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Star Courier

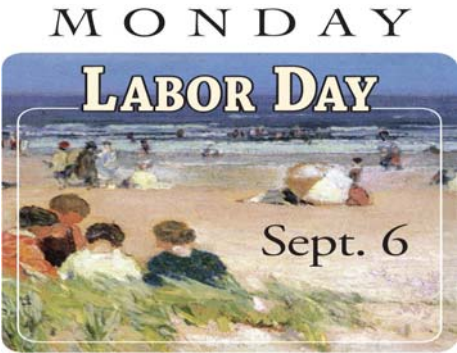
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VOL. 68, NO. 34 – 50¢

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2021

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562



Special Election For Constitutional Amendments

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott has issued a proclamation setting Tuesday, November 2, 2021 as the special election day for eight proposed constitutional amendments in Texas.

The eight proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot are:

PROPOSITION 1: The constitutional amendment authorizing the professional sports team charitable foundations of organizations sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association or the Women's Professional Rodeo Association to conduct charitable raffles at rodeo venues.

PROPOSITION 2: The constitutional amendment authorizing a county to finance the development or redevelopment of transportation or infrastructure in unproductive, underdeveloped, or blighted areas in the county.

PROPOSITION 3: The constitutional amendment to prohibit this state or a political subdivision of this state from prohibiting or limiting religious services of religious organizations.

PROPOSITION 4: The constitutional amendment changing the eligibility requirements for a justice of the supreme court, a judge of the court of criminal appeals, a justice of a court of appeals, and a district judge.

PROPOSITION 5: The constitutional amendment providing additional powers to the State Commission on Judicial Conduct with respect to candidates for judicial office.

PROPOSITION 6: The constitutional amendment establishing a right for residents of certain facilities to designate an essential caregiver for in-person visitation.

PROPOSITION 7: The constitutional amendment to allow the surviving spouse of a person who is disabled to receive a limitation on the school district ad valorem taxes on the spouse's residence homestead if the spouse is 55 years of age or older at the time of the person's death.

PROPOSITION 8: The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a member of the armed services of the United States who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.

Sterling White offers Free Dinner and Preplanning Seminar

Sterling-White Funeral Home will hold a Free Dinner and Educational Seminar at 7:00pm on Tuesday, September 14 at Teapot Depot in Highlands.

The Seminar will provide valuable information about final arrangement planning, financial consid-

erations, and more.

You will learn about funerals, cemetery and cremation planning, and gain the peace of mind by understanding all your options. Seating is limited, please call now.

See details on Page 3, or call 281-426-3555 for information and reservations.

Rotary sets 9/11 for Washer Tournament

Benefit event returns with Patriotic theme

HIGHLANDS – Rotarians are practicing their washer throwing techniques in preparation for the upcoming 14th Annual 3-Hole Washer Board Charity Tournament, to be held next Saturday, September 11th at Charlie's Ice House. Charlie's is at 906 N. Main Street in Highlands, and the tournament starts at 1:00 pm sharp, lasting until about 5:00 p.m.

This year the proceeds from the charity event will benefit Polio worldwide, in a Rotary program known as Polio Plus.

This event has become a city-wide tradition, with two person teams coming from various clubs around the Rotary 5890 District,



Highlands Rotarians invite you to the 14th Annual 3-Hole Washer Board Charity Tournament. In this photo they demonstrate throwing techniques that will be used in the tournament on Saturday, September 11th. 50 teams of two players will compete for prizes, and bragging rights. The Charity event this year will honor Patriot Day "We Will Never Forget 9.11", and benefit the Rotary Foundation.

as well as local Highlands folks, to compete for bragging rights and the three top positions in the double elimination tournament. Teams are also expected from North Shore and Baytown clubs. The public is invited to field a team, also. You are welcome to come and watch if you don't play, and there will be refreshments, and live and silent auctions.

It is expected that about 50 teams will compete in the tournament. Entry fee is \$50 per team.

To enter a team, please come to Charlie's prior to 12:30 on Saturday. For more info, contact Denise Smith at necy1616@gmail.com, or Patricia Scott at plscott1957@gmail.com.

Voter Regulations bill passes, Abbott ready to sign controversial legislation

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott today issued a statement following the passage of Senate Bill 1, which Republicans say will protect the integrity of elections in Texas:

"Protecting the integrity of our elections is critical in the state of Texas, which is why I made election integrity an emergency item during the 87th

Legislative Session. I thank Senator Brian Hughes, Representative Andrew Murr, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, and Speaker Dade Phelan for stepping up to ensure that this bill made it to the finish line during the second special session. Senate Bill 1 will solidify trust and confidence in the outcome of our elections by making

it easier to vote and harder to cheat. I look forward to signing Senate Bill 1 into law, ensuring election integrity in Texas."

Senate Bill 1 creates uniform statewide voting hours, maintains and expands voting access for registered voters that need assistance, prohibits drive-through voting, and enhances transparency by

authorizing poll watchers to observe more aspects of the election process. The bill also bans the distribution of unsolicited applications for mail-in ballots and gives voters with a defective mail-in ballot the opportunity to correct the defect.

See Page 2 for status of all bills in Special Session.

AVOID EVICTION

Rent Relief available from Harris County

Money available for Residents Facing Eviction

HOUSTON — (August 27, 2021) — The Harris County Community Services Department has funds available for emergency rent relief for tenants living in unincorporated Harris County who are financially affected by COVID-19. The deadline to apply for aid was just extended to Nov. 30.

"People who find themselves in a bind right now may never have needed help before and they don't know where to turn," said Dr. Adrienne Holloway,

executive director of CSD. "We want them to know we have resources and we are here to help."

Tenant eligibility for the Texas Emergency Rental Assistance Program relies on the ability to provide a copy of the lease agreement, a household income at or below 80% of area median income and proof that financial hardship is a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most importantly, this program requires landlords register their property to enable tenants to participate. Landlords may be able to recover up to six months of rent (dating back to April 2020).

The service area is unincorporated Harris County and allows for neighborhoods with coop-

erative agreements to participate, including Deer Park, Galena Park, Humble, Jacinto City, Katy, La Porte, Morgan's Point, Seabrook, Shoreacres, South Houston, Tomball and Webster. Residents within the cities of Houston, Baytown and Pasadena are not eligible for this program; however, funding may be available through other programs such as the Community Development Block Grant – Cares Act – COVID-19 – Emergency Assistance Program that is disaster-based and will assist with electric, gas and water utilities if residents are financially or medically affected by COVID-19.

CSD Resource Navigators are working with par-

ticipating landlords to canvass apartment complexes to reach eligible residents.

Since the program's inception in February, CSD has assisted 220 households using \$1.37 million (as of August 27) out of the \$2.6 million approved by the Commissioners Court at the end of January. The Texas Emergency Rental Assistance Program is made possible by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

Tenants and landlords are encouraged to contact a Resource Navigator to assist with eligibility at 832-927-4955 or hrc@csd.hctx.net. You also may visit: <https://bit.ly/CSD-covid-rental-assistance>.



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Highlands, TX 77562

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09/07-09/11

Desserts of Week- Chocolate 4 Layer & Bread Pudding \$3.95 each

Tuesday: King Ranch Chicken, Garden Salad, Garlic Bread & Sopapilla Cheesecake \$47.50 Family Meal!! \$10.95 Individual

Wednesday: Smothered Boneless Porkchops served over Rice, Skillet Corn, Rolls & Confetti Cake \$49.50 Family Meal & \$10.95 Individual

Thursday: Alice Springs Chicken, Loaded Baked Potato Soup, Green Beans, Rolls & Cupcakes \$48.50 Family Meal & \$10.95 Individual

Friday: Traditional Spaghetti, Garden Salad, Garlic Bread & Chocolate Chip Cookies \$45.00 Family Meal \$45.00 & \$10.95 Individual

Saturday: Come have lunch with us! Our dining room will be open & so is our Boutique!

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Family Meals Feed 6-8

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Water District

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Harris County MUD 50 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2021 on September 23, 2021 at 6:00 PM at 12900 Crosby-Lynchburg Barrett Station, TX 77532 or you may join via teleconference at 346-248-7799, meeting ID 923 7775 0835. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

For the proposal:

Martin Lemond

Alice Dangerfield

Elyard David

Andrew Sonnier

Against the proposal:

Present and not voting:

Absent:

Daryl Johnson

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.990000/\$100	\$0.940000/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$-
		0.050000
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		-5.05%
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$98,616	\$111,025
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled \$0 person's exemptions)		\$0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$98,616	\$111,025
Tax on average residence homestead	\$976.30	\$1,043.64
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted(+/-)		\$67.34
and percentage of increase (+/-)		6.90%

If the proposed combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate requires or authorizes an election to approve or reduce the tax rate the Board of Directors of Harris County MUD 50 proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of maintenance & improvements.

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

UPDATE ON BILLS MOVING THROUGH THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE DURING THE SPECIAL SESSION

Report by State Representative Mayes Middleton

The Texas House has been racing to pass all of the Governor's priority bills since re-establishing quorum last week. Here's where everything stands so far:

PASSED BY THE HOUSE AND SENATE:

SB 1: The Election Integrity Bill

SB 7: The "13th Check" for TRS Beneficiaries

SB 8: Immediate Homestead Exemption Upon Purchase of a Home

SB 12: Extends School Tax Rate Compression to Provide Over 65 Exemption

SB 13: Adjusts Election Filing Deadlines Ahead of Redistricting

MOVING IN THE LEGISLATURE:

SB 2: Protecting Girls' Sports

SB 3: Banning Critical Race Theory in Public Schools

SB 4: Regulation on Abortion-Inducing Drugs, Preventing Mail-Order Abortions, and Requiring Reporting for Injuries from Drug-Induced Abortions

SB 6: Stopping No-Cash Bail for Certain Crimes

SB 14: Prohibition on Local Governments Imposing Onerous Employment Policies on Employers

HB 20: Protecting Texans from Social Media Censorship

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.0300 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.0300 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.0297 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.0308 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2021 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 from the same properties in both the 2020 tax year and the 2021 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2021 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 14, 2021 AT 1:00 PM AT 14418 Beaumont Highway Houston, TX 77049.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Board of Directors of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

Property tax amount= (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property)/100

FOR the proposal:

Sonya Anderson

Buster Gates

Johnnie McClelland

Charles Anthony

Earl Skank

AGAINST the proposal:

PRESENT and not voting:

ABSENT:

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 this year.

	2020	2021	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.0300	\$0.0300	increase of 0.0000, or 0.00%
Average homestead taxable value	\$140,516	\$153,340	increase of 12,824, or 9.13%
Tax on average homestead	\$42.15	\$46.00	increase of 3.85, or 9.13%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$1,444,276	\$1,498,433	increase of 54,157, or 3.75%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 at 713-274-8000 or tax.office@hetx.net, or visit www.hetx.net for more information.

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Seating is limited! Call Now!

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Harris County Public Health
Opens New Sheldon ISD
Stadium and Dick Graves
Park Vaccination Sites
NRG Park's last day of operation
set for August 25th

Houston – Due to the increase in demand for COVID-19 vaccinations, Harris County Public Health (HCPH) is announcing two important changes to better meet the vaccination needs of Harris County residents.

MASS VACCINATION SITE AT SHELDON ISD OPENS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2021

Open six days a week. Closed every Tuesday (Will be operational today)
Hours of operation 9:00 am to 7:00 pm
Address: 11411 C. E. King Parkway, Houston, TX 77044

Vaccine operations will take place in the parking lot and HCPH will have the ability to provide 1,500 vaccinations per day.

THE COMMUNITY VACCINATION CENTER CURRENTLY
LOCATED AT NRG PARK WILL TRANSFER TO DICK GRAVES
PARK ON REED ROAD EFFECTIVE THURSDAY, AUGUST 26,
2021.

Open six days a week. Closed every Monday
Hours of operation 9:00 am to 7:00 pm
Address: 2000 Reed Rd, Houston, TX 77051

HCPH will have the ability to provide 3,000 vaccinations per day and provide COVID-19 testing.

Due to the recent rise in first dose vaccinations, appointments are encouraged and residents can schedule through vacstrac.hctx.net or call 832-927-8787. While HCPH will have some availability for walk-up vaccinations, those opportunities will be limited so we recommend residents call or sign up in advance.

Currently all HCPH vaccination sites are participating in the \$100 cash card vaccination incentive. If you are a Harris County resident and receive your first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine between August 17th and August 31st, you will receive a \$100 cash card. For more information, please review our announcement release.

Face coverings will be required for individuals seeking a vaccination and we urge residents to take additional COVID-19 prevention measures such as maintain social distancing, staying at home as much as possible and continue regularly washing their hands.

Parents must accompany their children, ages 12-17, to be vaccinated or children must bring a consent form signed by their parent or guardian. Consent forms can be found via vacstrac.hctx.net and 12 to 17-year-olds are eligible for the Pfizer vaccine. Adults over the age of 17 can choose from 3 vaccines: the one-dose Johnson & Johnson and the multi-dose Pfizer or Moderna vaccines.

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KELSEY-SEYBOLD ANNOUNCES 27th CLINIC LOCATION

The new North Channel Area Clinic will expand access to coordinated, evidence-based care

HOUSTON (March 9, 2021) – Kelsey-Seybold Clinic announced plans today to build a 7,500-square-foot clinic in The Shops at Stone Park in the North Channel area. The new North Channel Clinic represents another significant investment in Kelsey-Seybold’s plan to bring comprehensive care closer to area residents and their families.

Kelsey-Seybold Clinic – North Channel will be located at the north-east corner of Beltway 8 and Wallisville Road, at 5820 E. Sam Houston Parkway North, Houston TX 77049. This new location is expected to open for patient care in the summer 2021.

“We have many patients who live in and around the North Channel area who have

to drive to our clinics in Baytown, Humble, and Pasadena. We believe our patients, and other residents in the area, would benefit from having a convenient Kelsey-Seybold Clinic near their home, school, and place of employment,” said Victor Simms, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.P., Chair, Clinic Planning Committee, and Chief of Internal Medicine,

Kelsey-Seybold Clinic. “We are all looking forward to greeting new and current patients at our new location in North Channel a few months from now.”

The new North Channel clinic will continue Kelsey-Seybold’s expansion of coordinated, evidence-based care in the ship channel area, in an area that is currently

underserved with limited options for primary care. Patients will have access to an on-site laboratory, X-ray, and up to four primary care providers, with an extensive referral network for Kelsey-Seybold specialists in Summer Creek and Pasadena.

“Kelsey-Seybold’s growth into the North Channel area demonstrates our commit-

ment to patients living in and around the area,” said John Lyle, Vice President, Operations, Kelsey-Seybold Clinic.

The new Kelsey-Seybold Clinic – North Channel location was designed by architects at Powers Brown Architecture. United Constructors has been named the general contractor.



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Comprehensive, connected Kelsey-Seybold care is right in your neighborhood. With a focus on Family and Internal Medicine, our new state-of-the-art clinic also features an on-site lab and diagnostics. Best of all, we offer same-day or next-day primary care appointments.

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Wallisville Road

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kelsey-seybold.com/northchannel

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.030000 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.030000 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.025842 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.026761 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.039752 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2021 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 from the same properties in both the 2020 tax year and the 2021 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 exceeds the voter-approval rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2021 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 9, 2021 AT 6:00 PM AT 911 Hollywood Houston, TX 77015.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the voter-approval tax rate but not greater than the de minimis rate. However, the proposed tax rate exceeds the rate that allows voters to petition for an election under Section 26.075, Tax Code. If Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 adopts the proposed tax rate, the qualified voters of the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 may petition the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 to require an election to be held to determine whether to reduce the proposed tax rate. If a majority of the voters reject the proposed tax rate, the tax rate of the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 will be the voter-approval tax rate of the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

Property tax amount= (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property)/100

FOR the proposal:	Danny Naramore Margie Buentello Theresa Parker	Dennis Murray Roger Hamilton
AGAINST the proposal:		
PRESENT and not voting:		
ABSENT:		

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 this year.

	2020	2021	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.026000	\$0.030000	increase of 0.004000, or 15.38%
Average homestead taxable value	\$148,951	\$162,858	increase of 13,907, or 9.34%
Tax on average homestead	\$38.73	\$48.86	increase of 10.13, or 26.16%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$916,073	\$1,079,455	increase of 163,382, or 17.84%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 at 713-274-8000 or tax.office@hctx.net, or visit www.hctx.net for more information.

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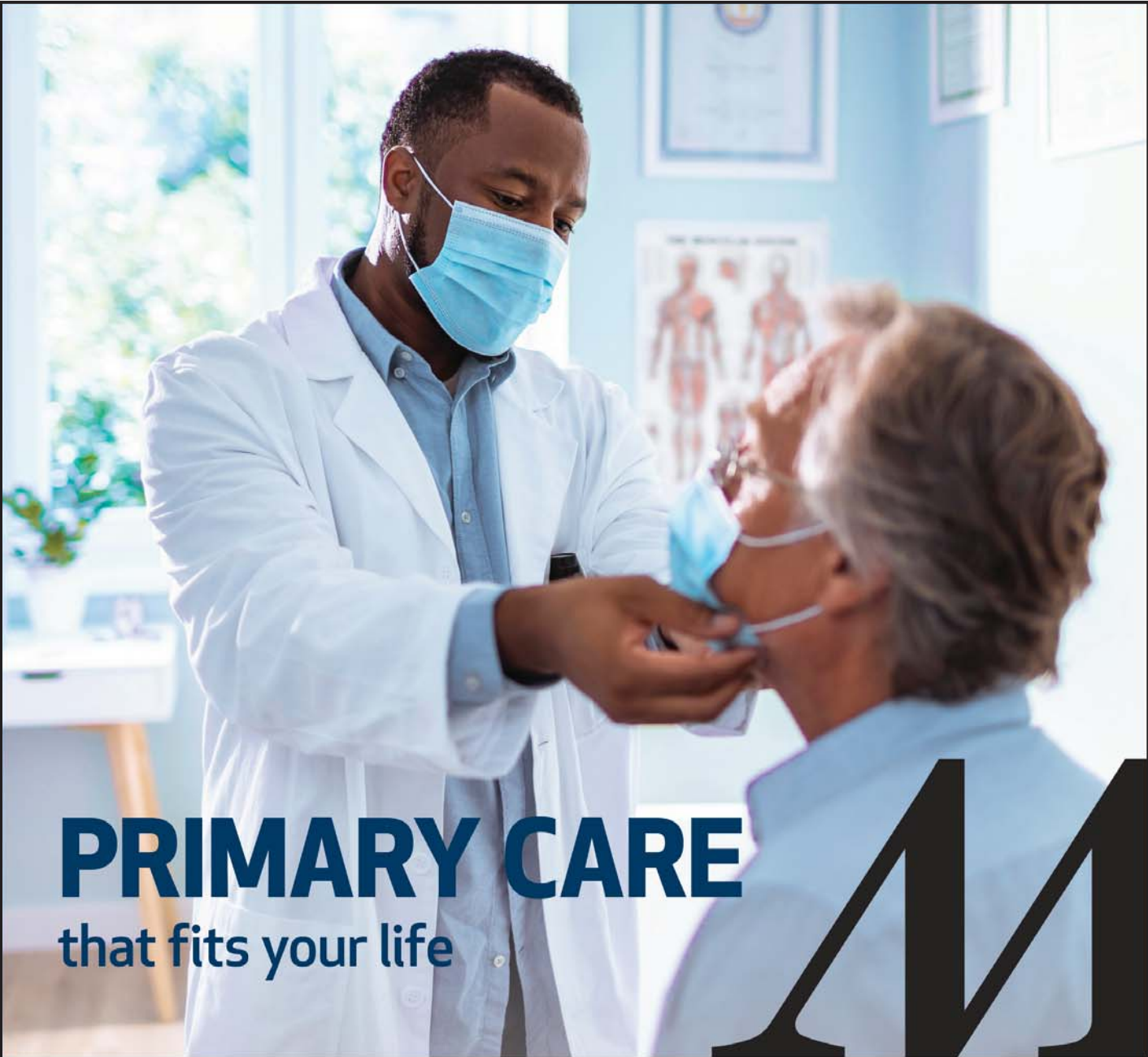
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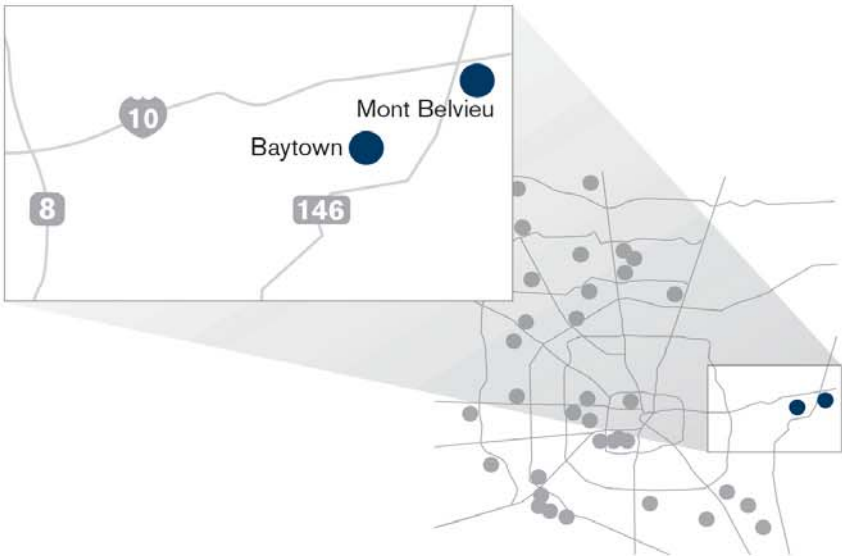
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VOL. 26, NO. 34 - 50¢

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2021

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Pro wrestling returns to Dayton

By BOBBY HORN JR.
DAYTON—Wrestling action comes to Dayton this month with the stars of Reality of Wrestling returning for an afternoon of high-flying, slamming and brawling excitement.

Professional wrestler and promoter Booker T and Reality of Wrestling presents ROW LIVE! at the Dayton Community Center, 801 S. Cleveland, on Sept. 5 at 4 p.m. Doors open at 3 p.m.

Booker T. Huffman is a two-time inductee in the World Wrestling Entertainment Hall of Fame (in 2013 as an individual wrestler and in 2019 with brother and tag-team partner Stevie Ray for their work as Harlem Heat). Wrestling for the WWE, World Championship Wrestling (WCW) and Total Nonstop Action (TNA) Wrestling organizations, Huffman won 35 championships.

Huffman said that he will bring stars from across the country for the event. Clips from the event will also be filmed for the organization's tv show.

ROW was last in Dayton this past May, performing during the Inaugural DayGaCom.

Advance tickets are available online at realityofwrestling.com until 8 a.m. on Sept. 4. After that they will be sold at the door. Tickets purchased online will be e-mailed to the customer during checkout. If a ticket is marked "out of stock" then that section is sold-out. Tickets are \$15 for children \$20 for adults.

Chambers Health info sources:

One of the biggest opponents in the battle against COVID-19 is the rampant misinformation that is being shared. Please make sure to double check the credibility of sources before reading or propagating information. Remember: in a situation like this, false information can literally be deadly. If you're unsure of the validity of data, feel free to reach out to Chambers County Public Health at 409-267-2731 or healthdept@chamberstx.gov. Again, residents are implored to do their part to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Chambers County. For reference, below are a few sources of reliable information: Chambers County Public Health 409-267-2731 healthdept@chamberstx.gov <https://www.co.chambers.tx.us/page/health.department> <https://www.facebook.com/cctxhealthdept/> The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <https://www.cdc.gov/Texas/DepartmentofStateHealthServices> <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/>

Barbers Hill ISD faces grooming issue on First Day of school

36 Students in violation of dress code

BY BOBBY HORN JR.

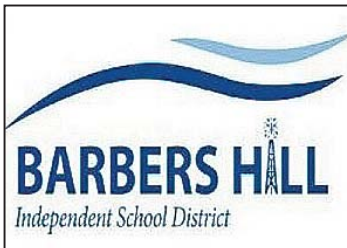
MONT BELVIEU—Last year the Barbers Hill ISD came under fire for its dress code, specifically its hair grooming policy when senior classman De Andre Arnold was placed into in-school suspension after district officials stated that his dreadlock-style hair violated the district's policy on length.

The district was accused of racism, with Arnold's family claiming that he was targeted because of his ethnicity.

According to Jami Navarre, the district's Director of Community Relations, on Aug. 18 when school resumed 36 students were found in violation of the policy.

The district's Student Handbook states in it's "2021-2022 Barbers Hill ISD Dress and Grooming Code - Secondary." Male students' hair must not extend below the top of a t-shirt collar or be gathered or worn in a style that would allow the hair to extend below the top of a t-shirt collar, below the eyebrows, or below the ear lobes when let down." Navarre said that 36 students identified were at the high school violated this policy.

The written policy does have separate categories based on the students' ethnicity. Navarre said that the ethnic



breakdown of those who were placed into in-school suspension until the issue could be corrected were 22 "White", 12 "Hispanic" and 2 "Other."

Despite the number of students found in violation on the first day of school, Navarre said that she does not believe that this was the result of a mass protest against the policy, noting that on the second day of school just eight students were found in violation.

Since the district is only offering a "traditional learning platform," Navarre said, students may not opt for a "remote learning" option if they disagree with the policy.

The district gives parents and caregivers the option of filing for a "religious" or "medical" exemption for the grooming policy. "We absolutely have an exemption form for families to complete," Navarre said.

Chambers County Tax Assessor-Collector Closes Offices Until Further Notice

On Wednesday, August 25, 2021, Chambers County Tax Assessor-Collector Barbara "Denise" Hutter made the decision to close all three Tax Offices in Chambers County in response to ongoing budget discussions in the County.

Late Wednesday afternoon, Mrs. Hutter instructed all staff to place

signs notifying the public of this closure on the doors of offices and leave facilities immediately.

No advance notice of this closure was given to members of Chambers County Commissioners Court.

The decision to abandon taxpayer-appointed duties was made solely by Mrs. Hutter and is directly

in opposition of the County's official Personnel Policy which states that "employees are required to give a full day's work, to carry out efficiently the work items assigned as their responsibility."

During this closure, residents may still complete some tasks on the Chambers County web-

site. Visit https://www.co.chambers.tx.us/page/tax_assessor/register_to_vote_and_renew_vehicle_registration.

Commissioners Court has posted a special called meeting to discuss this issue with legal council at 2:30 p.m. For more information, visit the Chambers

County website:

https://www.co.chambers.tx.us/page/tax_assessor/register_to_vote_and_renew_vehicle_registration

As an elected official, Mrs. Hutter is responsible solely to Chambers County voters. In her and her staff's absence, Chambers County residents should contact Mrs. Hutter directly.

Houston Methodist Baytown

Advanced hip replacement surgery

BAYTOWN — (August 20, 2021) — Thousands of joint pain sufferers in the U.S. are finding relief thanks to new techniques and technological advances that make hip replacement surgery one of the most common orthopedic surgical procedures.

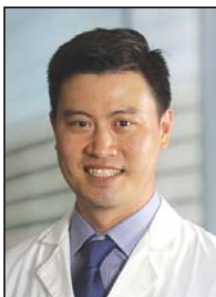
First introduced in 1960, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality reports more than 450,000 total hip replacements are performed each year in the U.S. Dr. David Sun, a general orthopedics and adult joint reconstruction specialist with Houston Methodist Orthopedics and Sports Medicine at Baytown, says the procedure is recommended for patients struggling with pain that limits everyday activities, such as walking or bending that may be caused by osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, previous injury or infection in the hip joint. It works to not only relieve pain, but also to improve mobility.

"When patients can't do what they want to do physically,

that's when they schedule an appointment to see if they are a candidate for hip replacement surgery," Sun said. "I only consider doing hip replacements in patients who cannot perform their activities of daily living, such as putting on shoes and socks or going up and down stairs without pain."

Sun offers what's called a direct anterior total hip replacement. "It's a relatively new technique for replacing a worn hip that minimizes down time and speeds recovery with minimal hip precautions after surgery," Sun said. "Patients recover much faster than with the traditional posterior hip approach from the back of the hip."

Direct anterior hip replacement is a minimally invasive surgical technique that involves a three- to four-inch incision on the front of the hip that allows the joint to be replaced by moving muscles aside along their natural tissue planes. Sun says this approach often results



DR. DAVID SUN

in quicker recovery, less pain and more normal function after surgery, and allows patients to return to daily activities shortly after surgery with a reduced risk of dislocation.

Hip replacement surgery has traditionally been viewed as a procedure performed in older patients, but Sun says advances in implant construction and materials make it an option for younger patients as well.

"The actual implants themselves have improved

tremendously in the last five to 10 years. Because the implants are lasting longer, patients who are 50 to 55 years old who want to maintain their lifestyle without significant inhibitions may be candidates for the procedure. In the past, the implants would not have lasted long enough and the younger patient would be faced with possibly having to undergo a second procedure at some point," Sun said. "Now, implants wear as little as 0.1mm per year."

Previously, implants lasted about 10 to 15 years, but they are now lasting around 20 to 25 years. In addition to the smaller incisions utilized in direct anterior hip replacement, access to improved pain management and physical therapy protocols help patients get back on their feet quicker and with less pain.

Houston Methodist Orthopedics and Sports Medicine at Baytown is located in the state-of-the-art outpatient center (1677 W.

Baker Rd, suite 1701). In addition to total hip and knee joint replacements, the multidisciplinary team of orthopedic specialists and surgeons provide expert care for foot and ankle conditions, hand and upper extremity injuries, rotator cuff problems, spine issues and more. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit houstonmethodist.org/baytown or call 281-427-7400.

Houston Methodist Baytown takes every precaution to safeguard your safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. The hospital is designated as a vaccine hub, where vaccines are free and available to everyone age 12 and older. Houston Methodist is currently offering third doses of the Pfizer vaccine to patients 12 and older who are immunocompromised and received their second Pfizer dose at least 28 days ago. To register and for information, visit houstonmethodist.org/vaccine.