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Highlands Jamboree



PARADE CLASSIC CAR Award went to this 1929 Ford Truck belonging to Pct. 3 Comm. Tom Ramsey. Tonya Kostka waves to the crowd.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2022

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

OCT. 8, SAT. Constable Eagleton Unite Pct. 3 Event

Constable Sherman Eagleton presents UNITING PCT 3 FOR COMMUNITY AWARENESS.

Saturday, Oct. 8 from 10am to 2pm at the Crosby Community Center, 409 Hare Road, Crosby.

- NCAA Men's Final Four Giveaways
- Health & Wellness Screenings
- Local Food Bank
- School District Giveaways

Everyone Welcome. FREE EVENT.

OCT. 13, THUR. Crosby Chamber Business Mixer

CROSBY CHAMBER BUSINESS MIXER
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October 13th 4:00pm-6:30pm

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Chamber Of Commerce
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(Ph) 281-328-6984

BIRTHDAYS

Oct 6–Ann Dunks
Marie Estrada
Kristina Curtis
Marley McKethan
Oct 7–Alicia Engle
Anna Lois Mattingly
Oct 8–Benjamin Abbott
Patricia Meiss
Jim Van Schuyver
Thomas R. Stanley
Oct 9–Terrie Bauer
Pete Merrill
Ashley Clamon
Oct 10–Stachia Thurmond
Oct 11–Wendy Nelson
Dale Smith
P.J. Williams
William O'Neal
Oct 12–Mike Palmer
Melissa Denson
Michelle McDaniel
Darlis Otto
Jessica Curtis
Oct 13–Jeannie Kelley

ANNIVERSARIES

Oct 6–Fred & Helen Dunks
Randy & Tammy Veach
Oct 8–Robert H. & Patricia E. Sparks
Oct 16–Edgar & Evelyn Wotipka
Oct 18–Karen & Derek Elkins

ANOTHER GUN BUYBACK OCT. 8th

HOUSTON - Mayor Sylvester Turner joined city, county, and federal partners today to announce details of the next gun buyback as part of the One Safe Houston initiative. The Mayor was joined by U.S. Rep. Al Green, U.S. Rep. Sylvia Garcia, Harris County Precinct One Commissioner Rodney Ellis, City Council Member Tiffany Thomas and METRO Chair Sanjay Ramabhadran.

Following an overwhelming turnout during the first gun buyback on July 30, the second event will take place on Oct. 8 at the METRO Park & Ride, 11050 Harwin Drive, between 8 a.m.- noon.

“Our goal is the same for the second event as it was for the first, and that is to get guns off the street,” said Mayor Turn-



Police officials inspect some of the 793 guns that were turned in at the first Gun Buyback July 30th. The first buyback took place in south Houston, and this time will be held in west Houston at the METRO Park and Ride, 11050 Harwin Drive, October 8th from 8am to Noon. Guns will be accepted from anyone in the county, with no questions asked about the gun or the person turning it in. Officials said the Buyback program has proven very successful in removing dangerous guns.

er. “The guns turned in will never be stolen or used in the commission of a crime, suicide, or an accidental shooting by a child.”

During the first gun buyback, Houston Police collected 793 guns, including 281 long guns, and 512 pistols. HPD also gave priority vouchers to 150 additional people who were turned away because of the long lines and wait. In anticipation of another outpouring of support and robust public interest, Houston Police Chief Troy Finner announced that HPD would implement several changes to make the process more efficient on Oct. 8 including;

—More lanes to accommodate vehicles

Continued. See GUN BUYBACK, Page 5

THEME: Fall In Love With Highlands

Highlands community enjoys 65th Annual Jamboree Pageant & Parade

HIGHLANDS – The 65th Jamboree theme this year was “Fall In Love with Highlands” and that was easy, with beautiful weather, a colorful parade with many traditional units, and a childrens' pageant with plenty of posing and waving from the little ones. The pageant was emceed by Miss Highlands, Haley Maxey, and organized by Linda Gwaltney in memory of her daughter, Cristen Bickerstaff.

The Jamboree is a fundraiser for the Chamber of Commerce, and director Jessica Woods thanked all for their support. She announced the parade judging winners as follows:

Non-Commercial: Highlands 4-H Club

Antique or Classic Car: Pct. 3 1929 Ford Truck

Modified or Race Car: General Lee

School Spirit: Highlands Elementary School Student Council

Best of Theme: First Baptist Church, water hand-out

Business of the Year: Pct. 3, Tonya Kostka.

The parade marshal for the event was last year's Terry Davis Award Winner, Ryan Hotchkiss who rode in the parade in Fire Truck #27.

The parade included a long line of fire trucks, ambulances and special

MORE photos and story on Page 7



Winners of the Little Miss and Mister Pageant pose for a group photo.



Miss Highlands Haley Maxey was emcee.



SCHOOL SPIRIT AWARD went to the Highlands Elementary Student Council.

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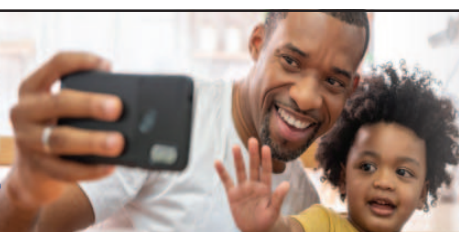
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GOOSE CREEK CISD NEWS

Sterling High School Girls' Gym Receives New Name

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey, APR – Director of Communications

Goose Creek CISD held a naming ceremony in honor of famed Sterling High School volleyball coach Nadine Horne on September 30th in the girls' gym. The packed crowd of family members, former colleagues, players and friends showed up in large number to support the woman that made a major difference in their lives.

Coach Horne coached volleyball at Sterling High School for 30 years; 25 as head coach. During that time, her teams went to the playoffs 23 times. She also went to the regional quarterfinals in 2003. She retired in 2016 and passed away in February 2022.

It was four of her former student athletes, Tiffany Jack, Keri Kruger, Peri Sutton and Amanda Walt, that urged the Board to name the gym after their beloved Coach Horne, during a May 2022 meeting. "Coach Horne left a legacy for the volleyball program, school and community, as it continues to thrive today," Jack said. "All coaches should follow her example and impact the lives of student athletes just as she did."

Mayor Brandon Capetillo read a proclamation on behalf of the City of Baytown and a plaque was placed prominently on the wall of the gym.

All photos taken by Carrie Pryor-Newman:



Nathan Chaddick, Sterling principal; Howard Sampson, Board Secretary; Mayor Brandon Capetillo; Dr. Randal O'Brien, Superintendent; Richard Clem, Board President and Dr. Demetrius McCall, Deputy Superintendent of Administrative Services, pose in front of plaque dedicated to Coach Nadine Horne.



Several of Coach Nadine Horne's volleyball team members were in attendance for her gym naming dedication.



Family members of Coach Nadine Horne attended the event in support of their loved one.

Lee High School Celebrates Hispanic Heritage



Lee High School is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with fun dress up days! Yesterday's dress up day was "Dress up like a Lotería card". Emmanuel Castillo is dressed as "El Musico" also known as the musician.

Superintendent's message

Happy Fall, Goose Creek!

Fall is one of my favorite times of the year. It's something about experiencing the temperatures dropping and leaves falling that always puts me in a good mood. Also; who doesn't love Friday night football in the cooler weather?

September was a busy month for our district. We celebrated several important dates throughout our district including National Preparedness Month. This observance raised awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies. Led by Safe & Secure Schools Director Robert Marquez, emergency protocols were shared with our families so that they can be prepared in the event another disaster arises. As a community on the Gulf Coast, we have had our fair share of weather-related emergencies and whatever we can do to help lessen the blow of a catastrophic event; we will do.

September 15th marked the beginning of National Hispanic American Heritage Month. This year's theme "Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation," ensures that all voices are represented and welcomed to help build stronger communities and a stronger nation. In Goose Creek, our Hispanic students represent the largest percentage of our student population and it is our goal that all of our students and their families feel seen and heard. The Community Engagement department debuted an all-Spanish podcast, "Conversaciones gigantes" or Giant Conversations, in mid-September. This podcast will serve as the gateway to reaching our Spanish-speaking community members by providing them important news they can only get from our district.

Our Board of Trustees was selected as the Region IV Honor Board this year. We, along with the five other 2022 Outstanding School Board finalists, traveled to San Antonio last week for the TASA/TASB conference, and though we did not walk away with the big win, we remain proud of the work our Board has done and continues to do for the 4,000 employees and 25,000 students in this district.



Dr. Randal O'Brien

We honored the legacy of famed Sterling High School volleyball coach, Nadine Horne, during a naming ceremony on September 30th. Four of Coach Horne's former students spoke at the May 2022 Board meeting and urged them to support renaming the girls' gym after the 30-year GCCISD veteran. Coach Horne retired from the district in 2016, after 25 years as the head volleyball coach at Sterling. Her students excelled on and off the court and though she is no longer with us, her spirit lives on.

Goose Creek is known for many things, but what helps us stand apart is our marketing and branding. When people see or hear "Here, We Grow Giants;" they know it's about Goose Creek. We are so excited to announce the opening of our online district spirit store! That's right! Now you can dress the part and support your favorite school; all at the same time! Get your GCCISD gear via this link: District Online Store Make sure to take photos in your new gear and tag us at #gcGIANTS.

As always, thank you for your continuous support of our district. We couldn't do what we do without you.

Best regards,
Dr. Randal O'Brien
Superintendent of Schools

Giant Staff Member of the Month



Elsa Rendon

Our Giant Staff Member of the Month for September 2022 is Elsa Rendon, administrative assistant for Human Resources. Elsa graduated from Lee High School and started working for Goose Creek CISD in 2011. She started her career with us after spending 19 years working for Citizens Bank and taking time off to raise her five children, all graduates of Goose Creek CISD. Her first job was part-time at De Zavala Elementary, working in the computer lab. Later, she became a secretary for the counseling and student wellness department, where her passion for helping others was evident. As the secretary for three area executive directors, it was clear that Elsa was hardworking and passionate about making our school district the best it could be.

Mrs. Rendon started her journey in Human Resources in 2019; since then, she has helped to tackle national teacher shortages and the complications of hiring through the pandemic. Through recent challenges, Elsa has remained cheerful and greets everyone she meets with a big smile, willing to help. Eloy Chapa (Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources), her supervisor and individual who nominated her, said, "Elsa often puts the needs of others in the district before her personal needs. She is an extremely dedicated employee who always has the best interest of the organization and its employees. We are so thankful to have her; she is undoubtedly a Goose Creek Giant!"

Thank you to Houston Methodist Baytown for sponsoring this award.

Giant Student of the Month



Illeanna Ramirez

Our Giant Student of the Month for September 2022 is Lee High School junior-Illeanna Ramirez. Illeanna is very involved. She is in the National Honor Society, on the PR squad, and competes in UIL. Last year, she was the president of the Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy and placed in the top 25 at the National Technology Student Association (TSA). TSA is a national student organization created to develop skills in science, technology, engineering, and math and aims to develop leadership, academic, and business management skills in the workplace.

Illeanna is also a Lee High School Celebrity, the school's dance team. Being in the top 20% of her class, she was awarded "Sophomore of the Year" by the Kiwanis Club. Outside of academics, Illeanna plays soccer and runs cross country. Illeanna is described as an overcomer. She struggled with depression and anxiety in junior high but made a commitment to herself in 9th grade to get involved, help others, and focus on school.

Thank you to Houston Methodist Baytown for sponsoring this award.

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Myra and Juan exchanged their vows in front of a small group of family, including Macias.

It may not have been the wedding Myra and Juan planned, but for Myra, it was the wedding she always wanted, "To have my grandmother be a part of my wedding..." she paused trying to hold back tears, "It means everything, I'm so thankful to have this time with her."

★

OPINION

By BILL KING



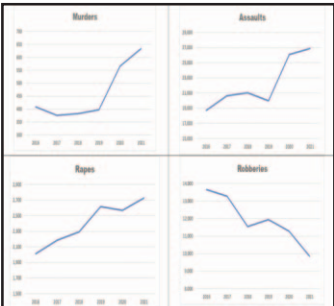
Violent Crime in Harris County

Last week, Houston Chronicle’s Jasper Scherer wrote a solid article on recent crime statistics in Harris County. It was a nuanced examination of the data, and he found a new Texas crime database I had not previously seen.

Building on Jasper’s article, I downloaded the data for 2016-2022. I picked this time frame so that there would be three base years of statistics when Republicans controlled Commissioners’ Court and most criminal courts and what has happened since Democrats took control of Commissioner’s Court and virtually all of the criminal courts.

The bottom line is that since 2018 there have been sharp increases in murders and assaults, a small increase in rapes and a decline in robberies. Here is what the charts for each of those look like:

Clearly, the most concerning increase has been in murders (59%) and assaults (34%) since 2018. To put that in some perspective, if murders had continued at their 2018 level, about 450 Harris County residents would still be with us today instead of being murdered. That is about six times the number of people killed in all mass murders in Texas during the same period.



Trying to assign causation to a complex phenomenon like crime is always difficult and fraught with confusing correlation with causation. For example, I have heard many pundits attribute the increase in crime nationally to the pandemic since the two occurred roughly at the same time. But I have never heard any cogent explanation on why a pandemic should set off a crime wave. It is also rarely accurate to attribute a change in a complex phenomenon to a single cause.

However, in this case it is fairly evident that the dysfunction at the Harris County courthouse has been a significant contributing cause to the increase in violent crime. One way that we know that is that Crime Stoppers has identified 183 murders that have been committed after 2018 by individuals who had been released on bail after being accused of a violent crime. A number of those had been released after multiple offenses.

Prior to 2019, felony bonds for violent crime were harder to come by. But the Democratic judges that swept into office in 2018 and 2020 took a much more lenient view of defendants being released on bond. It is unlikely that many of the 183 accused of murder while out on bond would have been released under the prior more restrictive bond practices. That does not leave much room to doubt that, at least, a third of the increases in murders can be directly attributed to the more lenient bond policies of the new judges.

The District Attorney has certainly laid the increase in crime at the feet of new felony bonding policies. In a September 2021 report, she said that the data shows a “dramatic increase in offenses committed by criminal defendants while free on bail . . .” She submitted several charts to show the increases. This one for number of offenses committed by a defendant while released on a felony bond shows a stunning 300% increase after the new judges began being elected in 2018.

The bond problem has been exacerbated by the unprecedented backlog of criminal cases now pending in Harris County courts, which have doubled since 2018. Kim Ogg recently estimated that with the current backlog it would take 3-4 years to get a murder case to trial.

The courts have certainly been faced with unique challenges over the last few years, with the pandemic being the most notable. And the blame for this backlog can be laid at the feet of many of our elected officials, including the Texas Legislature for not authorizing more courts for Harris County. But there is little evidence of any concerted effort by the current Harris County bench or Harris County Commissioners’ Court to resolve this backlog.

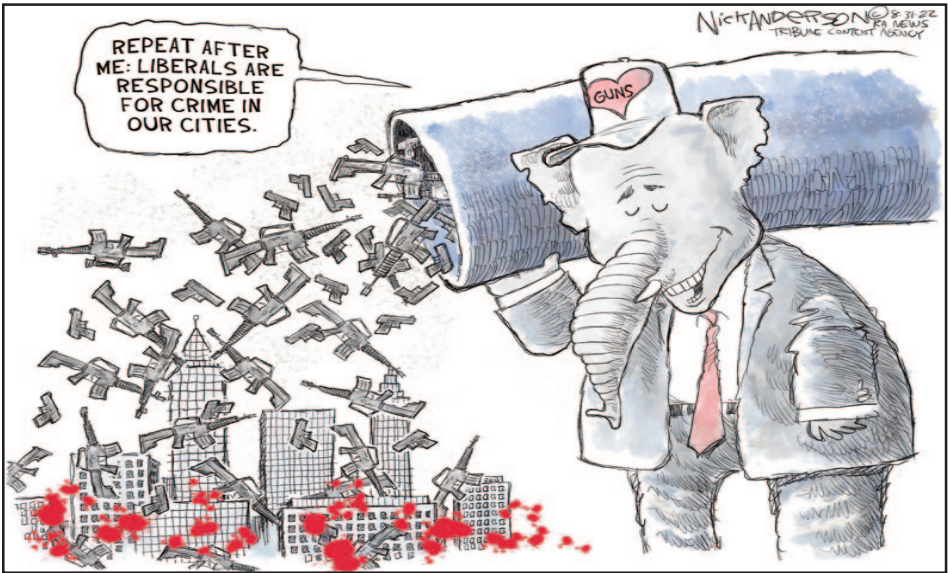
County Judge Lina Hidalgo recently claimed that violent crime has slightly declined so far in 2022. While there is some indication in the year-to-date preliminary reports from law enforcement agencies that may be case, some of those reports, including the one from the Harris County Sheriff’s Office, are several months behind. That delay alone may account for the small decline cited by Judge Hidalgo. Records from the Harris County Medical Examiner show no decrease in the number of homicides it has investigated so far in 2022 compared to the same time last year.

Also, HPD year-to-date reports show another dramatic increase so far this year in some property crimes, especially theft from a motor vehicle (+15%), theft of vehicle parts (+42%) and theft of a motor vehicle (+10%). According to HPD’s report, there are nearly 100 car break-ins every day in Houston.

Even if there has been a small decrease in 2022, the current crime levels are still dramatically higher than when this County administration took over in 2019. Alarming, the Commissioners’ Court proposed budget for next year, which includes very minimal increases in law enforcement funding, indicates no sense of urgency in dealing with the problem.

Candidly, there is no evidence that our current crime problem has been solved, or even that we have made significant progress toward getting it under control.

TRIAL COURT STATISTICS			
	2016 19 Months on judges 12 Months on judges	2018 19 Months on judges 12 Months on judges	2021 19 Months on judges 12 Months on judges
OFFENDERS CHARGED WITH NEW CASES WHILE ON BOND	7,452	9,825	22,610
VIOLENT OFFENDERS GIVEN P.R. (FREE) BONDS	117	239	1,283
OFFENDERS ON 5+ BONDS	33	63	1,120
AVERAGE # OF FELONY CASES PENDING	21,723	25,938	50,777



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Speaker Opposes Drive to End Tenure

House Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, said Friday he opposes a push by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick to end tenure for new professors at the state’s public universities and to revoke it for faculty who teach critical race theory, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

Phelan, speaking at the Texas Tribune Festival, said the feedback he has gotten indicates ending tenure would make it more difficult for universities to recruit professors. That includes those with conservative viewpoints, who benefit from tenure’s protection against being fired for openly sharing their ideology.

Brian McCall, chancellor of the Texas State University system and a former Republican member of the Texas House, said eliminating tenure would “put the state at such a disadvantage,” the Statesman reported.

“Tenure exists for a reason, and that is to get thought out,” McCall said. “We’re not running Vacation Bible School. We’re teaching physics and various things that are science and not subject to certain opinions.”

Critical race theory is a college-level approach to studying racism in society. It is not taught in Texas public schools below the college level.

CARTELS DESIGNATED AS TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS

Amidst a growing national fentanyl crisis, Gov. Greg Abbott issued an executive order designating Mexican drug cartels as terrorist organizations.

“Fentanyl is a clandestine killer, and Texans are falling victim to the Mexican cartels that are producing it,” said Governor Abbott. “Cartels are terrorists, and it’s time we treated them that way.”

The Biden administration recently awarded nearly \$1.5 billion to support efforts to address the opioid crisis and support individual recovery efforts. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is receiving nearly \$53 million as a result.

Fentanyl is the leading



cause of death for Americans ages 18 to 45, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

DEADLINE NEARS TO REGISTER TO VOTE

Eligible Texans have until Oct. 11 to register to vote in the Nov. 8 general election. The secretary of state’s office is running a “VoteReady” campaign to educate Texans about the ID requirements for voting in Texas, as well as ID requirements for those eligible to vote by mail.

“I want to ensure that all Texans are informed, prepared and ready to make their voices heard,” said Secretary John Scott.

The race for governor highlights the ballot, but voters have plenty of other choices to make down the ballot. For more information, go to [vote.texas.gov](https://www.vote.texas.gov). Early voting runs from Oct. 24 to Nov. 4.

TCEQ EXPANDS LEAD TESTING IN SCHOOLS

A new online portal will help schools and child-care facilities test their drinking water for lead, according to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

The free statewide program “trains participants to collect samples, tests their drinking water for lead, and helps them take action to reduce lead in drinking water,” according to the agency’s news release.

TCEQ offers free sampling materials, training in collecting samples, laboratory testing and support for participants. Any Texas public school or state-regulated child-care facility is eligible. For more information, go here: <https://tinyurl.com/mpsr3ddf>.

Any level of lead in blood is considered unsafe and can be harmful to children’s health, according to the CDC.

FIRE CREWS SENT FROM TEXAS TO OREGON

With no active wildfires reported in the state as of Sunday, thanks to recent rainfall, a Texas A&M Forest Service wildfire handcrew has been dispatched to the Cedar Creek Fire in Oregon. The 20-person crew is working in the Willamette National Forest on a fire that thus far has consumed more than 112,000 acres.

“Mobilizing the handcrew to out-of-state incidents provides an opportunity for qualified personnel and trainees to gain unique experiences,” said Crockett Pegoda of the TFS. “In Texas, we were fortunate to receive support from other states this year. It’s great that we can reciprocate that support.”

There are 94 large fires burning across the United States with more than 15,000 wildland firefighters and support personnel committed to these incidents, according to the National Interagency Fire Center. Nearly three dozen TFS firefighters are responding to wildfires in California, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

LIFE EXPECTANCIES DIP DURING COVID-19

A new CDC report indicates Texas had one of the largest dips in life expectancy, the San Antonio Express-News reported. Unsurprisingly, with more than 1 million COVID-related deaths to date, every state in the U.S. saw a decline in life expectancy in 2020, when the pandemic began.

In Texas, life expectancy dropped from 78.6 years in 2019 to 76.5 years in 2020. The decline in Texas was larger among men at 2.4 years than women at 1.7 years. The state ranked eighth in decline in life expectancy.

The Express-News interviewed Dr. Fred Campbell, an associate professor of internal medicine at the Long School of Medicine at UT Health San Antonio. He said it was a complex issue but that “accessibility and affordability of the state’s healthcare system is primarily to blame.”

“They died from the pandemic, and they died from self-abuse, and they died from a lot of other medical conditions that were not taken care of properly,” he said. “...When you have to make that decision about affording to go to the doctor and affording to feed your family, that’s what happens.”

COVID-19 cases still waning

The number of new COVID-19 cases reported in Texas during the past week dropped to 25,081 with 151 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. The Texas Department of State Health Services reported 1,910 lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations as of Sunday, down slightly from the previous week.

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TWO CENTS WORTH

By Charlie Farrar

At the Canton Flea Market

Me and the Mrs. took in the big flea market in Canton, Texas recently. We stay in Mabank, Texas and have all the good eating places down pat. Even on the way to Canton we stop off at the Collins Street Bakery. No fruit cake for me but they have a nice assortment of cookies, fudge, pies and gumbo on occasion.

No Buc-ee’s either. Love Buc-ee’s but I do my business at Woody’s Smoke House (no line). Mind you the flea market in Canton is over 400 acres these days and it do get hot riding that handicap scooter all over the place. I rode down a side road fast just to cool off and come up at a stop sign with four municipal employees in the shade and of course I stopped. Said I heard they put Biden in the hospital. One said WHO and I said your resident Biden thus following with my punch line. They got it there one just has to find it. Brought two potted plants back to 77521.

That don’t seem worth the trip but nice to get out of Dodge for a bit if you savvy. But it was worth it as I had lots of experience in telling the latest Biden joke. Goes like this: Approaching someone say I heard they got Biden in the hospital. Got lots of crazy looks and some saying they don’t care nothing about that right blunt like. Some do not ask why and those that ask...Respond with They say he couldn’t stop Putin.

Some don’t get it or don’t know who Putin is.

★

HOME COUNTRY

By Slim Randles

Time for the Branding Iron

When the Rafter E branded recently, a bunch of us went out to help. There’s a definite pecking order here, and it’s a badge of pride to have worked your way up the branding ladder.

As a kid, you flank the calves; you grab them, throw them and hold them down. This is conducive to abrasions, muscle strain, and involuntarily changing the color of your shirt.

As you get older, you get to handle the branding iron, then move up to giving shots. After that comes earmarking. When you reach the pinnacle of branding, that is, when you own the calves, then you get to rope the calves and drag them up to the fire.

It is a swirling cauldron of heat and hooves, excited coddogs and bawling cows. There is the smell of manure and singed hair and sweat and corral dust.

At the Rafter E, I wielded a syringe as the youngsters got their teeth rattled by the heavy stuff.

Wasn’t the first time I’d given the shots, though. Once during a branding at the Triangle Cross, I was about to immunize a calf when the calf jumped and I stuck the needle into my thumb.

Hurt like the dickens, of course, but at least it was effective. I haven’t had black leg since.

Brought to you by Packing the Backyard Horse, by Slim Randles. Now available on Amazon.com.

Second Gun BuyBack Program Oct. 8,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner announces the Second Gun Buyback, in cooperation with the County and Federal Authorities. On the platform, Police Chief Troy Finner, Congresspersons Sylvia Garcia and Al Green, County Commissioner Rodney Ellis.

—People given priority vouchers on July 30 will be moved to front of the line

—No privately manufactured weapons or “ghost guns” accepted.

—No questions asked. Remain in vehicles

The gun buyback is one tool in the One Safe Houston initiative, a comprehensive holistic approach to reducing violent crime.

It has four components.

—Violence Reduction and Crime Prevention

—Crisis Intervention, Response and Recovery

—Youth Outreach Opportunities

—Key Community Partnerships

Today, violent crime is down overall in Houston, and the murder rate is down 4%.

“I know people question whether gun buybacks are worth it, and I say yes. The initiative was worth it if we took only one gun off the street that could have been stolen or used to injure or kill someone. Every gun we can get off the street today can help us create a safer tomorrow for everyone in our community,” said Mayor Turner.



Some of the Handguns collected at the first Buyback in July.

FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 6: The hapless Texans travel to Jacksonville to face the Jaguars; Texas, OU meet in annual Red River Rivalry

It appears fall has finally arrived! That means cooler weather, the State Fair of Texas and Oklahoma vs. Texas in the annual Red River Rivalry in the Cotton Bowl with Big Tex as a backdrop.

These two long-time rivals will not only be playing for bragging rights, but also to remain alive in the Big 12 title hunt.

Two weeks ago, both teams suffered tough losses at UT fell at Texas Tech, 37-34 in overtime, while Kansas State ran roughshod over OU in Norman, 41-34.

The winner of this game remains alive in conference play, while the loser will need a lot of help from others in the league to stay alive for a shot at a spot in the Big 12 title game, slated for Dec. 3 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

Second-year Texas head coach Steve Sarkisian’s job is probably safe, but UT fans want to see a marquee win after Texas officials doled out a lot of cash to hire Nick Saban’s former offensive coordinator. I’m sure fans understand there is no disgrace in losing by one point to No. 2-ranked Alabama at home, but the Tech loss does not sit well with them. The ‘Horns sloppy mistakes in that game and things need to tighten up in Austin. Another five-loss season will get the wolves howling at Sark’s door.

Speaking of Alabama, Saban’s team will host Jimbo Fisher and the No. 17-ranked Texas A&M Aggies, looking to avenge last year’s 41-38 loss in College Station. It will be interesting to see if the two interact prior to the game after the dustup the two had in the spring when Saban accused A&M of buying their entire 2022 recruiting class (ranked No. 1 in the nation), which led to Fisher sniping back at Saban about the way he runs his program. The pre-game meeting should be interesting. The game will be in prime time on CBS beginning at 7 p.m.

One of the pleasant surprise teams this season has been the Kansas Jayhawks, who host TCU in a key Big 12 game for both teams.

In the NFL, the hapless Texans travel to Jacksonville to face a Jaguars team that won two of its first three games, including a 24-0 pasting of Indianapolis in Jacksonville and a 38-10 stomping of the Los Angeles Charges in LA. The Cowboys travel to LaLa Land to face the defending Super Bowl champion Rams. Dallas should be riding a three-game winning streak (they hosted a pretty bad Washington team last Sunday) when they visit the Rams, which is impressive considering they’ve been winning with backup QB Cooper Rush and a dominating defense.

In other NFL action, the Colts visit Denver on Thursday Night Football to kickoff Week 5, while Cincinnati travels to Baltimore in a key AFC North battle and Las Vegas visits Kansas City on Monday Night Football to conclude Week 5.

Before we take a look at those games, let’s review last week’s record. A 6-6 week brought the season record to 27-21 (56%).

Now, onto this week’s game.

NCAA

Texas A&M at Alabama: The No. 17-ranked Aggies visit Tuscaloosa to take on No. 2-ranked Alabama in a key SEC West contest for both teams. Two weeks ago, the Aggies overcame a 14-0 deficit against Arkansas and rallied for a 23-21 win, but suffered a huge loss when star wide receiver Ainiias Smith (15 receptions, 291 yards, 2 TDs) was lost for the season with a lower leg injury. The Aggies will need to rally around QB Max Johnson (314 yards, 2 TDs in last two starts) and running back Devon Achane (355 yards, 4 TDs). Johnson will look to freshman Evan Stewart (13 receptions, 141 yards, 1 TD) to pick up the slack in the passing game now that Smith is done for the season. The A&M defense has been solid so far this season, but they face their toughest test to date when they face reigning Heisman Trophy winner Bryce Young (1,029 passing yards, 13 TDs). Young is seeking to become only the second college player to win back—to-back Heisman’s (Ohio State running back Archie Griffin is the only player to win the award twice). ‘Bama has been rolling on offense since it’s 20-19 win at Texas in Week 2. Saban has a two-headed running game in



Jase McClellan (245 yards, 2 TDs) and Jahmyr Gibbs (172 yards) and Young is starting to make plays downfield with wideout Traeshon Holdin (15 receptions, 214 yards, 4 TDs). Look for the Crimson Tide to make up for last year’s loss to the Aggies in a big, big way. My pick, Alabama 38, Texas A&M 16

Texas vs. Oklahoma: This is a big game for both teams. The winner remains alive in the Big 12 title hunt, while the loser can start making plans for the Valero or Texas Bowl. Texas could have starting QB Quinn Ewers (359 yards, 2 TDs) back for this game after he missed the last three UT games recovering from a shoulder injury he sustained in the Alabama game. Backup Hudson Card (620 yards, 3 TDs) has filled in nicely, but Ewers is a cut above and his return could give the UT offense the spark it needs. One thing is for sure, the ‘Horns will give the Sooners a steady dose of running back Bijan Robinson (412 yards, 8 TDs). It would behoove whoever is under center to make plays down field to speedy wide receiver Xavier Worthy (14 receptions, 212 yards, 1 TD). OU will be led by left-handed signal caller Dillon Gabriel (1,089 yards, 11 TDs), running back Eri Gray (400 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receiver Marvin Mims (18 receptions, 397 yards, 3 TDs). Sarkisian needs a signature win and earning a win over UT’s bitter rival would soothe a lot of fears in Austin. I think his team gets it done on Saturday in the Cotton Bowl. My pick, Texas 34, Oklahoma 31

TCU at Kansas: The Kansas Jayhawks have been THE surprise team thus far in the 2022 college season. Second-year head coach Lance Leopold has KU fans pumped up and not talking basketball (the Jayhawks are the defending NCAA basketball champs and one of the most storied programs in the history of college hoops). The Kansas offense is averaging an impressive 48 points per game and is led by dual threat QB Jalen Daniels (890 passing yards, 11 TDs/320 rushing yards, 4 TDs), running back Devin Neal (258 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receiver Lawrence Arnold (14 receptions, 194 yards, 1 TD). TCU won its first three games of the season and is led by QB Max Duggan (695 yards, 8 TDs) and running back Kendre Miller (250 yards, 3 TDs). Look for the Jayhawk magic to continue again this Saturday at home against the Horned Frogs. My pick, Kansas 36, TCU 27

NFL


Indianapolis at Denver: Week 5 of the NFL season kicks off on Thursday night with the Colts paying a visit to the Mile High City to take on the Broncos. Indy may have saved its season two weeks ago with its 20-17 upset of KC at home. The Colts tied the Texans in Week 1 and were then blown out at Jacksonville. Denver is the worst 2-1 team in the league. They slipped by a bad Houston team at home 16-9 and then picked up an ugly 11-10 win over the 49ers. Celebrated QB Russell Wilson (743 yards, 2 TDs) has not played well after the Denver front office gave up a load of draft picks and three players to land the former Seattle superstar. Indy also brought in a new QB in former Atlanta starter Matt Ryan (769 yards, 3 TDs) and he has also struggled as a Colt. Both are too good of QBs not to turn things around at some point this season. The Broncos need to unleash second-year running back Javonte Williams (176 yards) to take some pressure off of Wilson. Even though he has struggled, Wilson appears to have developed a good relationship with wide receiver Courtland Sutton (19 receptions, 291 yards). Ryan will once again rely on star running back Jonathan Taylor (286 yards, 1 TD) and steady wideout Michael Pittman Jr. (17 receptions, 193 yards, 1 TD). Look for Wilson to get the offense going on Thursday Night Football. My pick, Denver 26, Indianapolis 23

Houston at Jacksonville: Last year, the Texans won both matchups against the Jaguars, but Jacksonville

looks like a completely different team than the one that has been, along with the Texans, the doormat of the AFC South. Jacksonville lost a hard-found road game at Washington to open the season, then shutout the Colts (24-0) at home and followed that win up with a convincing 38-10 route of the Los Angeles Chargers two weeks ago. Second-year QB Trevor Lawrence (772 yards, 6 TDs) looks like he’s figured this NFL thing out, while Houston’s second-year QB Davis Mills (662 yards, 3 TDs) continues to struggle at the position, especially at key moments in the fourth quarter. Jax has surrounded Lawrence with weapons on offense in wide receiver Christian Kirk (18 receptions, 267 yards, 3 TDs) and running backs James Robinson (230 yards, 3 TDs) and speedy Travis Etienne. The Texans appear to have a star in the making in rookie running back Dameon Pierce (182 yards, 1 TD). But this team still has way too many question marks. The defense played well the first two weeks, but two weeks ago at Chicago that unit gave up almost 300 rushing yards to a Bears team that had a QB who threw for only 106 yards and threw two interceptions. Look for Lawrence to have a big day against the Houston defense as the Jags pick up another early-season win. My pick, Jacksonville 31, Houston 23

Dallas at Los Angeles Rams: It’s ‘Rush’ time in Dallas! Dallas’ backup quarterback Cooper Rush (514 yards, 2 TDs) has breathed new life into the Cowboys and may have saved their season. After losing to Tampa Bay, and losing starting QB Dak Prescott to a thumb injury, in the season opener, things looked bleak for the Cowboys. But Rush has stepped in and led Dallas to wins over Cincinnati and the Giants before leading them against the Commanders last Sunday. Rush is getting help from the Dallas running game led by Ezekiel Elliott (178 yards, 1 TD) and Tony Pollard (176 yards, 1 TD) and he has a new favorite target in Noah Brown (15 receptions, 213 yards, 1 TD). CeeDee Lamb (17 receptions, 191 yards, 1 TD) is still the star receiver, but he continues to drop catchable balls (he dropped what would have been a sure TD against the Giants). While the offense has done just enough to pull out wins, the defense has been outstanding. In their first three game, Micah Parsons (4 sacks) and DeMarcus Lawrence (3 sacks against the Giants) have led a Dallas defense that has recorded 13 sacks in their first three games. That unit will get a real test this week when it faces Matthew Stafford (761 yards, 4 TDs/5 interceptions) and Cooper Kupp (28 receptions, 280 yards, 4 total TDs). Prescott could return for this game and that should open things up for the offense. I think the Cowboys hang around in this one, but look for Stafford and Cupp to make plays down the stretch to lead the Rams to the win. My pick, Los Angeles Rams 26, Dallas 23

Cincinnati at Baltimore: A good one for Sunday Night Football pits the defending AFC champs against a Baltimore team that is looking for a return to the postseason after missing out last year. Baltimore QB Lamar Jackson (749 passing yards, 10 TDs/243 rushing yards, 2 TDs) is off to an amazing start. He is playing for a new contract and he keeps up this pace, he can expect a huge payday in the offseason. Jackson’s favorite target is once again tight end Mark Andrews (22 receptions, 245 yards, 3 TDs). The Bengals lost their first two games before beating the Jets two weeks ago. QB Joe Burrow (812 yards, 6 TDs) got off to a slow start, but is starting to come around. He’s beginning to find his favorite two WRs in Ja’Marr Chase (21 receptions, 212 yards, 2 TDs) and Tee Higgins (13 receptions, 191 yards, 1 TD). The Bengals beat the Ravens twice last year, (41-17 in Baltimore and 41-21 in Cincinnati), so look for the Ravens to turn things around at home in 2022. My pick, Baltimore 33, Cincinnati 18



50-304
Governing
Ordinance
Adopted
(Rev.3-2016)

Water District

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 213-A will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2022 on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 12:00 PM at the office of Coats Rose, P.C., 9 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1000, Houston, TX 77046. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

FOR the proposal: W. Fritz Maxwell, Alexander Soler, James Randy Bowles, James Coursey

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: Jacob Saour

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

	Last Year \$1.45000 /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$1.45000 /\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$1.45000 /\$100 Adopted	\$1.45000 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00000 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$231,004.00	\$273,112.00
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$231,004.00	\$273,112.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$3,349.56	\$3,960.12
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$610.57 18.23%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 8 percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code. The District has issued bonds and is required to levy a debt service tax rate to support the payment on such bonds. Further, the District has infrastructure that requires regular operations, maintenance, and repairs that necessitates the levy of an operations and maintenance tax in an amount to maintain the infrastructure in good and working condition.

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

Should you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact the tax office at 281-482-0216.



NATIONAL
NEWSPAPER
WEEK

OCT. 2-8, 2022

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Crosby man fatally shot by stepdaughter's boyfriend

CROSBY, Texas – An investigation is underway into a fatal shooting of a man who Harris County sheriff's deputies say got into an altercation with two suspects that were with his teen stepdaughters in Crosby Sunday.

HCSO units responded to reports of a shooting in the 13700 block of Spectacted Bear Lane around 11 p.m. The Kodiak Crossing neighborhood is off Kennings Road, near Crosby Fire Station #1.

Deputies said when they arrived at the scene, a man, who was identified as 48-year-old Kevin Adams, was located with a gunshot wound to the back.

Adams was transported to the hospital via Life Flight, where investigators said he was pronounced dead.

According to HCSO,



Sheriff's Deputies and Constable's deputies process information at the scene of the shooting on Spectacted Bear Lane in Crosby last Sunday night.

Adams' stepdaughters, 16 and 17 years old, arrived home in a white Impala with two young males. Deputies said the stepfather went outside and confronted the two males. Investigators said there was an ongoing issue between the males and the victim, and they got into a physical fight. One of the males then shot Adams, deputies said.

Investigators said the two suspects fled the scene in the white Impala.

Deputies are unsure what relationship the suspects have with the teens' stepfather.

Adams' stepdaughters reportedly remained at the scene and are cooperating with investigators.

Adams reportedly had just moved into the house in this neighborhood the day before.

Anyone with information about this case is urged to contact HCSO or Crime Stoppers of Houston at 713-222-TIPS.

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ADS

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<div>FOR RENT</div> <div>CROSBY RENTAL EXCELLENT LOCATION Brand New 3 Bedroom 2 1/2 Bath Townhouse. Privacy fenced yard, covered patio, single car garage. \$1500 a month 281-705-9640.</div> <div>38-2T</div>	<div>FOR RENT</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>BID NOTICE</div> <div>BARBERS HILL ISD is requesting bids for Category Two Internal Connections. Additional information is available at www.crwconsulting.com/rfp. Bids will be opened 10/31/22 at 2:00 PM at the Barbers Hill ISD Technology Integration Center.</div> <div>38-2T</div>	<div>BID NOTICE</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>BID NOTICE</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>LEGAL NOTICE</div> <div>NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE of property to satisfy landlord's lien. Sale to be held at STEVE'S STORAGE, LLC at 5625 Hwy 90, Crosby, TX 77532 on October 8th at 8:30 a.m. Items sold as-is to highest CASH bidder. Property is contents of tenant space of Kimberly Wilder: Antiques, etc.</div> <div>37-2T</div>	<div>LEGAL NOTICE</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>HELP WANTED</div> <div>MECHANIC NEEDED: Must have own tools, must be able to diagnose vehicle, BE ON TIME HAVE A VALID DRIVER LICENSE. PAY IS BASE ON KNOWLEDGE DROP BY TO FILL APPLICATION AT 11012 1/2 HWY 146 N MONT BELVIEU TX. 77523 OR CALL AT 832/307/7937</div> <div>39-2T</div>	<div>HELP WANTED</div> <div></div> <div></div>
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Highlands community enjoys 65th Annual Jamboree



Highlands Fire Department led the parade with multiple units of various types.



The General Lee won an award in the Modified Car category, and drew lots of attention.



The Goose Creek Memorial Football team.



Jr. Miss Highlands waving and enjoying the warm sunny weather. Miss Highlands was also in the parade.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

firefighting vehicles from the Highlands Fire Department.

Marching units included the Goose Creek Memorial Volleyball team, Football team, and the Dazzlers and Charms, and the Highlands Junior School Cheerleaders and Marching Band.

Political candidates included Judge Lucia Bates and challenger Denise Graves.

Other organizations in the parade included the Little League, 4-H, Stratford Library with the Rotary van, Texas Softballers, and First Baptist Church.

Pageant cars included Miss Highlands, Jr. Miss Highlands, and 4-H sweetheart and beau.

After the parade, activities moved to the Elementary School for the silent auction, and food and refreshments.

Information booths were also present, from THEA/San Jacinto River Coalition, Precinct 2, and Randy Casey insurance.

A large crowd was present in the multipurpose room, to see the pageant and visit with their neighbors and vendors who participated in the Jamboree.



The GCM Dazzlers and Charms were a colorful feature of the parade.



Highlands Junior School Cheerleaders marched in the parade, as well as the band.



Judge Lucia Bates waved to her friends in the crowd.



The Honda Hoarders club had multiple units in the parade.



SAVE UP TO \$7,500 OVER THE LIFE OF YOUR LEASE WHEN YOU SIGN UP BY OCTOBER 31ST!



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A perfect blend of senior living options to fit your lifestyle in a one-of-a-kind Independent Living retirement community. Offering a host of luxury amenities, active classes and activities, thoughtfully crafted living quarters with a market unique full kitchen and daily services. The Lodge at Pine Creek is a resort-style community in Baytown that provides unmatched value for you and your family.

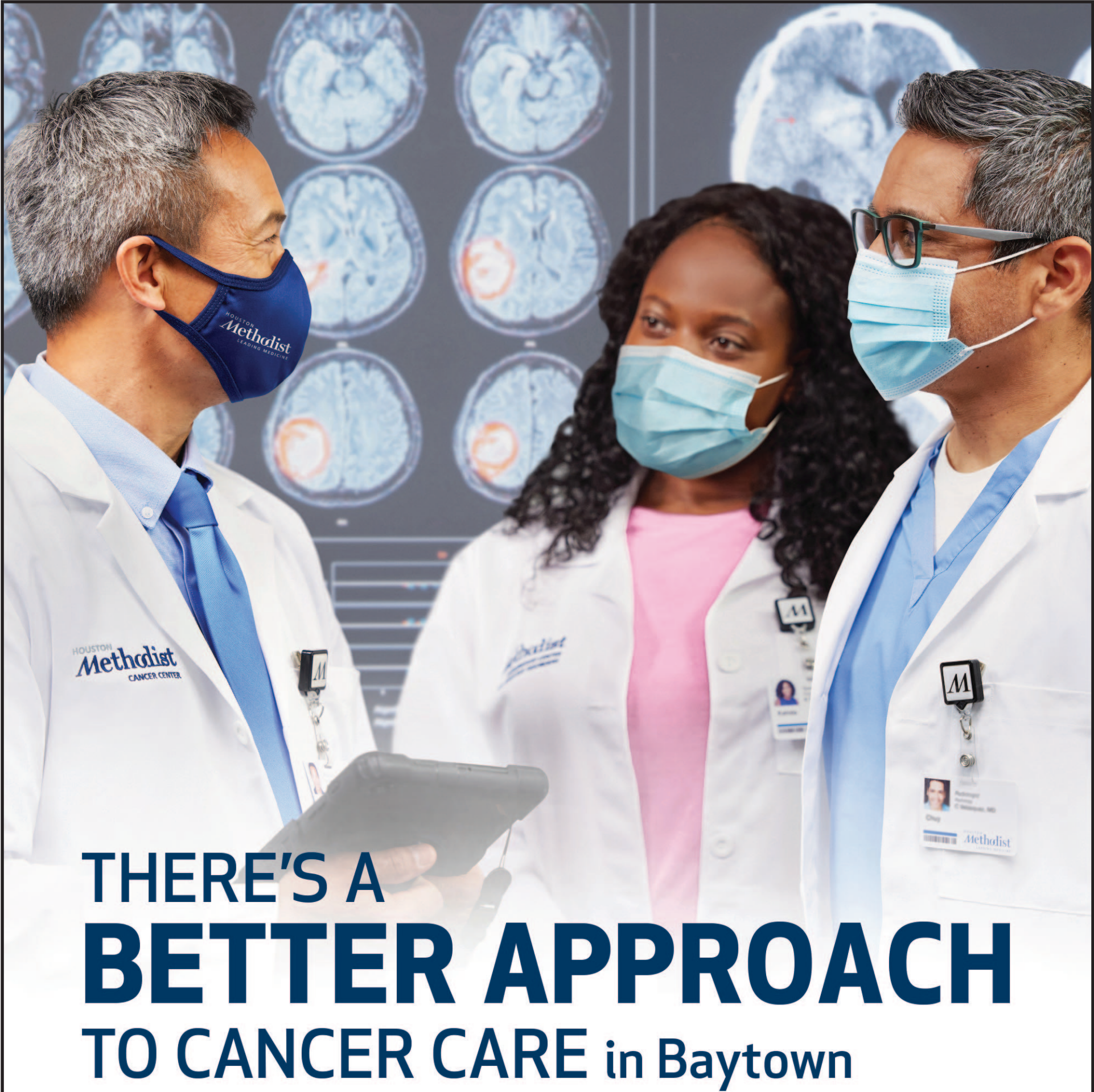
THE LODGE AT
PINE CREEK
BY ABBY SENIOR LIVING

825 Hunt Road | Baytown, TX
832-572-5592 | LodgeAtPineCreek.com

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THERE'S A BETTER APPROACH TO CANCER CARE in Baytown

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