



Public is invited to join the Celebration on June 7th. See Story on Page 6

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star Courier

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THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024

P.O. DRAWER 446, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

Parade kicks off Crosby Rodeo events

Carnival, Cook-off, Lil' Cowpokes, Livestock Auction, Professional Rodeo, 4 nights of Entertainers

EVENTS

Crosby Fair & Rodeo Schedule

THURSDAY, June 6

10 AM—NOON
NO SALE ANIMALS
ARE ALLOWED TO
MOVE OUT
4 PM BUYERS DINNER
5 PM Carnival opens
5:45 PM
PRESENTATION OF
ALL AWARDS
6 PM LIVESTOCK
AUCTION

FRIDAY, June 7

8 AM—9 AM RELEASE
OF ALL MARKET
LIVESTOCK TO
CUSTOM
SLAUGHTER
COMPANIES
9 AM—10AM RELEASE
ALL OTHER
REMAINING LOCAL
LIVESTOCK, POULTRY,
AND RABBITS.
10 AM—12 PM FFA &
4-H DAY
5 PM Carnival opens
7:30 PM C.P.R.A.
CHAMPIONSHIP
RODEO
7:30 PM Concert with
Randall King

SATURDAY, June 8

10 AM LITTLE
WRANGLER RODEO
5 PM Carnival opens
7:30 PM PAGEANT
WINNERS RIDE IN
GRAND ENTRY
7:30 PM C.P.R.A.
CHAMPIONSHIP
RODEO
7:30 PM Concert with
Dylan Wheeler

Story and Photos By David Taylor
Managing Editor

CROSBY – Siren's blaring, horns honking, tractors roaring, and cheerleaders cheering. The Crosby Fair and Rodeo had a noisy kick off last Saturday morning as the community got a gentle reminder that this is still a farming community with deep roots.

Lots of Kubota tractors, horses, and of course, Jewel the donkey, were stars of the parade that wound its way down FM 2100, north on First Street, then a left turn on E. Reidland back to FM 2100, then a final left turn onto FM 2100 back to Crosby Middle School.

The streets were lined with fans from the community who were more than happy to collect the candy,

Continued. See CROSBY RODEO PARADE, Page 2



Check out these adorable Lil Cowpokes representing the Crosby Fair and Rodeo. Future cowboys and cowgirls from Crosby carrying on the country town legacy.



There were tractors of all sizes in the parade, a reminder that Crosby is still a farming community.



James Blaha was named the Grand Marshal for this year's parade. A member of the Crosby High School Class of 1970, he's shown with his wife Jan.



There's nothing more fun to liven up a rodeo moment or a parade than a truck full of clowns. Meet the Rodeo clowns!

Rotary donates Outdoor Classroom to Highlands Elem.

Dedicated in Memory of Betty Brewer

Story by Highlands Elementary Hawks

HIGHLANDS – Monday, May 20 was a very special day. Our @hie-hawks were honored with a donation of an outdoor classroom by the Rotary Club of Highlands in Honor of Betty Brewer, and today we had the dedication ceremony.

Betty Brewer was an active member in the Highlands Rotary, Highlands Community, and Highlands Elementary. We are so proud to have a special legacy to pass on for generations, and thankful for her lovely family who came to support this dedication and carry on her passion, kindness, and love to the Highlands Elementary Community.

We are extremely grateful for the opportunity to watch our children learn and grow with this outdoor classroom.

In addition, we were honored to have the attendance of our Superintendent Dr. Randal O'Brien to give a speech on behalf of GCCISD and the GCCISD board of trustees. Thank you for taking the time to

Continued. See ROTARY DONATES OUTDOOR CLASSROOM, Page 5



AT THE DEDICATION OF THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM, ROTARIANS JOINED WITH BREWER FAMILY MEMBERS.

Crosby Chamber welcomes new Cardiologist to community



Dr. Zohair Raza, at center with Tom Richard of the Crosby Chamber cut the ribbon on a new office in Crosby. Dr. Raza and his staff members are now proud members of the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce. After working for years at Houston Methodist Hospital in Baytown as a cardiologist, he has branched out into the communities and opened offices in Crosby at 14405 FM 2100, Suite K, and Pasadena. Mont Belvieu is also coming soon.

Turner Chevrolet supports Highlands Little League

Turner Chevrolet Crosby is partnering with Highlands Little League. Turner Chevrolet Crosby has joined forces with the Chevrolet Youth Baseball & Softball program to provide new equipment, a monetary donation, invitations to a free instructional clinic and an opportunity for community members to earn donations for their league via a test drive fundraiser.

"Playing baseball and softball helps kids develop skills like leadership, cooperation, and sportsman-

Continued. See TURNER SUPPORTS HIGHLANDS LL, Page 5



ON THE SCOREBOARD AT MINUTE MAID PARK, AT LEFT REPRESENTING TURNER CHEVROLET. DAVID "DJ" MENDEZ PRESENTS A CHECK TO HIGHLANDS LITTLE LEAGUE VP WES BRYMER.

TURNER CHEVROLET CROSBY WILL PROVIDE HIGHLANDS LITTLE LEAGUE WITH NEW EQUIPMENT, MONETARY CONTRIBUTION AND INSTRUCTIONAL CLINICS.

Highlands Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce
Monthly Luncheon is 2nd Thursday
San Jacinto Community Center -- RSVP at
highlandslynchburgchamber@outlook.com
Tel: 281-426-7227

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Crosby Fair & Rodeo Performers



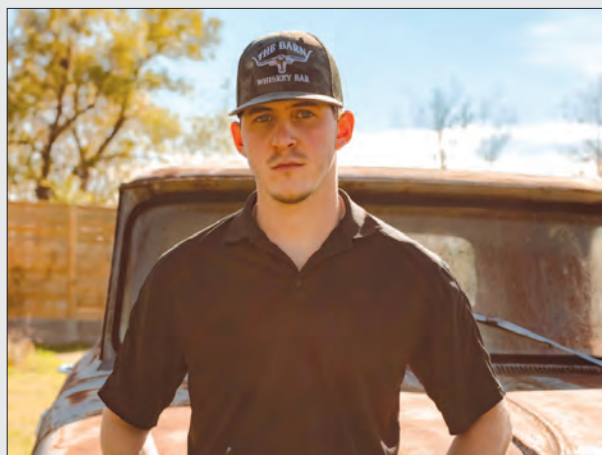
FRIDAY MAY 31 – BAG OF DONUTS 7:00 PM

With a flair for kabuki make-up and extravagant costumes, the four New Orleans natives and two brass men cover songs in a style they have branded as Superpop: Any song popular from any era. In the great tradition of stunning acts, BOD has to be experienced live to fully feel the impact.



SATURDAY JUNE 1 – THE TWENTY TWOS 7:30 PM

Twenty Twos is a country music band that captures the essence of heartland storytelling through their soulful lyrics and captivating melodies. With a sound that blends traditional country roots with modern flair, this talented group of musicians brings a fresh perspective to the genre.



SATURDAY JUNE 1 – LOGAN BEARD 7:30 PM

Logan Beard is a singer known for his country music genre and has released several singles, including: Late night and Lonely, Angel in Disguise.



FRIDAY JUNE 7 – RANDALL KING 7:30 PM

Randall King was born on the endless plains of West Texas. He grew up singing in the back of a '93 Chevy Suburban, mimicking the pure-country vocals of stars like Keith Whitley, George Strait, Alan Jackson and John Anderson and over the years became drawn to the electrifying energy of modern stars like Eric Church, Dierks Bentley and Jason Aldean.



SATURDAY JUNE 8 – DYLAN WHEELER 7:30 PM

Dylan Wheeler is a perfect example of what the evolution of the Texas Independent Music Scene looks like and the level of artist that it can produce. His music has all the singer-songwriter laden depth that lyric lovers covet, while his blending of both Rock and Alternative genres allows his original productions to feel comfortingly familiar whilst simultaneously breathing a gust of fresh air into a scene that has long been saturated by its Country roots.

Parade kicks off Crosby Rodeo events

Continued from Page 1 – Carnival, Cook-off, Lil' Cowpokes, Livestock Auction, Professional Rodeo, 4 nights of Entertainers

gum, and beads thrown out by parade participants.

The grand marshal for this year's parade was James Blaha, a.k.a. Santa Claus. Blaha went to Crosby High School and graduated in 1970. He is married to Jan Bianchi Blaha, and the high school sweethearts recently celebrated their 52nd anniversary.

The fun continues this week with the carnival open and a weekend full of activities. Here's a brief look at what's coming. Car-

nival passes are \$100 for a mega pass, good for unlimited rides for the duration of the 2024 Crosby Fair and \$25 for a daily pass.

Support the students at the buyer's auction on Thursday and then come back Friday and Saturday for a wild time with the Cowboys Professional Rodeo Association CPRA performances each night.

Finish the nights off dancing to the tunes of Randall King and Dylan Wheeler.



As is customary, every parade begins with some of Crosby's finest with the Crosby Volunteer Fire Department and EMS and the Precinct 3 Constable's office.



Those bright, smiling faces are members of the Crosby Elementary Starlettes decked out in their Cougar Red.



Our nation's military was represented by the new David H. McNerney American Legion Post 658 Commander Martin Maier and David Davis, Judge Advocate for the Post.



Miss Jewel the donkey was there representing the St. Francis Creative Farms Mobile Petting Zoo. The donkey is a regular in the parades to the delight of children and adults alike.



This truck was moooving right along with children in tow behind him. It was creatively decorated to look like a bull. Watch out!

CROSBY FAIR & RODEO

Cook-Off Night One.....May 31st
Featuring: Bag of Donuts

Cook-Off Night Two.....June 8th
Featuring: Logan Beard & The Twenty Twos

Rodeo Night One.....June 7th
Featuring: Randall King

Rodeo Night Two.....June 8th
Featuring: Dylan Wheeler

2024 Crosby Fair & Rodeo CONCERT LINEUP

Crosby Fair & Rodeo

BAG OF DONUTS
FRIDAY, MAY 31

LOGAN BEARD

THE TWENTY TWOS
FRIDAY, JUNE 7

RANDALL KING

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

DYLAN WHEELER

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

Learn more at crosbyrodeo.com

Barbers Hill Dayton **Press**

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

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THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Mont Belvieu: "Rock the Park"

Mont Belvieu Parks & Recreation's 2024 Rock the Park series continues with Shinyribs next Friday, June 7th! Texas Blues supergroup Shinyribs is bringing a unique blend of Texas Blues, New Orleans R&B funk, Memphis Soul and MORE to the City Park stage. Food and festivities for the whole family begin at 7:00p.m., with the band taking the stage at 8:00 p.m. See you at the park, #MBTX!

Baytown PD: "Coffee with a Cop"

Join us for Coffee with a Cop at Bay Poke!
Savor a complimentary cup of coffee on us! We're excited to chat, connect, and for our officers to get to know you better. Let's brew up some great conversations!
*Date: June 7th
*Time: 11:00 AM
*Location: Bay Poke
Don't miss out—we can't wait to see you there!
Spanish Version
¡Únete a nosotros para Café con un/a Policía en Bay Poke!
Disfruta de una taza de café, por nuestra cuenta. ¡Estamos emocionados de charlar, conectarnos y que nuestros oficiales te conozcan mejor!
¡Vamos a tener conversaciones increíbles!
*Fecha: 7 de junio
*Hora: 11:00 AM
*Ubicación: Bay Poke
No te lo pierdas, ¡no podemos esperar a verte allí!
#baytownpd #CoffeeWithACop

City of Baytown "Fun Day with Dad!"

Celebrate Father's Day this year with a Fun Day with Dad!
On Saturday, June 15th from 10am - 1pm at The Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Education and Recreation Center dads and kids can come have fun with animal encounters, kayaking, a car show, remote control boats, fishing, and more.
*Fun Day with Dad!
*Saturday, June 15
1724 Market Street
FREE
Hosted by the Baytown Municipal Court in collaboration with Parks and Recreation and community partners.

ExxonMobil Donates \$125,000 to Lee College for Advanced Technology Programs

ExxonMobil Foundation President Alvin Abraham recently presented Lee College President Dr. Lynda Villanueva with a \$125,000 donation to support the college's Advanced Technology programs, including Process Technology. We are proud to invest in Lee College and our future workforce.



Dr. Lynda Villanueva Receiving the \$125,000 donation from ExxonMobil Foundation President Alvin Abraham

Goose Creek CISD Class of 2024 Valedictorians and Salutatorians



Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman: GCCISD's Class of 2024 High School Valedictorians and Salutatorians: Top Row- Valedictorians: Alexa Cristal Torres, Swayam Gupta, Hanna Elisa Coker, Andrea Lauren Lopez, Ashlynn McMaklin; Bottom Row- Salutatorians: Mariana Flores, Mariam Fatima Malhi, Reese Elizabeth Benoit, Michell Hernandez, and Iveth Romero

GOOSE CREEK MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

Valedictorian- Swayam Gupta
Salutatorian- Mariam Fatima Malhi
Simran Singh
Justin Truong Pham
Jasmine Kato Grimes
Viridiana Nunez
Fabian Jaime Cienfuegos
Michael Andrade, Jr.
Reese Lois Yvves Duron Fajardo
Kristine Leigh Richards

IMPACT EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

Valedictorian- Alexa Cristal Torres
Salutatorian- Mariana Flores
Rebecca Renee Currie
Caris Jillian Lopez-Gray
Diego Vladimir Moreno
Leina Isabella Cantu
Priscilla Guerra
Steven Alexander Kubin
Samiha Rashid
Emily Teresita Gonzalez

ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL

Valedictorian - Andrea Lauren Lopez
Salutatorian - Michell Hernandez
Lilith Alanna Mcgilbery

Leslie Janice Valkner
Andrea Barragan
Kevin Iram Guajardo
Julissa Garcia
Gisela Garcia
Tyler Keith Crow
Au'Zjahnae Samone Bruno

ROSS S. STERLING HIGH SCHOOL

Valedictorian - Hanna Elisa Coker
Salutatorian - Reese Elizabeth Benoit
Michael Anthony Bornholdt
Aric Robert Buehring
Xiomara Barahona
Zoe Lea Guy
Michelle Heredia
Sydney Jo Hale
Riley Michel Ortiz
Sofia Corrales Buzon

STUART CAREER TECH HIGH SCHOOL

Valedictorian - Ashlynn McMakin
Salutatorian - Iveth Romero
Kyara Garza
Joanna Abarca
Abymael Torres
Ricardo Rodriguez
O'Hanna Moore
Jeceid Jimenez Hernandez
Alexa Morales
Victor Mendoza



Adventure Begins at Your Library!

It's SUMMER READING time!
Go to your library to sign up and have fun with so many activities!

June 3 - July 13

Visit our website to see what we've got going on for kids, teens, and adults!

www.chambers.lib.tx.us/summer-reading



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OPINION PAGE



Storm Recovery Update

In the aftermath of the severe storms, tornadoes, flooding, and straight-line winds that began on April 26, we want to ensure that everyone in our community has access to the necessary resources for recovery.

FEMA Disaster Recovery Center in Harris County

FEMA has opened a Disaster Recovery Center to provide one-on-one help to Texans affected by the recent severe weather events. The center is located at: Leon Z Grayson Community Center 13828 Corpus Christi St. Houston, TX 77015

FEMA's QUICK ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

FEMA's disaster assistance offers new benefits that provide flexible funding directly to those affected by the storm.

Serious Needs Assistance - A \$750 payment for households for essential items will now be provided in all disasters receiving Individual Assistance to help people make ends meet.

Displacement Assistance - A new benefit that will provide people with up-front funds to assist with immediate housing options of their choice, to keep people housed.

How to Apply for FEMA Assistance

You do not need to visit a Disaster Recovery Center to register for FEMA assistance. Homeowners and renters can apply in the following ways:

- Online: Visit DisasterAssistance.gov
Mobile App: Download the FEMA App for mobile devices
Phone: Call the FEMA helpline at 800-621-3362 between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.
In Person: Visit any Disaster Recovery Center.

To view an accessible video about how to apply, visit: Three Ways to Register for FEMA Disaster Assistance - YouTube.

For the latest information, visit fema.gov/disaster/4781. Follow FEMA Region 6 on Twitter or Facebook.

Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance

SBA disaster assistance is now available for small businesses affected by the recent storms. SBA customer service representatives will be on hand at the following centers to answer questions.

Business Recovery Centers:

- Harris County Business Recovery Center University of Houston-Downtown Marilyn Davies College of Business Room B106, 1st Floor
Harris County Business Recovery Center Trini Mendenhall Community Center
Virtual Business Recovery Center

I encourage everyone affected to take advantage of these resources. My team will continue to work around the clock to help residents recover from the storm.

Sincerely, Sylvia R. Garcia Member of Congress



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

Additional Disaster Assistance Approved

Seven Texas counties have been approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for grants for emergency work and replacement of disaster-damaged public infrastructure.

An additional 21 Texas counties remain on review for possible inclusion under the aid program. In addition, a number of counties have been approved for individual assistance funding.

Abbott also announced that the federal food program known as SNAP has approved allowing its recipients to apply for replacement benefits for food that was lost or destroyed in the recent storms.

FAMILIES OF UVALDE SHOOTING VICTIMS SUE DPS OFFICERS

Relatives of children killed and injured in the deadly school shooting in Uvalde in May 2023 are suing Texas Department of Public Safety officers who were among hundreds of law enforcement that waited well over an hour to confront the gunman at Robb Elementary.

"Nearly 100 officers from the Texas Department of Public Safety have yet to face a shred of accountability for cowering in fear while my daughter and nephew bled to death in their classroom,"



win Young. "Rural hospitals are a critical part of the healthcare system in Texas, and HHSC is proud to facilitate initiatives like this to support Texans and our rural communities."

SUPPORT FOR LEGALIZING CANNABIS HITS ALL-TIME HIGH

Nearly three-fourths of Texas adults recently surveyed support either full legalization of decriminalization of cannabis, according to the San Antonio Express-News.

FEDERAL FORECASTERS PREDICT RECORD STORM NUMBER

Wind changes caused by the prevalent La Niña weather pattern, along with warmer-than-average ocean temperatures are predicted by federal forecasters to result in an active hurricane season.

HIGHLANDS CROSBY Star Courier USPS 244-500 Barbers Hill Dayton PRESS NORTH CHANNEL STAR

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THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Cats Games



"I don't even know what game we're supposed to be playing!" my husband, Peter, told me.

He and our cat, Felix, have been playing their nightly game of chase and tag. Peter always loses. This might be because Felix makes the rules—and is the referee.

"When is the game over?" I asked.

"Whenever Felix wins!"

Last night, I was already in bed while the game was wrapping up. Felix was nowhere to be seen. Peter was silently creeping around the bed and out the bedroom door.

"Score!" I hollered from the bed. "Felix one, Peter zero—and Felix has won the game!"

Then Felix knocked all the pillows off the sofa to celebrate and came to bed with us.

"It's nice having a cat, isn't it?" I said to Peter.

"Hmm," Peter said.

"You sometimes used to win games when you played with dogs. That's because you were sneaky, and dogs are not as sneaky."

"Dogs are not sneaky at all!" Peter agreed. Peter used to hide from my old dog, Milo, and surprise him. He'd call him from the other room and hide on one side of the door or the other.

"Cats are too sneaky," Peter said. "I don't stand a chance."

Felix was a street cat in Mexico before we adopted him and brought him home with us. He does not seem to be pining for life on the street. He has no desire to watch birds through the window.

"Where is my aspirin bottle?" Peter complained last night, after the game was over.

"Where was it?"

"On top of my dresser."

"I'm guessing Felix knocked it off."

"From the top of the highboy?"

Peter has still not absorbed the fact that there is no surface upon which it is safe to set any small object. Like living on a boat or in a spacecraft, we must attach everything to something or put it inside something else.

And, of course, our life is so much better this way.

For several years, we had no pet, and we would regularly assure ourselves that life was simpler and, with our trips back and forth to Mexico, we were doing the sensible thing—for ourselves and for our imaginary pet.

But pets are not imaginary, once you have one.

While I cannot know with complete certainty what anyone (much less a cat) is thinking at any particular moment, I am sure Felix is a happy cat. He likes his new home in our condo. He likes his cat games and his many places to nap and his regular treats.

"You are a very good cat," I tell Felix every night before I fall asleep. Felix purrs and agrees.

Till next time, Carrie

Crosby ISD Launches "Pages for Pizza" Reading program;

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families,

We are taking on the "Summer Slide" head-on here in Crosby ISD. We are so excited to partner with Marco's Pizza to launch a pilot program called "Pages for Pizza!" It's a reading program where students earn free pizzas the more they read. Similar to the Pizza Hut "Book It!" program from the 90s. So many of us remember getting our personal pan pizza after reading book after book. We want to thank Mr. Clarence Howell and Marco's Pizza for working with our Curriculum and Instruction Department to sponsor and implement the rewards program for our pre-kindergarten through 5th grade students in summer school this month. We're going to see how it goes, and we may expand to more grade levels and more students during the fall. It's such a great day when a community partner helps us design an incentive program to encourage summer reading for our kids. Reading 20 minutes a day exposes students to 1.8 million words a year and translates into high levels of success in all learning areas. And besides, who doesn't love pizza?!

Crosby ISD is offering free summer meals to all students in the month of June, Monday through Thursdays, from June 4th through June 27th. Children do not have to sign up for meals; they simply need to come to the school site during serving hours. Our three meal



Paula Patterson
Crosby Superintendent

sites and serving times are: Drew Elementary School (7:30-8am breakfast and 10:30-11:30am lunch); Crosby High School (8:30-9am breakfast and 12-12:30pm lunch), and Crosby Elementary School (8:30-9am breakfast and 12-12:30pm lunch). Regulations require that meals must be eaten on site. There are no to-go meals.

Please note, the Mobile School Market we operate with the Houston Food Bank at Cougar Stadium will pause for the summer break. The free grocery giveaway will resume in the fall. In the meantime, we have alternate food distribution sites listed with summer hours in our district newsletter, "Cougar News Now." You can see it at www.crosbyisd.org/cougarnewsnow.

We are taking advantage of the summer break to replace the turf at Cougar Stadium. The stadium is closing to the public on June 3rd and will remain closed until the turf replacement process is complete. We have fielded several inquiries about whether the district will

sell portions of the turf. We do plan to sell small commemorative portions of the turf and also larger sections for various needs. We will share more details on turf sales in the coming weeks and months.

We are encouraging parents to verify returning students for the 2024-25 School Year. The verification process will open on June 5. Every child must be verified, including proof of residency, before they can enroll in Crosby ISD. The process should take about 10 minutes online to ensure the information we have on file is accurate. We are hoping parents will check off the verification process from your summer "To Do" list. Our goal is to have every student verified / registered by July 25. If families meet the deadline, their child will be routed for transportation starting the first day of school, and they will find out their child's teacher by Meet the Teacher events.

We are also encouraging parents to start exploring the new ParentSquare app we will use starting in August. Every campus in Crosby ISD will use this new communication tool. ParentSquare is designed to keep parents and guardians informed and encourage greater engagement and connection between them and their child's school and teachers. All district and school, grade level, and classroom information will be sent to a parent's computer or



Pages for Pizza! Crosby ISD librarians, Ms. Carrie Henderson and Ms. Veronica Barrientos, are excited to launch a new reading incentive program in partnership with Marco's Pizza in Crosby. The pilot program will begin for students in summer school.

Cougar Stadium Turf Replacement Begins June 3rd; Turf Portions to be Sold



Cougar Stadium will undergo turf replacement this summer. The stadium was closed to the public starting June 3rd.

phone via email and/or text. Parents can download the app now through the iOS or Android app store. In the coming

weeks, we will share introductory videos and how-to guides. We are looking forward to streamlining communication throughout Crosby ISD.

We are Moving Forward! Go Coogs!

Rotary Donates Outdoor Classroom, Turner Chevy supports Highlands LL,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



HIGHLANDS HAWKS, HES TEACHERS AND STAFF, HIGHLANDS ROTARIANS, AND MEMBERS OF THE BREWER FAMILY POSE IN FRONT OF THE NEW OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DEDICATED IN THE NAME OF BETTY BREWER. AT CENTER IS GCCISD SUPERINTENDENT RANDAL O'BRIEN, WITH ROTARY PRESIDENT DENISE SMITH, PRESIDENT ELECT GAYLYNN MELIORN, AND MANY OF THE ROTARIANS THAT SUPPORT HES.



MEMBERS OF BETTY BREWER'S FAMILY WERE PRESENT AT THE DEDICATION OF THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM, DEDICATED IN HER MEMORY.

share this special memory with Highlands Elementary.

Denise Smith, President of the Rotary Club of Highlands, gave a beautiful and eloquent speech to commemorate this event. Visit our Facebook page for the full video.

www.facebook.com/hi.hawks

To Mr. Chuck Rodney Company for the outstanding building and construction from the ground up!

As Dr. O'Brien mentioned, this is a strong, well built project will last decades to come!

Special thank you to our Highlands Elementary Hawk Council Sponsors Mrs. Lovett & Ms. Strippling for organizing and advocating for our school and to our Principal, Blanca Capetillo for your support and encouragement for this project to be completed.

A memory for a lifetime!

Turner Chevy supports Highlands LL,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ship while bringing families and communities together to show their support. Turner Chevrolet Crosby and Chevrolet Youth Baseball & Softball are proud to participate in a sport that brings so many smiles to kids and families in Crosby." said David Mendez, general manager for Turner Chevrolet Crosby. "Chevrolet believes in the power of play as a way for young people to build the skills needed to be successful in the future and supports the spirit of teamwork that baseball and softball instills in its players."

2024 marks the nineteenth year of Chevrolet's Youth Baseball & Softball program and has benefited over 10 million players since it launched in 2006. Last year, more than 1,300 Chevrolet dealers participated across the country.

Turner Chevrolet Crosby will present Highlands Little League an equipment kit that includes useful items such as equipment bags, first aid kits, scorebooks, and ball buckets. The sponsorship also includes youth clinics

featuring current and former MLB/MiLB players and coaches, or instruction from Ripken Baseball.

In addition, Turner Chevrolet Crosby will present a check representing a one-time donation to Highlands Little League. Sponsored leagues across the country will have the chance to earn additional funds to support the league as community members take test drives at their partnering dealership.

"Chevrolet designs and builds its vehicles with busy families in mind, featuring a comprehensive suite of available safety features; technologies that make the journey more comfortable and engaging for the entire family; and the space and flexibility needed to haul people and cargo. We encourage everyone to take a look at what Chevrolet has to offer," said Mendez.

For more information about Chevrolet Youth Baseball & Softball, please visit www.chevrolet.com/youthsports.com.

Star Courier

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713-266-3444

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital to Host June 7 Cancer Survivors Day Celebration

Former and current patients invited to attend

Baytown, TX – May 29, 2024—Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital is pleased to announce their upcoming Cancer Survivors Day Celebration: United, Surviving and Thriving. This annual event honors the courage and determination of former and current Houston Methodist Neal Cancer Center at Baytown cancer patients. Set to take place on Friday, June 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the event promises an inspiring day filled with camaraderie, education and empowerment.



Dr. Richard Siy, Houston Methodist Baytown plastic and reconstructive surgeon, will be the keynote speaker at the luncheon.

The celebration will kick off with a resource fair from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., offering attendees access to invaluable healthy lifestyle resources. From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., guests will gather in the hospital's main classroom for the luncheon portion. The program will feature several speakers including a keynote address by plastic and reconstructive surgeon Dr. Richard Siy.

"We are thrilled to invite our survivors to join us for this special occasion," said Nancy Thompson, director of cancer

services at Houston Methodist Baytown. "This event is not only a celebration of their cancer journey, but also a testament to the strength and resilience of our survivors. We look forward to treating them to a day of inspiration, connection and hope."

Attendees are encouraged to RSVP at join.houstonmethodist.org/cancersurvivor-baytown. Each survivor is welcome to bring one support person as a guest. Call 346.292.1937 if you prefer to register by phone or for

additional information. ### About Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital has provided Baytown and east Harris, Liberty and Chambers counties with excellent medical care since its opening in 1948. The hospital continues to grow to meet the health care needs of its growing community through an ongoing construction and renovation program that has seen the opening of a new five-story patient tower, emergency center, outpatient center and medical-surgical units. As a health care leader, the hospital is proud to have a fully integrated residency program focused on educating and inspiring future practitioners. Today, Houston Methodist Baytown provides the most advanced and innovative procedures while never wavering from its focus on compassionate care and providing a safe, patient-centered healing environment. For more information, visit houstonmethodist.org/baytown.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Barbers Hill Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:30 pm, June 24, 2024 in J. Justin Jenson Conference Center, 9600 Eagle Drive, Mont Belvieu, TX. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.81190/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax Approved by Local Voters	\$0.24050/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories.

Maintenance and operations	9.2	% increase
Debt Service	15.7	% decrease
Total expenditures	2.2	% increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value

(as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 19,843,212,672	\$ 20,961,906,076
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 367,849,568	\$ 447,431,230
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 9,387,181,043	\$ 12,748,501,930
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 310,819,688	\$ 446,888,850

*Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.

** "New property" is defined by Section 26.01(217), Tax Code.

*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$406,910,000

*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$0.83260	\$0.26980*	\$1.10240	15,705	601
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0.79783	\$0.24670	\$1.04453	13,877	1,591
Proposed Rate	\$0.81190	\$0.24050	\$1.05240	15,158	370

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.

The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$371,819	\$365,103
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$157,712	\$149,066
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.10240	\$1.05240
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$1,738.62	\$1,568.77
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$(169.85)

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.05240. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.05240.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment.

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$42,000,000
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$31,700,000

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS PROPOSED BRANCH CAMPUS MAINTENANCE TAX RATE

The Barbers Hill Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. on June 24, 2024 in the J. Justin Jenson Conference Room, 9600 Eagle Drive, Mont Belvieu, Texas.

A purpose of this meeting is to discuss the proposed Branch Campus Maintenance Tax Rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

Branch Campus Maintenance Tax \$0.05 per \$100 (Proposed rate, not to exceed \$0.05 per \$100)

Note: A comparison of the Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates, a Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy, and the estimated end of current fiscal year Fund Balances are not available because the Branch Campus Maintenance Tax was approved by the voters of the Barbers Hill Independent School District on May 4, 2024. Any additional information required by Texas Education Code § 44.004 Notice of Budget and Tax Rate Meeting, including but not limited to the Proposed Budget and Bonded Indebtedness, may be found in the Notice of Public Meeting to Discuss Budget and Proposed Tax Rate.

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GOOSE CREEK CISD NEWS



LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT | DR. RANDAL O'BRIEN

Why the Push Back?



By Dr. Randal O'Brien

As we wrap up the 2023-2024 school year, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our students, parents, teachers, and staff for making this year exceptional. Your dedication and hard work have contributed to our students' success, culminating in memorable graduation ceremonies at Lee College and Stallworth Stadium. These events were a testament to the achievements of our students and the support of our community.

Speaking of support and community feedback, I do occasionally hear the question, why all the push back on school choice? First, I believe that Goose Creek CISD has worked tirelessly to provide choices for our students and families. You won't find many districts in the state that provide the plethora of college and career pathways that we do, beginning with our Early Learning Academies, to our junior schools, extending on to our high schools of choice. Secondly, while the term itself sounds harmless enough, the implications are far reaching. Most people referring to school choice are referring to private school or charter school vouchers. While I do not have anything personal against parental choice, I do have a strong sense of justice and fairness for all. If the public school system is to be scrutinized beyond any reasonable measure and also be required to comply with every unfunded legislative mandate known to mankind, while the "school choice" options are not held to the same basic standards, such as school safety, state testing and financial accountability, then we tend to question the motive. We've all heard the term, follow the money. Anyone can perform rudimentary research to discover that this movement toward "school choice" is about following the money. Consider that twenty years ago public schools constituted about one half of the overall Texas state budget. Today it is about a fourth of the overall budget. This shift of less responsibility for funding public education has occurred during one of the most prosperous historical eras of the state's economy. Never has the state collected more taxes than it currently does while during the same time making a concerted effort to shift the obligation to educate its citizenry which is why we still rank among the lowest funded states in the union for public education funding.

Goose Creek CISD continues to offer a wealth of choices, opportunities, and high-quality education, ensuring every child can thrive. However, we face significant challenges that require our collective action and advocacy. The current push for reduced obligation and privatization or entrepreneurial efforts to educate our citizenry has proven to fail in other states as a matter of corruption and ultimately the lack of altruistic motivation. Our nation was founded on the premise of creating what we now call the middle class, otherwise known as an educated citizenry. For what some may find fault in public education, you may not condemn its origin or ultimate purpose, which is to educate the masses, in order to stave off tyranny. With the current leadership plan to provide private school vouchers at a rate of double the public school basic allotment, with little to no accountability measures in place, one must wonder, what is the motivation? I won't be presumptuous to answer that for you, rather I'd only ask you to research it for yourself. Google (Texas Tribune) (Politico)

I do believe that the push for private school vouchers may threaten the very foundation of our public education system. These blatant efforts to pass voucher legislation at all costs, including raising out of state campaign donations, to unseat lawfully locally elected leaders tends to raise several critical questions about the fairness and effectiveness of this approach. Vouchers divert public funds away from our schools, undermining the resources needed to support all students. Despite the national rhetoric, our public schools offer excellent choices and a robust educational experience for all students. If vouchers are introduced, and it is likely that they will be, it is imperative that private schools receiving public tax dollars be held to the same academic and financial accountability standards as public schools. Without this accountability, we risk creating an inequitable system that benefits a few at the expense of many. Recently I was told by an elected official that it is okay to lie as long as it is couched in politics. One of our public detractors recently provided a legal response from another elected official, who is also a lawyer, that it is okay to lie, as long as it is couched in parody. So, the recent shift in our political world has clearly lowered the bar for this standard of justice and fairness that I've referred to. I still believe in it and will continue to live by it. My appeal to the general public has always been the same. Do your own research, form your own opinion, rather than become a mockingbird.

I am sounding the call to arms for all members of our community to stand up for public schools. There is no claim of perfection, but we must ensure that our educational system, along with its imperfections, remains fair and equitable, providing all students with the opportunities they deserve. Your voice and your vote are crucial in this fight. Together, we can advocate for policies and funding that strengthen our public schools and resist measures that would weaken them. To be clear I am an advocate for the masses. I am an advocate for America. I am not an opponent to alternative educational efforts. I merely expect that any measure placed upon public schools should also apply to any taxpayer funded measure. Our public schools must remain apolitical, and mission driven in the face of adversity. I hope you will join us in this effort to strengthen our educational system.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment of Goose Creek CISD as we develop the whole child. Let's work together to make the upcoming school year even more successful and to safeguard the quality and integrity of public education in Goose Creek CISD.

Goose Creek ISD Honors Top Educators and Retirees at Annual Gala



Vanessa Thornton of Crockett Elementary and Johan Richards of Lee High School were named the GCCISD Teachers of the Year (Photos by Carrie Pryor-Newman)

By Norma Martinez

Goose Creek CISD held its annual Teacher of the Year and Retirement gala on May 14, 2024, at E.F. Green Junior School, honoring the 2023-2024 Teachers of the Year, Principals of the Year, and dedicated retirees.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Vanessa Thornton of Crockett Elementary was named the Elementary Teacher of the Year. Ms. Thornton's dedication to her students and innovative teaching methods have made her a beloved figure within the school community. Jonathan "Johan" Richards of Robert E. Lee High School received the Secondary Teacher of the Year award. Known for his inspiring approach in teaching robotics and commitment to student success, Mr. Richards has

made a lasting impact on the CTE program, his students, and colleagues alike.

In addition to the Teachers of the Year, Goose Creek CISD also honored its top principals. Tailis Oniwon of Crockett Elementary was recognized as the Elementary Principal of the Year for her outstanding leadership and dedication to fostering a positive learning environment. Dr. Daniel Blanson of Horace Mann Junior School received the Secondary Principal of the Year award, commended for his exemplary administration and commitment to educational excellence.

The gala also paid tribute to the district's retirees. Susan Jackson, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruc-

tion, highlighted the immense contribution of these individuals, stating, "The 21 retiring employees participating tonight have given over 450 years of service to Goose Creek CISD." This acknowledgment underscored the profound dedication and enduring legacy of the retirees.

The evening was filled with gratitude and celebration, marking the end of the school year with recognition of the remarkable educators and staff members who have shaped the future of countless students. Goose Creek CISD's commitment to excellence in education is evident as they honor the achievements and service of their exceptional teachers and retirees and acknowledge the efforts and commitment of all staff to developing the whole child.



The 2023-2024 GCCISD Retirees contributed to more than 450 years of service in the district. (Photos by Carrie Pryor-Newman)

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