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Save A Life, Page 4

Veterans Event at Barrett Station,
Page 5

Crosby FD
9/11
Memorial
Climb Hits
Fundraising
Goal



Jaden Andrada finishes his climb and heads for the fire bell at the end of the stadium. Story Below and Page 6

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

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THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025

P.O. DRAWER 446, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

County to build new Lynchburg Ferry Operations Building

By GILBERT HOFFMAN
Star Courier Publisher

LYNCHBURG – County officials with Precinct 2, and HCTRA (Toll Road Authority) broke ground last week for a new Operations and Maintenance Building, on the site of the present outdated headquarters building at the Ferry Landing.

Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia welcomed guests, and gave remarks about the history of the Ferry, and the need for a new building after aging of the present building through many hurricanes and floods.

The building will replace the current operations building at the ferry landing on Independence Parkway North, and in-



County Officials including Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, and HCTRA Deputy Director Calvin Harvey break ground for the new Ferry Building.



The new Lynchburg Ferry Operations Building will be 3 stories tall, 14,000 square feet, equipped with flood walls and gates, and cost \$21 million dollars. (PBK architects).

clude all the functions currently in several older separate buildings.

The new building is planned as a 3 story structure, 14,000 sf in area. It will have concrete walls and flood gates, since the

site frequently floods in hurricanes and storms. It will house offices for operations and maintenance, which are now in older separate buildings.

Garcia spoke of the history and importance of the

Ferry. It's origins date back to 1822, when it was a hand-pulled wooden raft accommodating one or two wagons. It charged for a trip across Buffalo Bayou, until Harris County took over operation around

1888 and made it a free passage. About 20 years ago the Precinct gave operations over to the Toll Road Authority, who now operate the ferries.

Also speaking at the groundbreaking was

Calvin Harvey, Deputy Director of HCTRA for Public Safety and Operations. He spoke about the importance of serving this part

Continued. See NEW LYNCHBURG FERRY BUILDING, Page 2

IN THE STARS

THEA holds Cancer Cluster Meetings April 8 and April 21

THEA (Texas Health and Environment Alliance) will hold two informational community meetings to discuss a recent report by the State of Texas that residents in a 250 square mile area of the San Jacinto River floodplain suffer from higher than expected rates of cancer. (THEA) had requested the state cancer study. They are scheduled for:

Tuesday, April 8 at 6:00pm
San Jacinto Community Center
604 Highland Woods Dr, Highlands, TX 77562
Monday, April 21 at 6:00pm
Crosby Community Center
409 Hare Rd, Crosby, TX

CROSBY SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Crosby ISD is Growing Fast! 14 New Housing Developments, a Major High School Expansion, and Big Student Wins Across the Board.

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families.

The district administration recently updated the Board of Trustees on more than a dozen new housing developments in Crosby ISD. If you've driven around town, you've seen the growth from north to south. Of the 14 major developments the district is tracking, some of the largest are on the north side. Here are the names and locations of the developments:

1. Indian Springs (Indian Shores Road near Lake Houston)
2. Sundance Cove (Foley Road, from Dallas Road to Lake Houston)
3. Synova (Foley Road, south of Sundance Cove)
4. Newport Grove (FM



Dr. Paula Patterson
Crosby Superintendent

5. Newport Pointe (FM 2100 at N. Diamondhead)
6. Crosby Farms (FM 2100, south of Newport Pointe)
7. The Preserve at Newport (S. Diamondhead near Sea Palms)
8. Enclave at Newport (S. Diamondhead near Port O'Call)
9. Piney Woods Mobile

Home Community (Near Runneburg and Bohemian Hall)

10. Cedar Pointe (Runneburg at Bohemian Hall)
11. Crosby Park Village (Across from Crosby Post Office)
12. Pecan Estates (Red Summit Drive, west of Crosby High School)
13. Sweetgrass Village (FM 1942 near Sralla)
14. Barrett Crossing (FM 2100 near FM 1942)

In 2023, a demographic study for the district estimated .51 children per household would reside in the new developments. To get an even better idea of the growth, the district is implementing a demographic study for 2025 with results to be delivered to the Board of Trustees in June. We will use that information to future



Image from a Crosby ISD drone shows the Pecan Estates subdivision to the west of Crosby High School. You can see the CHS baseball fields and CHS expansion in the foreground. Pecan Estates is one of fourteen new developments in Crosby ISD.

cast and prioritize facility needs as well as predict enrollment per campus over the next 1, 5, and 10 years. In the 2024-25 school year, the biggest increase in enrollment for the district was at Crosby High School. We don't know if the trend of addi-

tional secondary students will continue in the 2025-26 school year, but we do know that Crosby High School will be equipped if that trend continues. Our

Continued. See CROSBY SUPERINTENDENT, Page 2

Astros Fever Hits Highlands: Fans Celebrate Opening Day Win



Judy Hickey and Pat Gaubatz are dressed for the occasion and get a quick pic in front of the baseball field banner selfie station for the Astros Watch Party at the San Jacinto Community Center in Highlands hosted by Precinct 3.

Continued. See HIGHLANDS FANS RALLY AT ASTROS WATCH PARTY, Page 5

Firefighters Meet Goal Raising Funds at 9/11 Stair Climb

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Crosby volunteer firefighters are flying high after reaching their fundraising goal to send to the National Fallen Firefighter's Foundation (NFFF) last week at the annual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb and Walk 'Under The Lights.'

Organized to remember the 343 firefighters who were killed in the attacks on the World Trade Centers in New York City, fire companies across the nation now host Memorial Stair Climb ceremonies in



The RE/MAX Skydivers descended into the stadium bearing the U.S. flag and also carrying one of the firefighter helmets at the annual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb and Walk 'Under The Lights.'

Continued. See CLIMB FOR THE FALLEN: Page 6

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County to build new Lynchburg Ferry Operations Building

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the county, and that 1000 cars a day use the 2 ferry boats. He noted that there are 1600 plants and businesses within a 5 mile radius of the ferry, with 26,000 employees. Many of these workers use the ferry daily, with 80% of the cars taking someone to work.

Harvey noted that the new building is designed to withstand hurricanes and floods, with flood barriers and flood gates built into the structure. He noted that the current site was covered with 3 feet of water during the last hurricane, Beryl. He said this resiliency is essential so that the ferry operation can recover quickly after a weather event.

In his remarks, Commissioner Garcia said "These improvements will ensure the ferry continues to be a vital connection across the Houston Ship Channel for years to come.

He continued: "Modern, more resilient infrastructure means a safer and more prosperous Precinct 2! The ferry is a vital connection across the Houston Ship Channel. It's been in service for more than 200 years and has withstood many storms. This \$21 million investment for a new facility is long overdue. Thank you to HCTRA for their continued partnership!



An Aerial view of the new Lynchburg Ferry Operations building, with Buffalo Bayou and the San Jacinto Monument in the background. Also seen in this view are two ferry boats docked on the North landing, and the South landing in the distance across the Ship Channel.



Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia welcomed the guests at the Groundbreaking and spoke about the importance of the Ferry to commerce in East Harris County.



HCTRA Deputy Director Calvin Harvey spoke about the History and Operations of the Ferry.



ORIGINAL FERRY 1822



FERRY CIRCA 1888

Menefee Criticizes Governor Abbott's Handling of TX-18 Special Election Timeline

HOUSTON, TX — In response to Governor Greg Abbott's comments during an April 3 interview with KXAN regarding the still-unscheduled special election for Texas's 18th Congressional District, Democratic candidate and Harris County Attorney Christian Menefee issued the following statement:

"Governor Abbott's claim that he'll 'announce something soon' about the TX-18 special election is not leadership—it's a failure to uphold his responsibility to the voters of this district. Nearly 800,000 Houstonians are without a voice in Congress, and if the election is pushed to November, they will go unrepresented for nearly 250 days. That's unacceptable."

During the interview, Governor Abbott said:

"Listen, there's going to be time to do it. Know this,



Harris County Attorney Christian D. Menefee demands transparency from Gov. Abbott on TX-18 Election.

and that is that election is in Harris County, and Harris County is a repeat failure, as it concerns operating elections. Had I called that very quickly, it could have led to a failure in that election, just like Harris County has failed in other elections... I will be announcing that sometime soon, but I want to make sure that Harris

County has all the opportunity to get this right, unlike what they've done in the past."

Menefee called the Governor's comments a political smokescreen, stating:

"Let's be clear—this has nothing to do with Harris County's ability to conduct elections, which has been praised even by Republican officials in recent cy-



cles. The Governor's excuse is nonsense. This is about politics. It's about helping Republicans maintain a narrow majority in Congress. And the people of TX-18 see right through it."

Under Section 201.051 of the Texas Election Code, when a vacancy occurs in a

congressional seat, "the [special] election shall be ordered as soon as practicable."

Congresswoman Sylvester Turner passed away nearly a month ago, and no election date has been set.

"The law says the election should be called as soon as possible—not 'whenever the

Governor feels like it," Menefee said. "There is no reason this election couldn't be

scheduled for June or July. That would give Har-

ris County Elections time to prepare and ensure voters have certainty. Instead, the Governor is floating vague statements while the residents of this district are left without representation."

"Governor Abbott—I'll be announcing something soon' is not enough. Call the election. The people of the 18th Congressional District deserve better. Democracy delayed is democracy denied."

Current and Back Issues are available on our website: www.starcouriernews.com

Barbers Hill Dayton Press

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THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Mont Belvieu Easter Bunny Picnic April 12

Saturday, April 12, 2025 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. | City Park Amphitheater

Celebrate spring with a day of family fun at the **Easter Bunny Picnic**. Enjoy interactive games, festive activities, and delicious food in a relaxed picnic-style setting. Bring your blankets, baskets, and a sense of adventure for a memorable experience.

Date: Saturday, April 12, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Location: City Park Amphitheater - 10900 Eagle Dr., Mont Belvieu, TX

What to Expect

Meet the Easter Bunny - Stop by the stage for a special photo opportunity.

Outdoor Movie Screening - Snag a spot on the lawn to eat your picnic treats while the film "Peter Rabbit" plays on the big screen.

Easter Egg Hunts - Search for hidden eggs, including special golden eggs.

Games and Activities - Participate in Easter-themed games and challenges to gather eggs.

Food and Refreshments - Choose from a variety of vendors offering picnic-style meals and Easter-themed treats.

Patriots Day Celebration April 21

Monday, April 21, 2025 | 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. | City Park

Celebrate our local heroes at the Annual Patriots Day Celebration in collaboration with the Chambers County Veterans Association! Join us for a day filled with military appreciation, thrilling activities, and heartfelt recognition of our service members in and around Chambers County.

Enjoy games and giveaways for all ages, explore military vehicles at the touch-a-truck exhibit, get up close with local emergency response vehicles from Mont Belvieu Police & Fire Departments, and experience the excitement when a helicopter touches down at the stage field.

You have your marching orders! See you at the park on April 21st!

Visit our New Website for Chambers County News:
www.BHDPRESS.com

H-GAC, City of Dayton Partner for Transit Study

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

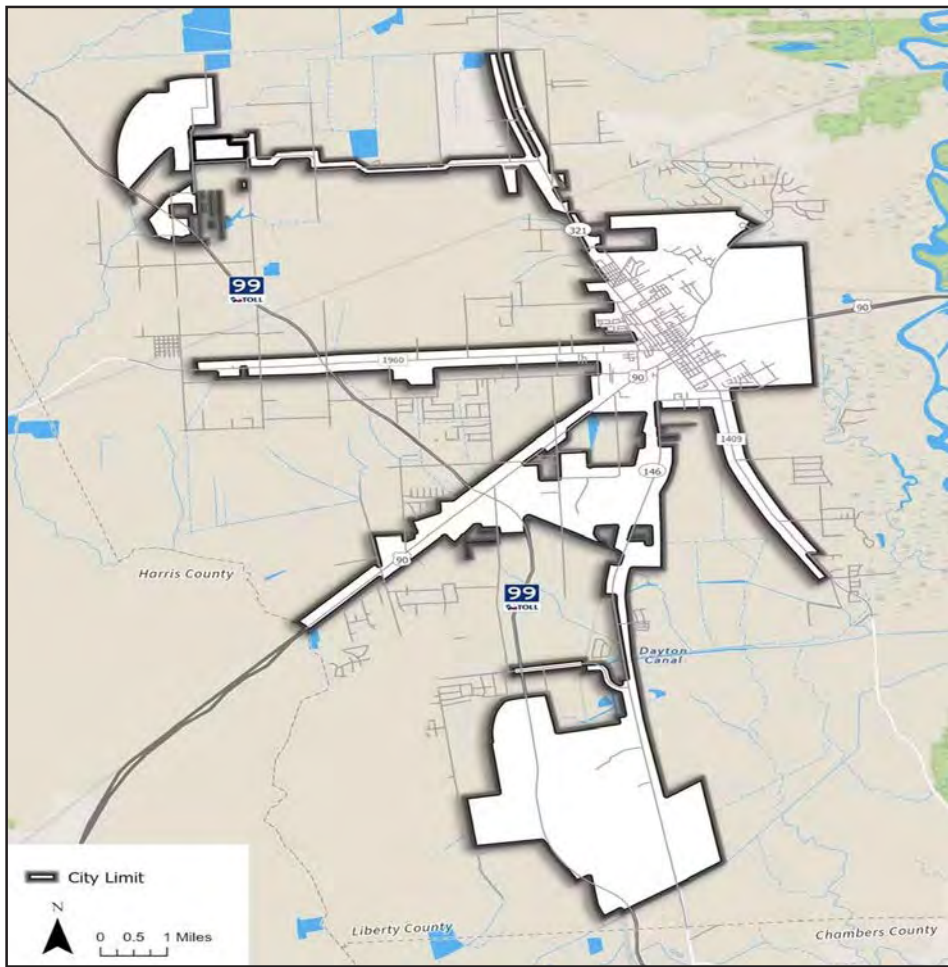
The city of Dayton is seeking feedback from residents on transit. The city is partnering with Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) to develop the Dayton Transit Study. The aim, said Alan Rodenstein, project manager of the Dayton Transit Study at H-GAC, is to develop innovative planning techniques and suggest a range of transit modes, including updating transportation technologies. The team wants to know how to improve connectivity in the region to keep the community better connected.

The study began November 1, 2024, and the first steering group met on February 10, 2025. The survey opened on March 10, 2025, and that's where citizens can have their say on what they want.

"This all came about two or three years ago," Rodenstein said. "The city of Dayton approached us and wanted to better know Dayton's needs."

Delayed a little bit by the holidays, the study kicked into gear in January.

Rodenstein said the study is really in two parts—the technical part



A current map of the area served by the transit system in Dayton.

of it involves the demographics of the service Dayton currently has, and the second part is knowing what the community thinks and wants.

"That also comes in two parts," he said. "We have a steering committee of

key stakeholders and secondly, we engage the community through public meetings."

The first of those meetings is scheduled for Thursday, March 27 at the Dayton Community Center, 801 South Cleveland,

Dayton, TX 77535 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

"Then we will take the survey on the road to Food Truck Friday on March 28 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.," Rodenstein said.

The study aims to determine issues of public tran-

sit like the existing Brazos Transit District circulator that travels between Liberty, Dayton, and Ames.

They're looking at possibilities like a potential connection to Mont Belvieu and maybe a Houston destination.

Rodenstein said the current transit is used quite a bit, but didn't have exact numbers.

"One of the things we're also doing is an onboard survey. We'll survey the riders, the actual customers who are using the service to gauge their opinion," he said.

The survey ends on April 14 so it's important for the community to log on and participate or attend one of the public meetings to let their voice be heard.

The meetings are an open house form and there will be boards out with information on them and a presentation by the Benesch Company who is leading the study.

"Our goal is to run it to completion by the fall of this year. We're on schedule and progressing towards that," he said.

To participate in the survey, visit engage.h-gac.com, scroll down and click on Dayton Transit Survey.

THOUGHTS FROM HILLSIDE CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice



The Unchanging Word

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." (John 1:1-4 NKJV)

The Word has always been and always will be. He was there from before the beginning and an active participant in creation. The Word is Jesus, and Jesus is the Word. As verse 14 tells us, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

Today there is a constant attack on Christianity. Many, even

ministers, call evil good and good evil. Yes, there are churches around the world condoning evil practices that the Word clearly condemns, and at the same time they're calling those of us who stand by Jesus and the Bible every bad name in the book. Remember, it's man who has changed, not God. Hebrews 13:8 makes it clear: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

Man may insist that

the Jesus of two thousand years ago was different from the Jesus of today, but He's not. He is the same and will always be the same. He is still consistently faithful, gracious, loving, and true. He cannot change, which means He is also consistently holy and righteous.

God may seem to let evil prosper on the earth, but it's not because He approves. On the contrary, in 2 Peter 3:5-6, the author gives a stern re-

minder that God once used water to destroy all but 8 of the people who lived on Earth.

In verse 7, Peter assures us that destruction will come again, this time in the form of fire, and on that day the ungodly will start paying a permanent price. However, in 2 Peter 3:9 we see that, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any

should perish but that all should come to repentance." His desire really is for everyone to be saved. He sent Jesus because He loves every single one of us and He knew there was only one way He could get us back into fellowship with Him.

Turmoil and chaos may have become a constant in our modern world, but turmoil doesn't touch Jesus and chaos can't phase Him. Man may try to change the rules, but he can't. The Word of God will never pass away and what God has said will come to pass. Hear the warning. Jesus is coming. Stay ready, keep your heart right, and reach out with the love of Jesus to everyone you can.

www.myhillsidefamily.com
@myhillsidefamily

United Way Hosts "Making It Count" Financial Reality Simulation April 24

Baytown, TX — Imagine being forced to choose between paying rent or buying groceries. For many in our community, this is not a hypothetical situation—it's an everyday reality. To raise awareness about the financial challenges faced by local families and individuals, United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers County (United Way) invites the community to Making It Count—a powerful, interactive financial reality simulation designed to shed light on the complexities of man-



aging limited resources. Participants will take on real-life scenarios that reflect the tough decisions faced by many of

our neighbors—navigating bills, childcare, transportation, employment, and more—all while trying to stay

afloat. The immersive experience highlights the importance of financial stability and the community support systems in place to help those in need. "This simulation gives people a deeper understanding of the difficult choices many families are forced to make every day," said Ashlee Rincon, Community Impact Program Manager - Financial Stability. "It's more than just an event—it's a chance to build empathy and inspire action."

The event will take place on **Thursday, April 24, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 12 PM at Lee College.**

Ready to take the challenge? Sign up to participate today:

<https://forms.monday.com/forms/5e4731d08a5b5753544432528c4fca3d?r=use1>

For more information on how you volunteer to help with this event, visit:

https://volunteer.unitedwaygbacc.org/need/detail/?need_id=1060205

OPINION PAGE

OPINION By TxDOT

A mother's plea: Put down the phone, save a life

Distracted driving was the second-most common factor in traffic crashes last year

HOUSTON – Maria Espinoza never imagined a routine walk to school with her 6-year-old son would turn into a life-altering tragedy.

But in an instant, a distracted driver jumped the curb, striking her son and trapping him beneath the vehicle. He spent six months in a coma, with doctors warning he might never walk or talk again.

Years later, Maria's son has defied the odds — relearning how to walk, talk and even eat. He's studying to become a physical therapist, determined to help others recover just as he did. And Maria is on a mission: asking everyone to pay attention behind the wheel.

"We don't want this to happen to any other family. We want to save lives and create responsibility," Espinoza said. "If I take the responsibility and you take the responsibility today, that will make a difference."

The alarming truth about distracted driving

In 2024, distracted driving contributed to more than 91,000 crashes in Texas, leading to more than 370 deaths — all preventable tragedies. That's why the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is launching its Talk. Text. Crash. campaign this April during Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

"Everyone knows they should focus while driving, but too many people still take their eyes off the road to check a text, fiddle with their dashboard or grab a bite to eat," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. "We want to make it clear: no text or call is worth a life."

It's not just dangerous — it's illegal

Texting while driving isn't just risky — it's against the law. In Texas, anyone caught reading, writing, or sending a text while driving faces a fine of up to \$200. Many cities have even stricter laws, banning all handheld device use while driving.

Stay safe: simple steps to avoid distractions

TxDOT urges all drivers to follow these safety tips:

- Stay focused — Keep both hands on the wheel and your eyes on the road.
• Put your phone away — Use "Do not Disturb" mode while driving.
• Pull over if needed — If you must send a message, stop in a safe place first.

Experience the dangers firsthand

To drive this message home, TxDOT's Talk. Text. Crash. campaign will be hitting the road, bringing a driving simulator to cities across Texas. This interactive exhibit lets visitors experience just how quickly distractions can lead to disaster.

Talk. Text. Crash. is an important part of TxDOT's Drive like a Texan: Kind. Courteous. Safe. initiative. Drive like a Texan is about embracing the pride, camaraderie and responsibility of being a Texan on the road.

The information contained in this report represents reportable data collected from the Texas Peace Officer's Crash Report (CR-3). This information was received and processed by the department as of January 13, 2025.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5906 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com.

Americanisms "I always wanted to be someone better the next day than I was the day before." — Sidney Poitier



THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Stealth Comedy



The bad thing about living in a new place is that I don't know anyone. The good thing about living in a new place is that I meet new people.

Jade is one of the new people I have met while spending time in Mexico. Jade used to be an eye doctor. But after retiring from medicine in her 60s, she decided to do something a little different.

Stand-up comedy. "But how? And why?" everyone wants to know.

To hear Jade tell it, it happened in a moment. Her grown son was watching a well-known comedian on TV. Jade knew almost nothing about comedy.

"I decided that was what I was going to do."

Generally, when someone tells me they are going to try a new thing, I imagine it might be a hobby they would like to try once or twice. That would not be Jade. When she decided comedy was her next big thing, she dove in with both feet.

But since it was hard to get a lot of time on stage, and getting it meant driving long distances, Jade took to heart the words of Shakespeare when he wrote, "All the world's a stage."

I have done some performing in my life, but I have never done anything as brave as that.

Jade calls it "stealth comedy," and people are certainly surprised. No one expects an impromptu comedy set while strolling through the park. But Jade has now done well over 1,000 stealth comedy sets for unsuspecting visitors.

For the last couple of days, I have been a little grumpy. I am living with some uncertainty about my book. Uncertainty comes with life—and certainly with writing—so it's silly to get grumpy about the way things usually are.

Yesterday I went to meet with Jade because, in addition to doing stand-up in clubs and in the park, she is turning her material into a memoir, which is naturally very funny. I feel honored to work with her on it.

I told Jade I was grumpy because I didn't know what was going to happen next with my book. "What's the worst that can happen?" she asked, and I realized she was right.

Jade embraces uncertainty. She walks up to total strangers and says, "Would you like five minutes of comedy?"

I would be terrified that every one of them would say, "No!" And, the truth is, some of them do. But overwhelmingly, people say, "Sure, why not?"

Jade and I spent almost two hours over a cup of coffee and ginger tea, laughing and talking. When I got home, I thought about how much I admire her humor and her audacious bravery and her solid advice.

Maybe a little uncertainty is exactly what I need.

Till next time, Carrie

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders



Senate Bill Would Curb Home Insurance Rate without Approval

Lawmakers in the Texas Senate are considering a measure that would require home insurers to get approval from regulators before increasing rates more than 10%, the Houston Chronicle reported.

The bill, sponsored by state Sen. Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown, would also create a three-member commission to oversee the Texas Department of Insurance. The veteran legislator and others have accused the agency of failing to prioritize consumers.

Homeowner insurance rates have skyrocketed in recent years, up an average 21% in 2023, double the average hikes of previous years. Insurers currently can file rate increases with the state and immediately put them in effect.

"That's a question mark I have regarding how aggressively TDI is overseeing rate changes," Schwertner said.

In a recent hearing, insurers defended their rates, blaming the state's extreme weather and saying the present system has enabled Texas to have a "highly competitive market," according to Scot Kibbe, the vice president of state government relations at the American Property Casualty Insurance Association.

ABBOTT: TEXAS ON 'CUSP' OF APPROVING VOUCHER BILL

Gov. Greg Abbott continues to push his top legislative priority, a universal school choice plan that allows public dollars to be spent for private-school tuition, The Dallas Morning News reported.

"We're going to get this across the finish line," Abbott said during a Capitol news conference. "When we do, Texans will see that when it comes to education, it's not one or the other. It's not either public schools or school choice. We can do both."

The Senate version of what is popularly known as a voucher plan passed in February. House Speaker Dustin Burrows, R-Lubbock, said last week that chamber's proposal would likely be approved this week.

Critics point to a similar plan passed in Arizona, which has grown more than 10-fold since being implemented. They also point out private school options are limited in rural areas and for low-income families.

The state's Legislative Budget Board projects costs for an education savings account pro-



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

gram would increase from \$1 billion in 2027 to about \$4 billion in 2030, a project Abbott said was "based on nothing but fiction."

SENATE PASSES \$336 BILLION TWO-YEAR STATE BUDGET

The Senate unanimously passed a \$336 billion proposed budget last week to fund state government through 2027, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The funding supports a wide array of new investments in education and infrastructure, as well as property-tax relief.

State Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston, said the budget will allow the Legislature to use some of the state's \$24 billion surplus to make one-time investments.

"At the same time, we were very careful to craft a budget that is fiscally conservative and sustainable in future years," Huffman said.

The Senate's budget, which will have to be reconciled with the pending House budget, does not include an increase in per-student funding for public schools. That allotment has not changed since 2019, despite pleas from educators who say local districts are suffering financially.

"Even though hundreds of school districts throughout Texas have been cutting back on programs because of inadequate state funding and inflationary pressures, the Senate budget, SB1, doesn't even raise the basic school funding allotment," said Texas State Teacher's Association President Ovidia Molina in a statement Tuesday.

'VOLATILE' HURRICANES EXPECTED IN 2025, FORECASTERS SAY

As hurricane season approaches, meteorologists with AccuWeather are predicting 2025 could bring "volatile hurricanes" similar to those seen in 2017 and 2023, the Statesman

reported. "AccuWeather is forecasting near to above the historical average number of named storms, hurricanes, major hurricanes, accumulated cyclone energy and direct impacts to the United States," said AccuWeather's Alex DaSilva.

Forecasters expect 13 to 18 named storms in the Atlantic, with three to five major hurricanes reaching Category 3 strength or higher. Texas is among states facing higher-than-average risk of direct hits from hurricanes, and storms could rapidly intensify before making landfall.

The state was hit by two hurricanes last year. In June, Hurricane Beryl turned into a Category 5 storm quickly, gaining 95 mph in less than two days before striking Matagorda Island.

FUNDING HAUL TRANSFORMS TEXAS COMMUNITY COLLEGES

A bill passed in 2023 that took effect last year has proved a financial boon for the state's community colleges. The Texas Tribune reported. HB8 sent a record \$683 million to the state's community colleges.

As a result, community colleges have introduced free tuition and are reshaping how they are run and who is attending school.

"HB 8, at its heart, was an attempt for the Legislature ... to say, 'What's the most impactful way that we can ensure alignment between educational outcomes and business and industry needs?'" Ray Martinez III, the president of the Texas Association of Community Colleges, said. "That's why this is so significant ... We have seen tremendous outcomes."

As The Tribune reported, the five ways community colleges have been transformed because of the new funding formula are:

- Dual credit boosting enrollment, especially among low-income students.
• Free tuition expanded.
• Students hired as peer advisers, greatly increasing the number helping classmates register and stay on track to graduate.
• Increase in workforce training.
• Schools form alliances so credits transfer from a community college to a four-year institution.

UPDATE: MEASLES OUTBREAK REACHES 327 AS FUNDING REDUCED

The Texas Department of State Health Services reports 400 cases of measles primarily in the South Plains and Panhandle regions as of Friday, with one fatality and 41 people hospitalized.

Politics continues to infuse the debate, as lawmakers consider several bills that would make it easier to opt out of getting vaccinated, the Texas Standard reported. Virtually all the cases of measles reported — more reported in Texas in three months than in the entire nation last year — were among unvaccinated people.

Meanwhile, federal funding for DSHS to fight measles has been cut by about half by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), the Statesman reported. DOGE plans to cut \$877 million of a \$1.5 billion federal grant and \$97 million from a \$473 million grant, both from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The grants were used to help state, city and county health departments fight infectious diseases.

"We're evaluating the potential effects of the funding changes," said Chris Van Deusen, director of media relations for DSHS.

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

Fans rally at Astros Watch Party in Highlands,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



The great turnout of area residents was completely fixed and into the game as the Astros faced the New York Mets. The Astros got the opening day game win, 3-1.



Brittany White and Tonya Kostka snap a selfie in front of the baseball field banner set up for the Astros Watch Party at the San Jacinto Community Center in Highlands.



Jackie Peeler shows off her Astros swag during the Astros Watch Party at the San Jacinto Community Center in Highlands. It was a great night for all.

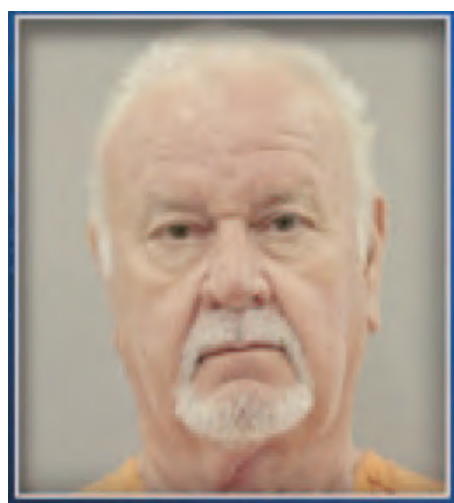
Huffman man arrested for deadly gunfire

HUFFMAN — A man is accused of firing off a gun over loud music in a Huffman neighborhood, according to Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez.

Neighbors told deputies that 76-year-old Donald Noske discharged a .223 AR-15 rifle about 30 times in his backyard on Tuesday.

The sheriff's office says there were children in the area at the time. Fortunately, no one was hit by the bullets.

Noske has been charged with deadly conduct and was booked into the Harris County Jail.



Over 60 Veterans Attend Resource Event at Barrett Station



By Karen Thomas, Director at BS Community Center.

On Thursday, March 27, 2025, the American Legion, in collaboration with the Barrett Success Team and the Barrett Station Community Center—Harris County Precinct 3—hosted a Veterans Informational Resource Event. This impactful gathering aimed to provide vital support and information to those who have served our country.

More than 60 veterans attended the event, where they had the opportunity to connect with various organizations offering essential resources. These included assistance with healthcare services, VA benefits, employment opportunities, mental health support, and housing assistance. Representatives from local and national veteran-focused programs were present to guide attendees through the process of accessing these benefits, ensuring they received the support they rightfully deserved.

The event was a testament to the community's dedication to honoring and assisting its veterans, reinforcing the commitment to ensuring that they have the resources needed to thrive in civilian life.



CUIC: Paint For The Pantry Scheduled for April 25

By David Taylor Managing Editor

Churches United In Caring will host their first-ever Paint For The Pantry party at their home location at 944 Church Street in Crosby on Friday, April 25 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$40 each and the funds will be used for restocking the pantry. Seating is limited and reservations are encouraged. Tickets are available from the CUIC store or by calling 281-413-7790. They accept cash, check, CashApp, or Venmo. The deadline for buying the tickets is Friday, April 18.

"One of the ladies from our church, LeAnn Camp, is a fantastic painter and

has her own business hosting painting parties. It sounded like a great way for our supporters and friends to come and visit us at the pantry and at the same time, raise some much-needed funds," said Lee Ann Lockwood, director at Churches United In Caring in Crosby.

The painting party is similar to others except without the wine.

"We will have all kinds of sweet treats and snacks, tea, and water," she said, and all of it is included in the ticket price.

All the painting supplies are also included.

"LeAnn wanted to donate her time and business supplies to help us raise some money, and we

are grateful," Lockwood said.

Camp said she plans on using a spring floral pattern. They will begin the painting and take a break about halfway through the painting for refreshments and a tour.

"We'd like to show patrons our facilities and explain what we do and how we do it for the community," Lockwood said.

The event is not for women only, but for couples, or even families. No childcare is provided.

"We already have some men signed up," Lockwood said, "because they want to support us as well."

Tickets are already going fast so give them a call to order tickets for the event.

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PAINT FOR THE PANTRY

CUIC'S FIRST-EVER PAINT PARTY TO RAISE FUNDS FOR RESTOCKING THE PANTRY

Friday, April 25, 2025 @ 6:30 pm
Churches United In Caring
944 Church Street Crosby, TX

Check our website cuiccrosby.org for details
Call or text 281-413-7790 for tickets
\$40.00 per person





Driver rams cars, police cruisers during wild spree at the Lynchburg Ferry

HARRIS COUNTY – A Man rammed citizen's Vehicles and Patrol Cars at the Lynchburg Ferry before attempting to flee Deputies.

On March 1, 2025, at approximately 12:05 p.m., the Harris County Precinct 8 Constable's Office responded to a call regarding an aggressive driver near the Lynchburg Ferry located at 4406 Independence Parkway. The caller alleged the suspect vehicle was ramming other vehicles to force his way onto the ferry.

Upon arrival, deputies were directed by the ferry captain to a maroon Ford Expedition. Deputies attempted to contact the driver, who was later identified as Dana Allen Williams, a 50-year-old black male from Houston, who refused verbal commands and attempted to evade deputies by maneuvering his vehicle toward the ferry boat.

As deputies worked to contain the vehicle, Williams reversed into a

marked patrol unit and subsequently drove over deployed stop sticks, boarding the ferry despite repeated commands to stop. Williams then reversed off the ferry, narrowly avoiding deputies and patrol vehicles, and continued southbound on Independence Parkway with multiple flat tires.

Deputies initiated a short pursuit, and Williams' vehicle became disabled by extensive tire damage. The pursuit concluded in the 3500 block of Independence Parkway when Williams' vehicle came to a stop. Despite numerous commands to surrender, Williams remained noncompliant, revving the vehicle's engine in an effort to flee, spinning his wheels and causing damage to the roadway.

Deputies were forced to breach the vehicle after Williams continued to refuse to exit. Following the deployment of a Taser, Williams was removed from the vehicle and was

safely taken into custody. La Porte EMS provided medical evaluation on scene before Williams was transported to HCA Pasadena Hospital for further treatment.

A subsequent search of the vehicle resulted in the recovery of a loaded Taurus G2S 9mm handgun from the center console, along with a small plastic bag containing crack cocaine.

After consultation with the Harris County District Attorney's Office, the following charges were accepted against Dana Williams: Evading Arrest in a Motor Vehicle, Possession of a Controlled Substance, and Felon in Possession of a Firearm. He was booked into the Harris County Jail on these charges.

For unknown reasons, the charges filed on Williams were dismissed by the 248th Harris County District Court early this morning citing "No Probable Cause".

Climb for the fallen: Crosby FD hit fundraising goal,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

memory of the worst fire disaster in the history of the United States. A total of 441 first responders including the 343 firefighters and another 71 law enforcement officers, eight paramedics, and 55 military personnel make up the roster of the deadliest day in First Responder history.

Three years ago, Crosby Volunteer Fire Department began their first Memorial Stair Climb and Walk and has met their goal of raising \$10,000 every year.

"We hit the \$11,000-plus mark this year and we were actually down a little in our turnout," said Station 2 District Chief Warren Thompson and spokesperson for the department.

At least 114 firefighters, first responders, police and members of the public made the climb or walked the track matching the number of steps New York City firemen had to climb during 9/11 rescues, not including spectators who came to the event.

Assistant Chief Russell White conducted the opening ceremonies, and the RE/MAX Skydivers descended into the stadium bearing the U.S. flag and also carrying one of the firefighter helmets, according to Thompson.

The ROTC presented the colors, and the Crosby High School Cougar Pep Band played the national anthem.

"This year we also made a special helmet for someone to climb with and that's something we will do every year," he said.

Each climber is provided a badge to carry with the name and photo of the firefighter who was killed in 9/11.

"They get to keep those badges and can look up the name of the firefighter and do some research about them and get to know who they were," Thompson said.

The badges are provided by the NFFF.

Thompson also said that this year, more participated in the climb than last year, no easy task. He also said the average time for the climb was 45 minutes. Many of the climbers were in full turnout gear and equipment, some also wearing the SCBA. Turnout gear, which includes coat, pants, helmet, boots, gloves, etc. can weigh between 25 to 36 pounds. If they also carry a SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus), it adds an additional 29-30 pounds.



Jaden Andrada gets an assist from his medic father Chi at the annual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb and Walk 'Under The Lights' sponsored by the Crosby Volunteer Fire Department. Andrada was hauling more than 60 pounds of equipment.



The Crosby High School ROTC presented the colors at the event.

Once done, they enter the rehab tent where they are checked out by EMS volunteers to make sure they are okay with their heart rate and get fluids to replenish their body.

Besides Crosby, there were five additional agencies that participated including Deer Park, Anahuac, Cellanese Chemicals Clear Lake plant, and the Precinct 3 Constable's office.



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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code that CROSBY BOAT, RV & MINI STORAGE, located at 15118A FM 2100, Crosby Texas 77532, will hold an online sale from April 21st to April 28, 2025 until 10:00 o'clock a.m., at the following link <http://wbauctionercrosby.hibid.com/auction/current> to sell for cash only the contents of Unit J-33, Sebastian Astoria in order to satisfy a Landlord's Lien. The property to be sold is real old Commercial Pressure Washer, several Ladders, Scaffold and etc.

14-2T

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14 new developments signal rapid growth; CHS expands as students shine in academics, arts and athletics,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

current expansion project is adding more than 50% new classroom and lab space inside CHS. The new academic wing and expanded CTE (Career and Technical Education) center will open in the late fall of 2025 to bring the CHS functional capacity to more than 2800 students.

Now that we're in April, we're entering the last seven weeks of the school year, and I wanted to share some real success stories from our CTE programs at Crosby High School. In the health sciences pathway, we estimate 25 students will finish the year as fully-certified EKG technicians, 30 students will be certified Patient Care Technicians, and later this month, 35 students will take their exams to be designated CPT's or Certified Phlebotomy Technicians. Thank you to the parents, siblings, and friends who allowed our students to practice blood draws and venous punctures on them! Those jabs helped them get certified! Health sciences is just one of 22 CTE pathways at Crosby High School, and the program has grown tremendously in the last five years under the stewardship of teachers Ms. Kristi Thompson and Ms. Candace McMahon. Health science seniors – and all CTE graduates – will be wearing silver cords at the Class of 2025 Graduation Ceremony on May 30 at Cougar Stadium. Congratulations to these future x-ray technicians, radiologists, nurses, and doctors.

Crosby High School students performed well in the UIL Academics dis-



Crosby High School Theatre Arts students were district champions in the UIL One Act Play contest on March 29 at Kingwood High School. The students performed the hilarious play, "The King Stag."



Crosby High School had a great showing during the UIL Academics district meet on March 29 at Dayton High School. Among the first place finishes was the Current Issues and Events Team, consisting of Grant Hood, Lauryn Cannonier, Izabella Greene, Elliott Weaver, and Anthony Marquez.



Several CHS Theatre Arts performers received awards at the district contest and at the bi-district contest.



Regional qualifiers! Crosby High School golfers, freshman Kira Hall and senior Miah Chase, qualified to represent CHS at the Regional Tournament on April 15 and April 16. Kira placed second overall at the district tournament. Miah was 5th overall in the District 18-5A championship.

trict meet on March 29. Grant Hood, Lauryn Cannonier, Izabella Greene, Elliott Weaver, and Anthony Marquez finished in 1st place as a team in the "Current Issues and Events" category. Valeria Armendariz finished in 1st place for Accounting, while Miguel Segovia finished in 2nd place. Oscar Vazquez brought home a lot of hardware from the district meet. He won 1st place in science, finishing with the top scores in biology and chemistry.

In athletics, we have two golfers who qualified for the girls' golf Regional tournament this month. Freshman Kira Hall and senior Miah Chase will tee off on April 15 and 16 at the Margaritaville Resort on Lake Conroe. At district, Kira placed 2nd overall and Miah was 5th overall. We also have three senior student-athletes who are signing to continue their academic and athletic career at the collegiate level. Olivia Darbonne is headed to Texas A&M-Texarkana and Audrey Harlien is signed to play soccer at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. Abby Ellisor is signing with UT-Dallas. Congratulations!

Finally, a quick community note. Pre-K and Kindergarten registration is now open for the 2024-25 school year. Please share the information with parents you may know who have kindergarten-aged children. It's a great time to complete the paperwork before the summer rush. You can use this easy-to-remember link: www.crosbyisd.org/kinderregistration We are Committed to Excellence! Go Coogs!

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

1. Medocre
2. Church seat
3. Greenish blue
4. Tor - , Afghanistan
5. Noshed
6. PETA concerns
7. Slight criticisms
8. Pear-shaped fruits
9. Step
10. Hot dish holder
11. Oodles
12. Log chopper
13. Mandatory coll. courses
14. Calendar entry (Abbr.)
15. Zodiac animal
16. Chit
17. Concepts
18. Swelled head
19. Singer
20. DiFranco
21. Proscribes
22. Eve's mate
23. Born
24. Entryway
25. Dress designation
26. Ignited again
27. Shake - (hurry)
28. Dropouts

by BUD BLAKE

32. Off-tattooed word
34. "A likely story!"
38. "Queen of Soul" Franklin
40. Skating figure
42. Scrap
43. Italian cheese, for short
44. Sci-fi race
45. Iso-
47. Boxer Spinks
48. Press
49. Recipe amts.
52. Web address
53. Squid squirt

by Jeff Pickering

54. Portnoy's creator
55. Coffee vessel
56. Barrel part
57. Fine spray
58. Curry
59. Reinking

Weekly SUDOKU

		6		3	7	2		
	2				1	8	6	
	6			8				
9		1	7			3	5	
	8			5			9	
	1	9	6	2	7			
2			1	7				
6	5	3	8		7	2	1	
1			6	4	9	5		

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Tree is moved. 2. Fence is shorter. 3. Man is thinner. 4. Glove is missing. 5. Fence is reversed. 6. Window is moved.

April 7, 2025 Posting Date

King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12					13				14		
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			39	40			41	42			
43	44			45			46		47	48	49
50				51	52	53					
54				55					56		
57				58					59		

ACROSS
1 Medocre
5 Church seat
8 Greenish blue
12 Tor - , Afghanistan
13 Noshed
14 PETA concerns
15 Slight criticisms
17 Pear-shaped fruits
18 Step
19 Hot dish holder
21 Oodles
24 Log chopper
25 Mandatory coll. courses
28 Calendar entry (Abbr.)
30 Zodiac animal
33 Chit
34 Concepts
35 Swelled head
36 Singer
37 DiFranco
38 Eve's mate
39 Born
41 Entryway
43 Dress designation
46 Ignited again
50 Shake - (hurry)
51 Dropouts

DOWN
1 Cookouts, briefly
2 LummoX
3 Met solo
4 Customs
5 Bud
6 Bordeaux summer
7 Left on a map
8 Tack on
9 Trembled
10 Desire
11 Celeb's aide
16 Buddy
20 "Phooey!"
22 Zilch
23 Shell out
25 Estuary
26 A gazillion
27 Groups of five
29 El - , Texas
31 Turkish title
32 Off-tattooed word
34 "A likely story!"
38 "Queen of Soul" Franklin
40 Skating figure
42 Scrap
43 Italian cheese, for short
44 Sci-fi race
45 Iso-
47 Boxer Spinks
48 Press
49 Recipe amts.
52 Web address
53 Squid squirt

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION: Who had a 1980s workout video series called "Sweatin' to the Oldies"?
- ANATOMY: What is heterochromia?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is a chain of islands called?
- FOOD & DRINK: What is Canada's national dish?
- HISTORY: When was Facebook launched?
- MEASUREMENTS: What is the shortest wavelength in the visible light spectrum?
- U.S. STATES: Which state has the most miles of interstate highway?
- MOVIES: What type of fish is Nemo in the animated film "Finding Nemo"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which month is designated as National Ice Cream Month in the United States?
- SCIENCE: How long does it take for the International Space Station to orbit the Earth?

Solution time: 24 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Trivia Test Answers

- Richard Simmons
- When the colored part of the eyes (irises) are two different colors
- Archipelago
- Fourine (French fries, cheese fries and gravy)
- 2004
- Violet
- Texas
- Cloves
- Clownfish
- July
- 90 minutes



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