

# Ranch Record

*News for the Residents of Blackhorse Ranch*

January 2021 • Volume 15, Issue 01

## *Cultivating Community Resources*

*Read More on Page 3!*



*Dr. LaJoyce Lawton*

# RANCH RECORD

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Harris County Sheriff .....	713-221-6000
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Willowbrook Methodist .....	281-477-1000

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Cy Woods High School .....	281-213-1727
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Cypress Ranch High School .....	281-373-2300

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Harris County Tax .....	713-224-1919

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## Cy-Tom Democrats



January Speaker: Keir Murray, Perspective on the upcoming legislative Session

The Cypress-Tomball Democrats will hold its next virtual monthly meeting Tuesday, January 19, 2021. There is a meet and greet at 6:30 p.m. The general meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. To request the ZOOM access code, email [cytomdems@yahoo.com](mailto:cytomdems@yahoo.com).

The speaker will be Keir Murray. Keir is the founder and principal of KLM Public Affairs, LLC, a strategic consulting practice based in Houston. For over 20 years, Murray has worked extensively in the private, public and non-profit sectors, as well as the political arena.

Murray has provided strategic communication consulting, media and government relations, and public opinion, public policy and market research to a wide range of clients. He has also consulted on and managed numerous successful campaigns for public office including two Mayors of Houston, Harris County Sheriff's Office and members of Congress, Texas Legislature and State District Court Judges.

A native Houstonian, Murray holds degrees from the University of Texas-Austin and New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. Prior to his current work, Murray spent several years in the Communication Practice of William M. Mercer, Inc.



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## Cultivating Community Resources

By Jackie Devine

If you live in Cypress, you are sitting atop a gold mine of staggering proportions. As the old miners used to say, "There is gold in them thar hills!" The gold that I'm referring to is the ingenuity, talent, creativity, and entrepreneurial mindset permeating every street and neighborhood in our community. Even during these unprecedented times with such limited access to each other, I continue to pan for that gold to introduce you to people who have tapped their inner resources and combined knowledge, insight, inspiration, and vision to tackle the world's problems.

Dr. LaJoyce Lawton, Methodist minister, is my latest nugget. I discovered her while walking around the lake. Drawn to each other like a moth to the flame, I uncovered a gifted woman refusing to hide her light under a bushel basket. Instead, 24/7, she focuses on beaming her light and life out into the world. Her light reaches across the globe, and so far into the future, she deserves a full-blown story, which I'm going to share with you in the near future.

However, this article focuses on one of her immediate concerns, which is helping monetize ministries. She shared that graduates of her program freshly entering the field, church groups, mission agencies, evangelistically oriented ministries, and other related entities are frustrated because they don't have the funds to help as many people as they would like.

Not fully understanding what she was saying, I did my research and found that according to the Washington Post, "The coronavirus is pressing painfully on the soft underbelly of U.S. houses of worship: their finances. About a third of all congregations have no savings, according to the 2018-2019 National Congregations."

Further, posits LifeWay Research, "Many pastors may not know the extent to which the pandemic has altered their church for months or years to come, but some say it has already brought long-term changes.

"Some churches (8%) say they were forced to delete a ministry. Overall, 2% of pastors say they cut their outreach ministry, 2% got rid of their children's ministry, 2% stopped Sunday School or small groups, 1% ended student ministry, and 1% deleted other service times like Wednesday and Sunday nights."

Dr. Lawton created The Multitude Experience to focus on those issues. She explained, the most recurring comment she receives from her new graduates is, "A full-time Christian ministry is my dream. What can I do to finance my ministry?" Even from the start, money is a consideration.

"Let's face facts, monetizing a ministry has its benefits, especially when it comes to paying the pastor, growing a congregation, ministry outside the church walls, and keeping a church alive. Over time, I've developed an outstanding network of people and a battery of business models that can undergird cash-strapped ministries."

Before meeting Dr. Lawton, I experienced COVID's drain on our places of worship in our neighborhood. However, she has broadened my awareness, and I'm interested in finding out how churches can respond to this extraordinary situation where our health and economic issues are at stake.

Together, like everything else we do, as I said at the beginning of this

article, we can combine our resources, knowledge, insight, inspiration, and vision to tackle the world's problems and Dr. Lawton can help lead the way.

Find out more about The Multitude Experience at <https://www.themultitudeexperience.com>.

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# RANCH RECORD

## THE GREAT FISHERMAN

*By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center*

When one mentions raptors, there are a few species that people are very familiar with like owls, eagles and hawks. The osprey, however, isn't a familiar species to most people even though it is one of the most widespread raptors in the world. They are found on every continent except Antarctica.

Like all raptors, the osprey is a large bird with a hooked beak and sharp talons, both of which are used to catch their prey and tear it apart to eat.

About 99% of the osprey's diet is made up of fish so it only makes sense that they nest near water along the coasts and large lakes. Occasionally they can be seen along rivers. They build their nests at the tops of dead trees, buoys, chimneys, and even atop power poles. Like the bald eagle, they use the same nest year after year but can be seen making minor repairs each spring.

They are amazing to watch as they glide over water looking for a fish. Sometimes they plunge so forcefully into the water that they are totally submerged. After catching a fish, they arrange the fish so it faces upright with the head forward.

The osprey is a great fisherman, successfully catching a fish one out of 4 tries. They have a much higher success rate than it's relatives like the eagle. Sometimes eagles watch and when an osprey catches a fish, the eagle will attack the osprey causing it to drop the fish. Easy meal for the eagle! Benjamin Franklin said in 1784 that "bald eagles are too lazy to fish for himself.....and does not get his living honestly." True then, true today.

Ospreys generally mate for life but they will find a new partner should their partner die or disappear during spring migration.

If you'd like to watch an osprey nest, there are many online. The Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey has an osprey cam that you can watch here: <http://www.conservewildlifenj.org/education/ospreycam/>. In the New Jersey area, nest building begins in early April and eggs are laid from mid-April to early May. You can watch the eggs hatch and observe Mom and Dad caring for the babies. It's interesting and educational.

TWRC Wildlife Center is a 501(c)(3) organization located in the Spring Branch area of Houston. Since 1979, we have been committed to providing quality emergency care and rehabilitation for injured, ill, orphaned and displaced wildlife. We are proud to be making a difference for the wildlife in our area.

[www.twrcwildlifecenter.org](http://www.twrcwildlifecenter.org)



# RANCH RECORD

*Draw and Write about your goals for 2021!*



A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners, intended for drawing and writing about goals for 2021.

Five horizontal lines for writing.



# RANCH RECORD

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