



Crosby Fair & Rodeo Marks 80 Years of Tradition

Event Runs May 29 Through June 6

By Gerardo Hernandez,

CROSBY TX— For 80 years, families and rodeo fans have gathered in Crosby to celebrate a tradition rooted in Texas heritage, agriculture and hometown pride, and organizers say the 2026 Crosby Fair & Rodeo could be one of the most memorable events in decades.

The annual celebration returns this week with a packed schedule featuring rodeo competition, carnival rides, a barbecue cook-off, youth livestock events and several nights of live music aimed at bringing together longtime fairgoers and a new generation of fans.

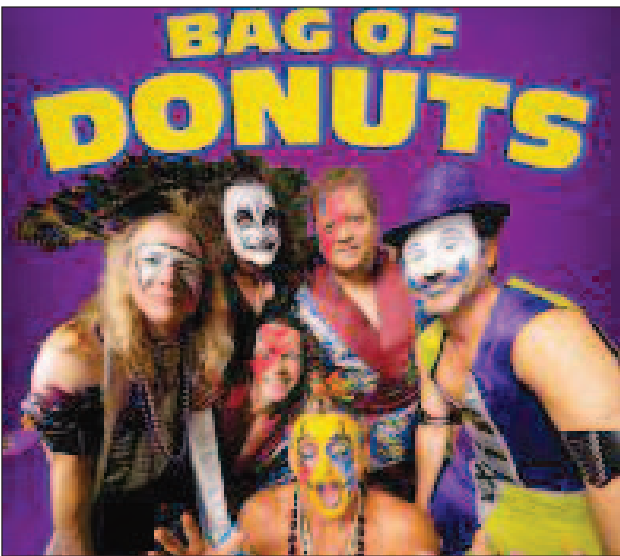
Among the headliners announced for this year's fair is rising country music

artist John Foster, who will perform June 6 alongside opening act The Droptines. Foster, the runner-up from Season 23 of "American Idol," has gained national attention for his traditional country sound.

Organizers described the June 6 concert as the type of high-energy entertainment the Crosby Fair & Rodeo has become known for over the years.

Texas country fans will also see Southeast Texas duo Bottomland perform June 5, bringing a blend of southern rock and country roots music shaped by years of performing in Texas honky-tonks.

Earlier in the fair week, legendary Red Dirt band The Great Divide will take the stage May 30 alongside



Crosby Fair & Rodeo opens this Friday, May 29 with the start of the Cookoff and the BAG OF DONUTS entertainment.

rising country artist Hayden Haddock in what organizers are calling one of the fair's biggest concert

group Bag of Donuts, known for its elaborate costumes, crowd interaction and "Superpop" performance style covering hits from multiple decades promising a guaranteed night of emotions and fun as they usually performs in Crosby.

The 2026 Crosby Fair & Rodeo schedule includes:

- BBQ Cook-Off** — May 29-30
- Youth Fair** — June 1-3
- Live Auction** — June 4
- Rodeo Performances** — June 5-6

Organizers recently launched sales for the fair's 80th anniversary membership package, which includes admission throughout fair week, a commemorative anniversary shirt and a membership badge that you can buy at

Crosby rodeo website. www.crosbyrodeo.com

Proceeds from memberships and events help fund scholarships and support agriculture and youth education programs in the Crosby area.

The rodeo organization said the event continues a tradition dating back to 1946 and remains focused on supporting local students and the community through livestock and educational opportunities.

Additional information and updates are available through the Crosby Fair & Rodeo official website and the rodeo's Facebook page.

Continued. See CROSBY RODEO OPENS MAY 29, Page 6

IN THE STARS

Crosby Fair & Rodeo 80th Annual Parade

Date & Time: Saturday, May 30, 2026, at 10:00 AM
Theme: "Floatin' Into Fair Week"

Location & Route:
The parade will begin at the old high school parking lot (Cougar Stadium). The route proceeds North on F.M. 2100, North on 1st Street, West on Wahl, South on F.M. 2100, and finishes at the Crosby Middle School.

Schedule:

- 9:00 AM: Line-up begins at the starting location.
- 10:00 AM: Parade start.

Participation:
Friends, families, representatives, and community organizations are invited to enter a float or vehicle to kick off the livestock show and rodeo.

Award Categories:

- Best in Show: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place
- Best Float: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place

Crosby Woman Charged in Shooting Death of 21-year-old Maysie Murphy

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

A 21-year-old woman was found shot to death inside a home in the Crosby area Monday afternoon, and a 55-year-old woman has now been charged with murder in the case, according to authorities. The victim was identified as Maysie Murphy, and court records in the active document show Courtney Smith is accused of causing Murphy's death by shooting her with a firearm. Smith was later charged with first-degree murder, given a \$1 million bond and ordered to undergo a psychiatric exam.

Investigators say deputies were dispatched around 3:48 p.m. to a home



Fifty-five year old Courtney Smith has been charged with murder in the first degree and currently sits in jail for the alleged shooting of Maysie Murphy. She is being held with a \$1 million bond.

in the 17800 block of Ad-long Johnson Road after a woman requested to meet with law enforcement. When deputies arrived, Major Ben Katrib of the Harris County Sheriff's Office said the woman told

them she had killed her granddaughter and her boyfriend. Deputies then entered the home and found Murphy dead with apparent gunshot wounds.

"At this point, we don't have any indication that a boyfriend even exists, but we're still actively pursuing all information just to make sure," Katrib said.

Authorities said Murphy was not biologically related to Smith, despite the suspect's initial claim. Katrib said Murphy was "like a granddaughter to the couple who live here, but not by blood," describing the young woman's connection to the homeowners, who were out of town at the time of the shooting. Investigators believe both Smith and Mur-

phy had been staying at the home.

Deputies had also responded to the same address earlier in the day after Smith reportedly said she was "seeing demons," but investigators said there was not enough information at that time to justify an emergency detention order. As the investigation continued, Murphy's family remembered her as a bright and loving young woman. "Maysie was such a blessing to be around," her mother said in a statement reported by ABC13. Her father added that "the world is definitely a darker place without her."

At one time, Murphy worked at Straight Off The Road restaurant on FM 2100 and left a lasting im-

pression on the staff and customers.

"She started here in 2021 and worked for about three or four years," said Sheryl Mittag, co-owner of the restaurant.

She and her best friend, Makenna Mansfield, began working at the restaurant at the same time.

"She and I were best friends since fifth grade," Mansfield said, shocked over the loss of Murphy.

"I was with her on Thursday. We went to the beach together and we were supposed to go again today," she said on Tuesday.

She found out about

Continued. See TRAGIC LOSS: BELOVED YOUNG WOMAN, Page 5

Ramsey Warns Chamber Region Growth Demands Urgent Action

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Harris County Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey delivered a warning and a challenge to members of the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce, saying East Harris County is on the verge of major growth that will require urgent attention to roads, drainage and water infrastructure.

Speaking to chamber members, Ramsey said the area's economic importance continues to expand along with development pressure, but public investment has not kept pace.

"Harris County is a center of economic activity in the state of Texas," Ramsey said, pointing to the Port of Houston and the east side's industrial base as key drivers. But he cautioned that mobility issues are already



becoming serious, especially with rapid residential development expected east of Lake Houston.

"In the next 10 years, there'll be 18,000 homes built," he said. "We're not ready."

Ramsey said one of the most urgent long-term concerns is water supply and the threat of subsidence, which occurs when too much groundwater is

Continued. See PRECINCT 3 COMMISSIONER URGES, Page 5

San Jacinto Community Center Group Tours KPRC Studios



By Gerardo Hernandez,

HOUSTON - Senior Members of the San Jacinto Community Center recently toured the studios of KPRC 2 in Houston, getting a behind-the-scenes look at local television broadcasting and newsroom operations.

Participants explored the station's production areas, learned about how newscasts are produced, and had the opportunity to see where Channel 2's reporters and anchors deliver daily news coverage.

Community center organizers said the trip quickly became a favorite among attendees, offering both an educational and entertaining experience for the group.

Be sure to grab your San Jacinto Community Center calendar of events and get signed up for all the fun and exciting trips ahead —you won't want to miss out!

(Source Tonya Kostka facebook page)

2026 Cowpoke Pageant Celebrates Crosby's Cutest Contestants

By Gerardo Hernandez,

CROSBY TX - Western charm, big smiles and plenty of rodeo spirit filled the arena as families gathered for the 2026 Little Cowpoke Pageant during the annual Crosby Fair & Rodeo festivities.

Organizers congratulated this year's Cowpoke Pageant winners after an event they described as "nothing short of adorable," with contestants showcasing their personalities, western wear and confidence before a supportive hometown crowd.

The pageant featured some of the "cutest little cowpokes around Crosby," as young participants took the stage in boots, hats and rodeo-inspired outfits that reflected the community's deep agricultural and western heritage.

Among the All American Cowgirls division winners, Syra Deaquino earned first place in the 0-2 age group, followed by Capri Porzillo and Noa Paul. In the 3-5 division, Tatum Perry claimed first place, while Mae Lynn Driggers and Daisy Morgan placed second and third. Charlotte Sherrow won the 6-8 division, with Layken Greer finishing second. Audrey Nethercutt earned first place in the 9-12 division, followed by Ava Leal in second.

In the All American



Photo credit The Crosby Fair & Rodeo Facebook page

Cowboys division, Colt Camarillo won the 0-2 category, followed by Wells Kittley and Ellis Kittley. Moses Paul earned first place in the 3-5 category, while Cody Connell won the 6-8 division.

The Rodeo Clowns Girls division crowned Braxtynn Wright as the 0-2 winner, with Eva Driggers and Kolby Larkin placing second and third. Mae Lynn Driggers also earned first place honors in the 3-5 category.

In the Rodeo Clowns Boy division, Stetson Wayne captured first place in the 0-2 age group.

Families, friends and fairgoers cheered on contestants throughout the competition, helping create a festive atmosphere that has become a long-time tradition of the fair and rodeo celebration.

Event organizers also praised every child who participated, noting that each contestant helped make the event special through their enthusiasm and western spirit.

The Little Cowpoke Pageant remains one of the more family-oriented highlights of the annual Crosby Fair & Rodeo, bringing together community members to celebrate youth involvement and local tradition. Photo Source (Crosby Fair & Rodeo facebook page)

LITTLE WRANGLER RODEO

AGES 0-8
FREE EVENT!

REGISTRATION
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EVENTS
BEGIN AT 10:00 AM

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2026

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GCCISD Honors Daniels Meat Market as CTE Partner of the Month



By Kami Johnston

Goose Creek CISD (GCCISD) has officially named Daniels Meat Market as the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Partner of the Month for April. While many know the market as a local staple for quality service, the business has evolved into a vital pillar of the school community.

Daniels Meat Market currently serves on the Culinary Advisory Board and hosts teacher job shadows to ensure educators remain current on industry standards. Their commitment to students goes beyond employment; the team provides hands-on coaching for contest preparation and conducts mock interviews to sharpen stu-

dents' professional skills.

Recent expansions in the partnership have allowed the district's meats program to purchase products directly from the market after Daniels became an official vendor. This collaboration extends to the FFA, where the market supports the Ford Leadership program focused on agricultural literacy and provides steadfast backing for students at the Baytown Youth Fair.

The market's generosity also extends to the district's faculty. During CTE Month, Daniels helped celebrate all the district's CTE teachers with a thoughtful gift and continued that momentum by hosting lunches during Teacher Appreciation Week. Local students have

also benefited from the expertise of the market's owner, Mr. Jack Adcox, who served as a distinguished judge of the district's Battle of the Bridge Culinary Challenge.

The Daniels team consistently remains available for support and is ready to help. This unwavering commitment to students and staff has cemented their role as a dedicated champion for the future of the district's CTE programs.

To learn more about how local businesses can partner with the Goose Creek CISD Career and Technical Education Department, visit their website, <https://schools.gccisd.net/page/cte>.

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THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Chambers County GOP Meeting Will be Held on June 18th

Save the Date!

The Chambers County GOP Organizational Meeting will be held on June 18th.

During this meeting, we will:

- Swear in the County Chairman and Precinct Chairs
- Elect officers
- Fill committees
- Review by-laws
- Conduct other official business of the party

We currently have three precinct vacancies to fill — Precincts 6, 8, and 19.

Please see the map below for locations.

We look forward to seeing everyone there and continuing to build a strong Republican team across Chambers County!

Mont Belvieu PD Stay Aware, Stay Safe

Always wear a helmet when using your eBike or eScooter. And if you're a motorist, keep a sharp-eye out for wayward scooters and eBikers. A few simple safety choices can prevent tragedy and help everyone get home safely.

MB Traffic Signal Update - Effective Immediately

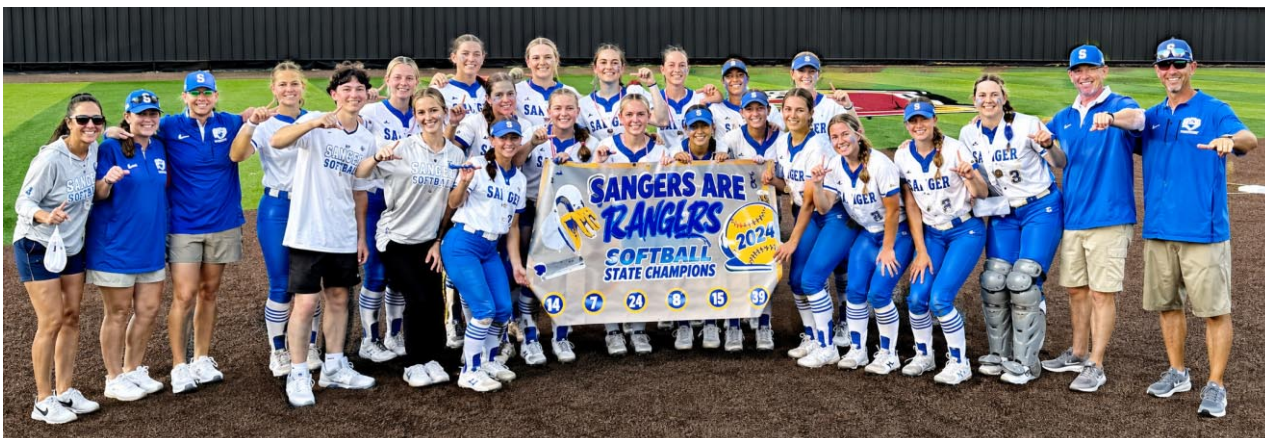
At the intersection of Eagle Drive & Perry Avenue, the flashing yellow arrow for left turns has been removed. This update is designed to improve safety and keep traffic flowing more smoothly through the intersection.

This change is ONLY at this intersection, all other signals and traffic patterns remain the same.

Barbers Hill Softball Team Soar to State Championship Game with Dominant Wins

MONT BELVIEU - The Barbers Hill High School softball team has secured a spot in the UIL Class 5A Division 1 State Championship game following an impressive 11-1 victory over Leander in just five innings on Thursday. This win completes a two-game sweep for the Eagles, who had previously triumphed 8-1 over Leander on Wednesday, boosting their season record to 40-5.

The Eagles are set to face Aledo, with a record of 31-10, in the state championship game scheduled for 4 p.m. on Friday, May 29, at Red & Charline Mc-



Combs Field in Austin. This matchup is a return to familiar territory for Barbers Hill, who defeated Aledo in 2021 to claim

their first-ever state softball championship.

Aledo earned their place in the final by narrowly defeating the defending

back-to-back state champion Melissa with a 5-4 victory in a decisive state semifinal game on Wednesday. The stage is

set for an exciting championship showdown as Barbers Hill aims to add another title to their storied history.

Dayton ISD Honors Top Graduates

DAYTON — Dayton ISD recognized its May Bronco PRIDE honorees along with the district's top graduating students during a recent celebration highlighting academic achievement and staff excellence.

Teachers and district employees were honored for demonstrating the values of Perseverance, Respect, Innovation, Determination and Excellence through their work and service to students across the district.

The district also celebrated the Class of 2026 Top 10 graduates for their academic accomplishments and leadership throughout their high school careers.

Bertha Cisneros was named valedictorian, while Jimmy Rivera earned the title of salutatorian.

Other students recognized among the Top 10



percent graduates were Addison Booker, Maci Belt, Jackson "Keegan" Lovell, Christina Iturralde, Rogelio Aguilar, Hector Gonzalez, Nallely Silva and Jocelyn Rentaria.

District officials congratulated the students and staff members for their dedication, leadership and commitment to excellence, saying their achievements continue to make Dayton ISD proud.

Mont Belvieu Chamber, Barbers Hill ISD Host It's Annual Career Day for Students

By Gerardo Hernandez,

MONT BELVIEU — The Mont Belvieu Area Chamber of Commerce partnered once again with Barbers Hill Independent School District to host its annual Career Day event for Barbers Hill High School ninth- and 10th-grade students.

The event brought together local businesses, government agencies and community organizations to introduce students to career pathways and workforce opportunities available throughout the region.

Representatives from Lee College, the City of Mont Belvieu and Chambers County joined 23 area businesses and community partners in hosting informational booths for students.

Participants shared information about educational programs, job opportunities and future career options in industries ranging from public

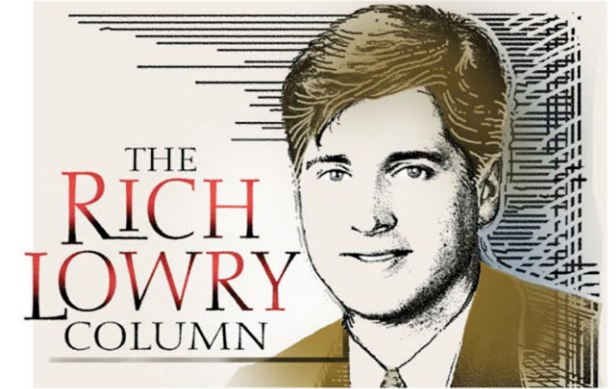


service and higher education to skilled trades and local business operations.

Organizers said the event is designed to help students begin exploring career interests while connecting them with employers and organizations investing in the future workforce of the area.

Several students also received \$500 gift cards through giveaways made possible by Mont Belvieu Chamber members, providing an added surprise as students prepare for summer break.

Chamber officials said the annual Career Day highlights the importance of collaboration between local businesses, schools and community partners in supporting the next generation and helping create a stronger future for the community. Source (The Mont Belvieu Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook page)



Our Screen Culture Increasingly Can't Read

We've been having a debate about "book bans" in recent years, but given the steep decline in student literacy, the deeper question is how anyone would notice whether a book is available in a school library or not. The New York Times published an eye-opening report on a study by the Educational Opportunity Project at Stanford documenting steep declines in student test scores, especially in reading.

Over the past 10 years, reading scores have declined in 83% of school districts. What looked like a COVID-19-driven catastrophe is, instead, part of a long-running trend. Reading scores were falling at a similar clip prior to the pandemic, in 2017-2019, and continued to fall into 2024. In a third of school districts, kids are reading a full grade level below where they were in 2015. This follows what had been a steady increase in test scores from 1990 to the 2010s.

The ability to read is foundational to a child's development. It enhances verbal fluency, memory, concentration and executive function. It is associated with academic success and sundry advantages throughout life. That our schools are falling down so badly on such an elemental matter is nothing less than a civilizational failure.

Our children aren't learning to read, in part, because we've forgotten how to teach them. We decided to jettison a common-sensical, tried-and-true method of reading instruction — phonics — for faddish theories that haven't worked. It is notable that states showing improvement between 2022-2025 embraced phonics, which now goes under the rubric "the science of reading."

It also can't be a coincidence that these harrowing trends are playing out against the backdrop of ubiquitous screens in schools. Schools are starting to ban mobile phones, but the screen that they take away with one hand, they give with the other. According to a New York Times survey, 80% of teachers say that students at their schools have a device assigned to them; it was only a third in 2019. More than 80% said that kids get devices ... by kindergarten.

It would have been comparable recklessness if schools had decided at the outset of the television age that every schoolchild needed a personal TV. Parents struggle to get their kids off devices at home, and then send them to school, where they read "To Kill a Mockingbird" on an iPad.

Now, books haven't disappeared from classrooms, but they aren't nearly as prevalent as they should be. A new study by the Rand Corporation found that most English teachers assigned at least one full book during the school year, although 9% didn't assign any, and roughly two-thirds assigned between only one to four.

Engaging with a whole book in print is so important because not all reading is equal. One analysis found that "digital reading does improve comprehension skills, but the beneficial effect is between six and seven times smaller than that of print reading." So, too, reading a book is better than reading a series of extended passages; it requires more attention and greater immersion.

As education expert Robert Pondiscio of the American Enterprise Institute points out, it's a mistake to think of reading as solely a technical skill, since reading comprehension also depends on what the great educational theorist E.D. Hirsch called "cultural literacy," the basic facts about history, civics, art and the like that form our common knowledge. To our great detriment, schools have downgraded this, too.

The worst-case scenario is that we have become a screen culture that is only capable of producing screen kids. A report last year in the journal iScience found that reading for pleasure steadily declined from 2003 to 2023. On top of evidence that reading also fell from the 1940s to 2003, this makes for an 80-year decline.

The poet and essayist Joseph Brodsky said, "There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them." And not being capable of reading them is even worse than that.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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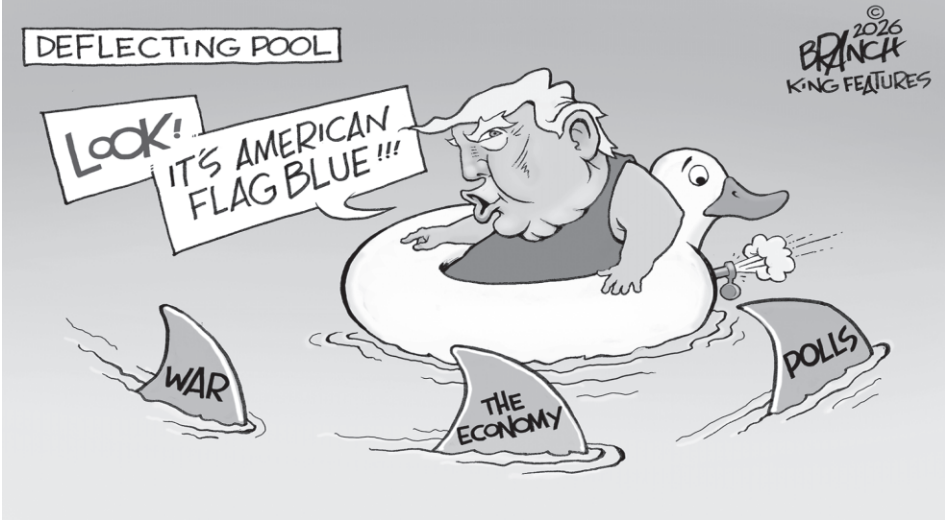
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Americanisms



"Learning how to be still, to really be still and let life happen — that stillness becomes a radiance."
— Morgan Freeman

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



State's Wind Projects at a Standstill

Dozens of Texas wind projects have been halted because the Department of Defense has not approved the federal permits required for them to move forward, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

Data from the American Clean Power Association indicate that the state has 54 wind projects stalled as part of a nationwide delay affecting 165 onshore wind projects.

President Donald Trump has long opposed wind power. Energy experts such as Environment Texas Executive Director Luke Metzger say the administration is using the regulations, such as ensuring a wind project would not affect military airspace, as an attack on renewable power.

"It's hard to see this as anything other than an effort to slow or stop wind power regardless of the consequences for consumers, the environment and grid reliability," Metzger said.

In a statement, a defense department official said DOD is still evaluating the projects.

The department's evaluation of wind turbines "is inherently complex and time-consuming because it involves balancing two critical, and sometimes competing, interests: developing energy sources while ensuring military operations and readiness are not degraded or impaired to the extent an unacceptable risk to national security is created," the official said.

R&D PLAYS VITAL ROLE IN STATE'S ECONOMY

Texas is one of the top five states contributing to research and development, according to a recent report from the state comptroller's office.

The federal Bureau of Economic Analysis estimates R&D's contribution to gross domestic product, "after accounting for the resources used to produce goods and services, employment and compensation from 2012 to 2023."

The R&D value added by Texas businesses reached \$29.2 billion in 2023, a 131% increase from 2012. Further, R&D in the state supplied nearly 195,000 jobs and \$30.1 billion in wages, salaries and benefits in 2023.

Texas has 15 Tier 1 colleges and universities, the most



acquisition, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department reported.

"I am excited about this acquisition," said Superintendent Cesar Mendez, "which extends the buffer zone all the way to Martin Luther King Boulevard, adding some lower elevation and flatter land to Franklin Mountains State Park and securing access points (trailheads)."

With 28,000 acres — or 43 square miles — the park is one of the largest urban wilderness parks in the world. It has more than 120 miles of trail and is a popular site with birders.

The acquisition helps safeguard the main mountain area of desert bighorn sheep habitat.

FEDERAL AID FOR PANHANDLE WILDFIRE VICTIMS

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has approved a request for grant funds to assist victims of the Hunggate Fire in Randall County, which has merged with the Chocolate Chip Fire, burning an estimated 14,000 acres and threatening more than 1,245 homes. Aid has also been granted for the Sinky Fire in Potter County, which has burned more than 2,500 acres and prompted evacuation of more than 500 acres.

"Texas has secured federal resources to further guard against wildfire threats in the Panhandle," said Gov. Greg Abbott. "With this grant approval, Texas has additional tools to help Texans remain safe from wildfire danger."

The approval of a Fire Management Assistance Grant makes the state eligible for 75% reimbursement from the federal government for eligible costs associated with wildfire suppression. These grants are available to states, counties and cities to support the mitigation, management, and control of fires that threaten to become major disasters.

BROKER IMPOSTER SCAMS BEING REPORTED

Several attempted broker-imposter scams over the past few months have prompted the Texas Department of Banking to warn that such ruses could pose a significant threat to financial institutions and consumers.

According to a TDB news release, "consumers are targeted after conducting searches for high-rate investment opportunities. Individuals contacted by the fraudsters are often not existing bank customers and are located across the United States."

Some red flags to look for are cold calls, an incorrect or bogus email address, low-risk/high-reward offers, and unusual funding procedures.

Anyone who is targeted by a broker imposter is encouraged to contact the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority at finra.org.

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

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

On The Balcony



I woke yesterday morning, and my cat, Felix, was nowhere to be found.

"Felix! Where are you?"

In the morning, I put milk in my coffee and a little milk in a tiny bowl for Felix, and I put both my coffee and his milk in the microwave just long enough for his milk to be warm. (My mother says Felix is spoiled. What does she know?)

But Felix was not around for his milk. Finally, I found him hiding under a living room chair. I poked him, "Hey, Felix!"

He let out a little "Meep!" that meant, "Don't bug me!" He was staring straight out from under the chair toward the sliding balcony door. It had been a nice night, and we had left the door half open with the screen door closed. This is not any kind of security issue, since we live on the 10th floor of our building downtown.

I looked in the direction Felix was staring.

There, sitting more or less on top of a potted plant on the balcony railing, was a Canadian goose.

"Oh my gosh!"

"Meep!"

I went to fetch my husband, Peter. "Peter! You would not believe what is on the balcony." Then, because I knew he really would not believe what was on the balcony, I told him to come and see for himself. The goose was much too large to sit either on the railing or in the pot hanging from it, but she had somehow tipped over the pot and was straddling it and the pot next to it. She looked perfectly comfortable. She looked like she might lay an egg.

"Oh my gosh!" Peter said.

And with that, the goose decided her tranquil resting spot was getting a little too crowded, and she took off. Her great wings lifted her up from my toppled plant, and she flew away. Felix arched his back and watched in amazement. We heard her call as she flew off, and Felix scampered over to the screen door to see if she was truly gone—or perhaps to see if there were more geese coming to take her place.

I have no idea how a goose landed on our balcony, 10 stories in the air. Landing on a narrow railing—even with a potted plant as a landing pad—demonstrates a kind of agility I honestly didn't think geese were capable of.

The last couple of days, I've felt a little unsettled. I feel as if I'm going through a lot of changes very quickly and I haven't had enough time to absorb them all. I feel as if my feet are not quite on the ground. I feel considerably less at ease than that goose, balanced on a railing 10 stories in the air. It's disorienting, and it sometimes makes me a little crabby.

Changes are almost never what I expect them to be. I have an idea of how things will be and, whatever that looks like in my head, it's different in real life. Even if the change is a good one, it's not as easy as I imagined it would be, and it's certainly not as comfortable.

But I know that I would not want a life that never changed and—even if I wanted it—change will come, regardless. My only choice is how I greet change and how much grace I bring to the situation.

This morning, I'm learning from Felix. He's no longer hiding under the chair. He's keeping an eye on the balcony door. Anything could happen on the balcony.

Till next time,
Carrie

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

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NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

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Tragic loss: beloved young woman murdered in Crosby home, suspect held on \$1 million bond,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Murphy's murder from her mom.

"She had texted me around 7 and asked if I had talked to her that day and I told her no," Mansfield said. Concerned about her friend, she texted her immediately to see what she was doing and got no response.

Around 8:30 that night, Maysie's mom texted Mansfield to let her know she was no longer with them anymore.

"I called her mom and she told me what happened and that the lady who killed her was in custody," she said.

Murphy's grandparents were out of town on a cruise when the murder occurred in their home. Mansfield said she didn't know Smith well, but said the grandparents met Smith on TikTok and somehow, she ended up moving into their house about a year-and-a-half ago.

"She was the best employee ever," Mittag said. "She was so full of life, dancing all the time, always happy, smiling, outgoing personality."

Mittag said she was always well-kept, beautiful, took care of herself, and looked great when she came in for work.

"She would do anything for anybody," the owner



Maysie Murphy lost her life last Monday in a senseless shooting in Crosby. Family and friends say she was so full of life and loved by everyone she came in contact with each day.

said.

Following graduation, she moved on to work at Cactus Jack's, but never forgot Mittag and her friends at SOTR.

"She would come by and visit. Last Saturday, the day before she died, I was short employees and needed someone to run food. Even though she worked a shift at Cactus Jack's, she still came in after she got off and worked here Saturday night," Mittag said. "That's just the kind of person she was. She hugged me when she left that night and told me, 'If you ever need me again, I'll fill in for you.'"

It was the last words she had with Murphy.

"I just can't believe she's gone," Mittag said.

Smith has been charged with First Degree Murder and in the 177th State District Court was given a \$1 million bond. She has yet to post bond. She was ordered to undergo a psychiatric exam.

Precinct 3 Commissioner urges infrastructure focus as 18,000 homes planned,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

pumped from the ground. He said the region cannot rely solely on wells as thousands of new homes are added and must instead move toward surface water, even if it brings higher utility costs.

"We need surface water," Ramsey said. "What we need to do is get as many people as possible on surface water." He warned that ignoring the issue could lead to serious consequences, including sinking land and increased flooding, noting that subsidence has already caused major damage in other parts of Harris County, particularly Katy.

Ramsey also used his remarks to encourage civic participation, urging those in attendance not to overlook local elections or Memorial Day observances.

"Please don't forget to vote," he said. "I'm not even going to tell you how to vote. I'm going to tell you, go vote."

Joining Ramsey at the event was Precinct 3 Road and Bridge Director Jennifer Amanti, who provided an update on infrastructure projects across the area. Amanti said the county has spent roughly \$80 million on infrastructure east of Lake Houston, including work in Huffman, Crosby, Highlands, Barrett and Channelview.

She said one of the top priorities remains Crosby-Dayton Road, especially near the Ramsey Road intersection, where traffic and road conditions have become a major concern.

"That intersection at Ramsey is probably the worst," Amanti said. "It's definitely one of the worst intersections we have out here."

Amanti said the county

is currently working with an engineering firm to design improvements to Crosby-Dayton Road, with reconstruction expected in the next fiscal year. She said the project is especially complex because concrete lies beneath the asphalt, making repairs more expensive and difficult.

Other projects in the area include the completion of work on Holy Road, Reidland, and Foley Road. Plum Grove up north has been completed along with Shields, and Van Road.

"We know there's a lot of asphalt in Newport that needs to be reconstructed, so we've started design on that, really breaking Newport into packages, addressing the concrete and the asphalt. Also in Newport is Patio Woods, which I'm sure you all are familiar with. Patio Woods right now is a private area, so we don't maintain it, but we've actually gotten federal funding to go in there and redo Patio Woods. fix the drainage, fix the roadways, and then take it on for maintenance. So that's a big deal for that area," she said.

Amanti also said the county is beginning a pilot project in road maintenance.

"You might notice on Lindstrom, there's some areas that are missing. Well, it was missing the surface before, but now it's really missing the surface because we've cut out large sections and dug it out. We're the first in the county to try taking tires from the landfill. They're actually tires that come from Precinct 3. So our trucks that we use, our equipment, tires that get dumped on the side of the road, we're putting them in

as a base course, filling it with aggregate and then paving over it," she said.

Studies that have been done in other parts of the country have shown that could last, 20 to 30 years with those types of base repairs.

"We've done some test patches on Lindstrom right over here. We're going to see how those hold up. I know they still need to be paved, but we're working on that," she said.

She said they also have a project on Krennek from 90 to Bohemian Hall in design right now.

Ramsey also said with the new growth coming to the east side, a surface water plant will be necessary.

"I am working with the area MUD districts. We're gonna get it figured out. We've got a potential plan to get a surface water plant built near here and will provide surface water, but I'm just preparing you. What we need to do is get as many people as possible on surface water and that will affect your bill. But believe me, that's a lot better than your area sinking 5 feet and dealing with the flooding," he warned.

Throughout the address, Ramsey returned to the same central message: growth is coming whether the region is fully prepared or not, and local leaders must act now to keep infrastructure from falling even further behind.

For business and civic leaders in the Crosby-Huffman area, the speech served as both an update and a call to action — one that framed road capacity, water planning and regional coordination as essential to the community's future.

Texas Leads in Immigration Detention as Crossings plummet

By Gary Borders,

Texas continues to lead the country in the number of people held in detention centers, even as unauthorized border crossings plunge, the Houston Chronicle reported.

As of early April, the daily average in Texas was nearly 18,000 people. That's more than twice the average number of immigrants held in Louisiana, the second highest, with about 8,100 per day.

Texas' high numbers are partly due to the state's numerous deten-



tion centers and a ruling from the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals that upheld the practice of hold-

ing immigrants until their removal proceedings conclude.

"The 5th Circuit is not immigrant-friendly, and it's easier to remove people who are detained in the Texas facilities," said Zenobia Lai, executive director of the Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative.

A spokesperson for the Department of Homeland Security said decisions on where detainees are held are made on a "case-by-case basis in accordance with U.S. law."

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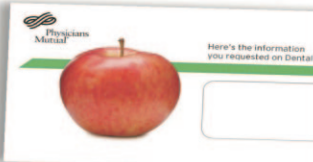


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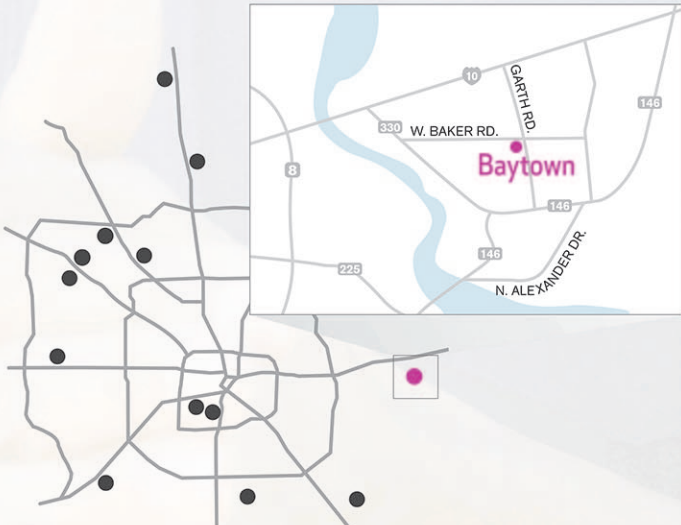
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