)  
 281-424-6466 *Roy Theophilus Bent, Jr.*

**SERVICES SERVICES SERVICES**



**MISS TWIBBETT'S PLACE**  
**JOELLEN BALL 713/202-4285**  
**Pet Sitting 24 Hours a Day**  
**7 Days a Week in My Home**

20-4T

**AMERICAN RESIDENTIAL HEATING & COOLING**

**The Season for Big Savings Is Now!**

Schedule Soon & Save Up to \$2000

- ✓ Free Estimates and Second Opinions for New Heating and Cooling Systems
- ✓ Many Payment Options to choose from
- ✓ Service Available Seven Days a Week
- ✓ Licensed and Professional Technicians

**Call today! (855) 241-1293**

**\$49**

Cooling or Heating System Tune Up

**SAVE UP TO \$2000**

on a New Cooling and Heating System with our Buy Back Program!

**SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money** **SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money**

## Business Directory



**281-428-1187**  
**1-800-345-8471**  
**Sales & Repair Service**  
 Baytown, Texas  
 John Henderson  
 628 Cedar Bayou Rd.

**CENTRAL AUTO INSPECTIONS**

FULL SERVICE VEHICLE INSPECTIONS

**713-702-3200**

**JOHNNY GAENE**  
OWNER-INSPECTOR

911 S. MAIN  
HIGHLANDS TX, 77562

**Graphics Unlimited, Inc.**

CORPORATE GRAPHICS AT ITS BEST

**Signs & Banners**

**281-462-1200**

[www.graphicsunlimitedinc.net](http://www.graphicsunlimitedinc.net)  
 213 Kernohan • Crosby, TX 77532

**WESTON COTTEN, ATTORNEY**

HIGHLANDS  
 281-421-4050 1500 E. Wallisville Rd.

NOT CERTIFIED BY THE TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION



**HILL MATERIALS**

119 Listi Ln, Highlands [hillmaterials.com](http://hillmaterials.com)

**WE DELIVER TO YOU**  
**(281) 843-5000**  
residential • commercial • industrial

SMALL ADS BRING **BIG** RESULTS

Ask about our Business Directory Package

13 Weeks + Story + Display for \$260  
 Ask about our Ribbon Cutting Package  
 Photo + Story + Web for \$260

**713-266-3444**

**Star  Courier**

Your Hometown Newspaper  
 News tips and Ad Inquiries:  
 713-266-3444

**To advertise in the Business Directory, please call 713-266-3444 for details**



Joel Edgerton, left, and Jennifer Connelly star in "Dark Matter."

"Dark Matter"

"DARK MATTER" (TV-MA) — This new sci-fi series starring Joel Edgerton ("The Great Gatsby") and Jennifer Connelly ("Top Gun: Maverick") has just hit streaming services with its first two episodes. Edgerton plays physicist Jason Dessen, an ordinary family man who suddenly gets abducted while walking home one night. When he wakes up, Jason finds himself in a completely different reality than the one he calls home. In this new reality, he finds out that he is the creator of "The Box" — a large vessel that holds many alternate versions of Jason Dessen. Realizing that he was abducted by an alternate version of himself, Jason fights to get himself home before the alternate version of himself harms his family. Look out for new episodes every Wednesday. (May 8, Apple TV+)

"AMERICAN FICTION" (R) — This comedy-drama film led by Jeffrey Wright went on to snag the Best Adapted Screenplay award at the last Oscars, receiving five nominations in total. Wright plays Monk Ellison, an African American writer and professor based in Los Angeles. His novels, although acclaimed by fellow academics, do not generate enough money for his publishers, so they urge him to make his book "more Black." So, Monk submits a stereotypical novel to his publishers as a joke, but when it brings him commercial success, he's forced to become the very idea of what he hates the most — an inauthentic writer who panders to the wrong community. Co-starring Tracee Ellis Ross, Issa Rae and Sterling K. Brown, "American Fiction" premieres May

14. (Amazon Prime Video)
\*\*\*
"HE WENT THAT WAY" (R) — "Saltburn's" Jacob Elordi takes on another psychologically tense film, but this time, it's his character who has murderous intentions. Inspired by real events that occurred with serial killer Larry Lee Raney, this crime drama picks up right as animal trainer Jim Goodwin (Zachary Quinto) picks up hitchhiker Bobby Falls (Elordi). While Bobby doesn't appear to be menacing at first, Jim quickly learns that Bobby has a thirst for killing in cold blood. Besides creating beautifully rustic scenes in the desert and getting great close-ups of Elordi, the film mostly received criticism due to its lackluster story. See for yourself when it premieres on May 17! (Hulu)

In Case You Missed It "WINE COUNTRY" (R) — This Netflix original was Amy Poehler's feature directorial debut, and she signed on her gang of "Saturday Night Live" actress friends to help tell her first story on the big screen. Starring Poehler, Maya Rudolph, Rachel Dratch, Ana Gasteyer and Tina Fey (among others), the film follows a group of six friends who go on a trip to Napa Valley for a 50th birthday celebration. Although lots of excitement is in the air, all six women are secretly suffering with their own issues that eventually bubble up to the surface after days of drinking in Napa's hills. So, make sure to grab your favorite wine and call up your besties to watch this movie full of witty and relatable moments! Out now. (Netflix)

HOLLYWOOD by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Shocking news! Martin Scorsese's planning a biopic of Frank Sinatra ... with blue-eyed Leonardo DiCaprio as "Old Blue Eyes!" Even more startling is that he wants Jennifer Lawrence to play the screen goddess Ava Gardner. It'll take a lot more than makeup and intense acting to transform both of them into two Hollywood legends we all remember only too well!

The times that I encountered and photographed Sinatra, he wrote the script for everything happening around him. The night I spent with Gardner on the set of "Earthquake" in 1974, she was every inch an iconic movie star because she truly believed it until the day she died. Her awe-striking presence made you believe it, too.

In 2004, DiCaprio played Howard Hughes in "The Aviator," but Hughes' fame was a whole different ball game than playing Frank Sinatra with all of his complex facets.

If you've seen a trailer online showing Henry Cavill as James Bond (with an American accent, no less), you're looking at a fake AI video. Cavill had no knowledge or input in the video, but his people believe that his overzealous fans, who've been campaigning on his behalf to be cast as 007, took matters into their own capable hands.

Frankly, Cavill, at 41, is already too old. James Bond is supposed to be 37 years old, and the next film won't be out for at least two years. After the dismal box-office takes of "The Man from U.N.C.L.E." (2015) and "Argylle" (2024), the former Superman is an unlikely choice. Still, the "fake" video pulled in 2.3 million viewers.

Academy-Award-winning actor Eddie Redmayne received mixed reviews in the Broadway production of "Cabaret" for his portrayal of The Emcee (played by Joel Grey on Broadway and in the film). Unsuspecting audiences are led into an alley, past garbage cans to a dimly lit lounge, where greeters



FRANK SINATRA

offer free shots of cherry schnapps. This is followed by 75 minutes of nightclub ambiance in various bars en route to the theater that has been transformed into the actual Kit Kat Club, where the show begins.

Even though Redmayne won the prestigious Laurence Olivier Award (one of seven wins for the show), a New York Times critic wrote, "This all seemed like throat-clearing to me. ... The only relevant purpose I can see for this conceptional doodling, however well carried out, is to give the fifth Broadway incarnation of the 1966 show a distinctive profile."

But the critic for Entertainment Weekly was totally glowing about the show, calling it the hottest ticket on Broadway right now and "an unforgettable, immersive experience that lures audiences in with visions of sweet, sweet hedonism before bowling them over with a harrowing, unflinching tale." See it and decide for yourself if life is a "Cabaret" or a cabernet!

(c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

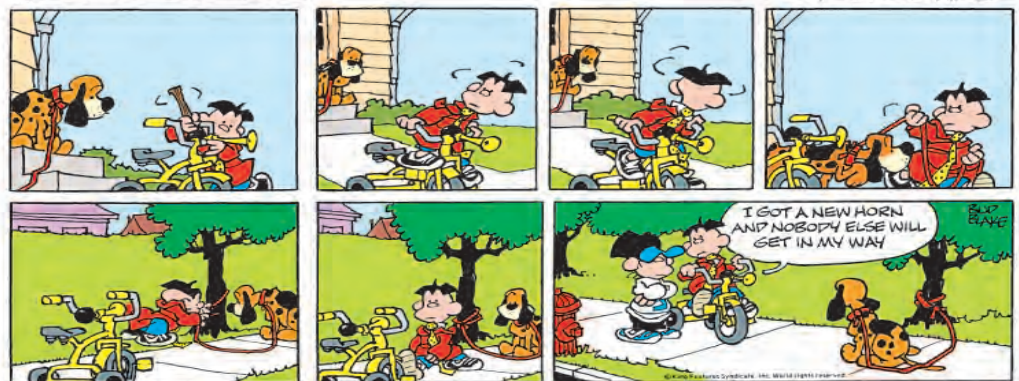
ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



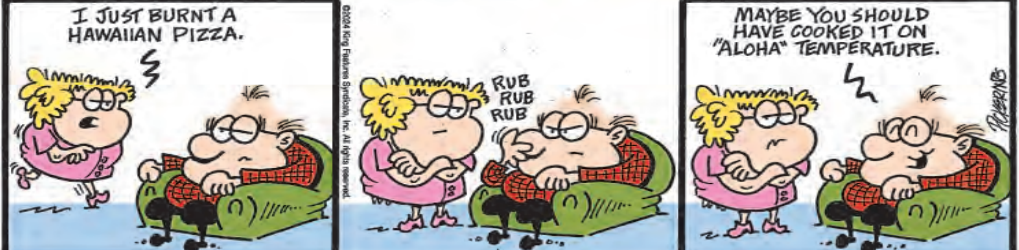
TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. Grid with numbers 6, 4, 9, 8, 3, 2, 7, 1, 6, 8, 3, 6, 1, 3, 7, 2, 5, 1, 9, 1, 5, 9, 2, 8, 9, 6, 1.

HOCUS-FOCUS by Henry Boltinoff. Two panels of a man painting a woman's portrait. Differences: 1. Log is moved; 2. Turp is longer; 3. Paint can is larger; 4. Window sill is different; 5. Foot is longer; 6. Top of doorway is different.

May 13, 2024 Posting Date King Crossword

Crossword grid with clues: ACROSS 1 Reddish brown; 5 \$ dispenser; 8 Cries of aversion; 12 Spiced tea; 13 Goat's plaint; 14 Entreaty; 15 Mystique; 16 Blue Angels events; 18 Australian red wine; 20 Fedora feature; 21 Medicinal plant; 23 PC key; 24 Schubert compositions; 28 "Monopoly" cubes; 31 Misery; 32 Barbs; 34 "Science Friday" network; 35 Adjoining; 37 Sweeten; 39 Rucker Nugent; 41 Minnesota; 42 Penniless one; 45 Fearsome fly; 49 Relaxing time on the slopes; 51 Equitable; 52 "Understood"; 53 Lucy's TV pal; 54 Forearm bone; 55 Minus; 56 Season opener; 57 Some July babies; 7 Painter; 8 Supported; 9 Acting smug; 10 Hacks with an axe; 11 Postpaid enc.; 17 Mexican Mrs.; 19 Sleep like; 22 Treble clef lines; 24 Bristle; 25 Caviar base; 26 Fabric features; 27 Calming drug; 29 Tax pro; 30 Mess up; 33 Bygone jets; 36 Prairie homes; 38 Of service; 40 - Moines; 42 Beach bucket; 43 Church area; 44 Invitation notation; 46 Story; 47 China (Pref.); 48 Historic periods; 50 White wine cocktail.

Answers for Trivia Test: 1. Russia; 2. Parks and Recreation; 3. Crust, mantle and core; 4. "Legally Blonde"; 5. Zinc; 6. Rabbit or hare; 7. "Alice in Wonderland"; 8. Ear; 9. James Madison; 10. Books.



# PRIMARY CARE

Personalized to You

## Convenient, customized care — close to work or home.

Our Houston Methodist primary care doctors in Baytown and Mont Belvieu provide personalized care for you and your family, including physicals, immunizations and preventive health services.

Many of our practices:

- Provide in-person and virtual visits with online scheduling
- Offer same-day sick visits
- Are conveniently located close to work or home
- Accept most major insurance plans

*Your health and safety are our priority. We are taking every necessary precaution to keep you safe.*

