



At the end of the fundraiser event, Crosby Evening Lions Club members shared food to the Crosby Volunteer Fire Department where firefighters were training. See Story below & Page 6.

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

# Star Courier

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THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026

HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

# Texas Releases Long-awaited Cancer Data After Years of Community Pressure

By David Taylor  
Managing editor

After more than a year of repeated requests and more than a decade of community advocacy, Harris County officials have released long-awaited, localized cancer data that residents say is critical to understanding health risks in their neighborhoods.

Harris County Public Health this week unveiled a new cancer assessment and an interactive mapping tool

that provides cancer incidence data at the census tract level across the county. The release marks a major shift from previous state analyses that grouped large geographic areas together, often masking neighborhood-level patterns.

While the effort was driven by concerns in East Harris County, particularly along the San Jacinto River corridor, the new data is available countywide and offers the most de-



Jackie Medcalf, founder and CEO of the Texas Health and Environment Alliance.

tailed public look yet at local cancer trends.

"This is a major win for our communities," said Jackie Medcalf,

founder and CEO of the Texas Health and Environment Alliance. "Residents have been asking for local, census-level cancer data so they can understand what's happening where they live. We submitted hundreds of community letters to the state asking for that level of transparency and were repeatedly denied. Harris County stepped up and delivered."

Concerns about cancer rates in East Harris County date back at

least to 2010, when residents living near the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site began pressing state officials to investigate potential health impacts from decades of dioxin contamination. Those efforts eventually led to the Texas Department of State Health Services' first cancer assessment for the area in 2015.

That assessment identified elevated rates of several cancers, including a rare eye cancer linked to dioxin exposure

that appeared in the riverfront community of Highlands at more than 16 times the state average. A subsequent state update released in 2025 again flagged concerns, pointing to higher rates of leukemia, lymphoma, lung and bronchus cancers, and cervical cancer across a study area spanning more than 250 square miles.

Continued. See TEXAS RELEASES CANCER DATA, page 5

## IN THE STARS

### 34th Annual Tees-N-Tails Golf Tournament Set for April 16

The Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce will host its 34th Annual Tees-N-Tails Golf Tournament on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at Stonebridge at Newport. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., followed by breakfast at 9:00 a.m., with a shotgun start scheduled for 10:00 a.m.

Team entry is \$500, and individual player registration is \$150. Registration includes green fee, range balls, half cart, breakfast, lunch, drinks, giveaways, goodie bags, and awards for winning teams. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

The community is invited to participate in this annual event supporting local business and community initiatives. Lunch for the tournament will be provided by Crawfish Shack.

## CROSBY SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

# Crosby ISD Celebrates Five Years of Growth and Innovation Under Dr. Paula Patterson

Dear East Harris County Families and Community Members,

It seems like just yesterday that I walked into Crosby ISD for the first time as Superintendent of Schools. On April 8, 2026, I will celebrate five years in this incredible role. In reality, I wasn't stepping into just a position; I was stepping back into my home. This is the place where I grew up, taught, became a principal, and now have the honor of leading a community that has given so much to me. It is a privilege to give back to the next generation, and I look forward to continuing that work for many years to come.

As we reflect on the past five years, I am reminded of the challenges and triumphs we have faced to-



Dr. Paula Patterson  
Crosby Superintendent

gether. In 2017, our district endured significant hardship, losing 100 dedicated staff members. When I returned in 2021, I found a district determined to rebuild, and I was eager to help. Since then, we have not only restored our staff but also grown stronger as a community of

Continued. See CROSBY SUPERINTENDENT, page 5



Dr. Patterson's Cougar Council made up of students from each campus. Their names are Saniya Carrington, Peyton Abernathy, Claire Chisolm, Noah Marines, Easton Sutterfield, Nailah Beard, Avery Cuellar, and Ella Vincent (Photo by Jessica Hefner).

# Crosby Evening Lions Find Early Success in First Fundraiser

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

The smell of simmering sauce and the hum of conversation filled the Parish Life Center at Crosby Brethren Church as the Crosby Evening Lions Club stepped into uncharted territory—hosting its very first fundraiser. Hopes were high, and for good reason. Just weeks earlier, the newly formed club had screened more than 125 children at the Children's Christmas Festival, discovering that more than a fourth needed follow-up care with an optometrist.

That mission—helping children, particularly with eyeglasses and exams—was at the heart of the spaghetti dinner fundraiser. Though advertised to run from 6 to 8 p.m., supporters began arriving shortly after 5 p.m., eager to purchase plates and



Chef Vasso Espinosa works with volunteer Leo Club members who assisted the Crosby Evening Lions Club with their fundraiser last Thursday.

desserts. "We were actually ready," said club president Deanna Becker. "And it wasn't a big rush."

At the stove, former high school teacher and Chef Vasso Espinosa led the charge, assisted by Lee Ann Lockwood, development director at Churches United In Car-

ing. Together, they kept pasta and sauce moving steadily as volunteers assembled plates and welcomed guests.

The effort quickly became a multi-generational collaboration. Members of the Leos Club at Crosby High School—working two shifts of about a half dozen students each—ran a well-orga-



The first shift of LEOs came early to learn the setup in the kitchen and then worked hard to help with plating on the line. LEO club members are, from left, Om Patel, Mariah Moreno, Dayana Montero, Grant Hood, and Noe Munguia. They carried out large orders, helped with setup and cleanup, and filled in wherever help was needed. Other Lions volunteers tended a dessert table filled with sweet treats.

By 6 p.m., a steady crowd had flooded the Parish Life Center on Church Street,

prompting organizers to bring out additional tables for those choosing to dine in-house. The room buzzed with conversation as friends and neighbors shared food and fellowship.

For Roberto Cruz, Leo sponsor at Crosby High School, the night was a point of pride.

"They ran a very tight ship

assembly line style, helping us put together the plates, and helping transport food out," Cruz said. "I was proud to see them assisting in the cleanup, stacking up chairs and tables, and filling in with other tasks."

As the parking lot filled, student drivers even moved Lions Club vehicles across the street to make room for more customers—a small gesture that reflected the teamwork unfolding throughout the evening.

Lockwood, who manages many of the same students through their volunteer work at Churches United In Caring, was impressed.

"The Leos were very respectful and very attentive. They were amazing help in that kitchen," she said.

Throughout the night,

Continued. See CROSBY EVENING LIONS, page 6

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# Highlands Elementary Hosts 5th Annual Color Run



Highlands Elementary encouraged families to get active and have fun, placing smiles on everyone's faces. (Photo by: Amanda Kennington, Healthy Community School Coordinator)

By Armando Kennington, Healthy Community School Coordinator

Highlands Elementary's 5th Annual Color Run was more than just a fundraiser - the experience brought the entire school community together. The event created a fun, inclusive environment where students, families, and staff could connect outside the classroom while promoting healthy, active lifestyles. The color run encouraged participation from everyone, regardless of fitness level, and turned physical activity into something joyful and memorable.

5th-grade teacher, Michelle Stangle, said, "Who knew getting active could be so fun? Color run is an event that students and staff look forward to each year. It is wonderful to see smiling faces on students, families, and staff faces while being active and getting a pop of color at the same time!"

As participants moved and laughed together, they not only celebrated the funds raised for the school but also strengthened relationships, built school spirit, and reinforced the importance of wellness in

ways that last far beyond the event itself.

Principal Blanca Capetillo said, "Our 5th Annual Color Run was a joyful celebration of community, wellness, and school spirit. Families enjoyed exercising, laughing, and dancing to music from our DJ, while vendors provided food and added to the festive atmosphere. Our staff was fully engaged, and our Hawk Council volunteers helped support a successful family event. Each year, this event continues to grow and is something our students, staff, and Highlands community look forward to. It truly reflects our motto—Soar Above the Rest."

The Highlands Campus School Health Advisory Committee, led by Champion Joel Kunz, has expanded on the momentum from multiple opportunities that were offered throughout the school year as a part of the school's coordinated approach to child health (CATCH) program.

"It's really neat to see the students and their families having fun together. There are smiles all around. I'm so blessed to be at an amazing campus.

Coach Kotlarz did a great job with registration and organizing the volunteers for the color run stations. Our faculty and staff helped make this a memorable event for our students," said Joel Kunz.

Additional events for families to be involved with their children and have fun while promoting health habits included family fitness and dance nights, active recess initiatives, health challenges, campus gardens, and partnerships with local community organizations to support nutrition and physical activity.

These efforts help ensure that healthy habits are not limited to a single event, but become a shared, ongoing commitment across the entire school community. Strengthening the connection between schools and community supports the broader goal of improving children's health, ultimately enhancing student attendance, engagement, and academic achievement.

Please see the attached release and photos. Let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

# Student Health Team Launches Energy Drink Awareness Campaign



Giants Care Collective student members and committee sponsor Brittney Culpepper, GCCISD Coordinator of Marketing. (Photo by: Amanda Kennington.)

Story by: Isaac Silva, Giants Care Collective Campaign Manager

The Giants Care Collective is a student-led health and wellness team serving as an official ad-hoc committee of the Goose Creek CISD School Health Advisory Council (SHAC). Our mission is to elevate student voice in district health and wellness efforts by helping shape meaningful district policy, supporting SHAC initiatives, and leading campaigns that inspire peers to engage in healthier choices. Our team consists of 16 juniors and seniors with representation from all five Goose Creek CISD high schools.

"The GCCISD School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) created the youth advisory board to provide a platform to engage and vocalize the health needs of students," said Amanda Kennington, Healthy Community School Coordinator. "It is exciting to see the high school youth collaborating with adults regarding trending wellness topics that they value and choose to champion. By

servicing on the Giants Care Collective, the students are creating healthier school environments and making a positive influence on their peers!"

In alignment with our mission, the Collective is launching a health campaign in April focused on educating students on the risks of overconsumption of energy drinks, a trend that has become increasingly normalized, not only in teens but in adults as well. As part of this campaign, the Collective will:

Conduct a survey of high school students to better understand energy drink usage and how it affects daily life, such as sleep, focus, and energy levels.

Promote healthier alternatives to energy drinks.

Educate on the long and short-term health risks of energy drinks.

According to Giants Care Collective member Guadalupe Del Campo, the initiative is about more than just data; it is a direct response to a trend visible in every hallway. "Among students walking the halls of GCCISD

schools, one thing is almost always present: an energy drink in hand," Guadalupe explains, noting that the Collective "aims to raise awareness about the potential health risks these drinks pose, while also helping students discover safer, healthier alternatives."

The energy drink initiative is the first campaign developed by this newly established team and is intended to address a modern health challenge facing students in Goose Creek CISD. By focusing on evidence-based education and relatable outreach, the Collective hopes to shift the culture around caffeine and wellness across all five high schools.

Get Involved Follow us on Instagram @giants.care to keep up with the campaign and see our latest health tips.

We also invite the community to visit our booth at the upcoming Children's Day/Día del Niño Celebration on April 30, 2026, at Goose Creek Memorial High School from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM.

## CROSBY ISD SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE Testing on the Horizon

Dear East Harris County Families and Community Members,

As we move into April, our Cougars across nearly every grade level will be preparing to take the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR). I know testing can feel stressful at times, so I want to share a few ways we can support our students and set them up for success.

One of the most important ways to help students perform their best is to ensure they are well rested. A full night's sleep and time to relax at the end of the day help our students stay calm, focused, and confident. When our brains are well rested, they retain more information, process ideas more efficiently, and are ready to tackle challenges with energy and clarity.

Fueling the body properly is equally important. A balanced diet gives students the energy and focus they need to learn and grow. Pairing nutritious meals with limited screen time can help reduce fatigue and improve mood and productivity. Encourage students to go outside,



Dr. Paula Patterson Crosby Superintendent

enjoy family activities, read a book, or engage in other screen-free activities to refresh their minds.

When it comes to reviewing for STAAR, balance is key. While practice is important, avoid last-minute cramming, which can increase stress. Focus on areas where your student might need extra support, but keep review fun and engaging. Remember, students have been learning and preparing all year, and this test is just one way to measure their progress.

Our attitudes toward testing can have a big impact on our students. Keeping a positive outlook and reinforcing that effort is more important than any single score helps re-

duce anxiety and builds confidence. Praise your students for the hard work they put in every day, and remind them that their dedication and growth matter more than the results of one test.

On testing days, here are a few tips for families: ensure your student has a good breakfast, arrive on time so they have plenty of time to complete their test, and offer encouragement with simple affirmations like, "You've got this!" Encourage them to read carefully, take their time, and do their best is all we ask.

Remember, STAAR testing is just one snapshot of your child's learning journey. Students are so much more than a score on a test. What matters most is the consistent effort and growth they show each day. Together, as a community, we can support every student in reaching their full potential.

Thank you for your continued partnership in helping our Cougars succeed. Together, we celebrate growth, achievement, and the joy of learning.

Warmly, **Dr. Paula Patterson** Superintendent of Schools Crosby ISD

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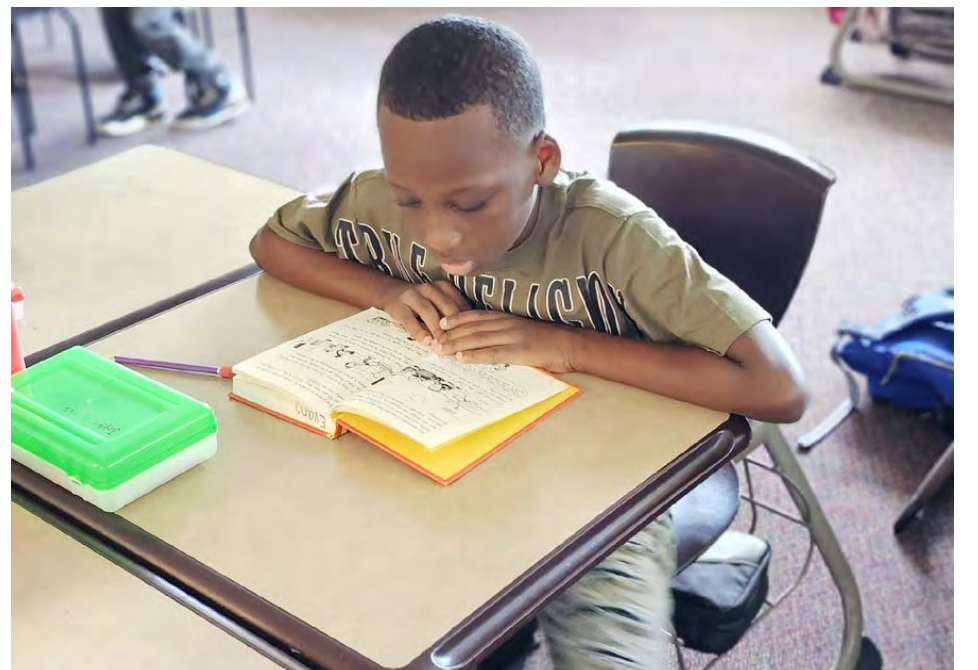
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Jayden Grimes from Drew Elementary School working on silent sustained reading time (Photo by Jessica Hefner).

# Barbers Hill Press

## Dayton

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

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THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

### ON THE HILL

#### United Way Launches Inaugural United for Good Gala

**BAYTOWN, TX** — United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers County is excited to invite the community to the inaugural United for Good Gala, presented by Chevron Phillips Chemical, an unforgettable new signature event celebrating fun, connection, and community impact. The gala will take place on Friday, June 5, 2026, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at 2610 N. Alexander Drive in Baytown and will feature casino-style entertainment, dinner, live music, and exciting opportunities to support local work that changes lives.

More than just a night out, the first-ever United for Good Gala is an opportunity to be part of something special from the very beginning. Guests can look forward to an energetic and welcoming atmosphere, with an evening designed to celebrate generosity, connection, and the power of coming together for good.

One of the highlights of the night will be the poker tournament, adding even more excitement to the evening. Whether attending for the cause, the company, or the thrill of the tournament, guests are invited to experience a fresh new tradition in support of United Way's mission.

This inaugural event is chaired by Daryl and Bridget Fontenot, Steve Daniele, and Suzanne Heinrich, whose leadership and long-standing commitment to United Way help set the tone for the evening. As past board presidents and dedicated supporters, the chairs say the gala reflects the very spirit of the organization's work: "Having had the honor of serving as past board presidents and being long-time supporters of United Way over the years, we know how powerful it is when a community comes together around a shared purpose. The inaugural United for Good Gala represents that spirit perfectly. We are excited to invite friends, partners, and supporters to join us for a memorable evening that will not only launch a new tradition but also help strengthen the future of our community."

Tickets are on sale now, and community members are encouraged to purchase tickets to enter the poker tournament and be part of this exciting inaugural event. Visit [onecau.se/unitedforgood](http://onecau.se/unitedforgood) to purchase tickets today.

## West Chambers County Pilot Club Hosts 'Under the Sea' Gala at Barbers Hill HS



(front row l-r) WCCPC Pilots: Brinda Stanfield Friend of Pilot, Pilots; Linda Gilmore, Tonya Keller, Ericka Perez, Linda Polk, Judy Duncan, Deana Fojt, Nancy Porter, and Angela Heffner, (second row l-r) Darlene Friend of Pilot, Karrell Hargrave, Pam Wishum, Marla Van Pelt, Diana Jackson, Chelsea George, (back row) President Jan Jones.



Celebrity Waiter Terri Leo Wilson, State Representative with WCCPC Anchor Coordinator Judy Duncan.



Celebrity Waiters/Spotters: Butch Bean, Chambers County Constable Precinct 4, and Lisa Dagle Bean, Insurance Services LLC.



(l-r) Celebrity Waiters/Spotters: Jimmy Smith, Incoming Elected Justice of the Peace Precinct 6, George Barrera Barbers Hill ISD School Board, Kelly Barrera Barbers Hill High School Registrar, and Rusty Senac Former Commissioner, (back row) Kevin King, ReMax One.



Sign donated by Sign Gypsies of Mont Belvieu/Anahuac

**MONT BELVIEU, TX** — The West Chambers County Pilot Club, Inc. hosted its annual fundraising gala on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at Barbers Hill High School. From 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., guests enjoyed an evening inspired by this year's theme, "Under the Sea."

The gala drew supporters from across the community to celebrate and raise funds for the club's ongoing initiatives. With nautical decorations and a vibrant atmosphere, the event marked another successful gathering for the organization's charitable efforts.

## Dayton ISD 6th Graders Participate in Lamar University Literacy STAAR Camp at WWJH

**Dayton, TX** — Dayton Independent School District sixth-grade students at Woodrow Wilson Junior High (WWJH) are strengthening their reading skills and building confidence through the Lamar University Literacy STAAR Camp, hosted in partnership with the Nancy Evans Center at Lamar University.

The four-day camp, which began on Friday and continues this week, focuses on key English Language Arts (ELA) skills designed to support student success on the STAAR assessment. Presenters from Lamar University are working directly with students, providing targeted instruction and strategies to help them grow as readers and test-takers.



The camp emphasizes both skill development and confidence-building, reinforcing the idea that when students read, they succeed.

"Opportunities like this give our students the tools and confidence they need to be successful," said Superintendent Dr. Travis Young.

"When we invest in literacy, we are investing in their future, and we are grateful for our partnership with Lamar University and the Nancy Evans Center for supporting our students every step of the way."

Dayton Independent School District is proud to partner with Lamar University and the Nancy Evans Center to help ensure students are prepared for success in the classroom and beyond.



## Baytown, Meet Your Newest Business Hub: District on Main

**BAYTOWN, TX** - Baytown continues to grow and this time, it's bringing serious opportunity with it. Please join us in welcoming District on Main, a brand-new industrial park right on Main Street, officially celebrating their Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting with the Baytown Chamber of Commerce and Charles Johnson Baytown Mayor!

This new development is already home to:  
ESG Gunworks LLC  
Gorilla Collectible Supplies  
...and they're just getting started!  
District on Main is cre-



ating space for businesses to build, expand, and thrive right here in Baytown and we LOVE to see that kind of investment in our local economy.

\*Business owners: If you've been looking for a new space to grow your operation, this is your sign. Go check them out!  
\*Community: Show

some love and support the businesses already calling District on Main home—your support keeps Baytown booming.

Let's give a big Baytown welcome and congratulations to District on Main on their grand opening!

OPINION PAGE

OPINION

By BILL KING

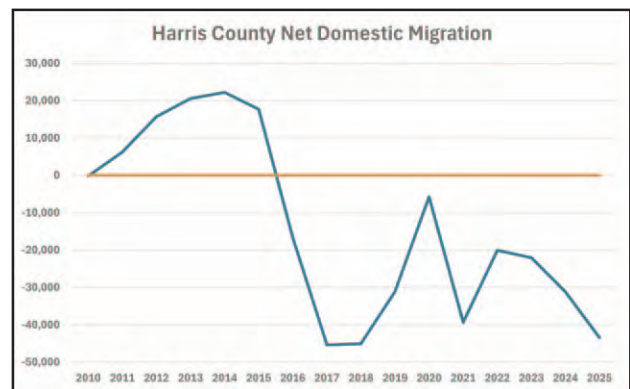


Immigration Crackdown Takes Toll on Harris County Growth

According to the US Census Bureau's estimates released yesterday, Harris County grew last year by just under 50,000, about half of what it grew in 2024. International immigration, which has fueled the County's growth for most of the last decade, fell from 101,000 to 57,000. Nonetheless, it still accounted for all of the County's growth. Without international immigration, the County population would have declined by about 10,000.

It should be noted that Harris County is overwhelmingly the preferred destination for international migration within Texas. Last year, while Harris County accounted for only 16% of the state's population, 34% of international immigrants settled here.

The number of people moving out of the County destined to somewhere else in the US (domestic migration) grew from 31,000 to 43,000. The County has not had positive domestic immigration since 2015. In the last ten years, about 300,000 have left the County for other places in the US.



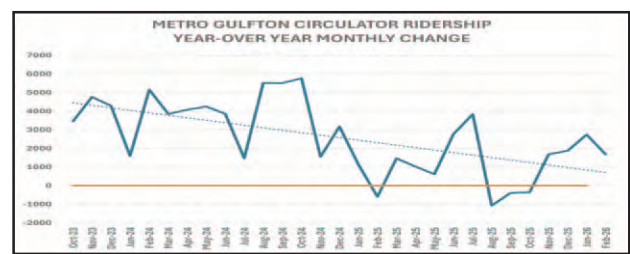
The number of births and deaths in Harris County held steady at about 67,000 and 31,000, respectively, resulting in natural growth of 35,000. Because of the relatively young median age in Harris County, it will likely sustain a small natural increase for some time. However, this will inevitably slowly fall as the County ages.

It is important to understand that the Census

Table: Harris County Population Growth 2025. Columns: Category, 2025 Value, % Change. Rows: Natural Growth (Births - Deaths), Domestic Immigration, International Immigration, Total.

Bureau's estimates are as of July 1 each year. So, the estimate released yesterday was as of July 1, 2025. This means that the range covered by this estimate would have about seven months of the Biden administration and about five months of the Trump administration. Therefore, it is likely that most of the international immigration into Harris County occurred earlier in the year and has slowed significantly since then.

It is noteworthy, however, that this estimate does not indicate a mass exodus of immigrants, as DHS claims. At Baker, we have been looking at other data that might indicate a significant outflow of immigrants, and so far, we are not finding much. For example, we have been tracking the ridership on Metro's Gulfton circulator route. Gulfton is essentially Houston's Ellis Island, with many immigrants making their home in that area when they first arrive. Metro operates two bus lines that circle the area. It is used by many immigrants for routine trips and to connect to other lines to large employment centers. Ridership on those lines steadily increased in the last two years of the Biden administration, but has shown some deterioration since Trump was elected.



Taken together, the Census data and the local data we have been tracking appear to indicate a significant decline in international immigration – probably close to zero, but not that there has been a mass exodus of immigrants from the County.

The bottom line is that Harris County has effectively become dependent on international immigration for population growth. Without it, stagnation or decline is the baseline. Therefore, future federal immigration policy will probably have no more impact on Harris County than any other place in the state, and possibly the entire country.

Author's note: The numbers for the Houston region show better population growth. More on that next time.

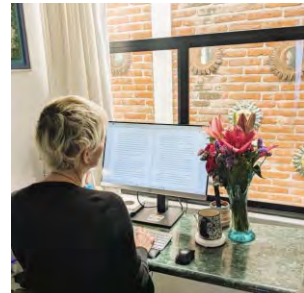
Hopping mad about gas prices...



THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

400 Square Feet



Last week, we thought we would leave our little place in Casa de los Soles.

If you've read my column, you know about this place my husband, Peter, and I stay in while in Mexico. The interior of our apartment will set you right back to the 1980s. The Formica countertop has seen better days. I write in a corner of the living room and have exactly 6 inches between the back of my office chair and the end of the couch. Peter measured our apartment, and it is 400 square feet—and that includes a rather large bedroom.

So, last week, we decided to look around for a place with a little more space. We told our landlord, Jorge, we were thinking about doing this, and he said he understood, and we went looking at apartments.

We did not make it easy on ourselves. In addition to loving this particular place, we love the neighborhood it is in, and the street it is on, so our circle of investigation was small. When we heard of an apartment for rent just a block away and on the same street, we were very excited.

The apartment was much bigger. It had a fireplace and a rooftop terrace. It had two bedrooms and a full dining room. It would need a little work, but we were very excited. We met with the landlord two days later.

But later that night, I started to think about what we would have to do to live in that apartment. There was nothing on the walls. There was not a lot of furniture. The couch looked a little worse for wear. The furniture on the roof needed replacement. None of it was big stuff, but it added up.

We'd have to pay an electric bill. If we wanted house-keeping, we'd have to figure that out and pay for it. We'd have to get our water and our gas delivered. We'd have to get the garbage out on the curb on the right days at the right time—which, in the center of an old town with cobblestone, one-way streets, is not as easy as it sounds.

I lay in bed that night and thought of all the things I don't have to worry about now, like having regular internet and a front desk that will accept our deliveries and someone on staff if we ever have a medical emergency.

Then I thought about the things that give me such joy here: the lively restaurant below, which will deliver lunch right to our door. The staff that will store my computer monitor and my clothes and take them out again when we arrive. The bouquet of flowers that is always waiting for me when we check in. The going-away party that the entire staff throws for Peter and me when we leave at the end of the season. And the kindness of Jorge, our landlord who, whenever we have a request, no matter how unusual, will say, "Certainly!"

I thought of how very easy my life was in 400 square feet, how free of worries, and of how much writing I had accomplished sitting at my little green Formica desk with the fresh flowers in front of me.

I talked to Jorge the next day. "We love this place too much to leave!" I told him. And I felt tearful.

Then I looked with fresh eyes at my 400 square feet and realized there was a lot I could do in this space. Because right now, 400 square feet is more than enough.

Till next time, Carrie

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Texas Poised to Lead Nation in Data Centers

Texas is poised to lead the nation by 2030 in the number of data centers, the Austin American-Statesman reported, surpassing Virginia. The state currently has 6.5 gigawatts of data center capacity under construction, accounting for 20% of the capacity added to the U.S. pipeline last year. One gigawatt can power about 750,000 homes on average. Data centers provide the infrastructure to support both crypto currency facilities and the growth of artificial intelligence. The centers require huge amounts of power and water to operate. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which operates most of the state's power grid, said the continuing growth in data centers will increase Texas energy demand by 71% in the next five years. Central Texas has become the top data center market in the country. The American-Statesman identified at least 55 completed or planned projects between Temple and San Antonio in 2025.

PAXTON CALLS FOR HANCOCK'S REMOVAL

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton called for Gov. Greg Abbott to remove acting state comptroller Kelly Hancock, calling him an "incompetent loser." The Dallas Morning News reported. Paxton said the governor should replace him with Don Huffines, who defeated Hancock in the GOP primary race for the post earlier this month. "Kelly Hancock was rejected by Texans because he failed to do his job. He failed to take me down during impeachment, and his career is over," Paxton wrote on X. "It's time for him to be fired." Before his appointment as acting comptroller, Hancock served in the Texas Senate and was one of two Republican state senators who voted to convict Paxton in his impeachment trial. Paxton was acquitted. The latest dispute comes after Hancock sent a letter to Paxton and to federal officials, calling for stripping the Houston Quran Academy of its charter because of alleged ties to CAIR, the nation's largest Muslim civil rights advocacy organization. Abbott has designated that group a foreign terrorist organization. The academy is suing to overturn the designation.



\$116 MILLION IN FIFA SAFETY GRANTS ANNOUNCED

The city of Houston and the North Central Texas Council of Governments, areas that are both hosting FIFA World Cup events, will receive \$116 million in grants to provide for safety personnel, equipment and other public safety needs, the governor's office has announced. "The FIFA World Cup coming to Texas gives our state a premier opportunity to showcase all it has to offer," Abbott said in a news release. "These public safety grants will help ensure that travelers visiting and traveling throughout Texas can enjoy our great state safely, will bolster Texas' efforts to combat crime, and help prevent potential acts of violence." The money is coming from the federal government under the omnibus budget bill passed last year. The budget provides \$625 million in federal funding to host cities across America. The funds are allocated for recipients to provide extensive security to protect venues, players, staff and attendees against potential terrorist attacks.

LICENSE SEEKERS WILL HAVE TO PROVE THEY'RE IN COUNTRY LEGALLY

Anyone seeking a professional license in Texas, from barbers to dog breeders, will have to prove they are in the country legally after May 1, The Texas Tribune reported. The state's Commission on Licensing and Regulation last week adopted a new rule that could affect thousands of workers. A hearing line of speakers at a hearing urged the commission not to adopt the rule, arguing it will hamper the state's economy and push people to work without a license. The commission oversees the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

ment of Licensing and Regulation. "TDLR has long been evaluating verification of license eligibility in line with federal law. With the transfer of the Texas Lottery to TDLR, the recent launch of our licensing system modernization project, and increased focus on combatting human trafficking, the department is moving forward with lawful presence verification," Caroline M. Espinosa, a TDLR spokesperson, said. TDLR attorney Derek Burkhalter told commissioners that some non-citizens will still be able to get licenses if they are here legally; for example, if they were granted asylum or admitted as a refugee. "The proposed rules do not impose a citizenship requirement," Burkhalter said. "Individuals who are not U.S. citizens may still be eligible for licensure if they meet the eligibility criteria."

PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLIST FATALITIES CONTINUE TO INCREASE

With spring and warmer weather here, there are more pedestrians and cyclists out on the road. More than 20% of all Texas traffic fatalities involve either pedestrians or cyclists, according to the Texas Department of Transportation, which is urging drivers to know and follow the rules for sharing the road. In 2024, 852 cyclists and pedestrians were killed in crashes on Texas roads. There were 6,095 crashes involving pedestrians and 2,761 crashes involving bicyclists. In 2025, there were 1,372 traffic crashes involving pedestrians in Texas and 527 traffic crashes involving bicyclists. In these crashes, 186 people were killed. "All of us share a responsibility to watch out for each other, but people on foot or riding a bike are most at risk for serious injury or worse in a crash with a car, which means drivers must be extra vigilant," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said.

SLIGHTLY LESS ACTIVE HURRICANE SEASON PREDICTED

Hurricane season is a little more than two months away, and weather media outlet AccuWeather is predicting a slightly less active season this year than in 2025, the Houston Chronicle reported. However, Texas and the Gulf Coast are still at risk of being hit. AccuWeather is forecasting 11 to 16 named storms, including four to eight hurricanes. Of those, one to three are expected to become Category 3 or strong hurricanes, with winds of at least 111 mph. Three to six storms could directly hit the United States, including one to three along the Gulf Coast, putting Texas and neighboring states at risk. Last year was the first since 2015 without a hurricane making a direct U.S. landfall. Hurricane season runs from June 1 to Nov. 30.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

Advertisement for Star Courier newspaper, including contact information for the publisher and subscription rates.

## Texas Releases Cancer Data,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Community leaders, however, said those findings fell short because they relied on broad geographic groupings that made it difficult to identify specific hotspots.

“Our community is exposed to so many different toxic chemicals and pollutants through our air, water and soil from the petrochemical, marine and other industries surrounding and embedded within our community,” said Carolyn Stone, president of the Channelview Health and Improvement Coalition. “The impacts to our health are something we have to worry about and experience far too often.”

At the request of the Harris County Attorney’s Office and Harris County Pollution Control Services, Harris County Public Health conducted a more localized analysis using available data. The county released both a written report focused on East Harris County and an interactive GIS map that shows cancer incidence by census tract throughout Harris County.

Within the East Harris County study area,

often described as the San Jacinto River floodplain, the census-level analysis identified elevated rates of numerous cancers, including breast, cervical, colon, kidney, leukemia, lymphoma, pancreatic, prostate, rectal, liver, lung and bronchus, and skin cancers. Brain cancer rates were elevated in more than 15 census tracts in the study area.

Advocates emphasized that the release is significant not only because of the data itself, but because of how the information is presented and compared.

“Access to data is only part of the equation—how it’s analyzed shapes what you see,” Medcalf said.

The county’s report allows users to compare cancer rates against both Harris County averages and statewide Texas averages, a distinction community advocates say is critical.

“In a county like Harris County, where overall disease burden can already be high, comparing a neighborhood only to the county can mask disparities,” Medcalf said. “Comparing to the state helps reveal

where rates are truly elevated.”

THEA also noted that methodological decisions, including how small case counts are handled, can affect what information is visible in smaller communities. Medcalf said the organization still has questions about how some data were suppressed and how that may limit what residents can see.

Even so, the group praised county officials for responding directly to longstanding community concerns.

“This is what it looks like when institutions listen to residents and take action,” Medcalf said. “Harris County didn’t just release data—they made it accessible, local and usable.”

Harris County Public Health plans to host a public webinar to walk residents through the assessment and explain its key findings. Advocates say the release is not the end of the discussion, but the beginning of a more informed one.

“Communities fought for this data,” Medcalf said. “Now we use it to drive accountability.”

## Crosby ISD celebrates five years of growth & innovation under Dr. Paula Patterson

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

learners and educators. Financially, our district has made remarkable progress. We passed all audits with A ratings from FIRST, had our bond funds released, and completed major expansions at Crosby High School, including a new CTE wing, Gray House, and parking lot improvements and expansions. These projects added 47 new classrooms and learning spaces, preparing us for continued growth. Additionally, we are making strides toward breaking ground on our long-awaited Sixth Grade Campus, which will help relieve overcrowding at Crosby Middle School. This project is a milestone for our community, and we are excited to see it coming to life.

Beyond facilities and finances, we have reimagined how we serve students and staff. One of our most innovative changes was the implementation of a hybrid academic calendar, launched in 2023. This calendar was designed to attract and retain the best educators while maintaining high academic standards. With full five-day

weeks during critical months for STAAR testing, attendance has stabilized, and our accountability scores have improved, showing that thoughtful innovation can benefit our students and teachers alike.

In addition to these structural improvements, we have made great strides in increasing student achievement through stronger curriculum and a renewed focus on instruction. We have enhanced our athletic and CTE programs to provide meaningful opportunities for all students and have implemented important safety upgrades and building improvements across campuses. These efforts ensure that our students learn in safe, modern, and supportive environments while having access to programs that prepare them for both college and career paths.

Just this past December, we introduced a Three-Tier system for school start times to ease traffic congestion, improve student attendance, and create a smoother start to each day. With over 7,200 students in our district and

a single main thoroughfare running through town, this change was necessary. By staggering start times, with Crosby High first, then the elementary, and finally Crosby Middle School, we’ve seen a meaningful decrease in tardiness, allowing students to arrive on time and be ready to learn.

Returning to lead the district that shaped me has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I am grateful to work with the Crosby ISD Board of Trustees, a dedicated group of community members. Over these five years, I have learned, grown, and witnessed incredible accomplishments across our schools. I am proud of what we have built together and excited for the future. With each initiative, each project, and each student’s success, from academic growth to extracurricular excellence and building improvements, we are truly building back, brick by brick.

**With warm regards,** Dr. Paula Patterson, Superintendent of Schools Crosby ISD

## LEGAL NOTICE

## LEGAL NOTICE

## LEGAL NOTICE

## NOTICE OF BOND ELECTION (AVISO DE ELECCIÓN DE BONOS)

**TO THE RESIDENT, QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE BARBERS HILL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT: (PARA LOS VOTANTES HABILITADOS, RESIDENTES DEL DISTRITO ESCOLAR INDEPENDIENTE DE BARBERS HILL:)**

Notice is hereby given that the polling places below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on May 2, 2026 for voting in a special election in the Barbers Hill Independent School District to consider the following proposition(s): (Por la presente se da aviso de que los lugares de votación a continuación estarán abiertos de 7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m. el 2 de mayo de 2026 para votar en una elección especial en del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Barbers Hill para considerar la siguiente proposición(es):)

**Barbers Hill Independent School District - Proposition A**

Shall the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the Barbers Hill Independent School District (the "District") be authorized to issue bonds of the District, in one or more series or installments, in the amount of \$95,000,000 for the construction, acquisition and equipment of a multipurpose athletic fieldhouse and other stadium improvements, which bonds shall mature, bear interest and be issued and sold in accordance with law at the time of issuance; and shall the Board be authorized to levy, impose and pledge, and cause to be assessed and collected, annual ad valorem taxes on all taxable property in the District sufficient, without limit as to rate or amount, to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds, and the costs of any credit agreements (including credit agreements executed or authorized in anticipation of, in relation to, or in connection with the bonds), all as authorized by the constitution and laws of the State of Texas and the United States of America?

**(Distrito Escolar Independiente de Barbers Hill - Proposición A)**

¿Se deberá autorizar a la Junta de Síndicos (la "Junta") del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Barbers Hill (el "Distrito") a emitir bonos del Distrito, en una o más series o plazos, en la cantidad de \$95,000,000 para la construcción, adquisición y equipamiento de instalaciones deportivas multiuso y otras mejoras en el estadio, bonos que vencerán, devengarán interés y serán emitidos y vendidos en conformidad con la ley al momento de emisión; y se deberá autorizar a la Junta a gravar, imponer y comprometer, y hacer tasar y recaudar, impuestos anuales ad valorem sobre toda propiedad gravable en el Distrito, suficientes, sin límite en cuanto a tasa o cantidad, para pagar el capital y el interés de los bonos y los costos de cualquier acuerdo de crédito (incluso acuerdos de crédito firmados o autorizados en anticipo, relación o conexión con los bonos), todo según lo autorizado por la constitución y las leyes del estado de Texas y los Estados Unidos de América?)

**Ballot Language (idioma de la boleta); Vote "FOR" or "AGAINST" (Votar "A Favor" o "En Contra"):**

Barbers Hill Independent School District - Proposition A  
THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

The issuance of \$95,000,000 of bonds for the construction, acquisition and equipment of a multipurpose athletic fieldhouse and other stadium improvements, and the levy and imposition of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and the costs of any credit agreements.

(Distrito Escolar Independiente de Barbers Hill - Proposición A  
ESTO ES UN AUMENTO AL IMPUESTO PREDIAL.

La emisión de \$95,000,000 en bonos para la construcción, adquisición y equipamiento de instalaciones deportivas multiuso y otras mejoras en el estadio, y el gravamen y la imposición de impuestos suficientes para pagar el capital y el interés de los bonos y los costos de cualquier acuerdo de crédito.)

**Website (sitio web):** <https://www.bhisd.net/>. Complete Order Calling School Building Bond Election, including Voter Information Document and Section 3.009, Election Code information, available at: (Complete la Orden de Llamamiento a la Elección de Bonos para Edificios Escolares, incluido el Documento de Información para los Votantes y la Sección 3.009, información del Código Electoral disponible en:) <https://www.bhisd.net/district/elections>.

### ELECTION DAY PRECINCT AND POLLING INFORMATION (INFORMACIÓN DE PRECINTOS Y LUGARES DE VOTACIÓN DEL DÍA DE LA ELECCIÓN)

Election Day: May 2, 2026; Election Day Polling Locations open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
(Día de la Elección: 2 de mayo de 2026; Lugares de Votación del Día de la Elección abiertos de 7 a.m. a 7 p.m.)

### Election Day Locations (Voters may vote at any location) (Lugares de Votación del Día de Elecciones (Los votantes pueden votar en cualquier ubicación):)

Judge Larry Cryer Annex, 7711 Highway 146, Baytown, TX 77523  
Barbers Hill ISD Community Election Center, 9650 Eagle Drive, Mont Belvieu, TX 77523  
Chambers Health Services, 102 Airport Road, Anahuac, TX 77514  
Juanita Hargraves Library, 108 Fear Road, Winnie, TX 77665

### EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS, DATES AND HOURS (LUGARES, FECHA Y HORARIOS DE VOTACIÓN ANTICIPADA)

#### Early Voting Dates and Times (Fechas y horarios de votación anticipada):

**Monday, April 20, 2026: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

(Lunes 20 de abril de 2026: 8:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m.)

**Tuesday, April 21, 2026: Holiday – no voting**

(Martes 21 de abril de 2026: Día feriado, no hay votación)

**Wednesday, April 22, 2026 through Friday, April 24, 2026: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

(Miércoles 22 de abril de 2026 al viernes 24 de abril de 2026: 8:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m.)

**Monday, April 27, 2026 through Tuesday, April 28, 2026: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

(Lunes 27 de abril de 2026 al martes 28 de abril de 2026: 7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m.)

#### Main early voting polling place (Lugar principal de votación anticipada):

Chambers Health Services, 102 Airport Road, Anahuac, TX 77514

#### Branch early voting polling places (Otros lugares de votación anticipada):

Barbers Hill ISD Community Election Center, 9650 Eagle Drive, Mont Belvieu, TX 77523  
Judge Larry Cryer Annex, 7711 Highway 146, Baytown, TX 77523  
Juanita Hargraves Library, 108 Fear Road, Winnie, TX 77665

Applications for voting by mail should be received no later than the close of business on April 20, 2026. (Las solicitudes para votar por correo deberán recibirse antes del cierre de actividades del 20 de abril de 2026.)

The contact information/delivery addresses for applications for ballots to be voted by mail and other matters related to the election are as follows: (La información de contacto o direcciones de entrega del Administrador para solicitudes de boletas para votar por correo y otros asuntos relacionados con la elección son los siguientes:)

**Name (Nombre):** Heather H. Hawthorne

**Official Mailing Address (Dirección postal oficial):** P.O. Box 728, Anahuac, TX 77514

**Physical Address (Dirección física):** 404 Washington Ave, Anahuac, TX 77514

**E-mail Address (Dirección de correo electrónico):** [hhawthorne@chamberstx.gov](mailto:hhawthorne@chamberstx.gov)

**Phone Number (Teléfono):** (409) 267-2418

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
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# Atom X



 Audien Hearing

# Crosby Evening Lions serve up success at first fundraiser,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Espinosa coached the students as they prepared plates, turning the fundraiser into a hands-on learning experience as well as a service project.

The following Monday, the Lions devoted their entire regular meeting to a debrief—reviewing what worked well and what could be improved.

“Overall, I think it went really well,” Becker said. “For our first go at it, it really ran very smooth.”

Feedback from the public echoed that sentiment. Many attendees commented on how much they enjoyed both the food and the fellowship, often lingering to visit with friends.

The experience also provided valuable lessons for the future. For the next fundraiser—date yet to be set—the club plans to move the serving time up to 5 p.m. to better accommodate those stopping by on their way home from work.

“I think our last customer was just after 7 so we’ll modify our closing time too,” Becker said.

In addition to dinner sales, the club raised extra funds through private donations. By the end of the night, more than 125 tickets had been sold, with close to \$2,000 raised overall.

With a successful first fundraiser behind them, the Crosby Evening Lions Club continues to invite the community to join in its mission of service. The club meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall at Crosby Brethren Church, 5202 First Street. Meetings typically last about an hour—but, as this first fund-

raiser showed, the impact of those gatherings can extend far beyond the meeting room.

Going into their first fundraiser, hopes were high as the Crosby Evening Lions Club sought assistance from the community to fund their mission of helping children, particularly with eyeglasses, and exams. After all, just weeks earlier at the Children’s Christmas Festival sponsored by the chamber of commerce, the club had screened more than 125 children and more than a fourth of them needed a follow up with an optometrist.

While the advertised time for the fundraiser was 6 to 8 p.m., supporters began showing up just after 5 p.m. ready to purchase the spaghetti dinner and dessert.

“We were actually ready,” said President Deanna Becker, “and it wasn’t a big rush.”

Former high school teacher, Chef Vasso Espinosa, was perched in front of the stove with assistance from Lee Ann Lockwood, development director at Churches United In Caring, cranking out the pasta and sauce.

The Lions also received valuable help from the Leos Club at Crosby High School. Two different shifts of the students, about a half dozen each shift, helped man the plate assembly line. Students also helped carry out large orders, assisted with the cleanup, and much more.

Lion volunteers helped manage the dessert table full of sweet delicacies.

By 6 p.m. there was a crowd of supporters flooding the Parish Life Center at Crosby Brethren Church on Church Street making purchases. At one point, additional tables had to be



The LEOs came in two shifts to help the Lions Club members with the fundraiser. LEO students from left, Hector Gonzalez, Ayslin Alvarez, Arely Hernandez, Yeimy Tovar, Jehieli Rodriguez, and Amisadai Amador

brought out for the crowd who ate in-house.

For Robert Cruz, the Leo sponsor at the high school, it was a great outing for his club.

With the parking lot filling up, the student drivers moved Lions Club vehicles across the street to make room for more customers.

Lockwood manages many of the students who volunteer at the Churches United In Caring, particularly on the dates where they expect heavy traffic.

All through the night, the students were receiving coaching from Espinosa as they prepared the plates.

At their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday night, the entirety of the meeting was devoted to a debriefing on things that went well, and the things that deserved attention.

Many of the unsolicited comments from the public was they enjoyed the food and the fellowship, many of them staying to eat and visit with their friends.

“There wasn’t a lot of details we missed,” Becker said.

By the end of the night, their estimates on the food

was pretty close.

“We had only one pan of spaghetti left with some salad, and garlic knot rolls which we donated to the Crosby Volunteer Fire Department,” she said.

One of the items they changed for the next fundraiser, the date hasn’t been set yet, was to move up the serving time from 6 p.m. to 5 p.m. to accommodate more of those on their way home from work.

“I think our last customer was just after 7 so we’ll modify our closing time too,” Becker said.

The club also raised additional money with private donations.

Becker said. “At last count, they had sold over 125 tickets and raised close to \$2,000.

To join the Lions in their mission to serve, the public is invited to attend their meetings on the second and fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall at the Crosby Brethren Church, on 5202 First Street. Meetings typically last approximately one hour.

The newly formed Crosby Evening Lions Club will host

its first-ever fundraiser on Thursday, March 19, inviting the community to support the club’s mission of service while enjoying a spaghetti dinner.

The fundraiser will be held at the Crosby Brethren Church gymnasium, 5202 First Street, from 6 to 8 p.m. and will feature a spaghetti meal with salad, dessert, and a drink. Tickets are \$15 per person, with options to dine in or take meals to go.

“This is our very first fundraiser for the newly formed Crosby Evening Lions Club,” said Deanna Becker, president of the club. “We started in September, and we’re really looking forward to getting the community involved and letting people know what we’re all about.”

Proceeds from the fundraiser will support a variety of community service projects, with a strong focus on vision care. According to Becker, funds raised will help the club donate to local organizations and expand its ability to provide eye screenings for children in the area.

“The money will be used for projects that we can help and donate to, like Churches United In Caring our local food bank,” Becker said. “One of our main goals is testing children’s eyes and helping provide doctor visits and glasses when they’re needed.”

Becker said the club is also working toward raising funds to purchase its own vision screening equipment, a major step in expanding its outreach.

The equipment costs in the vicinity of \$6,000 and donations to assist in the purchase would be appreciated and go a long way in screen-

ing the community for eye issues.

Although the Crosby Evening Lions Club is new, Becker said members have already been active in the community. The club has participated in the Children’s Christmas Festival where they screened more than 100 children for vision issues. They also helped with the Clothe-A-Child program shopping for Christmas for the needy, and so far, have donated hundreds of used eyeglasses for refurbishing. The prescription or reader glasses are sent to the Lions Recycling Center in Conroe, Texas where they will be repaired, sterilized, and repackaged for redistribution.

Becker added that the club is also seeking new members and encourages residents interested in service to attend the fundraiser and learn more.

“We’re excited about what we’ve already been able to do, and this fundraiser will help us do even more,” she said.

The Lions will have a booth at the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce Business Expo next Thursday at lunchtime. The Expo will feature area businesses and visitors can lunch with chamber members at the most popular restaurant in town, Crawfish Shack on FM 2100 near the bridge.

If you have glasses to be donated, drop them off at the Crosby Brethren Church, Churches United In Caring, Sterling-White Funeral Home and Cemetery, Community Resource Credit Union, Stellar Bank, Turner Chevrolet, and the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce.

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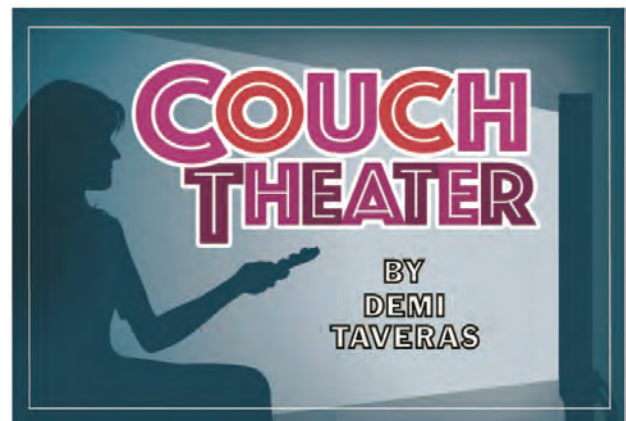
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Margot Robbie, left and Jacob Elordi star in 'Wuthering Heights.'

Wuthering Heights

Avatar: Fire and Ash (PG-13) — After an incredible run at the box office that earned 20th Century Studios \$1.487 billion, the third 'Avatar' installment is out now to rent on video on demand.

Pandora is still as immersive and vibrant as ever! (YouTube) 'The Bride!' (R) — Director Maggie Gyllenhaal ('The Lost Daughter') and Oscar winner Jessie Buckley ('Hamnet') teamed up for this Gothic romance film about the Bride of Frankenstein.

tant, Myrna (Penelope Cruz), hot on their tails! Available on April 7 to rent. (Amazon Prime Video) 'Wuthering Heights' (R) — This week brings us a ton of new movies that were awaiting their video-on-demand release dates!

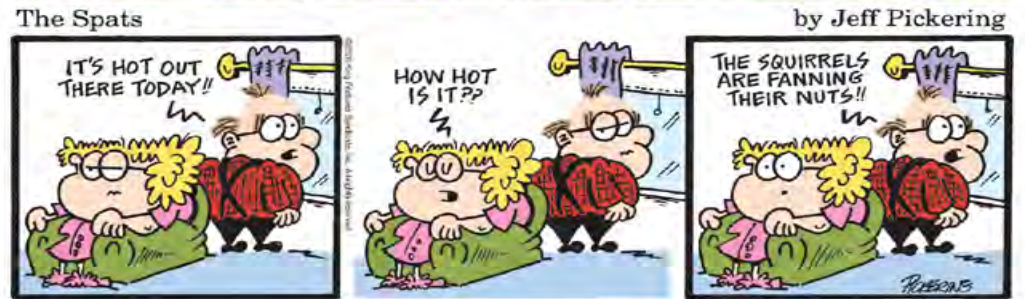
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ENTERTAINMENT

April 6, 2026 Posting Date

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU grid and difficulty level: Moderate, Challenging, HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS comic strip by Henry Boltinoff. Find at least six differences in details between panels.

King Crossword puzzle grid and clues. ACROSS: 1 - Ark, 6 Con games, 11 French novelist, 12 Heckler's weapon, 14 'Delta Wedding' author Welty, 15 Defeated in a footrace, 16 Govt. stipend, 17 Roly-poly, 19 Roast VIPs, 20 Golf pegs, 22 Docs' org., 23 Lap dog, for short, 24 Former First Daughter, 26 Most sore, 28 401(k) alternative, 30 Med. plan, 31 Popeye's veggie, 35 Muslim legal expert, 39 Centers, 40 Possesses, 42 Uttered, 43 Before, 44 'Graceland' singer Paul, 46 The Browns, on scoreboards, 47 Chew out, 49 Tex-Mex treat, 51 'I, Robot' author, 52 Leg joints, 53 Hosiery shade, 54 Repaired shoes, 8 Invoice fig., 9 'Little Women' matriarch, 10 Pancake toppers, 11 Defeats, 13 Start, 18 Hollywood's Thurman, 21 Tibia settings, 23 Reverent, 25 Altar in the sky, 27 'Let me think ...', 29 Reach, 31 Biblical realm, 32 Least spoiled, 33 Portugal's place, 34 Sandwich meat, 36 Glib, 37 Inclined, 38 Concepts, 41 Remote locations?, 44 Halt, 45 iPod model, 48 Asia's - Darya river, 50 Keypad trio.

Trivia Test by Fifi Rodriguez. 1. GEOGRAPHY: The famous Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, are believed to have been in what modern-day country? 2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the name of the six-point blue star on emergency medical vehicles? 3. MOVIES: What is the nickname of the 'vicious' dog in 'The Sandlot'? 4. HISTORY: What was the name of the United States' first space shuttle? 5. LITERATURE: In what language was 'The Odyssey' originally written? 6. TELEVISION: Where is the 1990s sitcom 'Northern Exposure' set? 7. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of kangaroos called? 8. SCIENCE: What is the process called when a lizard loses and regenerates a tail? 9. U.S. STATES: Which state borders two oceans? 10. MUSIC: What was Taylor Swift's first song to make Billboard's Hot 100?



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