



HIGHLANDS

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Star Courier



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VOL. 69, NO. 28 – 50¢

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THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2022

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

THU. JULY 28 Crosby New Educator's Luncheon

Goody Bag Items (250) and Door Prizes Needed! New Educators Luncheon is fast approaching the Chamber, scheduled for July 28th at Crosby Church, located at 5725 HWY 90 in Crosby and will begin at 11:30am. This is our Monthly Member Luncheon where we host a lunch to WELCOME all new educators to our Crosby and Huffman School Districts. This year's luncheon will be Presented by: United Community Credit Union

We also give every new educator a gift bag full of items donated by our business members to welcome them to our towns. As well, we do a drawing and gift the teachers door prizes given by our members. If you would like to make sure your company is represented and the new educators know your company please be sure to donate to this event. You can call the Chamber Office with any questions.

Please call Chamber Office at 281-328-6984 or email us at chamber@crosbyhuffmancc.org to register for event. Price for luncheon is \$20.00.

We are asking for Goody Bag items and Door Prizes. If you wish to put items in the Goody Bags PLEASE make sure that we have your 250 items NO LATER than July 25th. Feel free to drop your items off at our office anytime Monday-Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm or call us at 281-328-6984; you can also email to chamber@crosbyhuffmancc.org with any questions or if you need us to pick up your items.

Griner trial in Russia update

Houston native and Nimitz High School graduate Brittney Griner, a WNBA star basketball player, remains in a Russian jail after her third day of trial last Thursday. She has pleaded guilty to a minor drug charge, and the third day of her trial consisted of character witnesses. US officials were present at the proceedings.

She has been able to communicate with her family, wife, and President Biden through written out emails and letters.

Her next day in court is July 26th. Experts say her conviction is almost certain, with imprisonment for up to 10 years, unless the US is able to bargain for her release.



DURING THE TRIAL, GRINER IS IN A CAGE. IN THIS PHOTO, SHE HOLDS A PHOTO OF USA ALL-STAR PLAYERS WEARING HER NUMBER IN SUPPORT.

City, County join in Gun BuyBack program

HOUSTON - As part of his One Safe Houston initiative, Mayor Sylvester Turner is holding a Gun Buyback program to reduce the number of guns on our streets. The City - County Partnership will reduce the number of Unwanted Guns on our streets.

To make Houston's homes and streets safer and free from violence, Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner's Office and Police Chief Troy Finner announce a gun buyback program that will take place July 30. With no questions asked, residents can turn in firearms in exchange for gift cards in the amount of \$50, \$100, \$150 and \$200 – depending on the type of gun. It's part of a coordinated effort to reduce violent crimes.

The event, in partnership with Harris County



Precinct One Commissioner Rodney Ellis, the Houston Police Department, and Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, will take place from 8 a.m. - noon on Saturday, July 30, at 3826 Wheeler Ave.

Gift Cards will be available as follows:

\$50 Gift Card for non-functioning firearm

\$100 Gift Card for rifles or shotguns

\$150 Gift Card for handgun

\$200 Gift Card for an automatic rifle

The no-questions-asked Gun Buyback program is open to all members of the public. People should unload the firearm before arriving at the collection site

and place it in the trunk or the rear of their vehicle. HPD personnel will remove the gun from the vehicle and ensure the firearm is unloaded and rendered safe. Once the weapon is collected, the person donating will receive a receipt to exchange for a gift card.

One Safe Houston is a \$53 million investment aimed at crime reduction. The comprehensive violence reduction initiatives link research-based strategies to improve public safety and reduce the harms caused by violent crime.

The initiative focuses on four (4) key areas:

- Violence Reduction and Crime Prevention
 - Crisis Intervention, Response and Recovery
 - Youth Outreach Opportunities
 - Key Community Partnerships
- Mayor Turner, Commis-

sioner Ellis, and event partners will announce additional Gun Buyback program details on Monday, July 18.

"We can't solve the gun-violence epidemic overnight, but we can take action right-now by removing guns from the streets," Commissioner Ellis said. "Gun buyback programs create an incentive for residents to turn in their firearms. I would argue there are two incentives: one is a gift card, the other is creating a safer community."

Said Mayor Turner: "The Gun Buyback program is part of my One Safe Houston initiative. Our goal is to get unwanted guns off the streets to prevent their use in a crime or an accidental shooting. I thank Commissioner Ellis, Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, and

Continued. See Gun BuyBack, Page 7

Crosby Superintendent's message to the community

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families,

Summer is going by quickly, and the first day of school is around the corner. Crosby ISD begins the 2022-2023 School Year on Thursday, August 11th.

There is much happening in the District to prepare for the return of students. We are beginning several new security

screening protocols at Crosby High School and Crosby Middle School. We have revised our backpack policy to require backpacks to be mesh, clear, or see-through all year long on our secondary campuses.

Daily metal detector screenings are also being added at Crosby High School and Crosby Middle School. We understand it will take some time for our



SUPERINTENDENT PAULA PATTERSON

high school and middle school students to acclimate to the new routine each day. We expect long lines during the first days of school. We ask for patience during this time. Please know that students will not be marked tardy if they are late to class due to security screenings. This was a tough choice, but District leadership agreed these are some of

the best ways forward. Additionally, our District survey showed that 86% of parents supported daily metal detector screenings. There are other measures we are implementing that will not be made public. As your Superintendent and as a mother, I want you to

Continued. See Crosby Superintendent, Page 5

Garcia at White House Workforce Summit

Comm. Garcia's Employ2Empower program recognized

Harris County, TX — Wednesday, July 13, Commissioner Adrian Garcia traveled to the White House to discuss the ARPA-funded Employ 2 Empower countywide

homeless workforce initiative, which originally began as a pilot program in Precinct 2. Commissioner Garcia joined Vice President Kamala Harris, Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh, plus other officials from around the country for a series of events to discuss EMPLOY 2 EMPOWER.

Commissioner Garcia gave prepared remarks at 11:40 a.m. CST, and he was available for interviews (in both English and Spanish) starting at approximately 12:30 p.m. CST.

The White House Summit. **Continued. See Garcia at White House Summit, Page 7**



Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, second from right, participated in the Workforce Summit of the American Rescue Plan. The discussion and presentation was live streamed throughout the nation. Above, panel members are welcomed to the discussion by White House American Rescue Plan Coordinator Gene Sperling.

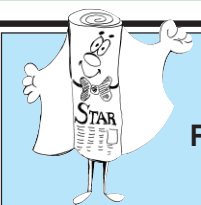
San Jacinto River 2 DROWN AT MAGNOLIA GARDENS



Harris County Sheriff's Maritime Patrol deputies search for a missing swimmer in the San Jacinto River.

In two separate incidents last weekend, swimmers drowned in the San Jacinto River, near Magnolia Gardens Park. On Saturday, a 13-year-old boy swimming with his family disappeared under water and didn't resurface. His body was recovered on the river bank early Sunday morning.

In the other drowning, on Sunday a man in his 30s swam out into the river, but midway he turned to come back, and went underwater and didn't resurface. Dive teams recovered his body around 7 pm.



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GOOSE CREEK CISD NEWS

GC CISD Partners with SFA for Distinguished High School Program

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey

Goose Creek CISD is proud to announce their partnership with the Stephen F. Austin State University Distinguished High School Program.

The SFA Distinguished High School Program partners with independent school districts to offer unique opportunities that include guaranteed admission and enhanced services to eligible students. In addition to scholarship benefits, to help break down financial barriers that may keep students from attending SFA, the university will provide additional financial support to eligible Distinguished High School students with an identified financial need.

Benefits to students include a waived application fee, guaranteed admissions to students ranked in the top 30%, scholarship opportunities and more. Students that rank in the top 10% will receive \$5,000 in scholarships while students ranking in the top 11-25% with a 3.0. high school GPA will receive \$3,000.

Photo taken by Carrie Pryor-Newman:



Sitting
Dr. Lana Comeux, w/SFA, Dr. Steve Westbrook, President of SFA, Dr. Randal O'Brien, GCCID Sup. Ricky Clem, President of the GCCISD Board

Standing
Jade Godoy, w/SFA, Marisa Woods, w/SFA, Susan Jackson, GCCISD Deputy Sup, Dr. Demetrius McCall, GCCISD Deputy Sup, Lisa Steele, w/GCCISD and Kim Fox, w/GCCISD

GC CISD Earns Major Incentives Through CenterPoint SCORE Program

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey

Dr. Anthony Price, COO; Mike Rasmussen, Director of Maintenance, and Goose Creek CISD were recognized during the July 11th *Board meeting for their outstanding performance in the SCORE program.*

The district was recently awarded \$499,034.10 in cash incentives as part of the CenterPoint 2021 and 2022 SCORE program. The most notable projects include: high efficiency ECM retrofits on the walk-in coolers and freezers; numerous chiller replacements and a district-wide interior and exterior LED lighting retrofit. These projects will save over 1,380 kw of peak demand and 4.7 million kilowatt-hours each year. This saving equates to the green gas emissions from 732 passenger vehicles driven for an entire year, 428 homes' electricity use for one year or the carbon sequestered by over 4,000 acres of U.S. forests in one year.

The SCORE program provides complimentary support to participating K-12 schools, private schools, higher education, places of worship, and non-profits through a combination of tools and services for participants who complete projects resulting in a reduction of energy use. The program is designed to help schools identify energy efficiency opportunities in existing and newly planned facilities and provide monetary incentives to implement these projects.

Photo taken by Kendall David:



Dr. Anthony Price, COO; Marc Fowler, CenterPoint Senior Consultant for Clearesult; Dr. Randal O'Brien, Superintendent; Mike Rasmussen, Director of Maintenance and Richard Clem, President, celebrate the district's outstanding performance in the SCORE program.

Lee Technology Students Compete in National TSA Competition

Lee Technology Students Compete in National Competition

Robert E. Lee High School STEM students, Michelle Hernandez, Kaleb Pearson, Illeanna Ramirez, Jimena Rangel Tentory, and Jerri Wyant, recently competed in the Technology Student Association's (TSA) national competition; representing the San Jacinto Region. Kaleb and Michell placed fourth in Demand Technology Problem Solving. The students also competed in geospatial technology, technology bowl, and photographic technology. Their sponsor is Shonda James.



Summer Sack Lunch

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VOL. 27, NO. 28- 50¢

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THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2022

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Deadline to Apply for the Homeowner Assistance and Reimbursement Program is August 31, 2022

AUSTIN — Today the Texas General Land Office (GLO) announced the application for the Homeowner Assistance and Reimbursement Program (HARP) will close at 5 p.m. on Aug. 31, 2022.

The GLO allocated \$137.8 million of Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for repair or reconstruction of owner-occupied single-family homes and reimbursement up to \$50,000 for certain out-of-pocket expenses incurred for reconstruction, rehabilitation, or mitigation. Repayment of SBA loans is also eligible for reimbursement.

HARP Regions: South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley (\$66,196,000): Cameron, Jim Wells, Hidalgo, Willacy

Tropical Storm Imelda (\$71,604,000): Chambers, Harris, Liberty, Jefferson, Montgomery, Orange, San Jacinto

A single application can be submitted for reimbursement and repair assistance. HARP is a first-come, first-served basis and all homeowners are encouraged to apply immediately. HARP is only available for a main home (primary residence).

The HARP regional offices will remain open, and processing of applications will continue indefinitely until program funds are fully expended. New applicants can also call the toll-free intake center line at 1-866-317-1998. Applications will be considered for award on a first-come, first-served basis, according to the priorities outlined in the Regional Housing Guidelines. Submitting a complete application does not guarantee eligibility nor funding availability.

Potential applicants should review the [Homeowner Assistance and Reimbursement Programs Checklist](#) to have all applicable documents ready prior to applying. Interested homeowners should visit recovery.texas.gov/harp to apply online or download a printable version of the application.

Public Input Wanted on Countywide Drainage Plan Study

Chambers County has been awarded a \$6.2 million grant through the Texas Water Development Board Flood Infrastructure Fund. This is a 75/25 match grant and the County is partnering with the Cities of Mont Belvieu, Dayton, Liberty and Beach City, as well as WCID #5 to fund the match.

The purpose of this is to study all of the water that flows “to and through” Chambers County. The end product will be two-fold: a comprehensive drainage plan of the entire County and a list of “shovel ready” projects that the County can use for future grant applications and

budget planning.

We have been working on this grant for more than two years (the initial application was submitted in March 2020) and have gathered a substantial amount of information... but we are now turning to our public and asking that you share your knowledge with us.

Freese and Nichols, Inc. (our engineering contractor) has developed an on-line tool through which you can report areas that have been impacted by flooding in the past. After our recent public meeting, FNI has updated the tool to allow for the uploading of photos as well.

Please feel free to report issues that you have noticed or to share this information with others.

Chambers Liberty Flood Protection Study Data Map Tutorial - YouTube

Chambers-Liberty Flood Protection Planning Interactive Web Map (arcgis.com)

If you have questions regarding the tool or are having trouble, please email ChambersLiberty-Flooding@gmail.com.

If you have questions about the grant, please feel free to respond and I will be happy to help. shumphrey@chamberstx.gov

THOUGHTS FROM HILLSIDE CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice



Stomping Out Stereotypes

Stereotypes abound in today's culture. As a member of the cowboy world, I'm well aware of those associated with us. People watch western movies and TV shows, attend rodeos, enjoy country music, and even read western novels, and they think they understand who and what we are. They get a glimpse of the truth in all these things, but in reality they would need to live and work beside us to truly know what it is to be a cowboy.

The same holds true for many different professions and lifestyles. It is certainly true of how the world views Christians. Just like they have created all sorts of stereotypes about the cowboy, some of which ring true and others that are laughable, that same world has created an unbelievable number of stereotypes about Christians and Christianity. Unfortunately, there are all too many Christians, and those who only call themselves Christians, who reinforce a lot of wrong ideas

about what Christianity is.

Most cowboys don't concern themselves too much with the cowboy stereotypes. While they may be irritating or laughable, they don't really affect us or our livelihood. Bad Christian stereotypes, on the other hand, can strongly affect the advancement of the Kingdom of God. They're a tool used effectively by the devil and his demons, one the true children of God must counter to the best of our ability. It's not really all that hard; it simply requires living lives the way Jesus wants us to.

For the most part, we can fight back in totally practical ways. For instance, “Church people,” as they're sometimes negatively known in the service industry, are notorious in restaurants for demanding great service and giving lousy tips, or not tipping at all. As a wholehearted follower of Jesus, I make a practice of letting it be known that I'm a Christian through my behavior; praying over your

food is always a good clue! I also, without exception, make a point of leaving a significant tip. This simple act of generosity is a great witness. And this is what we always want to be – great witnesses.

We want the entirety of our lives to be positive witnesses of the love and grace of God. We counter the negative stereotypes that flood social media by walking through our days as we know Jesus wants us to, refusing to give in to anger, loving everyone, and making known an all-powerful God who literally gave everything so that we could not only live forever with Him, but live positively and productively on this earth as well. What we have to offer is life-changing. The devil knows this, so he does everything he can to distract and discourage those who are seeking Him. It's time for us to stomp out those stereotypes.

www.myhillsidefamily.com

Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown

HMB Doctor Performs 50th Procedure to Correct Carotid Artery Disease

Carotid artery disease occurs when the carotid arteries in your neck get blocked by a substance called plaque. Over time, the plaque can cause the artery to narrow, putting you at risk for a stroke. In fact, one-third of strokes originate in the carotid arteries. For patients who are at high risk for surgery, due to age or other medical conditions, Houston Methodist Baytown offers a less invasive procedure called transcatheter artery revascularization or TCAR, where a stent is placed in the carotid. The procedure is performed by Dr. Jacobo Nurko, who recently completed his 50th TCAR procedure. “To be able to offer



this treatment is another testament to Houston Methodist Baytown's reputation for excellent stroke care and intervention, and I am thrilled we have successfully helped 50 patients so far,” said Dr. Nurko.

Every year, 15 million

people worldwide suffer a stroke. 5 million die and another 5 million are left with permanent disabilities. TCAR is a good option for people who have a higher risk of complications from surgery due to age or other health issues. According to Dr. Nurko, “There are positive benefits to patients who get treatment for carotid artery disease, including a reduced risk for stroke.”

The procedure is done with a small incision just above the collarbone. A small tube or catheter is inserted into the carotid artery and is attached to a filtering system that directs blood flow away from the brain. This protects against any debris from

LIBERTY CAMPUS

Lee College Hosting Back-to-School Bash

Lee College Education Center-South Liberty County is hosting a back-to-school bash on Saturday, August 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Kick off your fall with a fresh start at the Lee College Education Center - South Liberty County. The address is 1715 HWY 146 Bypass, Liberty, TX 77575.

The Back-to-School Celebration is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 13 will feature a DJ, kids' activities, immunizations including meningitis, a health fair, an open house, college & workforce class information, a grocery giveaway, and door prizes. Parking next door at Liberty Christian Academy

OmniPoint Health Welcomes New Dentist

ANAHUAC – OmniPoint Dental is proud to announce the addition of Dr. Alexis “Lex” R. Pierre IV to their practice. Dr. Pierre received his B.S. at Alabama State University and completed dental school at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center.

Lex will serve as the full-time dental director at the OmniPoint Health location in Anahuac, working with existing team members to provide the community with excellent care. The practice will provide an array of dental services including regular examinations, cleanings, fillings, crowns, veneers, and extractions as well as full and partial dentures.

A native of Louisiana, he chose OmniPoint Health after spending an entire day with medical staff and board members for a recent interview. “I have been passionate about providing exceptional oral health care in underserved communities, since graduating dental school. The bonds formed with patients are priceless and meaningful and I cannot wait to form bonds of such in Anahuac,” shared Pierre.

Lex has received numerous awards and recognitions from Louisiana State University Health Sciences School of Dentistry, Alabama State University, Louisiana Department of Health, just to name a few.

His hobbies include playing tennis and piano, spending quality time with family and friends, and walking his dog Kryer.



Dr. Alexis “Lex” R. Pierre IV

“We are excited that Lex has chosen OmniPoint Health to resume the full-time dental program in our community. His prior experience and interest in serving rural populations will pair well with our focus of delivering world-class care and hometown service,” shared Executive Clinics Director Elissa Lofgren.

Hours of operation for the dental practice will be Monday through Thursday 8:00am-5:00pm and Fridays from 8:00am-12:00pm. The practice is planning to become an in-network provider with many dental insurances, while accepting new patients.

OmniPoint Health continues to bring added convenience, not just with additional primary care options but also by offering services that aren't currently available without traveling out of town.

The health system is planning a community meet & greet in the near future and invites everyone to meet Dr. Pierre and his team. Details will follow soon.



the procedure reaching the brain and causing a stroke. A stent is placed directly into the carotid artery to open it and keep the plaque from moving, preventing future strokes. “The procedure takes about 45 minutes and is performed under local anesthesia. Most patients go home the next day with

limited restrictions on their activities,” said Dr. Nurko.

For more information on the full range of services offered at Houston Methodist Baytown and to schedule an appointment, visit houstonmethodist.org/baytown or call 281-428-2273.

☆

OPINION

By BILL KING



Gun Deaths in America by the Numbers

The horrific slaughter of nineteen children and two teachers in Uvalde, has once again focused the attention of the nation on the toll taken on American lives by guns. As with most highly charged emotional issues, and particularly ones that fall on the partisan divide, I find there is little objective analysis of the actual data and even less perspective on what the data implies.

There are many who object to a statistical analysis of such events as being cold-hearted and that doing so minimizes the tragedy of the loss of even a single life. While I appreciate that sentiment, I respectfully disagree. To the contrary, the more consequential, or in this case the more horrific, the problem, the more urgently we need to call on our full intellectual capabilities to fashion solutions. So, after Uvalde I began to dig into the data on deaths caused by firearms and found quite a bit that surprised me.

Prior to 2015, the number of deaths from a firearm on an annual basis had moved in a fairly narrow range, averaging about 34,000, which was about 10-11 firearm deaths per 100,000 Americans or slightly over 1% of all U.S. fatalities. However, since 2015 firearm deaths have been consistently moving higher each year and then took a sharp upturn in 2020, reaching an all-time high of 45,222. Preliminary data for 2021 indicates that number was perhaps slightly lower than 2020. The rate per 100,000 Americans has moved up to 13.7.

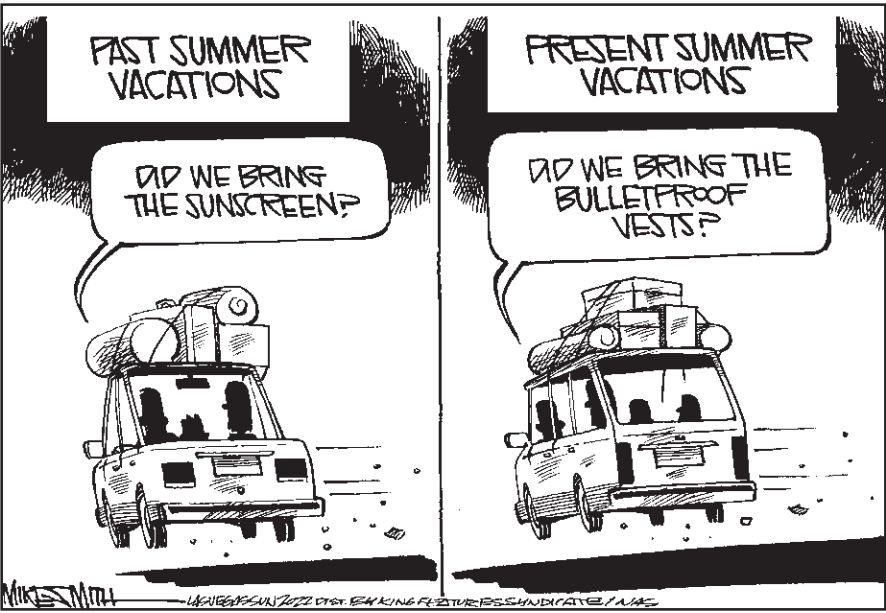
Most gun deaths in the U.S. are either suicides (~54%) or homicides (~43%). The remaining ~3% are due to accidents, police shootings or undetermined causes. Both suicides and homicides committed with a gun have been increasing over the last two decades, but most of the significant increase in gun deaths over the last two years has been due to an increase in homicides.

The significant increase in homicides coincides with an explosion in the number of gun sales in the U.S. The home security research group, HomeSafe.org, estimates that gun sales soared by over 150% in 2020 and 2021.

However, a series of Gallup surveys found that the percentage of U.S. households that own a gun has been slightly declining since 1972. This perhaps suggests that the increase in gun sales is more attributable to existing gun owners adding to their inventory, as opposed to a large number of new gun owners.

There is no question that the U.S. is an outlier when it comes to private gun ownership compared to other countries. The Small Arms Survey, an independent Swiss research group, estimated in its 2018 report that Americans, while making up only about 3% of the world's population, owns nearly half of the world's roughly 850 million privately owned guns. Their survey estimated that there were about 120 guns for every 100 Americans. That rate dwarfs all other countries. India came in second with just over 50. Canada was 34. The global average outside of the U.S. is about 7.

Next time, I will explore the issue of suicides and whether this ready access to guns has an effect on the incidence of suicide in our country.



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



TEA Releases STAAR results for grades 3 through 8

The Texas Education Agency has released the 2022 State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness

Results for grades 3-8, which showed across-the-board improvements in all grades and subjects, with especially significant gains in reading.

"The investments that the state is making in reading academies and accelerated instruction are clearly paying dividends for our students, and the results are a testament to the hard work of teachers across our state," Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath said. "While we still have much work to do to recover from COVID-related learning loss in mathematics, the improvements our students have made in reading are clear."

The spring results include exams in mathematics and reading for grades 3-8, 5th and 8th grade science, and 8th grade social studies.

MILITARY BASES HAVE BIG IMPACT ON STATE'S ECONOMY

A study analyzing the impact on the state's economy from U.S. military installations concludes they contributed at least \$114.1 billion to the Texas economy last year and supported more than 600,000 jobs across the state. Texas is home to 15 military installations and the U.S. Army Futures Command, which is located in Austin and runs modernization projects for the U.S. Army.

The study was completed by the comptroller's office at the behest of the Texas Military Preparedness Commission.

"It is amazing to see the tremendous economic impact these military installations have in Texas," said Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar. "The importance of these bases reaches far beyond direct jobs and personal income. The facilities, and the men and women who work and are stationed at them, form the backbone of communities and support countless businesses and induced jobs throughout the state."

FORMER NFL PLAYER INDICTED FOR BOGUS MEDICAL CLAIMS

Former NFL player Narond



"Roc" Alexander was indicted recently for submitting fraudulent health reimbursement claims totaling more than \$25,000 to a health program for former NFL players. The case was brought by Texas Department of Insurance investigators along with the Bexar County District Attorney's office.

Alexander allegedly filed the bogus claims between 2014 and 2018 under the Gene Upshaw NFL Player Health Reimbursement Plan, which helps pay certain medical care expenses for former NFL players. He could face up to 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine if convicted.

"Insurance fraud hurts the people who actually need these funds to cover their health care costs, like the NFL players who benefit from this particular fund," Bexar County District Attorney Joe Gonzales said. "This indictment allows us to seek justice on behalf of the NFL players with legitimate claims who rely on these funds."

After playing for the University of Washington, Alexander signed with the Denver Broncos in 2004 and later played for the Houston Texans.

GRANT PROGRAM TO BENEFIT TRAVEL INDUSTRY

The travel industry, hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, is set to receive \$180 million of funds under a grant program funded by the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The program is designed to provide grants for the recovery of Texas businesses in the tourism, travel, and hospitality industry affected by the pandemic.

demie.

"Travel and tourism are critical components to both the state and local economies," said Gov. Greg Abbott. "Visitor spending at Texas destinations brings new money into communities and spurs local job creation across industries in every region of the state."

A series of webinars are slated to provide information for specific businesses. To get more details and register, go to: <https://ttir.gov.texas.gov>.

DEMOGRAPHIC CENTER ANALYZES STATE CENSUS RESULTS

The U.S. Census Bureau has released its 2021 population estimates, and the Texas Demographic Center has crunched the numbers to determine:

- Texas is growing both older and more diverse. Median age increased to 35.4 years in 2021, up from 33.6 in 2010.
- Texas has more Black residents than any other state.
- All urban core counties in Texas, except for Travis County, lost non-Hispanic white population.
- The state has the third-largest Asian population in the country.
- Harris County has more Black residents than all other counties in the country except Cook County, which includes Chicago.

SHARING THE ROAD WITH LARGE TRUCKS

Anyone who has driven the state's major highways recently likely has noticed the number of 18-wheelers on the road has risen as businesses and industries work to fill demand in many sectors. The Texas Department of Transportation is reminding motorists to take extra care when driving around big trucks.

Drivers are especially at risk in the state's energy sectors, according to TxDOT. Last year, more than 79,000 crashes occurred in the state's five major energy production areas, resulting in 1,119 deaths — a 20% increase over the previous year.

Among the safety tips offered by TxDOT are staying away from a truck's blind spot; not tailgating; when passing a truck, making sure you can see both of the truck's headlights before moving back into your lane; and never crossing behind a truck that is backing up, since the driver can't see you.

COVID-19 CASES INCREASE AGAIN

The number of new COVID-19 cases reported in Texas during the past week by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University rose again to 84,417, with 115 deaths recorded. Both numbers are up modestly compared to what was reported the previous week. However, lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations in the state continue to rise steadily, with 3,007 reported by the Department of State Health Services. That's up 22% from the previous week and more than double what was reported a month ago.

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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

"The Perfect Pet"

My mother has found the perfect pet. She just doesn't realize it yet.

A clever little red squirrel has been trying to get my mother's attention for months. "He's such a pest!" my mother complains. But the squirrel does not give up.

He has become quite tame, hanging out below the bird feeder, waiting for seeds to drop. He would much prefer to get them from the feeder himself, but my father has inconsiderately installed a length of stovepipe on the pole that holds the feeder, and the squirrel cannot climb up the slippery metal. Instead, he waits impatiently for the birds to drop seeds—which they always do—eating them as fast as they drop. When he runs out of seeds, he finds other things to do, like dig up my mother's planters, leaving dirt all over her deck.

"Is he digging something up, or burying something?" I asked my mom.

"I have no idea! He's a troublemaker!"

Last night, a bear finally finished off the birdfeeder my father made a few years back. The poor feeder had been knocked to the ground countless times by countless bears, and my dad always nailed it back together. This time, it was shattered beyond repair.

My dad went down to his workshop and started building a new feeder. I wonder how many times this feeder will be knocked to the ground and survive. It looks pretty stout—but so did the last one.

In the meantime, my mother didn't want the birds to suffer, so she put a meatloaf pan filled with seeds at the top of the pole. My dad removed the stovepipe while he was working on the feeder and, in no time flat, the red squirrel climbed to the top of the pole and knocked the pan down, then sat at the foot of the bird feeder, gorging on the seeds piled below.

"This is more like it!" I could almost hear the squirrel say.

My father replaced the stovepipe, my mother refilled the meatloaf pan, and order was restored. The little red squirrel, however, was not happy. We were sitting outside on the deck and the squirrel positioned himself over my mother's head.

"Chip, chip, chip!" he said loudly.

"Be quiet!" my mother said. The squirrel shook his tail and got noisier.

"He has a serious beef with you, Mom," I told her. "He is trying to be your friend, and you are not very friendly."

"He is not my friend!" my mother said, almost as loudly as the red squirrel.

"He's a perfect pet," I continued. "I don't know why you pamper those birds and ignore this fellow who wants to be your friend." The squirrel continued. We could no longer carry on a conversation with him ranting away. He sounded like a late-night radio host on a tear.

My mom jumped up, stomped her feet and waved her fists at the squirrel. "You get out of here!" she hollered. The squirrel ran up the tree.

A moment passed. "Plunk! Plunk!" A handful of pinecone seeds dropped onto the deck.

"Is it raining?" my dad asked.

More pinecones fell, directly on our heads.

"It's that squirrel!" my mom said. "You stop that right now!" A shower of pinecones fell.

I think my mother should just give in and adopt the little red squirrel. Sure, he's a troublemaker and full of mischief, but he obviously wants to be part of the family. I suggested it.

"He's not my pet!" my mother said, indignantly.

But I'm not sure she gets to decide.

Till next time,

Carrie
Carrie Classon's memoir is called "Blue Yarn." Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.

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Entered as Periodicals Class at Highlands Post Office, Highlands, TX 77562. Under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Published 50 weeks per year, on Thursday, by Grafikpress Corp., 5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057. Opinions in this paper are those of the authors, and not necessarily this newspaper's. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to grafikstar@aol.com.

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UPDATE ON COVID SHOTS FOR CHILDREN

Harris County Public Health Now Administering COVID-19 Vaccine for Children Under 5 Years Old

Vaccination for children 6 months to 4 years follows the recent approval by FDA, CDC, and DSHS

Houston – Harris County Public Health (HCPH) is now administering the COVID-19 vaccine to children 6 months to 4 years old. This follows the recent emergency use authorization given to both Pfizer and Moderna by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), along with approval by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

HCPH encourages parents or guardians to first seek a COVID-19 vaccine for their children from their primary care provider or pediatrician. HCPH will provide vaccines to children at its vaccination sites to residents who cannot obtain it otherwise.

All COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are safe and effective and have proven to provide strong protection against severe illness, hospitalizations, and death, including the latest version approved for children aged 6 months to 4 years old.

“Receiving the approval by the FDA and CDC to have children under 5 years vaccinated is another major step for us to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and hospitalization for everyone,” said Ericka Brown, MD, MBA, FACHE, interim local health authority for HCPH. “We encourage all parents or guardians to contact their children’s pediatrician or primary care provider and consider the options for a vaccine.”

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for children ages 6 months to 4 years old is a three-shot series, and each dose is one-tenth the dosage given to adults. Children would receive two doses three weeks apart, and a third dose at least two months later.

Moderna’s vaccine approved for children from 6 months to 5 years is given in two shots (four weeks apart) and each dose is one-quarter the dose of that used in adults.

Vaccines provided by HCPH are free, and appointments are not required. To find a location near you, click here. Parents who wish to schedule an appointment online will be able to do so through ReadyHarris.org or vacstrac.hctx.net starting Monday, June 27.

COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Now Available for 5–11-year-olds

Following CDC, DSHS, and FDA approval of the Pfizer vaccine booster

Houston – Following approvals of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Harris County Public Health (HCPH) encourages parents to have their children aged 5 to 11 receive the COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine booster. All child boosters must be administered at least five months after the primary series. If you or your child have not received the COVID-19 primary series, please do so as soon as possible.

Parents/guardians can seek a COVID-19 vaccine booster for their children from a primary care provider, pediatrician, or local pharmacy. HCPH will provide free vaccine boosters to children at its vaccination sites to residents who cannot obtain it otherwise. Residents who would like to have their children receive the COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine booster can do so now by visiting ReadyHarris.org to find the location closest to them or visiting HCPH’s vaccine registration page.

All COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are safe, effective, and provide strong protection against severe illness, hospitalizations, and death, including this latest version approved for children aged 5 - 11. This version of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine booster for young children is a smaller dose or one-third of the version approved for adults and teens.

Vaccines provided by HCPH are free and appointments are not required. If you would like to schedule an appointment, go to a ReadyHarris.org, vacstrac.hctx.net, or call 832-927-8787. To find a location near you, click here.

###

HCPH is the local public health agency for the Harris County, Texas jurisdiction. It provides a wide variety of public health activities and services aimed at improving the health and well-being of the Harris County community.

HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — I was 11, and Carol Burnett was 26 when we first met. I haunted a candy store next to the off-Broadway Phoenix Theater, where Carol was starring in “Once Upon a Mattress.”

When she became a regular on “The Garry Moore Show,” I was her guest at tapings each week. Had it not been for Carol, you might not be reading this. “The Carol Burnett Show” became a classic CBS variety series, and she became a legend.

At 89, Carol’s in her third marriage to Hollywood Bowl Orchestra drummer Brian Miller, and they’re celebrating 21 years together come November.

The “Carol Burnett Show” and “Mama’s Family” have been huge successes in syndication for years. She could easily rest on her laurels, but happily, she’s signed to be a regular in the 10-part Apple TV+ series “Mrs. American Pie,” produced by and starring Oscar-winner Laura Dern, who’s assembled a great cast: Kristen Wiig, Allison Janney, Ricky Martin and Josh Lucas. It’s about a woman trying to break into Palm Beach Society. Thanks, Carol, for pointing me in the right direction.

*** Obviously taking a cue from Lin-Manuel Miranda’s mega successful “Hamilton,” which depicted all of our forefathers diversely (the only non-person-of-color being King George III), a revival of the classic musical “1776” is now headed to Broadway, getting booked



CAROL BURNETT

for the Ahmanson Theater in Los Angeles from April 5 to May 7, 2023.

This production will feature a cast of female, trans and nonbinary performers. Since the show originally consisted of mostly 23 men and only 2 women — being about the Continental Congress’ creation of the Declaration of Independence — the question is, Are they rewriting history, or are they just taking many liberties?

*** Movie theaters may finally be getting their audiences back. It’s going to be a three-way fight between “Top Gun: Maverick,” which joined the billion-dollar film club after one month in release; “Jurassic World: Dominion,” which reached a billion-dollar gross in half the time; and “Elvis,” which swiveled out of the gate strongly and is nipping at their heels.

Moviegoers were stunned by Tom Hanks’ portrayal of Col. Tom Parker, partly because they didn’t know Parker was a greedy, ruthless man who purposely held Elvis Presley back to make more money.

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Crosby Superintendent,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

know we’re doing everything we can to make Crosby ISD the best place to learn and grow.

This month, members of the public can start filing to run for a seat on the Crosby ISD Board of Trustees. All seven trustee positions will be on the November ballot as part of the 2020 Census Redistricting process. The Candidate Filing Period runs July 23 through August 22. Applications are accepted at the Crosby ISD Operations Center, 14670 FM 2100, Crosby, TX, 77532. You can see all the eligibility requirements on our website www.crosbyisd.org. Board of Trustee members volunteer their time to guide the District through policy decisions, curriculum standards, and celebrations of our students and staff in Crosby ISD.

With the start of school around the corner, Crosby ISD wants to ensure families have what they need to start the new year. On Saturday, August 6th, we are hosting a Back-to-School

Bash at Crosby High School from 9am-1pm. We will have representatives from Transportation, Registration/Verification, and Child Nutrition Services there to answer questions. There will be many activities for our families to enjoy as well, from a petting zoo to inflatables and food trucks. You can also load up on Cougar gear thanks to area vendors. This event is free.

Families can begin now to prepare for the new year. Returning Student Verification begins Wednesday, July 27. Students who are new to Crosby ISD can register as of Monday, August 1. The District will share the links as we get closer to the opening dates.

Although it’s summertime, our Cougars are still doing big things. Congratulations to incoming senior and third baseman Sean Bazemore for making second team on the Chronicle’s list of All-Greater Houston High School Baseball players. Sean is a member of the Class of

2023, and we plan to celebrate big achievements in academics and sports this year.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year of learning. Crosby ISD will work to build on the successes we saw during the 2021-2022 school year. We’ll also prepare another class of seniors ready to graduate and enter college or the work force with certifications and/or associate’s degrees. Literacy will be a core of our focus at all of our campuses this year. We will emphasize that today’s readers are tomorrow’s leaders.

Finally, I want to welcome the new educators starting their careers with Crosby ISD this month. We can’t wait to see the impact you have inspiring our students. We hope you spend your entire careers in education with us. And for all our staff, we look forward to welcoming you back to what will be an amazing year.

We are Better Together! Go Coogs!

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Channelview I.S.D. will accept Sealed Request for Qualifications for the following:

RFQ# 2122-007 – Architectural Services

Bids will be received until 4:00 p.m., Monday, August 01, 2022, at the Channelview ISD's E-bidding website. Please visit the electronic bidding website at <https://cvisd.ionwave.net> All necessary information may be obtained by calling the Business Office at (281) 452-8003, or the district website www.cvisd.org, under Departments Business Office Purchasing. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

27-2T

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

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LEGAL NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE – RFP #23-001

The Barbers Hill Independent School District is accepting proposals for:

Delivery of (6) SIX Trucks

Interested parties may contact the BHISD Business Office for a copy of the specifications which can also be obtained at the District website. Please direct all proposal questions to Amy Presley, Purchasing Coordinator, (281) 576-2221 ext. 1268.

Proposals will accepted until 2:00 p.m. August 22, 2022

The school district reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, waive any formalities and/or technicalities in the proposal and award the contract to the best proposal that serves the interests of the district. The district may negotiate with vendors that submit viable proposals.

28-2t

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0010184001

APPLICATION. Harris County Fresh Water Supply District No. 6, 117 Tower Street, Channelview, Texas 77530, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0010184001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0027111) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 400,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located approximately 285 feet southwest of the intersection of De Zavalla Road and Elsbeth Road, in Harris County, Texas. The discharge route is from the plant site to a Harris County Flood Control District Ditch, thence to the Carpenters Bayou portion of the Houston Ship Channel Tidal. TCEQ received this application on June 9, 2022. The permit application is available for viewing and copying at Harris County Fresh Water Supply District Office, 117 Tower Street, Channelview, Texas. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.
<https://tceq.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=db5bac44afbc468bbddd36of816825of&marker=-95.105833%2C29.766944&level=12>

ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE NOTICE. Alternative language notice in Spanish is available at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notices>. El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notices>.

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. **You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application.** The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address, and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Harris County Fresh Water Supply District No. 6, at the address above or by calling Mr. Kyle Vincent P.E., LJA Engineering, at 713-657-6024.

Issuance Date: July 13, 2022

Garcia at White House Summit,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mit on the American Rescue Plan and Workforce with Vice President Harris was held on July 13 in Washington DC.

The White House Summit on the American Rescue Plan and the Workforce was headlined by Vice President Kamala Harris and hosted by the White House American Rescue Plan Implementation Team, and the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. This event featured state and local leaders across the country and highlighted model American Rescue Plan investments in workforce development across the areas of care and public health, infrastructure, and expanding the workforce.

The program included:
11 a.m. (10 a.m. CST): Opening remarks from Vice President Kamala Harris, Labor Secretary Marty Walsh, Senior Advisor to

the President and White House American Rescue Plan Coordinator Gene Sperling, and Senior Advisor to the President and Director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs Julie Rodriguez.

11:10 a.m. – 12:40 p.m. (10:10 – 11:40 a.m. CST): Roundtables and Various ARPA-Funded Programs Highlighted.

12:40 p.m. (11:40 a.m. CST): Expanding Access to the Workforce for Underserved Populations: Featuring Harris County (TX) Commissioner Adrian Garcia, Memphis (TN) Mayor Jim Strickland, Employ Milwaukee CEO Chytania Brown, and WRTV Big Step President Lindsay Blumer.

Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia discussed the Precinct 2 E2E Program, or Employ2Empower Program.

Gun BuyBack Program,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Houston Police Department for the partnership. But we cannot have a successful event without the public participating in making our streets safer.”

With no questions asked, residents will be able to receive a \$50 gift card for every nonfunctioning gun, \$100 for a rifle, \$150 for a handgun and \$200 for an assault rifle. All firearms must be unloaded and in the vehicle’s trunk.

This program is part of a broader strategy recently implemented by Harris County to get at the root causes of crime. The County’s Violence Interruption Program works with trusted and trained community messengers to de-escalate local conflicts, provide path-

ways out of gangs, and provide resources and support in terms of jobs, substance use, health and education.

The County’s Holistic Assistance Response Team (HART) sends trained first responders to assist people struggling with issues related to mental health, substance use, or homelessness so they can receive help they need. This also eases the burden on law enforcement by allowing them to focus on serious violent crimes.

“We need your help to spread the word about this initiative,” Commissioner Ellis said. “Other cities have removed hundreds of unwanted firearms, eliminating the chance of these weapons cycling through illegal networks or being discovered by a curious child or teenager at someone’s home.”

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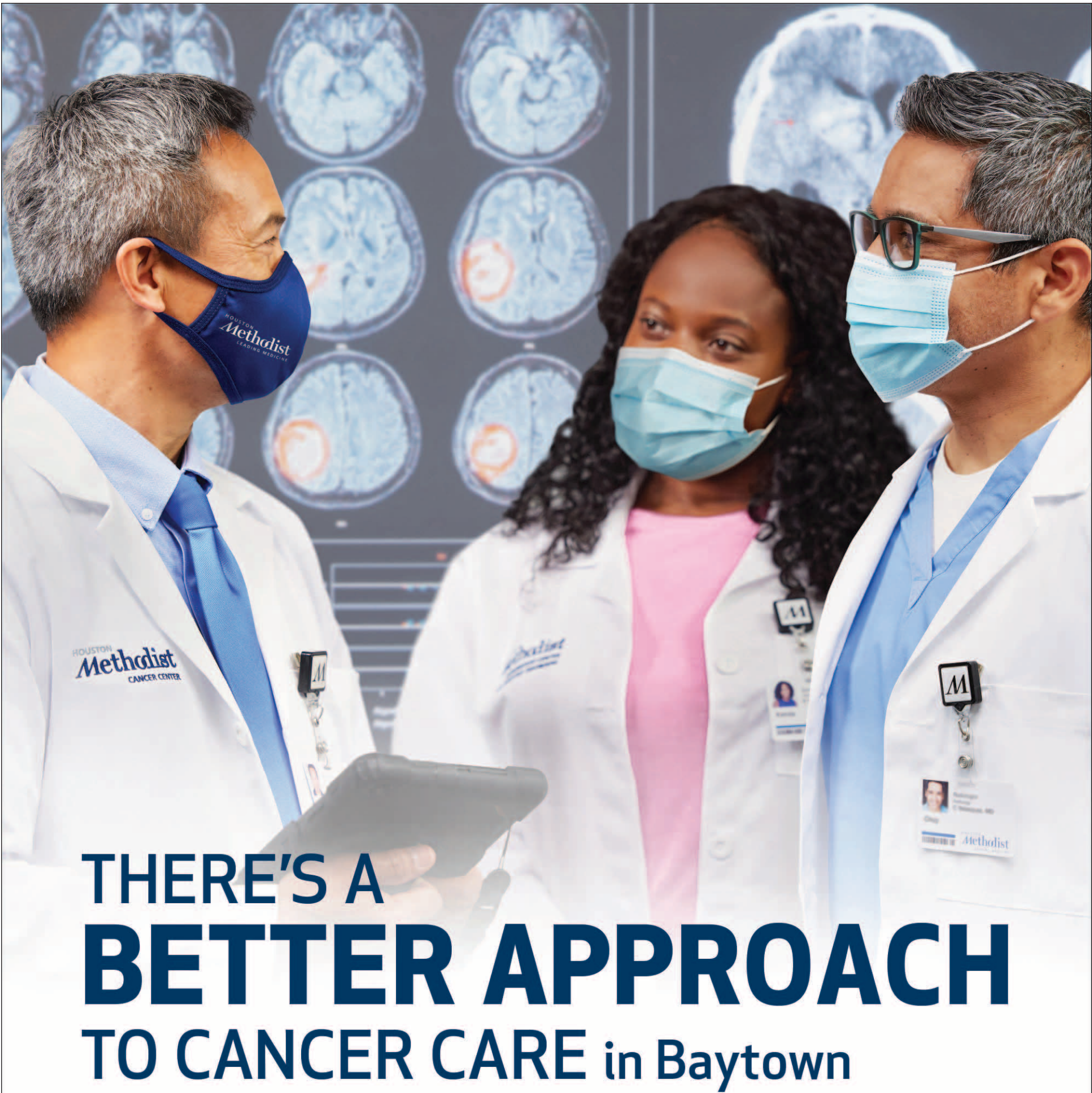
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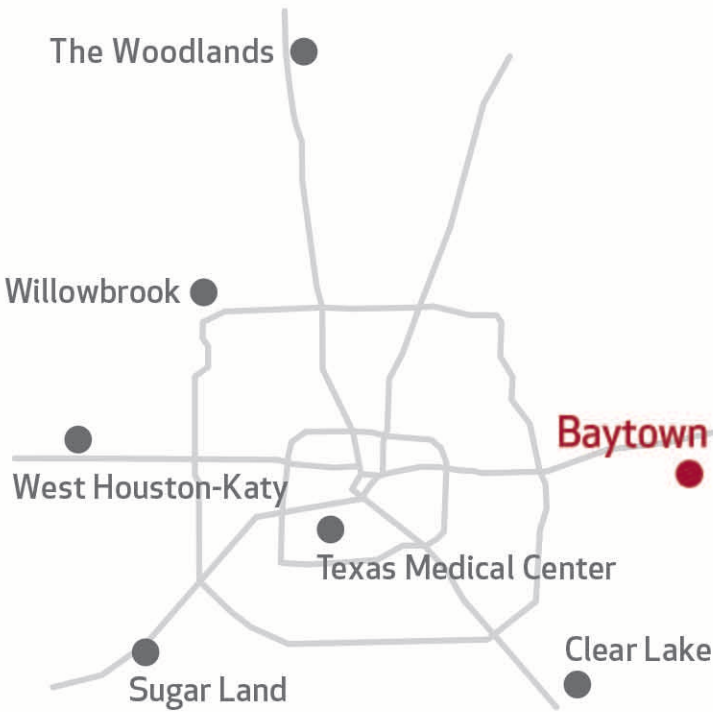
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