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**Tall Ships Galveston** Tall Ship ELISSA, above, with others were on display last week in Galveston. See Story & Photos, below and on Page 2

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THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

## IN THE STARS

# Community hears Waste Pits update

#### **EVENTS MAY 6, SATURDAY Highlands Little** League Fun Day

Public is invited to this FUN DAY for the Highlands Little League. Team booths, Raffles, Tshirts and Hoodies Sales, Fun & Games, Kids Homerun Derby, Crawfish \$10 per plate, Ragball Tournament, 8 team max, \$325 Entry. To Register, contact Cory Stover by text, 281-691-2092 or stovercory02@gmail.com. Come have some Fun and support Little League.

#### Pilot Club Puzzle Competition May 7

Teams of 4 compete to complete a puzzle and win prizes. Fundraiser for San Jacinto Pilot Club's Autism support and community projects. Sunday, May 7 at Hampton Inn, 14120 Karissa Court (Beltway 8 frontage). Starts 2:30pm, Finish and awards at 5:00pm. Tickets \$25, from any club member or call

#### **BIRTHDAYS**

281-221-1616.

Apr 27–Kitty Elkins Chrislee April28-Ms. Stephens Apr 29-Becky Gomez Jason Maness Apr 30-Jeramy Bimage Jennifer Ward Loggins

May 1-Pat McIntosh May 2-Justin Holton May 3-David Stone May 5-Micheal Barnes

#### Micha Owens **ANNIVERSARIES**

Apr 28-Dan & Margie Nicholson Mike & Tanya Williams May 3-Edward & Mareta Richard May 6-Sidney & Ellen Platt

EAST HARRIS COUN-TY – Community members interested in the status of remediation work on the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site heard an update last Tuesday night, April 11 from Rachel Jordan of THEA (Texas Health and Environment Alliance). The meeting was held at the Highlands Community Center, and attended by a small group of residents from both sides of the river.

Rachel reviewed activity since the last THEA meeting in October, and



Rachel Jordan of THEA presents an update on status of remediation at the two Waste Pits Superfund sites in the San Jacinto River. The meeting was held April 11 at the Community Center in Highlands.

the EPA meeting in De- However, the two parties cember, which had to be held outside the community center due to an unusual odor in the building.

A particular problem has arisen in the northwest corner of the Northern pit, where toxins were discovered deeper than originally tested. The EPA wants this material removed, and the RP (Responsible Party) has said it wants a cap instead of excavation. Due to the depth of the waste, they are concerned about stability of cofferdams in that area.

are at an impasse, and EPA has called for an independent reviewer to make a recommendation.

At the Southern site, work is progressing slowly, step by step. Fencing has been installed, equipment for a water treatment system has been delivered, site roads have been built, a guard shack and security are in place. signage has been installed, and debris removed.

Continued. See Waste Pits, Page 5

# Turner Car Show displays dozens of the best collectable and show vehicles



BEST OF SHOW award went to Derik Harmsen for his Red 57 Chevy Belair (shown right), presented by Robert Turner. **BEST ENGINE Bruce Meyer 65** Shelby Cobra, BEST PAINT Daniel Pohorily 60 Chevy Biscayne, BEST INTERIOR Mark Alford.



BEST OF SHOW, DERIK HARMSEN, 57 BELAIR



2007 JEEP WRANGLER, ANGELA BOONE



BEST ENGINE, BRUCE MEYER, 65 SHELBY COBRA



**OLD WOODY CLASSIC** 

# Tall Ships festival in Galveston Harbor

Photo above show the Parade of Tall Ships, as they sailed both east and west along the Seawall in Galveston last week.

GALVESTON - The Tall Ships Galveston festival was held last week, on April 13 through April 16.

The event started with the Parade of Sail on April 13, which gave people a chance to get a view of the tall ships as they sailed along Seawall Boulevard in Galveston. The ships then docked at

Galveston Bay for viewing by the public.

Tourists and residents were also able to get tours of the ships

Continued. See Tall Ships, Page 2

# House construction starts in Robins Landing

450-single family homes planned in Sheldon

HOUSTON — Houston Habitat for Humanity announces construction has begun on single-family homes at Robins Landing. This vibrant masterplanned community will provide critically needed affordable housing along with the essential services and enhancing amenities that make a thriving community. The first phase of home construction includes 84 homes, 18 of which will be built by Houston Habitat for those we design something that earning 80 percent or below the City of Houston's average median income (AMI) through the Habitat Homeownership program.

"When we started envisioning what could be possible for this land in 2014, it was important to us that

could truly address the affordability crisis and serve as a model that could be replicated across the country. This meant building more than just homes - it meant creating a community with resources and partnerships to uplift residents and inspire families to plant roots," said Allison Hay, executive director of Houston Habitat for Humanity. "We are ecstatic to be reaching this milestone as our vision for Robins Landing becomes a reali-

Continued. See Robins Landing, Page 5

#### RACHEL'S DINER

Southern Cooking Buffet -- Coming Soon 14280 FM 2100 (Across from Walmart) 281-462-7349





**WESTON G. COTTEN** Attorney at Law O. 281/421-4050 F. 281/533-6032 weston@westoncotten.com

STAR-COURIER PHONES: 713-266-3444 • E-MAIL: GRAFIKSTAR @ AOL.COM • FAX: 713-977-1188







# Tall Ships festival in Galveston Harbor



TALL SHIP ELISSA and five others were on display for three days in Galveston Harbor for public viewing and boarding. Here they parade past the Seawall for all to see, as they travel west and then return east to dock at a pier.

#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and participate in other activities. There were sail-away excursions, food and music.

Organizers said almost 50,000 people attended the event. The Galveston Historical Foundation helps put on the festival.

Ships participating in the Festival included:

#### 1877 ELISSA

Elissa was taken from a scrapyard in Piraeus Harbor, Greece and brought to Galveston in 1978 so the ship could get a makeover. There are only two other ships in the world like Elissa that still can sail.

#### ERNESTINA-MOR-RISSEY – BUILT IN

The ship was created in 1894 at the James and Tarr Shipyard to join the Gloucester, Massachusetts, fishing

fleet. The vessel was taken on an expedition and was 600 miles away from the North Pole.

### GLEN L. SWETMAN – BUILT IN 1989

This ship is a 65-foot two-masted Biloxi Oyster Schooner that was referred to as a "white winged queen." These types of vessels were used in the late 1800s and into the start of the 1900s.

#### <u>NAO TRINIDAD –</u> <u>BUILT IN 2016</u>

This ship was built in Punta Umbría, Spain, and is part of the Nao Victoria Foundation nonprofit, which focuses on educating people about history. The Nao Trinidad is typically docked in Huelva, Spain, when it is not traveling.

#### PRIDE OF BALTI-MORE II – BUILT IN 1987

This ship was constructed in Baltimore. She has stopped at over 200 ports in North and South America, Europe, Asia and more.

#### <u>WHEN AND IF -</u> <u>BUILT IN 1939</u>

General George S.
Patton wanted this boat to built for him for "when the war is over, and if I live through it, Bea and I are going to sail her around the world." The ship was supposed to be luxurious and built for racing.

#### <u>Thomas Jefferson –</u> built in 1991

This ship was a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration hydrographic survey vessel that was used until 2003.

501 Washateria is a brand new washateria located in the Highlands Texas Area.

# **501 WASHATERIA**

FRESH & CLEAN LAUNDROMAT! Now Open on Main Street in Highlands



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## Turner Car Show,

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

















# **Barbers Hill** \* Dayton FIES

Serving Mont Belvieu, Dayton, Baytown and surrounding communities since 1995

VOL. 28, NO. 16 - \$1.00

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THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023

**MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580** 

## ON THE HILL

#### Creighton Advances S.B. 18, Eliminating Tenure

Austin, Texas-Senator Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) today passed Senate Bill 18 with bipartisan support in the Texas Senate. He offered the following statement:

"Texas colleges and universities conduct groundbreaking research and provide quality instruction every day. While shepherding this legislation through the process, I have spoken with professors across the state who work diligently for their students-without tenure. Scholars and scientists are attracted to Texas because our institutions encourage innovation and excellence, and it is disrespectful and disingenuous to say academics pursue this work because of guaranteed lifetime employment at taxpayer expense

"Senate Bill 18 eliminates the costly, unnecessary and antiquated burden of tenure at Texas public colleges and universities-opening up opportunities for a new era of competition, innovation and excellence in Texas higher education. This legislation will be a model for the rest of the nation, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to get SB 18 signed into law. "

#### Mont Belvieu Mosquito Spraying to Start April 4th

Public Works department staff will spray for mosquitos once a week from April - October 2023 in an effort to keep the mosquito population in Mont Belvieu as low as possible.

Depending on your neighborhood, mosquito spraying will take place on either Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m.

ZONE 1 (TUESDAYS) Trinity Street Bridgette Lane Crown Colony The Colony Eagle Creek Magnolia Landing Cottonwood Estates Reserve of Champions Es-

Lakes of Champions South Lake Icet Creek Crossing Blue Heron

ZONE 2 (WEDNESDAYS) Wilburn Ranch Fisher's Landing Secret Subdivision Brookstone Eagle Ridge Champions Forest The Villages of Champions

Cherry Point St. Augustine Meadows Cherry Creek Estates Langston Drive Estates Uptown (East Winfree, Earl Porter, Cove Rd.) Country Creek

ZONE 3 (THURSDAYS) City Park Eagle Pointe Golf Course Eagle Pointe Recreation Complex Cotton Bayou Wastewater

Treatment Plant Public Works Complex City Hall

WHAT WE USE

The City of Mont Belvieu uses a broad spectrum all-temperature, quick knockdown, low odor, and non-corrosive synergized synthetic pyethroid insecticide for the control of adult mosquitoes in residential, recreational, and other areas. This same product can also help control biting and non-biting midgs and black flies.

# **HM Baytown Hospital Celebrates** 75 years of Serving the Community

BAYTOWN - This month Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital is celebrating 75 years of service to Baytown and the surrounding communities. San Jacinto Memorial Hospital opened on April 18th, 1948, on Decker Drive with fewer than 100 patient rooms, dedicated hospital staff, and 35 physicians. Today, Houston Methodist Bavtown Hospital has more than 300 hospital inpatient rooms, state-of-the-art operating rooms, multiple outpatient service locations, medical office buildings, over 2,000 employees, and nearly 1,000 physicians

Through the years, the hospital has grown with the community, changed names, and moved to its current location on Garth Road, but never lost the vision of its founders to create a modern hospital that provides the very best in innovation and health care for those living in the community - well into the fu-

"Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital has been an icon in the Baytown community since it was first built on Decker Drive and to this day serves as an integral part of our community — improving quality of life and promoting health and safety to all living in our area. Our hospital has also played a pivotal role in the history of Houston Methodist as it was the first community hospital and set the stage for our eventual growth into other communities," said Chief Executive Officer David Bernard.

In November of 2022, the



TOP ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT – Board Member Gary Schmidt, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Shawn Tittle, Board Chairman Gilbert Santana, Chief Executive Officer David Bernard, Medical Technologist Specialist Rita Rull, Nursing Director Dorothy Terry, Board Member Wayne Baldwin.

FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Chief Operating Officer Adrienne Joseph, Asst. Chief Nursing Officer Jennifer Vera, Board Member Pete Alfaro, Monitor Technician Ester Andrew, Lab Director Gail Lumus, Board Member Tommy Clements, Director of Spiritual Care George Colon, Administrative Director



1946 GROUNDBREAKING FOR ORIGINAL HOSPITAL

**HOSPITAL OPENING DAY - APRIL 18, 1948** 

hospital opened Unity Tower, a new five-story building providing 75 new private rooms and vital infrastructure to continue leading medicine in Baytown. This new space increased capacity allowing the hospital to

continue its mission and enhancing our ability to serve the growing demands of Baytown, east Harris, Liberty and Chambers coun-

Unity Tower serves as a focal point for Houston

Methodist Baytown, unifying the campus and staff with the community to promote a spiritual healing environment. The tower's design helps solidify Houston Methodist Baytown as part of the Houston Methodist system.

"Leading-edge technology and facilities may define our history, but without a doubt, Houston Methodist Baytown is distinguished by the amazing staff and physicians who provide personalized care and service to the members of our community each day," said Bernard. "They are truly the heart and soul of our great institution."

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital is recognized by Vizient as a top performer in the Bernard A. Birnbaum, MD Quality

Leadership annual ranking, coming in No. 2 out of 148 Complex Care Medical Centers in 2022. In 2016, Houston Methodist Baytown received official designation as a Magnet® hospital from the American Nurses Credentialing Center the highest and most respected national recognition for nursing excellence. Only 7 percent of hospitals nationwide are Magnet® certified.

"The 75-year history and success of Houston Methodist Baytown are inspired by those living in our community with a desire to serve others and provide only the very best for their friends and family. We are grateful for their commitment to serving and fortitude throughout the years. As we emerge from a global pandemic, we continue to honor the vision of our founders and strengthen our commitment to the mission of Houston Methodist to provide excellent health care in a spiritual environment of caring. We are proud of our history, excited for our future, and look forward to leading medicine in Baytown for decades to come.," said Bernard.

The anniversary was marked with a celebration for employees today featuring speeches from long-time employees. Please see attached photos.

For more information about Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital, visit houstonmethodist.org/ baytown or 281.420.8600.

# X-ELIO's 72 MW Solar Plant Groundbreaking Event

X-ELIO will be honored to host many of the local and regional authorities and other stakeholders, including BASF - one of the world's largest chemical companies - an X-ELIO partner whose active participation has truly helped to facilitate the Project's success.

X-ELIO's 72 MW Liberty Solar PV project, expected to be operational by 2024, will generate 137 GWh of clean energy annually, while also providing more than \$130 million in capital invest-



ment in the state and creating up to 125 new construction jobs.

The project will also include a 60 MW Battery Energy Storage System, providing critical grid re-

siliency and reliability services to enable the continued deployment of low-cost renewable energy in ERCOT.

The US is a key market for X-ELIO. We will continue to invest in the development of the communities and regions where we operate here as we strive to achieve our strategic net-zero ambi-

During the event, we will also announce the deployment of several community initiatives as part of X-ELIO's Community Plan Program and provide information about the social and economic impact to both the Liberty and Harris County communities.

The event will be held

Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 11:30 am

Liberty 1 Solar Plant 6553 County Road 602, Dayton, TX 77535

# United Way Hosted a Poverty Simulation Experience

tions as they work to

Baytown, Texas -Come meet ALICE who represents the working poor = Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed at the Poverty Simulation hosted by the United Way of Greater Baytown Area and Chambers County. Participants walked in the shoes of ALICE, individuals that live in or at the edge of poverty and because of this they have tough decisions to make every day. This one-of-akind opportunity transports community members into the lives of

neighbors and friends

who are one decision away from experiencing homelessness. Get a real life look at the resources available in Baytown, and experience what it is like to be ALICE. "Most often

we overlook the depth and gravity of the decisions that individuals who are ALICE make in order to attain the basics of living" said United Way of Greater Baytown Area and Chambers

United County's Chief Executive Officer, Melissa Reabold. "The Poverty Simulation

not only gives individuals bility." a glimpse into this world, but also into the importance of local organiza-

support individuals as they journey out of poverty toward financial sta-

United Way of Greater Baytown Area and Chambers County seeks to find solutions to real is-

sues impacting the community and advocate for those who are in need. Your United Way is able to identify solutions to community needs and support programs that provide targeted solutions. Through the Pover-

Simulation, community members have a first-hand look at the importance of supporting solutions and providing the right services and programs to those experiencing hardship.

The Poverty Simulation was followed by a facilitated conversation about creating impact in our community.

#### OPINION PAGE \* $\bigstar$

# **OPINION**

**By Joyce LeBombard League of Women Voters of Texas** 

## TexasPreemption of Local Authority is Out of Control

AUSTIN, TX — In response to the alarming attacks on local government authority trending in the 88sth Legislative Session, League of Women Voters of Texas President Joyce LeBombard issued the following statement:

"Legislation currently in front of the Texas Legislature seeks to take over control from local governments and other vital local entities, including election administration. The League of Women Voters is alarmed at this proposed change as it threatens the trustworthy and transparent work of our local election officials.

The Texas Legislature proposes to rewrite the rules that have governed state and local relationships for decades. Lawmakers have re-adopted or proposed to re-adopt legislative district maps that significantly erode the representation of Texans in large population centers. In addition, they are debating sweeping legislation preempting local ordinances in significant areas such as natural resources, finance, and labor. These changes would be enforced through private action at the expense of local government.

The League is concerned about seeing the same pattern in elections. Real and perceived issues with election administration in Harris County in 2022 are being used as an excuse to subject election officials and election workers across the state to everything from increased criminal and civil liability to outright take over by the State.

Examples include:

- Legislation allowing the Secretary of State to directly administer county elections based on a 'good cause to believe,' not actual evidence of fumbles in election administration;
- Legislation giving the Secretary of State the same power as a district court judge to order a new election:
- Legislation creating elections marshals to police local elections;
- Legislation allowing prosecution of election law violations in counties other than the county in which the alleged violation occurred;

The League remembers the axiom 'Government is best that is closest to the people.' Our lawmakers in the statehouse would do well to remember it also."

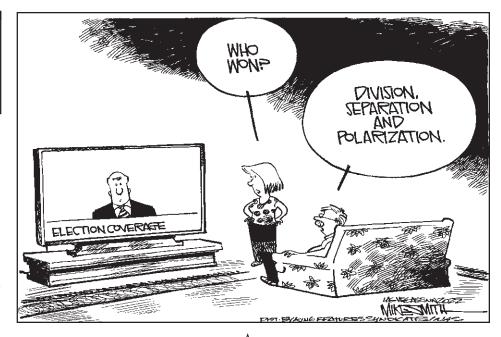
###

About the League of Women Voters of Texas: The League of Women Voters is one of America's oldest and most trusted civic nonprofit organizations. Formed in 1919, the Texas League represents more than 13,500 grassroots advocates and 34 local Leagues across the state. The League never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties. The League encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League also seeks to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to people 16 years and older. Learn more about the League of Women Voters of Texas at LWVTexas.org.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5906 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.



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## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

**By Gary Borders** 



## Senate, House Begin Budget Reconciliation Process

The Texas Senate unanimously approved a \$308 billion two-year budget last week, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The next step is to reconcile that budget with one passed earlier by the Texas House.

The Senate's budget funds \$10 billion in electric grid reforms, provides pay raises to state employees, and devotes more than half of its budget to funding education.

"Over the next few weeks, I will be working with my colleagues in the Senate and the House to reach a consensus on the differences between the two chambers, and I look forward to sending the final appropriations bill to Gov. (Greg) Abbott before the legislative session ends," state Sen. Joan Huffman, R- Houston said in a statement. Huffman chairs the finance committee.

The main difference in the two budgets is in how to provide property tax relief. The House version dedicates \$17.3 billion to cutting the annual amount a home's appraisal can increase, from 10% to 5%. The Senate budget allocates \$16.5 billion for property tax relief by increasing the homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$70,000, with added breaks for homeowners 65 and older.

#### MEDICAID EXPANSION FOR **NEW MOMS POSSIBLE**

The Texas House has passed a bill that allows low-income moms to stay on Medicaid for a full year after childbirth.

The Texas Tribune reported that is a marked increase from current practice, in which postpartum Medicaid expires two months after birth in Tex-

The bill has widespread support, including from Gov Greg Abbott and more than 170 groups in the state across the political spectrum. However, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who presides over the Senate, has not publicly stated his po-



sition on the measure.

Texas has the largest uninsured population in the country, with nearly 1 in 5 Texans lacking health insurance, the Tribune reported.

"As I have said before, it is essential that the Texas House makes meaningful progress this year on better supporting mothers and children in the state — and that starts with extending health coverage for new moms to a full year," House Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, said previously when outlining his priorities for the legislative ses-

#### **BILL BANS 'SEXUALLY EXPLICIT' BOOKS IN SCHOOL LIBRARIES**

The Texas House last week passed a preliminary measure that requires vendors to assign a rating to books with sexual content before selling them to school districts, The Dallas Morning News reported. The measure requires one more vote in the House before heading to the Senate, where it is likely to pass.

"This bill is about radically sexual content in the hands of unaccompanied children in public school libraries," state Rep. Jared Patterson, R-Frisco, the bill's sponsor, said from the House floor Thursday.

Opponents to the measure are concerned it would lead to books about LGBTQ people being banned from libraries. About a dozen people with the Texas Freedom Network held a readin on the Capitol rotunda's floor as the bill was being debated.

State Rep. Venton Jones, D-Dallas, is one of eight openly LGBTQ legislators. He said the bill would hurt children who grow up feeling out of place because of their sexual orientation.

"I remember going to my school library looking for books when healthy conversations with my loved ones were not always available or always comfortable," Jones said. "What I was looking for was materials that spoke to me and for stories of the people who came before me.'

#### **BILLIONS MORE FOR UNIVERSITY RESEARCH**

Billions of dollars for higher education research appear likely as two bills have passed the House, the Statesman reported. One measure changes the name of the National Research University Fund to the Texas University Fund, while another proposes a constitutional amendment to enact the bill and allocate \$3.5 billion to the fund Both bills were filed by state Rep. Greg Bonnen, R-

Friendswood. "This is a transformative piece of legislation that will allow Texas for generations to come to be the intellectual capital of the world," Bonnen said last week. "It changes the eligibility requirements for access to this fund, and it does so in a merit-based approach and in an approach that, as other universities grow and enhance their research performance, they will be able to access this fund and not dilute the ones that are currently in the fund."

Similar measures have already passed the Senate, though that body allocated \$1 billion less than the House measure.

#### **LIGHTS OUT' ACROSS TEXAS HELPS BIRDS MIGRATE**

The annual migration of birds through Texas to northern breeding grounds has begun, and Texans are urged to help by turning off outdoor lights at night from now through May 12, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Bird mortalities are associated with light pollution, which disorients our winged friends. One of every three birds migrating through the United States comes through Texas in the spring and fall – nearly 2 billion in total, according to TPWD.

Texans can help by:

- Turning off all nonessential lights from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. during this migration period.
- Not using landscape lighting to illuminate trees or gardens where birds may be resting.
- · Aim security and safety lighting downward.
- In commercial buildings, ensuring custodial work is done by 11 p.m., and lights are turned off.



#### "Fireworks in the morning"

I start noticing the planes overhead when it's nearing the time to go.

Planes don't fly low over this small Mexican city. San Miguel de Allende doesn't have its own airport, so the few planes flying overhead are high in the sky, headed off to somewhere else. I rarely notice them at all until it's time to leave.

Now I'm watching them leave a trail in the sky and wondering about the people inside. Are they happy to be going wherever they're going? Are they sad to be leaving wherever they were? After almost three months here, in our little apartment in Mexico, everything we do in the last week takes on a new significance.

Will these flowers last until we leave? How many potatoes should I cook? Should we buyone more small jar of honey? We wonder where we should go out to eat, and we keep using the expression "one last time," as if we will never return. We plan to return. We even have tickets. But life is uncertain and leaving, even for a few months, feels momentous.

At 6 o'clock this morning, we heard fireworks.

"Pop! Pop! Pop!" My husband, Peter, mumbled something in his sleep.

"Fireworks," I told him. He went back to sleep. He doesn't mind. Peter is used to them now. Fireworks in the morning are not unusual. There are reasons for them, we are told, but they are complicated. They have to do with births and deaths and things we will never fully understand. This morning, I was wide awake at 6 o'clock, listening to the fireworks and wondering how they ever could have bothered me in the past.

I'm having a hard time remembering our home in the

I try to remember what pots and pans I use, and I can't quite picture them. It seems odd that my other life has grown so fuzzy in such a short time. I have forgotten how many houseplants we left to be watered. (Very few, is the answer.) I try to remember what vase I put my flowers in and what coffee cup I use. It seems important that I remember these things. Otherwise, it feels as if I will be flying into a

I wonder if winter is finally over. (Not really, is what I am  $\,$ hearing from my family.) I

wonder if the crocuses will be coming up when we get back. Unlike the kitchen and my coffee cup,I can picture the crocuses with vivid clarity, scattered across the lawns, growing oblivious to property lines, spreading brilliant purple blooms everywhere for just a couple of short weeks, then disappearing again for a full year. I look forward to the cro-

And I miss my parents and spending time with my family. I will enjoy my walk through the old neighborhood. It will be fun to see spring finally arrive and meet all my old dog friends who will be eager to smell whatever was hidden beneath all that snow.

When you read this, I'll be back. And I'm sure I'll feel happier about it than I feel today. Today, I think I'll miss the

fireworks.

Psychological studies report that, if I want to keep enjoying something, I need a little time away. I need to do something different for a while to keep the appreciation fresh. I believe this is true. But right now, I don't feel like going away.

Right now, I feel like taking in the brilliant colors and the warm sun and even the fireworks for at least one more

Till next time,

Carrie

Check out CarrieClasson-Author on Facebook or visit CarrieClasson.com.



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Member Texas Press Association

# Construction starts in Robins Landing,

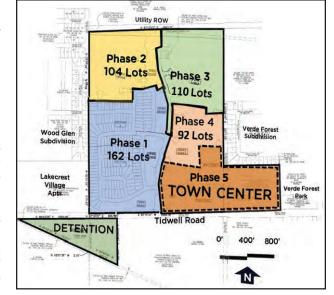
**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

Located near Tidwell Road and Mesa Drive in northeast Houston, Robins Landing is ultimately set to include more than 450 single-family homes. A total of one hundred homes will be built by Houston Habitat and available to participants in the Habitat Homeownership Program, which prepares aspiring homeowners for long term success through true partnership. Prospective Habitat homeowners must demonstrate a need for housing, the ability to pay back an affordable mortgage, U.S. citizenship or permanent residency status, and a willingness to provide "sweat equity."

"We are pleased to see this community taking shape in northeast Houston," said Mayor Sylvester Turner. "The holistic approach Houston Habitat is taking to not only build homes, but an entire community with resources to help residents thrive exemplifies what government and partnerships can do when they choose to work together for the greater good."

The remaining homes in Robins Landing will be built and sold by partner builders CastleRock Communities and Chesmar Homes. 300 of these homes are reserved for those whose income is 120 percent or below the City of Houston AMI, with the rest of the homes available at





market rate. Lots will be available to purchase through partner builders later this year.

"We are thankful to have partners like CastleRock Communities and Chesmar Homes build alongside Houston Habitat in Robins Landing. This partnership has enabled us to evolve the design of the Habitat homes in Robins Landing, and, with each builder represented on every street, there is beautiful cohesion across the community," added Hay.

In 2021, Houston Habitat secured \$33 million in funds to begin adding necessary infrastructure which delivers resiliency and supports above-ground development on the 127-acre site. This includes clearing and grading; installing sewers and utilities; developing a stormwater management system with an added 20 acres of stormwater detention; and creating streets, curbs, and residential building lots.

Houston Habitat is continuing to raise \$10 million from philanthropy for above-ground features to ensure long term affordability, sustainability, and resiliency. Plans for this funding include a 12-acre central park with access to hike-and-bike trails, a neighborhood resilience hub, lot preparation and resilience for Houston Habitat homes, and more. In addition, the non-profit is collaborating with community partners to develop a Town Center with essential services and amenities.

Robins Landing is being developed by Houston Habitat in phases. Phases 1-4 will deliver all single-family lots and the central park over the next four years. Phase 5, which includes the Town Center and other resources, will be developed concurrently.

To stay up to date on Robins Landing, visit www.robinslanding.net.

## Waste Pits update,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

According to some observers, excavation has started and some material has been sent to the landfills. This was not confirmed by EPA or THEA however. The landfills have been identified, as Republic in the Beaumont area, and Seabreeze in Aungleton. These landfills can accept Class II nonhazardous waste.

Rachel said that there had been a release, or spill, of toxic material in March, but it was a small amount and contained. However, it caused the operator to reevaluate procedures and take steps to cap open valves properly.

Daily inspections of the site are being undertaken by GHD, the consulting engineers for the RP, and EPA is reviewing the Emergency Response Plan. EPA is also conducting

sampling, but has not announced any results.

Members of the audience has questions after this presentation, with some suggestions also.

A question was asked why there is no provision for a third party full-time inspector, instead of the RP contractor's person. It was asked whether

air monitoring is taking place as work progresses and material is disturbed. The answer seemed to be No.

It was asked whether

workers at the Southern site are wearing protective gear, and the answer was No.

Rachel said that her organization will be sending people to the area to advise fishermen about the dangers of toxicity in fish and crabs they may catch. She said this would be the fifth

time they have attempted this information outreach, but it doesn't seem very effective.

Plans for future activity were discussed. Rachel said ther will be a Third Party Review of the Northern Waste Pit, the 100% Remedial Design Plan will be completed and presented for review by EPA, and the RP contractor wil continue removal of toxic waste material from the Southern site.

Rachel thanked everyone that had attended the
THEA fundraiser "Clean
Mud for Bugs" fundraiser
held at Karbach Brewery
last Saturday, March 25.
At that event, Harris
County Attorney Christian
Menefee was honored as
the "Crawdaddy" of THEA
for his work to protect the
environment of the county.

# Rotary serves lunch to Highlands Seniors



Rotary Club of Highlands TX
Denise Smith - April 11 at 11:03 PM - @

Highlands Rotary Club held their meeting at San Jacinto Community Center today with the senior citizens group. We provided and served for about 70, ate lunch with them, and Director, Tonya Kostka MC'd the Friendly Feud game (Easter version). — with GayLynn Prescott Milliorn and 9 others.

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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. May 12, 2023

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.



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current to sell for cash only the contents of Unit

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property to be sold is Household items and etc....

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#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 513959; Estate of JACQUELINE DENISE (GARDINER) BENNETT Deceased; In Probate Court No. 4 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on APRIL 12, 2023.

#### CHRISTOPHER ARMSTRONG **BENNETT**

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 APRIL 13, 2023

by WESTON COTTEN Attorney for the Estate

#### **NOTICE TO CREDITORS** Notice is hereby given that Original Letters

Testamentary for Docket No. 514313; Estate of MARY LOUISE COOK GUIDRY Deceased; In Probate Court No. 1 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on APRIL 19, 2023.

#### **LEON OLIVER GUIDRY**

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

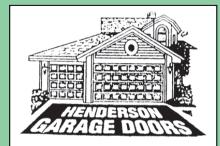
> c/o Weston Cotten 1500 E. Wallisville Road Highlands, TX 77562

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 APRIL 25, 2023

by WESTON COTTEN Attorney for the Estate

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"The Diplomat" (TV-MA) — Kate Wyler is the new U.S. ambassador to the U.K., and her first crisis to solve takes her to London, right as a strike force inches closer to the

Persian Gulf. With an imminent threat looming

closer, Kate must play her

role as diplomat very carefully if she wishes to suc-

ceed - and keep her

husband, Hal, a former

ambassador himself, from

intervening in her career.

This eight-episode series

starring Keri Russell and

Rufus Sewell can be com-

pared to Netflix's recent

release "The Night

Agent," with tons of ac-

tion, drama and politics.

But the casts' performanc-

es, combined with hard-

hitting dialogue, elevate

the series to an entirely

"The Fallout" (R) -

Jenna Ortega ("Wednes-

day") and Maddie Ziegler

("Dance Moms") star in

this heartfelt drama film

centering on the after-

math of a high school

shooting. Vada (Ortega)

meets Mia (Ziegler) in the

bathroom on what's sup-

posed to be a normal pic-

ture day when a shooter

appears on campus. The

panicked pair hide in the

bathroom, along with an-

other student and are able

to narrowly escape the

shooter. During the weeks

following the shooting,

Vada and Mia form a close

bond as they grapple with

what happened at their

school. Although this film

is on the shorter side, Or-

tega and Ziegler's true-to-

life portrayals are

stunning and give insight

to the difficulties that can

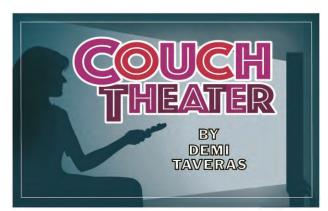
arise after such a trau-

matic event. Out now.

(HBO Max) (c) 2023 King

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different level. (Netflix)





Chris Evans and Ana de Armas star in "Ghosted."

#### "Ghosted"

—"Ghosted" (PG-13) — Who doesn't know what it's like to be ghosted nowadays? Cole Riggan knows. After a successful date with a woman named Sadie, Cole is reeling and thinks he can see a real future with her. But Sadie has plans to travel to London for work, and when she leaves, Cole doesn't get a single text back from her. Still determined, however, Cole travels to London to meet her there. Once he arrives, Cole suddenly gets kidnapped and taken to a mysterious lair, where none other than Sadie rescues him. After Sadie reveals she's in the CIA, he realizes he might've bargained for more than he thought on this trip. Starring Ana de Armas, Chris Evans and Adrien Brody, this romcom action film premieres

April 21. (AppleTV+)

"Dead Ringers" (TV-13+) — Based on the 1988 film starring Jeremy Irons, this psychologicalthriller miniseries premieres April 21 with six episodes all in one shot. Gender-flipping the roles originally played by Irons, Rachel Weisz plays both roles of Elliot and Beverly Mantle, who are identical twin gynecologists. Elliot and Beverly share everything — their occupations, their drugs, their lovers. And now, they share the same goal of expanding the boundaries of medicine, by essentially creating a baby out of science. The deranged twins must be careful where their ambition leads them, though, as there are eyes watching their every move. (Prime Video)

\*\*\*

# by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Adam Sandler has become the Netflix darling after completing his ninth film for the production company. Last month, he received the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor presented by the Kennedy Center just in time for the release of "Murder Mystery 2," co-starring Jennifer Aniston.

Making the sequel for "Murder Mystery" was murder for the pair. Sandler admitted that he had to have a hip replacement, telling Variety, "I had been doing so many movies in a row. I did 'Spaceman,' and I was hanging in a harness all the time. I kept saying, 'Something's going on with my hip, man. I'm in trouble."

"Murder Mystery 2" director Jeremy Garelick confirmed, describing some of his stunt work as "Tom Cruise kind of stuff." Sandler bemoans, "I'm sluggy, man. My body hurts. ... I didn't think I needed to get in shape before the movie, but then when we were shooting, I was like 'Man, I should have gotten in shape." Aniston wasn't immune either. In what was the final day of shooting, she admits, "I had a back injury about three years ago, and it got really pissed off when I was in the harness. ... It was one of those things where you wake up the next day or two days later, and you're like, 'Wow, that got bad!""

Up next, Aniston will be in an untitled comedy with Julia Roberts, and her series "The Morning Show" has been renewed for a third season. She and Sandler are planning another film together - which they want to be a drama.

\*\*\* Robert Downey Jr., no longer Iron Man after the last "Avengers" film, has set his sights on remaking Alfred Hitchcock's 1958 James Stewart and Kim Novak classic "Vertigo." But, first, we'll see him in the \$100-million "Oppenheimer" film (with Cillian Murphy in the title role of the father of the atomic bomb). It also stars Emily Blunt, Matt Damon and Rami Malek, and arrives July 21.

\*\*\* Nicholas Braun, two-time Emmy nominee for playing Greg Hirsch in the

**ACROSS** 

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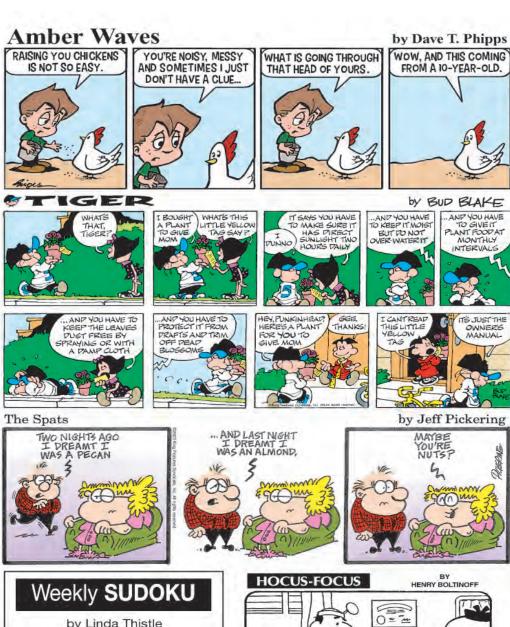
Adam Sandler and Jennifer Aniston behind the scenes of "Murder Mystery 2"

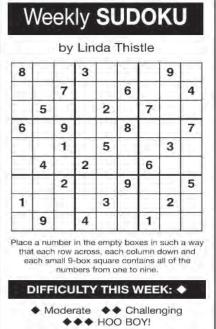
HBO series "Succession" (in its fourth and final season), has already completed the psychological-thriller film "Cat Person" (based on a New Yorker magazine story), with Emilia Jones and Isabella Rossellini. It's awaiting a distributor.

\*\*\* Netflix is back with its resurrecting again. They're now reviving the 29-season "Power Rangers" franchise into a new series titled "Mighty Morphin Power Rangers: Once & Always," with returning members Karan Ashley, David Yost, Walter Jones and Catherine Sutherland. It drops April 19.

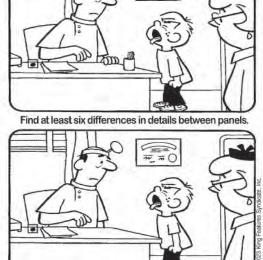
\*\*\* Jennifer Lopez didn't let her marriage to Ben Affleck (married on July 16, 2022) slow her career down. She's completed a pair of films for Netflix. The actiondrama "The Mother," co-starring Joseph Fiennes and Gael Garcia Bernal, is due May 12, and the sci-fi thriller "Atlas," opposite Sterling K. Brown, is coming soon. Since she's now Jennifer Lopez Affleck (which means a "field of stone" in Scottish), dare we say they're stone cold in love? (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

### ENTERTAINMENT





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Differences: 1, Hand is missing. 2, Containet is missing. 3. Diploma is different. 4, Sleeve is shorter. 5. Curtain is missing. 6. Glasses differ. dence.; 9. Earth.; 10. A turophile.

two parents.; 7. None — the United States doesn't have an official language.; 8. Proviand killed Charles Dickinson in a duel.; 5. The Beach Boys.; 6. Eight: six children and I. "Philadelphia."; 2. Burnt gunpowder.; 3. Six.; 4. Andrew Jackson. In 1806 he shot

Trivia Test Answerst

#### April 24, 2023 Posting Date King Crossword

#### 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 15 18 19 25 | 26 35 38 better, maybe 40 47 54 52 53 55 56 28 La Scala solo tai (cock-54 Hideaway 8 Fleet

55 Curry and Landers

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Van Gogh venue 34 Mafia boss 56 "Game, -35 Hostels match!

Secret agent 41 Ms. Brockovich 42 Ceremony

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Opening night

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26 Genius 27 Most skeptishepherd cal

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17

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Stephen of

Still Crazy"

"Puppy Love"

11 Portent

singer

29 Charged bit "Mona Lisa" 30 "Life of Pi" director Lee 10 Rani's wrap

33 Tizzy

36 Gushes forth 38 Slowpokes

40 "Rah!" 42 Ms. McEntire

43 Infamous tsar 44 High tennis shots

46 Aspiring atty.'s exam

47 "Would - to you?"

48 Shopper's aid 50 Scot's refusal

4 6 2 8 6 9 g 3 8 Þ 1 6 1 7 5 3 6 UST by Fifi 7 4 5 2 9 3 Rodriguez 2 8 1 6 5 7 1. MOVIES: Which movie gave actor Tom 8 7 1 6 8 9 4 5 3 9 2 1

Hanks his first Oscar? 2. SCIENCE: Apollo astronauts reported that

the Moon smelled like what substance? 3. GEOGRAPHY: How many stars are on the

Australian flag? 4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president killed a man who insulted him in a duel?

MUSIC: Which pop group produced the hit song "God Only Knows"

6. TELEVISION: "The Brady Bunch" features how many blended family members?

7. LANGUAGE: What is the official language of the United States?

8. U.S. STATES; What is the state capital of Rhode Island?

9. ASTRONOMY: Which is the only planet in our solar system that is not named after a god or goddess? 10. FOOD & DRINK: What is a cheese con-

noisseur called? © 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

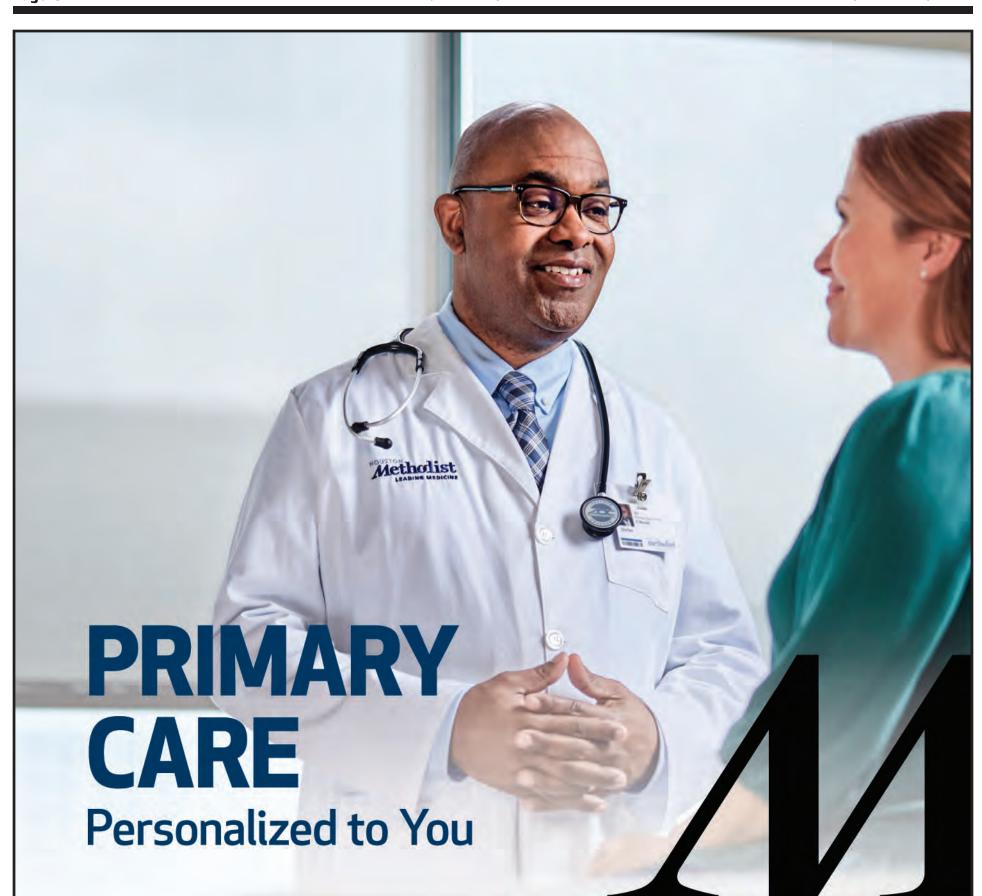
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1 8 8 8 7 2 6

2 6 9 7 2 8 9 1 8

Answer

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