

HIGHLANDS CROSBY Star ★ Courier

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THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2022

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

AUG. 5-7 B2S Sales Tax Holiday

Avoid paying the Texas Sales Tax (8.25%) on every purchase for school supplies, on August 5, 6, and 7 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday). Savings includes clothing, footwear, school supplies, and backpacks - any item priced below \$100. Complete list of exempt items is at www.TexasTax-Holiday.org.

AUG. 6 Back 2 School BASH

On Saturday, Aug. 6 the Crosby School District is sponsoring a Back-2-School Bash, with Free Backpacks and More! Petting Zoo, Inflatables, Food Trucks, Cougar Gear, Free Vaccinations. At Crosby High School from 9am to 1pm.

AUG. 1-9 B2S Teapot Specials in Crosby

Teapot Depot's new location at 15110 FM2100 in Crosby is offering Back to School Discounts and Specials to CISD staff. Offer good 8/1 to 8/9. School starts Aug. 11 folks! See more details on Page 2.

BIRTHDAYS

Jul 28—Lee Henning
Martin Hernandez
Joyce Holleman
Haley Jo Maxey
Jul 30—Janis Parker
Jul 31—Cliff McKee
Richard Turvil
Aug 1—Kenneth Boudreaux
Calvin Finnell
Mildred Miller
Randall "Oscar" Stone
Barbara Statts
Mona Bowman
Aug 2—Joe Luis Rodriguez
Katerina Horn
Aug 3—Mrs. W.E. Gentry
Nita Sloan
Aug 4—Stacey Glover
Brittany Hahn
Aug 5—James Bobalik
Aug 6—Sara Henning
Ethel Peters
Dolores Griffen
Aug 7—Cynthia Finnell

ANNIVERSARIES

Jul 26—Kenneth & Lisa Boudreaux
Jul 29—Marcelino & Marie Estrada
Jul 30—Johnnie & Barbara Stotts
Aug 1—Doug & Cathy Wagner
Christina & Troy Woodall
Aug 2—Rusty & June Ressler
Aug 5—PeeWee & Patti Farmer
Aug 6—Sue & Steve Norris
Jan & Mike Gucker

Bras for a Cause awards \$132,000 to 3 groups



Bras for a Cause members pose at the Rodeo, with the three check presentations, to Houston Methodist Baytown, Joseph's Warriors, and Candlelighters Childhood Alliance. Jay Beasley waves in recognition and thanks. (Photos by Michele Eaglin)



CANDLELIGHTERS CHILDHOOD ALLIANCE received \$40,000. CL board member Jay Beasley points to the amount, as BFC members hold check.

CROSBY - As part of a Night Performance at the Crosby Rodeo the Crosby Bras for a Cause Committee presented 3 checks at the CF&R 2022 with proceeds from the 2022 event held in February of this year.

\$90,000 to Houston Methodist Baytown. These funds will be divided between the Pink Heals Fund and the BFC Breast Care Fund. Pink Heals supports patients with a cancer diagnosis who need financial support while going through treatment for expenses that insurance will not cover. BFC Breast Care Fund provides financial assistance with breast

screenings and diagnostics for cancer diagnosis.

\$40,000 donated to Candlelighters Childhood Alliance. CL supports families of children who are dealing with a cancer diagnosis.

\$2,000 donated to Joseph's Warriors, a family foundation formerly from Crosby whose 10-year-old son passed away from cancer and they visit children with cancer in the hospital and take gifts to them.

The next fundraising event by Bras for a Cause will be Feb 4, 2023 at the Crosby American legion Hall.

--By Debbie Holmelin

100°+ Heat Wave setting records

HARRIS COUNTY – For at least 18 days since the beginning of the year, Southeast Texas has experienced record setting temperatures of 100°+. In the month of July, we are on track to set the hottest month on record, checking records all the way back to 1889. Little to no rain is forecast to alleviate this problem for the next week or more.

Authorities are advising about Heat Stroke, and other measures to deal with the excessive heat.

Heat Safety & Heat Stroke: What You Need to Know During a Heat Wave
When you live in Southeast Texas where the summers are always hot, a heat warning or advisory may not seem like a big deal. But, right now, it's excessively hot, and it's a good time to brush up on heat safety.

Heat stroke, also re-



ferred to as sun stroke, is when a person's body overheats as a result of exposure to hot weather. When it's particularly hot outside, your body temperature can rise faster than your body's cooling mechanisms (such as sweating) are able to lower it. In addition, heat that's accompanied by high humidity

(above 75%) can reduce the effect sweat has on lowering your body temperature.

"In most cases, heat stroke results from exercising outside in the heat without proper hydration. But, when it's really hot outside, a person doesn't have to be exercising to develop heat stroke," said

Dr. Gregory Terry, a primary care physician with Houston Methodist Baytown.

Here's what you need to know about heat stroke and staying safe in the heat during a heat wave.

The signs and symptoms of heat stroke:

The most common symptoms of heat stroke

include:

—A body temperature of 104 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, as measured by a rectal thermometer

—Sudden confusion or hallucinations

—Difficulty walking

—Seizures

—Fainting

"People suffering from heat stroke may also experience racing heart rate, rapid breathing, overly warm skin or skin redness, vomiting or diarrhea, muscle cramps and weakness, and throbbing headaches," said Dr. Terry.

Heat stroke is an emergency requiring immediate medical attention

The high body temperature associated with heat stroke can damage your brain, heart, kidneys, muscles and other organs. "The

Continued. See HEAT WAVE SETTING RECORDS, Page 2

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Galena Park ISD trains for School Safety

Preparation to deal with an Active Shooter

By Gilbert Hoffman

GALENA PARK – In the aftermath of the terrible murders at a school in Uvalde, parents and students have been concerned about safety and security as they prepare to return to schools in August.

In the Galena Park school district, school safety is a top priority, with the district police department trained and equipped to handle emergencies such as active shooters.

In an interview with this newspaper, GPISD police chief Bryan Clements outlined the safety measures enacted through all the schools. In addition, the yearly simulation drill was broadcast live on local television station KPRC channel 2, with an interview with Cathy Hernandez, a Galena Park graduate.

Clements said that for a number of years, armed officers have been assigned to each middle and high school, and that this year the GPISD trustees have increased the number of police officers from 21 to 40, with the hiring of an additional 19 positions. This number provides an officer for each school, from K through high school.

Clements said that all



As part of day-long training, GPISD officers and volunteer students enact a drill simulating how the officers would rush to take down an active shooter in a school classroom or building. This training exercise is repeated yearly, along with other other security measures in all Galena Park schools.

the officers are put through rigorous training, and once a year have an 8-hour class session and drill regarding how to suppress an active shooter.

Safety and security routines are also part of each

schools daily routine, Clements said. Officers and school staff are instructed that all outside doors must be locked, and classroom doors also locked during class. Officers are instructed to check

each door throughout the day for compliance.

Schools are also equipped for this type of active shooter emergency, with a ballistic shield and medical equipment stocked and available at every school.



IN THE TRAINING DRILL, OFFICERS BREACH THE CLASSROOM IMMEDIATELY, AND ENGAGE THE PRETEND ACTIVE SHOOTER, SEEN AT THE LEFT IN THIS VIEW. TRAINING PHOTOS COURTESY OF KPRC CHANNEL 2.



GPISD POLICE CHIEF
BRYAN CLEMENTS

The Safety Drill was available to see on television, Clements said, because it is important for families to see that students will be protected when they come to school.

As part of the active shooter training, officers found injured victims in a hallway of the North Shore 10th Grade Center. The officers went straight to a classroom where two pretend shooters were with

students. The police chief said they had three priorities: stop the killing, stop the dying, and evacuate the injured.

Clements said the simulation training gives the officers a unique learning experience in stressful situations. He said he wants his officers to know what to do if a situation arises such as a shooter.

The training was open to the public to see, in person and on television. Participating were local fire and EMS personnel, and law enforcement agencies including Constables from Pct. 2 and 3.



GALENA PARK
SUPERINTENDENT DR. JOHN
MOORE AT THE TRAINING
EXERCISE

Galena Park Superintendent Dr. John Moore had this to say about the training: “Students come to our schools to learn, but parents expect us to keep them safe. And that’s our number one priority here in Galena Park, and I’m sure that’s the number one priority all over the United States.”

The first day of school will be August 11, and it can be expected to be a safe and secure opening.

Heat Wave Setting Records,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

longer heat stroke is left untreated, the more damage can be done to these vital organs — increasing the risk of long-term complications and even death,” added Dr. Terry.

This means heat stroke is a medical emergency. If you or someone you love is showing signs of heat stroke, call 911 immediately.

While waiting for help to arrive, try to cool the person down by:

- Moving him or her into the shade or air conditioning
- Removing clothing
- Applying wet towels to the head, neck, armpits and groin or soaking in a cool bath

Heat stroke is preventable

First of all, a person’s risk of experiencing heat stroke is predictable. As soon as your local officials

issue a heat alert, especially if it’s a heat advisory, that’s your cue to take extra precautions to stay safe outdoors.

Given the serious nature of heat stroke, it’s important to take steps to prevent heat stroke from happening altogether.

Tips for preventing heat stroke:

- Stay hydrated
- Avoid being in a parked car
- Wear loose-fitting clothing outdoors
- Exercise indoors or early in the morning
- Take frequent “cool down” breaks in the shade if you work outdoors
- Apply (and reapply) sunscreen
- Limit alcohol while in the heat
- Swap outdoor activities for indoor ones

Pct. 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey honors Deputy Katie Fuentes



Commissioner Ramsey championed a resolution to honor Deputy Katie Fuentes at Commissioners Court. Deputy Fuentes, with Harris County Constable Pct. 3 - Constable Sherman Eagleton, goes above and beyond law enforcement-related services and duties. She is a role model for the students of Crosby ISD and the community where she performs acts of kindness and displays her compassion in caring for others.

Thank you Deputy Fuentes for building community trust in law enforcement and making personal connections with students that make an impact in their life. Your heartwarming smile and dedication show that law enforcement is a centerpiece of our community.

ATTENTION GISD STAFF!

WE HATE TO BE THE BEARER OF BAD NEWS BUT... IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME!

To soften the blow we would like to invite you all to stop in & pick up lunch at our Crosby Store

GET 22% OFF YOUR MEAL & BOUTIQUE PURCHASES (INCLUDES GANDICE ROSE BOUTIQUE)

8/1-8/9

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East Harris County Empowerment Council

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BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

For all grade levels

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SAT. AUG 6 9AM-1PM

INFLATABLES PETTING ZOO FOOD TRUCKS COUGAR GEAR LOTS OF VENDORS FREE VACCINATIONS SIGN UPS FOR AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Crosby High School

333 Red Summit Drive

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THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2022

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

JONES PUBLIC LIBRARY

July 20, 2022
The Jones Public Library and the patrons thereof, we would like to thank all of our local Summer Reading Program Sponsors, without whom this program would not have been such a great success, listed below:
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Lee College Hosting Back-to-School Bash in Liberty

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.

Bras for a Cause presents \$90k to HMB



Bras for a Cause members and representatives from Houston Methodist Baytown, Dr. Shawn Tittle, Dr. Mary Goswitz and Myrna Baker make the check presentation of \$90,000 at the Crosby Rodeo in June.

A Focused Future: Lee College Rebrands Mascot to “Navigators”

Board of Regents Voted for Change, Effective Immediately

BAYTOWN, July 21, 2022 – The Lee College Board of Regents voted unanimously to rebrand the college mascot to the Lee College Navigators. The change is effective immediately with the board vote and will be implemented during the 2022-23 academic year.

“As we seek to grow the college’s enrollment and enlarge the offerings we provide to our rapidly growing and diverse service area, it is important to recognize the leadership our Board of Regents demonstrated in repositioning our brand for the future,” said Dr. Lynda Villanueva, president. “The Lee College Navigators represent all the best attributes of our college and our students: future-facing, on a mission, capable and competent. I could not be more pleased with this decision, and I’m thrilled for the ex-



citing next steps.”

In March 2021, the Board asked President Villanueva to develop a proposal on whether a change of the Lee College mascot was needed. The college determined that any recommendation to change the mascot should be based first on research to ascertain the brand attributes that best position Lee College for the near-and far-term futures, and then an assessment of how well the mascot represented those attributes.

Two large studies of the Lee College brand were conducted. The deliberate process included a quantitative survey that yielded

nearly 450 responses in the college service area, and a qualitative survey that involved 30-minute interviews or focus group sessions comprised of student leaders, faculty and staff, as well as members of the community.

Based on the outcomes of that research, the president’s cabinet agreed that a change was needed and that Navigators was the most appropriate choice for the Lee College mascot as it promotes brand attributes associated with exploring new horizons and building a better future.

“We have reimaged our whole student experience and designed each new element to support students and their holistic success,” Villanueva added. “The rebranding of our mascot is another feature to highlight the college at the highest level.”

Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown

Defend Yourself Against Colorectal Cancer

Cancer of the colon or rectum — commonly called colorectal cancer — is the second-leading cause of cancer-related death. “But, if colorectal cancer is detected early, it has a very high survival rate,” noted Dr. Samir Nath, a gastroenterologist with the Houston Methodist Gastroenterology Associates at Baytown. “The rate of people being diagnosed with colorectal cancer and death rates for people in the 65-plus age range have been dropping in recent years. However, the number of cases and deaths in younger people is rising.” The American Cancer Society estimates that more than 106,000 cases of colon cancer and almost 45,000 cases of rectal cancer will be diagnosed in 2022. Combined, colon and rectum cancer are expected to cause more than 52,000 fatalities in 2022.

SCREENING IS VITAL

“For cancers such as colorectal cancer that can be detected by screening, get-

ting tested can be lifesaving,” Nath noted. Unfortunately, about 1 in 3 people who should get tested for colorectal cancer have never been screened. “That’s troubling because the risk of developing colorectal cancer increases with age,” said Nath. “In addition, having a family history of the disease, colorectal polyps or inflammatory bowel disease makes the risk of colorectal cancer significant.” Cancer of some other organs may also increase the possibility of colorectal cancer.

OTHER STEPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF

The following lifestyle changes can help prevent the disease:
Control weight.
Quit smoking.
Limit alcohol to one drink daily for women and two for men.
Exercise
Eat low-fat meals rich in fruits and vegetables.

And don’t overlook dietary fiber. Although the medical consensus on fiber’s ability to fight col-



Dr. Nath Samir

orectal cancer has seen-sawed due to some contradictory findings, the largest study ever undertaken maintains that fiber is indeed a powerful cancer fighter. The 15-year study, ending in 2000, involved nine European countries and 400,000 people. It suggests a high-fiber diet can reduce colorectal cancer risk by 40%.

HOW IT DEVELOPS

Colorectal cancer attacks the large intestine — the long digestive organ that removes solid waste from the body. The major-

School Supplies: Texas Sales Tax Holiday Aug. 5-7

(AUSTIN) — Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar is reminding shoppers they can save money on clothes and school supplies during the state’s sales tax holiday on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 5-7.

State law exempts sales tax on qualified items — such as clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks — priced below \$100, saving shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend. The dates of the sales tax holiday and list of tax-exempt items are set by the Texas Legislature.

“Most Texans won’t hear the back-to-school bell for another month, but it’s never too early to take advantage of the opportunity to save money on everything from book bags to ballpoint pens,” Hegar said. “With inflation driving prices higher on just about everything, this sales tax holiday provides Texas families some small relief managing the costs associated with kids heading back to the classroom. As the father of

three school-aged children myself, I know how these expenses can add up.”

The Comptroller’s office estimates that shoppers will save \$112 million in state and local sales tax during this sales tax holiday.

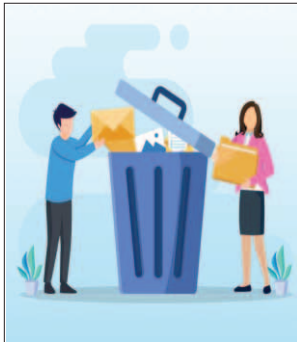
Apparel and school supplies that may be purchased tax-free are listed on the Comptroller’s website at [TexasTaxHoliday.org](https://www.texas.gov/tax-holiday).

During the annual sales tax holiday, qualifying items can be purchased tax free online or by telephone, mail, custom order or any other means (including in-store purchases) when either: the item is both delivered to, and paid for by, the customer during the exemption period; or, the customer orders and pays for the item, and the seller accepts the order during the exemption period for immediate shipment, even if delivery is made after the exemption period ends.

Texas’ sales tax holiday weekend has been an annual event since 1999.

Chambers County Solid Waste Update

Due to the high cost of disposal, Chambers County Solid Waste has made the hard decision to remove paper and plastic bins at some County-owned and Local school facilities. Chambers County is hopeful that this will be a temporary reduction in service and will continue to look for ways to offer recycling at a responsible cost in the future.



these screening schedules for most people ages 45 and older (up to age 75):

*A yearly fecal occult blood test or fecal immunochemical test

*A stool DNA test as recommended by your doctor

*A sigmoidoscopy every five years A barium enema every five years

*A colonoscopy every 10 years A CT colonography (virtual colonoscopy) every five years

In addition, you should report any of these symptoms to your doctor:

*Changes in bowel habits

*Bright-red or black stool

*Abdominal pain and cramps

*Unexplained weight loss Exhaustion

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.



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OPINION

By BILL KING



Suicide in America

Over the last 20 years, nearly a million Americans have taken their own lives. During that time, suicide has been the tenth leading cause of death for all ages.¹ In 2020, it was the second leading cause of death for the ages of 10-14 and 25-34 and the third leading cause for ages 15-24. Because the incidence of suicides is so high among young people, the years of life lost² is especially tragic. One research group estimated that in 2020 alone, there were nearly a million years of life lost in America to suicide.

The number of suicides over the last two decades has been steadily increasing, reflecting both a larger population and about a third increase in the rate of suicide. Interestingly, suicides topped out at just over 48,000 in 2018, and then declined slightly in 2019 and 2020. Preliminary data for 2021 indicates that there was probably not much change from 2020. This contradicts the predictions of many, including yours truly, that suicides would increase during the pandemic due to depression from isolation.

Advocates for stricter gun laws, almost always lump suicides together with homicides and firearm accidents, when citing the toll of gun violence in America. I think that is unhelpful in trying to sort out why so many people die from guns in America because the two phenomena are so dramatically different. However, it is entirely fair to ask the question of whether American's greater access to guns affects the number of suicides.

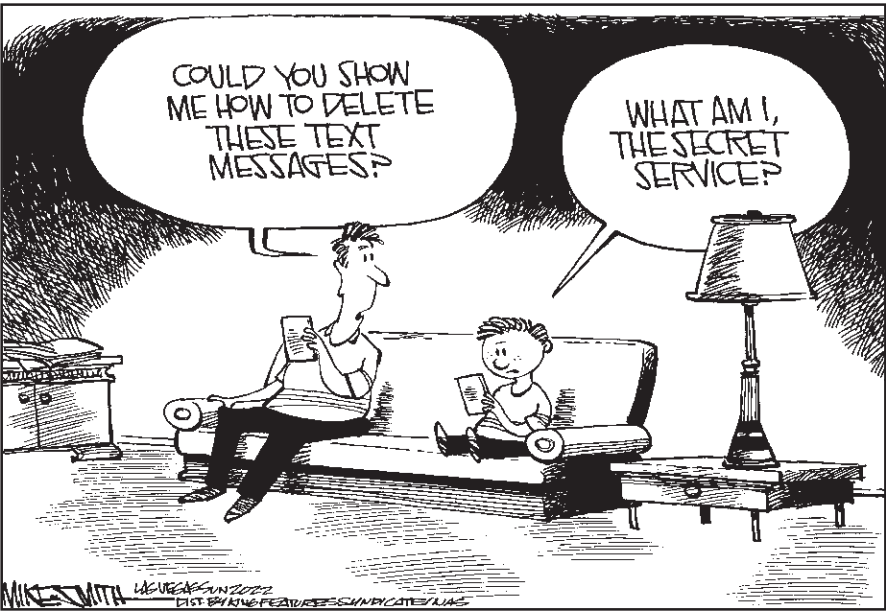
It seems intuitive that greater access to a lethal weapon would certainly make it easier to commit suicide and therefore more likely. A survey of studies conducted by a research group at Harvard suggests a correlation between the number of gun ownership parameters and higher suicide rates, e.g., people who own handguns are almost ten more likely to commit suicide than non-owners. However, as I have previously discussed, correlation does not necessarily imply causation and some of the data suggests a more complicated picture.

First, only about half of all suicides are committed with a firearm and that rate has remained fairly steady over the last twenty years, despite the rapid increase in gun ownership I noted in my last post. Indeed, the number of suicides committed without a firearm has actually increased by a greater percentage over the last twenty years than firearm suicides (72% vs. 46%).

Also, the United States' suicide rate is only slightly higher when compared to other countries. In 2019, the global rate was about 10.4 versus 11.7 for the U.S., which, of course, does not come close to coinciding with our country's dramatically disproportionate private ownership of firearms compared to other countries.³ And to further muddle the data, there are several countries with miniscule private gun ownership but which have higher suicide rates than the U.S., e.g., Belgium, Russia, South Korea.

One factor is that individuals who attempt suicide with a firearm more often succeed in ending their life than those who use other methods. A 2000 study found that 82% of those who attempted suicide with a firearm died while less than 10% of those who used other methods did. The study was a relatively small sample and is somewhat dated, but I find those results intuitive and likely consistent with all suicides attempts.

So, does the greater access to firearms in America result in a higher suicide rate? I do not think we can definitively answer that question. But it seems to me that the weight of the evidence suggests the ready access to firearms is a factor that results in a higher rate than we might otherwise have. Does it make a dramatic difference? I doubt it.



★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Wildfire Danger Continues to Rise throughout state

As we cross the halfway point of July, wildfire danger continues to increase across the state. On Friday, Texas A&M Forest Service firefighters responded to 15 new wildfires that burned 651 acres. As of Sunday, there were eight active wildfires; the largest was the Nethery Road Fire in Kimble County, involving an estimated 3,500 acres. It has been 70% contained.

The forest service is taking to the air to augment fire suppression efforts on the ground. It has opened the Austin Airtanker Base at the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. The service has three dozen aircraft mobilized at 17 airports around the state for wildfire response. The Austin Airtanker Base will serve as a reload station for aircraft coming and going to wildfires. It is the only airport in the state set up for what is known as a Very Large Airtanker, or DC-10.

Forest service aircraft can get anywhere in Texas in under one hour. Since being placed in operation in early December, they have flown 4,641 hours and dumped 6.8 million gallons of water and retardant on Texas wildfires.

"This year, we have utilized aviation resources for response in areas experiencing significant wildfire activity," said Jared Karns, with the forest service. "These aircraft provide support to ground crews and assist in protecting homes as well as other critical infrastructure."

There are now 212 counties across the state with burn bans — 84% of the total number of Texas counties.

Fourth consecutive month with rain deficit

Unsurprisingly, June was warmer and drier for much of Texas, according to Dr. Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board. At the end of June, drought conditions covered



86% of the state, up 8 percentage points from May.

"That all adds up to the conclusion that Texas is in a significant drought, the worst since 2011, but not worse than 2011," Wentzel wrote.

The drought predictably is having an effect on the state's water supply reservoirs, which are at 75% of capacity, 10 percentage points below normal for this time of year, according to TWDB.

SIX WAYS TO SAVE WATER IN SUMMER HEAT

TDWB is offering six tips on saving water in a state whose population is expected to increase from 29.5 million in 2021 to 51.1 million in 2070 — a 73% increase that will put a strain on water supplies. Water conservation is one of the major strategies recommended in the 2022 state water plan. Here are the tips:

- Water landscape in the early morning and at night when winds are calmer and temperatures lower.
- Design a water-wise landscape with native shrubs, trees and grasses. Native plants have adapted to a region's climate and conserve water more efficiently.
- Follow local watering restrictions. They're there for a reason: to make sure a community doesn't run out of water.
- Manage in-ground irrigation systems and check sprinkler heads. Avoid

leaving systems on automatic settings that may come on when it isn't necessary — like during a thunderstorm.

- Consider installing a rainwater harvesting system. In general, for every inch of rain that falls on a 2,000-square-foot roof, about 1,000 gallons of water can be collected. Find out more here: <https://tinyurl.com/mryburys>.
- Cover your pool or spa when not in use, since evaporation throughout the summer can add up to the equivalent of a pool's volume.

TXDOT APPROVES \$146 MILLION FOR STATEWIDE TRANSIT

Two grants totaling \$146 million have been announced by the Texas Department of Transportation to fund transit providers across the state, particularly in rural areas.

"This funding is critical to ensuring everyone in Texas, especially in rural areas, has access to where they need to go safely and reliably," TxDOT Transportation Commissioner Alvin New said.

Transit agencies can use the funds, which come from both federal and state coffers, to cover maintenance costs, buy new buses, build new facilities and expand services to more people, according to TxDOT. The funding is a 65% increase over last summer's funds, in large part due to federal funds from the infrastructure act passed last year.

O'ROURKE OUTRAISES ABBOTT IN LAST FOUR MONTHS

Democratic gubernatorial challenger Beto O'Rourke raised \$27.3 million from Feb. 20 to June 20, outpacing Gov. Gregg Abbott's \$25 million, according to the Austin American-Statesman. Abbott still has a commanding lead in cash on hand, with \$46 million in the bank. The O'Rourke campaign has not released how much cash it has on hand.

The O'Rourke campaign said nearly all its donations were made online, at an average of \$54. Teachers gave more money than people from any other occupation.

The latest poll indicates the race for governor has tightened, though Abbott still holds a 6-point lead — 45% to 39%.

BA.2 VARIANT OF COVID-19 SPURS HIKE IN CASES

With the highly transmissible BA.2 variant of COVID-19 now the dominant strain, the number of new cases continues to rise in Texas and elsewhere. The Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University reported 107,367 new cases in Texas during the past week, up 27% from the previous week.

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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

"The Package"

The package arrived last week and, I have to admit, I was surprised.

I knew what was in it, of course. It was a painting that my friends Angel, Nora and I co-own. I had it for one year 11 years ago. Then I brought it to Paris, where Angel was living. But Angel had no time to hang the painting. She had just moved to a new condo and was diagnosed with cancer. And so it remained rolled up under her bed for two years. That's when Nora decided her turn had come—and she was right. Before Angel died, Nora brought the painting to her family home in Vienna and hung it in her mother's bedroom.

That's where it remained for seven years.

I didn't really mind. During those seven years, I started and finished a college program. I moved out of state, met my husband, Peter, moved in with him, then moved again back to the Midwest. There were a lot of changes and a lot of moving, and I knew Nora was enjoying the painting. Then, four years after Angel's death, after Peter and I had made a new home together, I decided it was time to have the painting again.

Nora was not immediately receptive.

Nora likes her things. This is not a criticism; it's just how she is. She is a collector. She has a lot of beautiful art and antiques and rocks and crystals. She likes to have her lovely things around her. Sending things away is hard.

This painting, in particular, was difficult to part with because it was a painting of the three of us—Angel, me and Nora. Letting go of this painting felt like letting go of a special time in the past that had been important to us all.

But I still wanted the painting.

I told Nora the time had come, and I would like her to send it. She said she would, but then things came up. There were delays. There were a few excuses. More than a year had passed and, I will be honest, I began to think I would not see it again.

And, honestly, I would have been fine with that.

Because people are more important than things. My friendship with Nora and my memories of Angel were more important than any painting. If getting the painting meant hurting my friendship with Nora, I would do without the painting.

Then, one day, she sent a photo of a large box with my name on it in the arms of an unidentified man in a brown uniform.

"That could be anyone!" my friend, Andrew, said. He has heard every chapter of the painting saga and was more skeptical than I was about it ever arriving.

Then—with no notice at all—it showed up at my door.

It was incredibly heavy. Nora is an engineer, and she had built the box herself. It was made of half-inch plywood and 2x2s and lined with Styrofoam. It looked as if it could safely be launched into space. I had trouble carrying it into the house. It took several tools and a lot of time to open.

Nora is a woman of few words, but I knew what she was saying.

She cared about the painting—but she cared about our friendship even more. She was sending the painting in a way that would keep both the painting and our friendship safe and whole for years to come.

I received both the package and the message. They both made me very happy.

Till next time, Carrie

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

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TRAC donates trucks to Crosby Fire Dept.

Field trucks used for Rescue Training

CROSBY – TRAC Intermodal, the leading marine chassis provider and pool manager in North America, recently donated four field trucks to the Crosby (TX) Fire Department for use in the department’s training exercises to extricate trapped passengers. The donated trucks, previously scheduled for decommission, formerly resided at TRAC’s operations office in Houston.

Field trucks are used by TRAC maintenance and repair crews to test braking and electrical systems and structural components during chassis inspections. The donation was initiated by Brian McClanahan, an M&R supervisor for TRAC and a volunteer fireman at the Crosby Volunteer Fire Department. He was aware of the trucks’ future status and the department’s need for training equipment and helped engineer TRAC’s vehicle donation to his fire department.

“TRAC is committed to actively supporting the communities around the U.S. in which our team live and work. As such, we were eager to donate our trucks to the Crosby Fire Department to contribute to such a worthwhile cause,” says Val Noel, EVP and Chief Operating Officer at TRAC Intermodal. “We’re fortunate that Brian was in an ideal position to connect the department’s needs with our available vehicles to extend their use and assist in critical training to help save lives during future accidents.”

McClanahan and Ron Smejkal, Senior Director,



First Assistant Fire Chief of the Crosby Fire Department Russell White (left) thanks Ron Smejkal, senior director of maintenance and repair at TRAC (right) for TRAC’s vehicle donation.



These four field trucks will be used by the Crosby Fire Department for training and other work.

Maintenance and Repair at TRAC, officially handed over the field trucks to Alan Kulak, chief of the Crosby Fire Department and his crew at the fire department’s location, 123 South Diamondhead Boulevard in Crosby yesterday, March 29th. The fire department will arrange for discarding of the vehicles and reprocessing the components following the completion of their training exercises.

About TRAC Intermodal
TRAC Intermodal is

North America’s leading marine chassis pool manager and equipment provider with 11 pools under management across the U.S. TRAC has the largest fleet of marine and specialty chassis in North America and operates an extensive network of facilities. TRAC’s subsidiaries offer emergency fleet roadside assistance through FYX, and maintenance and repair services as well as storage and parking solutions through TRAC Services.

Southwest Shipyard LP receives trio of Safety Awards

WASHINGTON – The Shipbuilders Council of America (SCA) today announced Southwest Shipyard, L.P. received all three of SCA’s 2022 safety awards: “Excellence in Safety,” “Improvement in Safety,” and “Significance in Safety Achievement.” SCA, the national association representing the U.S. shipyard industry, honors shipbuilding and repair facilities with annual safety awards for enhancement of operations and promotion of safety and accident prevention.

Through their proactive approaches and dedication to improved safety of their employees, Southwest Shipyard - which has operations in Channelview, Brady Island, Brady West, and Galveston - is one of fifteen shipyards to receive awards for their continued advancement of employee safety in the shipyard industry.

“Shipyards are complex work environments, and therefore the safety of our employees, whom we believe are our No.1 asset, is of the utmost importance,” said Matthew Paxton,

President of SCA. “Southwest Shipyard’s admirable safety performance in 2021 and earning three awards reflects both superior leadership in the shipyard and strong commitment to safety. We’re proud to recognize Southwest Shipyard and the hardworking men and women who help in upholding the shipyard industry’s reputation as one of the safest in our country’s industrial base year after year.”

“Southwest Shipyard is honored to have earned the SCA Excellence in Safety award this year. This award is a true testament to our people and the efforts they have put into getting to this point in our safety program. The commitment to safety from the executive team to the newest hire on a daily basis is not an easy task, and I am proud of the continued effort our management team and all our employees put into this program. Making sure everyone returns home to their families in the same condition as when they arrived at work is a goal that requires a

high level of commitment from everyone every day. We are committed to continue working safely in the years to come - remaining competitive without compromising our quality or any contract obligations to our customers,” Scott Theriot, President & CEO of Southwest Shipyard.

The shipbuilding industry continues to show a decline in recorded injuries and safety issues, and such rates have been on the decline over the past decade. With safety of employees always at the focus, the shipbuilding industry has been able to naturally pivot to tackle the challenges 2022 has brought about while continuing operations.

SCA member companies are eligible for a Safety Award if they submit the SCA Injury & Illness survey for all four quarters, have zero fatalities throughout the year, and either have a total recordable incident rate (TRIR) below the SCA average, or if they reduce their year-on-year TRIR by 10% or more.

Barrett Station MUD50 receives Water Conservation Grant

Will replace showerheads

\$450,000 Awarded for Local Water Conservation Projects to 5 Countywide Projects

Friendswood, Texas – The Harris-Galveston Subsidence District (HGSD) has awarded five local entities a total of \$450,000 in grants to support water conservation projects.

Harris County Municipal Utility District 50 (Barrett Station) will be implementing a shower head replacement project for their residents to improve water efficiency.

The local entities selected to receive this year’s water conservation program grant include the City of Friendswood, City of Galveston, and City of Webster, who will install advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) on meters for their water systems. These AMI projects improve meter accuracy and allow water customers to access their data in real-time as well as expedite leak identification and notification for customers with potential leaks. Harris County Freshwater Supply District 1A will utilize grant support for leak detection and water line repair.

“We are excited to be able to work with the District’s constituents in a

joint effort to achieve more efficient use of our water resources so that we can continue to manage the devastating effects of subsidence. We hope to see measurable and meaningful results and continue to fund future water conservation projects,” said Lindy Murff, HGSD’s Water Conservation Committee Chair.

The Harris-Galveston Subsidence District implemented this water conservation grant program in 2019 for projects that can achieve quantifiable water conservation, including projects and programs that correlate to implementing irrigation best management practices, water loss control measures, and water efficiency measures.

In 2020, Klein ISD was selected as one of HGSD’s water conservation grant program recipients. Through the support of this grant, they were able to replace traditional irrigation controllers with “smart” weather-based controllers and centralized control systems for over 20 fields resulting in a 26% decrease in their water usage. Klein ISD was recently awarded Texas Energy Managers Association’s Project of the Year (2022) for this project’s successful impact on water conserva-

tion.

Applications for next year’s water conservation grant program will be available at the end of May for water utilities, public entities, independent school districts, non-profits, university research programs, or private entities looking to improve water efficiency through irrigation projects in Harris or Galveston counties. For more information about HGSD water conservation grants, visit <https://hgsubsidence.org/water-conservation/grant-program/>.

###

The Harris-Galveston Subsidence District (HGSD) is a special-purpose district created by the Texas Legislature in 1975. Working with surface water suppliers, HGSD controls subsidence by managing the use of groundwater resources in Harris and Galveston Counties. In addition, HGSD provides water conservation, education, and outreach programs to underscore the importance of water conservation in the community. For more information, visit our website at www.hgsubsidence.org.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 505410; Estate of GREGORY WAYNE LEWIS Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on JULY 1, 2022.

ANDREA MICHELLE LEWIS

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

c/o Weston Cotten
1500 E. Wallisville Road
Highlands, TX 77562

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
Dated this JULY 20, 2022.

Weston Cotten
by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 505629; Estate of AMANDA SALAZAR Deceased; In Probate Court No. 1 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on JULY 19, 2022.

LILLIANA SALAZAR-GREENE

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

c/o Weston Cotten
1500 E. Wallisville Road
Highlands, TX 77562

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
Dated this JULY 26, 2022.

Weston Cotten
by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

LEGAL NOTICE

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

RFP# 2122-007 – Landscaping Services

Bids will be received until 4:00 p.m., Friday, August 05, 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.

29-2t

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LEGAL NOTICE

HARRIS COUNTY WATER CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 21

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF RULES

Notice is hereby given that the Board of the Directors of Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 21 at a meeting held on the 7th day of July, 2022 adopted an Ordinance Adopting Amended Rates and Fees for Services and Rules and Regulations Establishing Certain Other Policies and Providing Penalties and Violations Thereof. A copy of the Ordinance is on file at the principal office of the District, 15808 Avenue C, Channelview, Texas 77530-3702, where it may be read in full.

Francis Perry
President, Board of Directors

29-2T

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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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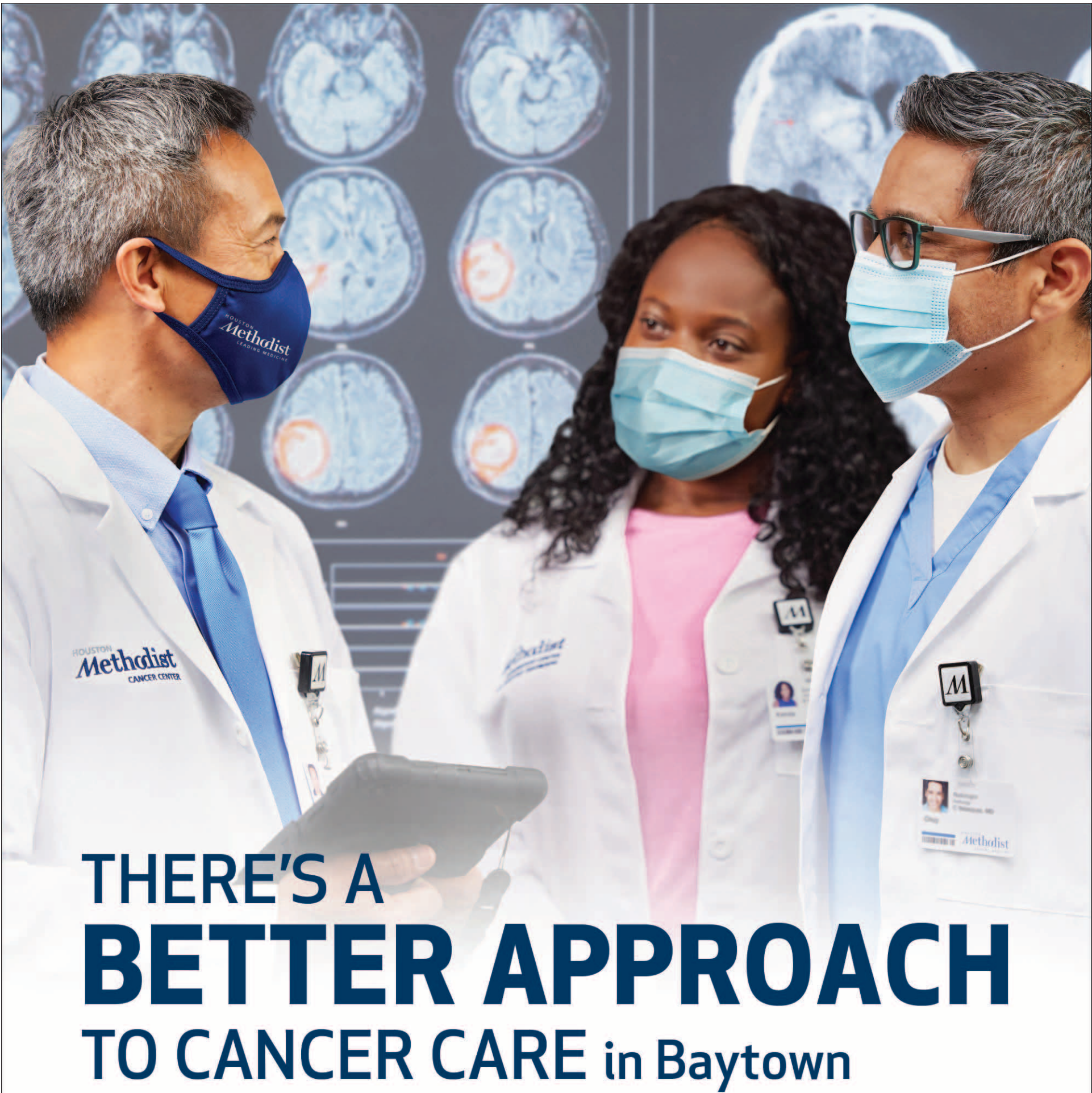
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