HIGHLANDS Star & Courier

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THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE **STARS**

EVENTS

North Shore **Rotary Annual** FISH FRY May 20

48th Annual Catfish Fry and Crawfish Boil, Raffle for a new Toyota Tacoma pickup or Toyota Camry car or 20 other valuable prizes. Silent Auction, Live auction.

Saturday, May 20 from 11am to 3pm at the Rotary Pavilion on Wallisville (behind the courthouse)

Raffle Tickets \$100 which includes two fish fry meals. Dinner Tickets alone \$15. Everyone welcome! Call 713-450-3600 for tickets, or purchase from any North Shore Rotarian. In Crosby, available from Turner Chevrolet or Crawfish Shack.

Crosby Fair & Rodeo Schedule

JUNE 2,3 Friday, Saturday **BBQ COOKOFF** JUNE 2, Friday

BAG OF DONUTS, 7:30pm JUNE 3, Saturday PARADE 10pm SUNNY SAUCEDO,

7:30pm JUNE 8, Thursday BUYER'S DINNER 4pm LIVESTOCK AUCTION,

JUNE 9, Friday TYLER HALVERSON CREED FISHER, 7:30pm JUNE 10, Saturday

LITTLE WRANGLER, 10am **AUSTIN MEADE** GIOVANNIE & THE HIRED GUNS, 7:30pm

NOW OPEN New Laudromat opens in Highlands

Well known local businessman Bill Bagi has opened a new Laundromat in Highlands, known as 501Laundromat.

Bagi said that the new store has the latest Wascomat professional washers and dryers, and because of their extra large size can clean 60 lbs of laundry in an hour

The new store is now open, and operates 7 days a week, from 8am to 9pm.

More details and photos on page 2 of this paper, or stop by with some laundry. Located at 501 S. Main Street, Highlands.

BIRTHDAYS

May 7-Germaine Broussard May 9-Jimmie Dickey Tim Holton Vanessa Whittaker Elonda Cravatt May 11-Nancy Johnston May 12–Rusty Salters May 13–Judy Bailey Bobby Horn, Sr. Larry Koslovsky Michelle Lomanzoff May 14–DeDe Williams May 15-Lana Gaeke Lina Hsuan

Dace Murphy Maria Williamson May 16–Felder Bryan Brakeman May 18-Danielle Greenwood

Raymond Gonzalez ANNIVERSARIES May 8--Tim & Lisa Dammon

May 10-Thomas & Eleanor Leibham May 12–Robert Smesny and Malba Stasney-Smesny May 23–Ralph & Rhonda Brewer

Drone photos reveal extent of remediation work at Waste Pits South

CHANNELVIEW - The San Jacinto River Waste Pits southern impoundment is busy with remediation work, at the direction of the EPA.

The contractor is GHD, working for the RP or Responsible Parties. At the Southern site, work is progressing slowly, step by step. Fencing has been installed, equipment for a water treatment system has been delivered and set up, site roads have been built, a guard shack and security are in place, signage has been installed, and debris removed.

Excavation has started and some material has been sent to the landfills. Trucks can be seen on Market Street and I-10 hauling the material away. The landfills have been identified, as Republic in the Beaumont area, and Seabreeze in Angleton. These landfills can accept



The Southern Impoundment site, as seen from a Drone. In the foreground is excavation of an area with toxic material, in the center are the offices and marshalling yard of the GHD contractor, and in the distance can be seen 4 large tanks, open on the top, as part of the dewatering remediation system. At right, excavators and a bulldozer remove material to a shallow depth.

(Drone photos courtesy of Greg Moss)

Class II non-hazardous waste. Therefore workers at the site are taking only minimum protection from

Rachel Jordan of THEA 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

Continued. See Waste Pits Southern Site, Page 5

San Jacinto River site of more barges

CHANNELVIEW-Residents of this community along River Road have been fighting a barge storage company, for over a year to keep the San Jacinto River from filling up with more barges that obstruct water flow, recreational boat traffic, and are an eyesore. They are also a hazard if they break loose in a flood.

They were surprised and angry to see last week that the company had

Continued. See More Barges in the River, Page 5



Work progresses in the water to drive piles and establish mooring for barges, the first line of which can be seen in this photo ready to tie up. In the foreground is Riverside Inn and Grill, and in the distance a Union Pacific train is travelling on the line from Channelview to Highlands over this part of the



San Jacinto River. The waterfront area is close to Meadowbrook Park, a Precinct 2 nature park, and adjacent to housing in San Jacinto River Estates. Residents in the area are opposed to any type of mooring, and against any dredging required in regard to development of a mooring area. (Photos Greg Moss)

Highlands Rotary hears Life-Saving AED from Assistant District placed at Discovery Governor Reabold Green in Houston **Governor Reabold**



Highlands Rotarians heard from their Assistant District Governor Elect, Baytown Rotarian Melissa Reabold at the April 20 luncheon. Also speaking was Kaci Pena of United Way. These Baytown ladies are pictured above with President-Elect Denise Smith.

By Scott Stephens, GBOGH Cody Foundation

"Making the difference" The Parent Heart Watch 18th Annual National Heart to Heart conference was held in Houston, Texas in January of 2023. During the conference an AED was gifted to the community and placed in a downtown community park. We were not able to see its final placement during the conference... I was teaching a CPR class in Houston this week and decided to take a quick stop to see the final placement of the AED and the Save Station. It was a late Tuesday afternoon and the park was filled with families and children enjoying the afternoon. In the background of where the children were playing, I saw it! Knowing this life saving device is so close makes my heart happy, #cemscpr #makingthedifference



RACHEL'S DINER

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





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Get started on your Spring home improvement projects! Landscaping | Home Additions | Patio Remodel Outdoor Kitchen | Swimming Pool



GOOSE CREEK CISD NEWS

Texas French Symposium

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey, APR -**Director of Communications**

The Goose Creek Memorial High School's French team competed at the Texas French Symposium that took place in Houston at St. John's High School on April 1st.

Thirty-five students, along with their teacher, Manuela Langlois, traveled from GCM to compete in the two-day event. Fourteen students advanced to the semifinals (some in multiple categories) and eight students competed in the finals round.

The following students placed at the competition:

Navarro Leticia 4th place Poetry (L1) Makaila Dale 3rd Place

Prose (L1) Alejandra Gutierrez

2nd Place Projects Kassandra Garza 2nd Place Art (Acrylic)



Leticia Navarro 4th place Poetry (L1), Makaila Dale 3rd Place Prose (L1), Alejandra Gutierrez 2nd Place Projects, Kassandra Garza 2nd Place Art (Acrylic) and Cinthia Ruiz 4th Place Digital Art, placed at the French Symposium event.

Digital Art

Texas French Symposium is a statewide competition for non-native French speaking students

Cinthia Ruiz 4th Place that are enrolled in a French class. The annual event promotes French language learning of high school students across the

Photos taken by Faith Longorio, Associate Director for Social Studies & World Language (LOTE):



GCM French students attended the Texas French Symposium at St. John's High School in Houston.

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



Our Laundromat is fully equiped with Wascomat Professional washers and dryers that are fast, reliable, and deliver the best wash results - saving your time and money!



EXTRA LARGE WASHERS, CLEANING 60 LBS OF LAUNDRY IN UNDER 1 HOUR We take laundry to the next level.

Open 7 days a week! STORE HOURS 8am - 9pm (Last Wash at 8pm) 281-843-8036 email: 501washateria@gmail.com

GCM Students Compete at GCCISD Names 2023 Campus Teachers of the Year



Glen Huey, Peter Hyland 2023 Teacher of the Year, celebrates his surprise win with members of the district staff.



Cynthia Rubio, Ashbel Smith 2023 Teacher of the Year, poses proudly with her students and members of the GCCISD Administration team.

By: Kristyn Hunt Cathey, APR -**Director of Communications**

Goose Creek CISD administrators visited campuses on March 29th to surprise educators that were selected by the peers to serve as their campus Teacher of the Year for the 2023-2024 school year.

This year's winners include: Stefanie Taylor, Clark; Tameka Mills, Point; Marcus Limbrick, DeZavala; Juanita Hook, Crockett; Linda Leday, Banuelos; Manuela Langlois, Goose Creek Memorial; Tara Fiedler, Sterling; Keith Brown, Lamar; Chelsea Moore,

IMPACT; Tavia Gamboa, Baytown Junior; Cynthia Rubio, Ashbel Smith; Pamela Bradford, Carver; Glen Huey, Peter Hyland; Patricia Authement, Gentry Junior; Erny Calzoncinth, Lee; Sherry Young, Harlem; Michelle Santibanez, Hopper Primary; Lisa Garcia, Walker; Kristi Abramski, **Travis**; Danny Mejia, San Jacinto; Tasha Arceneaux, Alamo; Marsha Goodwin, Highlands Elementary; Alexis Bryant, Cedar Bayou Junior; Latina Bogard, Austin; Deanna Senn,

Highlands Junior; Greg Gorney, Bowie; Sharilyn Reed, Horace Mann Junior; Mariam Williams-Augustin, E.F. Green Junior; Kelly Congdon, Stuart Career; Marsha Goodwin Jones, Pumphrey and Kelley Campbell-Conner, Liles Early Learning Academy.

The district will host their annual Teacher of the Year/retirement banquet on May 18th at 6 p.m. at Goose Creek Memorial High School, where the district Elementary and Secondary Teachers of the Year will be announced.

Students Mean Business at The GCM Business Expo

Goose Creek Memorial High School's Global Business Academy sponsored a Student Business Expo on April 13th, showcasing the talents of eight studentrun businesses. This event allowed students to display their products and services to fellow classmates, teachers, and industry partners.

Attendees were treated to a wide variety of offerings, with student businesses ranging from baked goods and coffee to clothing wear and jewelry. The entrepreneurial spirit was evident throughout the expo, with each student presenting their unique

products and services. The event was a fantastic opportunity for students to gain real-world experience in business, marketing, and sales. The showcase allowed students to learn how to present their ideas and products to potential customers while also promoting their busi-

Student business owners and their companies in-<u>cluded:</u>

Monica Marquez, owner of Secret Earth Crystals, which sells crystal jewelry.

Monica Medina, owner of CM Creations, which sells chocolate covered strawberries.

Jesse Alvarez, Real Estate Agent with Bates **Brinkley Realty**

Adrian Garcia, Forever-Richh Apparel

Angelica Estrada, owner of Angelica Bakes, a bakery that offers cakes, cupcakes, seasonal pies, and customized cake or-

Nana Ayensu, owner of



Adrian Garcia & Ahmad Kerl talk about the Not of this



Dr. Randal O'Brien congratulates Alanni Kraemer with Sweet Treats by Alanni with a fist bump.



Melissa Sarmiento selling some of her specialty candies to Rocio Ridley, with GCCISD Security Dept.

Jrthetrainer, a personal training service

Adrianna Morales, Lu-Lu's Coffee Shop, a coffee shop that offers lattes, cold

brew, and cookies.

Alanni Kraemer, owner of Sweet Treats by Alanni, a bakery that offers a range of desserts.



Barbers Hill PICSS Dayton

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

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THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Chambers County to Remove Book From Public Library Locations

(CHAMBERS COUNTY, TEXAS) - There has been recent discussion about a book titled "Gender Queer: A Memoir" by Maia Kobabe that is available in the Chambers County Library.

After review of the contents of the book, a determination was made that illustrations and depictions in this book fall under the Texas Penal Code definition of "Obscenity".

The decision has been made to remove this book from our library.

SFAustin Univ. Welcomes New

"Lumberjacks" at Axe'cepted Students Day

NACOGDOCHES, TX
— On April 1, Stephen
F. Austin State University welcomed 310 incoming students to
their new home during
the university's
Axe'cepted Students
Day.

The event provides incoming undergraduate students admitted for the upcoming fall semester a full-day slate of comprehensive sessions to help orient them to SFA and life in East Texas.

Students, as well as their family members and educational supporters, were able to speak with current students, faculty and staff and have questions answered about their upcoming college experience. The day included a meet and greet with academic deans; tours of key campus areas and services, including the Health and Wellness Hub. Student Recreation Center, and Academic Assistance and Resource Center: information sessions; and an involvement mixer, among others.

Accepted students who attended include:
Colt Ericson of Mont

Belvieu Alex Escamilla of

Baytown Tashua Joseph of

Baytown Ryan Murrin of Cros-

by

Lily Ramirez of Bay-

town Enrolling approximately 12,000 students, Stephen F. Austin State University offers more than 80 undergraduate majors and 120 areas of study within six colleges - business, education, fine arts, forestry and agriculture, liberal and applied arts, and sciences and mathematics. SFA provides the academic breadth of a state university with the personalized attention of a private school. Visit sfasu.edu to learn more.

Multi-Million Dollar Lawsuit Filed after worker was Killed in 2021, at Oak Island in Chambers County

CHAMBERS COUNTY — Houston-based law firm Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Agosto, Aziz & Stogner attorney Lena Laurenzo, together with William P. Kennedy, Joan E. Ballard, and Sophia Sanchez of Bill Kennedy Law have filed a multi-million-dollar lawsuit against multiple individuals and companies on behalf of Jimmy Counce, Patricia Counce and the Estate of Michael Lee Counce. The defendants are alleged to have failed to maintain a safe work environment for their

employees.

These responsibilities include prioritizing the safety of its employees and crewmembers, vetting, and hiring competent and safe employees and independent contractors, applying preventive measures after a threat or safety concern is known or otherwise

reported, and notifying law enforcement of potential dangers to protect employees. This also includes security checks for weapons at a job site. The lawsuit alleges breach of the jones act, premises liability, wrongful death, negligence, and gross negligence and seeks the maximum compensation amount allowed by law.

Michael Counce was a crewmember employed by Magellan Dredging. On September 28th,2021 at or around 8:30 AM, while working on or near a vessel owned by Magellan Dredging, Michael Counce was violently attacked by Juan Carlos Vasquez-Rojas with a machete. Juan Carlos Vasquez-Rojas was an employee of Colombia Dredging who was also working at the job site. Juan Carlos Vasquez-Rojas



Michael Lee Counce (deceased)

attacked Mr. Counce striking him multiple times with the machete and ultimately killed him. Juan Carlos Vasquez-Rojas fled the scene after the attack, but was soon arrested by the Chambers County Sheriff's Office.

The day before the attack on September 27th, 2021, Mr. Counce voiced safety concerns to his supervisor of Magellan Dredging. His concerns included that the Colombia

52

45

Dredging crew was a "rough bunch" and there were numerous concerns reported about the Colombia Dredging crew. Mr. Counce felt so in danger of his safety while working, that he went as far as to ask his supervisor if he could bring his firearm to the worksite. Mr. Counce's supervisor denied this request. Mr. Counce's request for a firearm was also based on a known and reported conflict that had developed between Juan Carlos Vasquez-Rojas and Mr. Counce. None of the defendants mentioned in the lawsuit took any measures to address the conflict or protect Mr. Counce or ensure that the working environment would not otherwise become unsafe due to this known conflict. None of the named defendants made any attempt to alert law enforcement or port

authorities of the potential danger.

Commenting on the lawsuit. Attorney Lena Laurenzo said, "I am deeply disturbed about what happened to Mr. Counce. The loss of his life was entirely preventable. Mr. Counce's concerns about his safety were reported and then ignored by these companies. We will be leading a thorough investigation into this tragedy to seek justice on behalf of the Counce family, and fully uncover all of these companies' failures that led to the death of Mr. Counce."

For questions regarding the lawsuit or interview requests, please contact Geoffrey Adkinson at gadkinson@awtxlaw.com or 713-222-7211.

--Contributed article.

168

146

Election Results: Mont Belvieu, BHISD, GCCISD

MONT BELVIEU – A Runoff election will be required for two of the Council seats in this election. Mont Belvieu's three-candidate city council races are headed to June runoffs after none of those running for office secured the mandatory 50% plus one majority vote needed to claim the seat outright.

Laurie Guidry, the lone incumbent facing a challenger in the Mont Belvieu election, was the top vote-getter, with Saturday's unofficial results showing 329 votes for Guidry or 46.2% of the total 712 votes cast for Position 2. If this count stands, she will face Mickey Bertrand in a run-off election. Vote totals aren't final until they are officially canvassed at council's May 15 meeting. The unofficial vote count for Bertrand was 215 votes, or 31.2% of the votes cast. Third-place finisher behind Guidry and Bertrand, was county investigator Tommy Henry, with Saturday night's unofficial total at

168 votes (23.6%).

Former council member Danny Campbell and former Barbers Hill head football coach Don Price should be in a runoff for Position 5. Campbell secured 307 of the 729 votes (42.1%) cast for that office and Price drew 276 votes (37.9%). Russell DiBenedetto, a Barbers Hill schools maintenance worker, got 146 votes (20.0%).

In other Chambers County races, two-decade school board member George Barrera won

MAYOR ELECTION DAY EARLY VOTING TOTAL Joey McWilliams 185 470 655 **COUNCIL POSITION 1 ELECTION DAY EARLY VOTING** TOTAL 641 Mike Pomykal 185 456 **ELECTION DAY EARLY VOTING** COUNCIL POSITION 2 TOTAL

Mickey Bertrand	48	167	215
Laurie Guidry	103	226	329
COUNCIL POSITION 5 UNEXPIRED TERM	ELECTION DAY	EARLY VOTING	TOTAL
Don Price	79	197	276
Danny Campbell	82	225	307

re-election over challenger Brandon Thornhill to the BHISD board.

Russell DiBenedetto

Tommy Henry

Tiffany Guy, a BHISD employee, easily won re-election to the Goose Creek CISD school board over challenger Yacel Amador for District 6.

Saturday's vote totals are unofficial until each governmental entity meets and officially canvasses the votes. BARBERS HILL ISD SCHOOL GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS
MAY 6, 2023

101

116

POSITION 3 BRANDON THORNHILL GEORGE BARRERA	ELECTION DAY 138 150	EARLY VOTING 274 478	TOTAL 412 628	
POSITION 4 CLINT PIPES	252	666	918	
TOTAL VOTE COUNT.	294	770	1.064	

Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown

Tips for Exercising Safely While Rehabbing an Injury

Putting the pain aside for a moment, the most frustrating thing about an injury is the setback it causes in your training or workout routine.

Some injuries are acute, occurring suddenly, as in the case of broken bones and torn ligaments. Others are chronic, developing gradually from overuse or misuse, as in the case of tendinitis or stress fractures. No matter the type, though, every injury needs to be rehabilitated in a safe, slow manner to ensure the area regains full function — sufficient strength, endurance, power and flexibility.

Proper rehabilitation isn't just important for ensuring you return to the activities you enjoy as strongly as you were be-

fore. It's also critical for preventing re-injury or a progression of the injury into something even worse, which can cause even further setbacks.

Here are Dr. Mann's five tips for safely returning to exercise after an injury:

Consult a sports medicine doctor about your injury

Sometimes it's obvious you need to see a doctor about an injury, like when you feel or hear a pop and immediately know there's a problem.

Other times, it's not so clear. Feeling some pain, you wonder: Is it a short-term thing that I can power through? Or might I make things worse if I keep working out?



Dr. David Mann

"It's really a question best answered by a specialist," says Dr. Mann. "If you're having pain for more than a week and it's not going away on its own, it's time to get it evaluated by a sports medicine doctor."

Consider seeing a physical therapist

Your sports medicine doctor will recommend exercises and a timeline, but Dr. Mann says you may need to work with a physical therapist as you rehab an injury.

A physical therapist can

A physical therapist can also help identify muscle imbalances that may be leading to joint pain caused by overuse or misuse, so you can correct the issue. Otherwise, you may find yourself back in the same place a few months down the road, dealing, yet again, with nagging pain that sets you back.

Know when to apply ice, heat and a brace or wrap

With any injury, there's likely to be some soreness as you start using the joint or muscle again. Listen to your

body and adjust your activities accordingly but know that ice and heat can help you find relief.

"Ice is good for reducing inflammation and swelling, while heat is good for loosening a tight muscle," explains Dr. Mann. "Depending on the injury and what you're experiencing at the time, either or both of these could be used. It might also help to alternate them."

In some cases, a joint-specific wrap or brace may be recommended to help support the area as you start exercising again.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Mann, or an orthopedic specialist, call 281.427.7400.

OPINION PAGE \bigstar \bigstar



It's not about growing old; it's about how you grow old

More Americans than ever are growing older and healthier these days. Consider the fact that on average we were lucky if we lived past 47 years of age at the beginning of the 20th century. Yet nowadays most men and women in the U.S. can look forward to celebrating birthdays well into their 70s. In fact, the New England Centenarian Study at Boston University tells us that the numbers of us who make it past our 100th birthday have just about doubled over the past two decades.

To be sure, the covid pandemic has taken its toll, causing an increased mortality rate in general among the elderly as well as a time out when it comes to expanded life spans. Not long ago, the Washington Post reported that "unlike flu, which impacts both the very young and the very old, the coronavirus appears to put mostly older people at higher risk of severe disease and

Going forward the question is, will life expectancy in the U.S. resume its growth in the future. It most likely will, say the experts. But it is not because medical science is on a quest for immortality; rather, the goal is to alleviate the illnesses that come with aging. As the website, Lifespan.io, put it: "The immune system keeps us safe from the constant invasion of viruses, bacteria, and other pathogens, helping us to stay healthy and free from diseases. However, the immune system begins to break down as we get older and we become ever-more vulnerable to diseases and infections. To solve this problem, scientists are exploring therapies to regenerate the immune system so that it is better able to fight back against diseases as it did in youth."

According to the National Library of Medicine, the risk factors of aging are the human pathologies such as cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disorders and neurodegenerative diseases. "Aging research has experienced an unprecedented advance over recent years, particularly with the discovery that the rate of aging is controlled, at least to some extent, by genetic pathways and biochemical processes conserved in evolution ... the final goal [is] identifying pharmaceutical targets to improve human health during aging with minimal side-effects."

What it all comes down to is what Abraham Lincoln allegedly said: "In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your

The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] www.amac.us is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation's capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country.



Reader wants help with toxic waste from Superfund site

Please we need help our back yard is full of toxins! I live 3000 feet from the waste pit on I-10 and my health as well as family and a dear friend who has lived here since the early 90!!

2017 mercury lots of mercury washed up from hurricane Harvey , We were promised help but no reply from any agency!

New York Times did a story on the devastation of toxic chemicals found post Harvey but was made to make revisions to the story per EPA AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES!

Harris county health dept left message in article they would have someone come invistigate but no one ever showed. We have proof - pictures, documentation's, years of research and finally maybe some answers ..

Sincerely

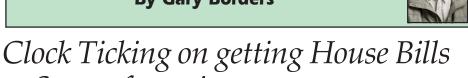
Natalie Cullom 346-417-8252

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.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



to Senate for action The clock is ticking on getting bills out of the House and to the Texas Senate, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick warned last week in a story in the Austin American-Statesman. Patrick presides over the Senate and is worried many bills that have made it out of House committees but have not gone before the full chamber will not be considered before the session ends.

"I previously expressed concern the House was far behind in the passage of bills and a train wreck was coming," Patrick tweeted. At that time, more than 1,100 bills had made it out of committee but still had not been set on the House calendar. All bills must meet a May 11 deadline for a second reading to be further considered for final passage.

House Speaker Dade Phelan did not comment on Patrick's concern but has put that chamber on a six-day work schedule for the rest of the session.

POLL: RAISE MINIMUM AGE FOR GUN PURCHASES

A new poll released by the Texas Politics Project at the University of Texas at Austin indicates three-fourths of Texans polled said they support raising the minimum age to purchase a firearm from 18 to the Texas Standard reported.

"That included 91% of Democrats and 64% of Republicans," Joshua Blank, director of research, said. "This is a consistent finding, to be quite honest. We've asked this question before. We've asked similar questions. So, there's an appetite in some ways for stricter gun laws in Texas. It's just not something that is politically palatable in the process that we have."

Attempts by some Democratic legislators to push a similar measure in this legislative session have not gained traction and appear unlikely to pass.

PUC CHAIR WARNS OF POSSIBLE SUMMER OUTAGES

The chairman of the Public Utility Commission warned last week that the state's main power grid is at risk if wind turbines don't produce enough power when needed, the Texas

HIGHLANDS

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

Tribune reported. Peter Lake reiterated that more on-demand power sources, such as power plants fueled by natural gas or batteries, need to be built to increase the electric grid's reliability.

"The Texas grid faces a new reality," Lake said last week. "Data shows for the first time that the peak demand for electricity this summer will exceed the amount we can generate from on-demand, dispatchable power, so we will be relying on renewables to keep the lights

Pablo Vegas, CEO of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, said at the news conference that wind and solar energy production results have increased considerably more than plants powered by coal or gas.

"So as a result, we are expecting to have to rely more on renewables during peak conditions than we ever have before," Vegas said.

Supporters of renewable energy scoffed at the view that the grid's reliability rests on renewable energy alone.

Luke Metzger, director of Environment Texas, said in a statement that renewable energy's growth in Texas "should be heralded and welcomed not blamed, contrary to evidence, for grid problems."

The PUC is proposing the use of performance credits, funded by an estimated 2% increase in customer electric bills. The funds would go to companies that operate on-demand power sources in hopes of incentivizing them to build more power plants or keep existing plants operating longer, the Tribune reported.

CROSBY

ALLRED TO CHALLENGE CRUZ FOR SENATE SEAT

A three-term Dallas-area congressman is seeking the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate in hopes of facing off against incumbent Republican Sen. Ted Cruz next year. The Dallas Morning News reported last week that U.S. Rep. Colin Allred, D-Dallas, is seeking the nomination. He released a video blasting Cruz for hiding in a supply closet during the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, and for leaving Texas weeks later for a Cancun vacation during the statewide electricity crisis caused by Winter Storm Uri.

"That's Ted for you. All hat, no cattle," Allred says in the video.

Cruz, whose campaign called Allred a "far-left radical." beat Democratic rival Beto O' Rourke by fewer than 3 percentage points in 2018.

MAY IS MOTORCYCLE **AWARENESS MONTH**

Thousands of Texas motorcyclists are seriously injured or killed in crashes every year, the Texas Department of Transportation reports. In 2022, 562 motorcycle riders were killed, an 8% increase over the previous year.

"People on motorcycles are more vulnerable on our roadways," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "It's important for drivers to pay extra attention and look out for motorcycles - especially at intersections, when turning in front of oncoming traffic and while changing lanes. We all want to get home safe."

During May, which is Motorcycle Awareness Month. drivers are urged to observe these safety precautions:

Stay alert. Even a momentary distraction, such as answering a phone call or changing the radio station, can have deadly consequenc-

Pay special attention at intersections. That is where onethird of motorcycle fatalities

Take extra care when making left turns. Always assume motorcycles are closer than they appear.

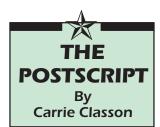
Stay back and maintain a safe following distance.

Slow down and observe posted speed limits.

SIX NEW STATE PARKS ON THE **HORIZON**

Texans will have the opportunity to enjoy six new state parks in the next 12 to 15 years, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department announced recently. As TPWD celebrates 100 years of state parks, it is planning the development of a half dozen new places to camp, hike, fish or just enjoy nature.

New parks in the works include Palo Pinto Mountains State Park near Fort Worth; the Dan A. Hughes Unit of the Devils River State Natural Area near Del Rio; Albert and Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area near Boerne; Powderhorn State Park near Port Lavaca; Chinati Mountains State Natural Area near Presidio: and Davis Hill State Natural Area near Houston.



"Taking Pictures"

I like taking photos when I'm out of the country.

Photographing things in Mexico is effortless. I'll never understand the nuances of every festival or ritual, but I can enjoy the pageantry and the color and the incredible effort and artistry that goes into creating so much beauty

Then I come back up north and look at the mud. It's a big

The skies were overcast for the first five days after my return from Mexico. The temperatures were unseasonably low. There was some rain. There might even have been some snow, if you count the white, pelletlike things that dotted the sidewalk. Maybe it was sleet. Maybe it doesn't matter.

"What is this?" I asked an innocent passerby. He shook his head disapprovingly.

"I have no idea."

And I realized that I was terribly spoiled. Taking pictures in Mexico took no skill at all. I decided I needed to start taking pictures right here at home.

The first day was not a great success. The sun stayed stubbornly behind a cloud. The few blooms that were out had been nipped by the frost. I took a photo of some branches against the gray sky and a carved stone pillar covered in green lichen. The lichen was vivid green after sleeping all winter. The lichen seemed about as happy as lichen can be, and so I figured I could make more of an effort.

The next day I happened upon some crocuses forcing their way through the muddy soil. The crocus is not a showy flower, but their sheer numbers were amazing. I found a handful of daffodils blooming in a spot where they caught the occasional bit of sunshine.

The third day was colder than ever. I headed out the door for my walk and turned right around, went inside and put on warmer clothes. The sky was dark in the middle of the afternoon. I photographed a hydrangea, left over from the previous year, bleached and brittle, shaking in the chill

I wanted to photograph one of the oldest houses in the neighborhood through the fence, but a row of garbage cans was in the way. I contorted into a strange position, and a woman walking by looked at me curiously.

"I'm trying to take pictures," I told her, "even on the gloomy days." "Well, this is a good house

to photograph when it's gloomy!" she replied. The house looked menacing under the heavy clouds.

On Sunday, I went to church. A new pastor had been hired while I was in Mexico, and he preached a good sermon. The choir was especially strong. And, sometime in the middle of the service, a little bit of sun crept out. I looked up and saw the stained glass.

"Oh, look," I thought. "Finally, some color."

After the service, I climbed the wooden stairs to the balcony, and I looked through the vibrant stained glass. It was all the color I had been missing since coming back from

And I felt a lot better.

I'm not sure if the new minister would approve, but those windows did more for my soul than his sermon and the beautiful music put together. Those windows gave a sermon of their own. Those windows lifted my spirits and made me remember how much unseen beauty there is—all the time.

They reminded me that it's not what I'm looking at that matters—it's what I'm looking through. Looking through eyes trained to see beauty, I see beauty everywhere.

I left the church, thanking the windows on my way out. Till next time,

Carrie

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Drone photos reveal extent of remediation work at Waste Pits South Impoundment

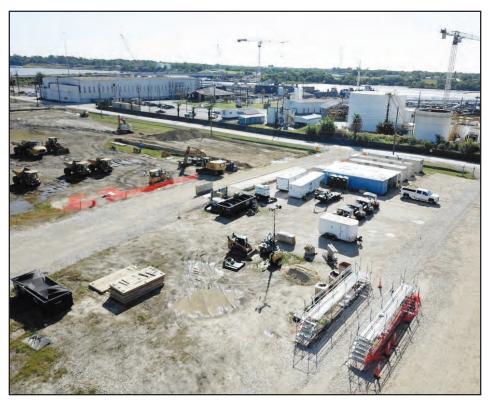
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 -- DRONE PHOTOS COURTESY GREG MOSS



Overall view of the site, looking south from Market Street and I-10.



Four large open-air tanks are part of the destering process when water is encountered during the excavation work.



Office area, storage and truck wash areas at the center of the site. Buildings in the background are Southwest Shipyard, not part of the Superfund Site.



Excavation is taking place under a tarp or membrane, to contain the toxic material from being airborn.



Excavation work in the distance. Trucks pass through a cleaning area at center in

Waste Pits Southern Site,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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.

As the work progresses, the public at a recent Highlands in March had questions.

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

THEA meeting held in and material is disturbed. The answer seemed to be

It was asked whether workers at the Southern site are wearing protective gear, and the answer was

More Barges in the River,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

started work on piles in an area where they want to store more barges. Residents have questioned whether they have the authority and permits to use this part of the river.

Residents of San Jacinto River Estates have been monitoring the new barge parking lot. At first they thought it was being created by TimTom since it is very near the area that TimTom/Holtmar/Buffalo (all the same people) Letters of Permission are for and we had heard that if they could not get the Letters of Permission approved to place the barges along the banks they would create a mooring area out in the river. The markings on the tugs and barges are from a company Chem Carriers LLC out of Sunshine, LA, Chem Carriers LLC while authorized to operate in the inland waters of the Gulf coast do not appear to have any office in Texas.

They started creating the mooring area or barge parking lot and as a unregulated floating chemical storage facility (FCSF), on Fri. April 28th. First they brought in a crane barge to help install two spud barges to moor barges to in the sandbar area in the middle of the SJR in between the Riverside Grill and Marina and the UP railroad trestle. After they installed the spud barges they removed the crane barge and used three tugs, two of which are the Frank Banta, Jr. and Ben Hayes. They then moored two barges CCL 5 fand CCL 31. All vessels tie back to Chem Carries. Since then it appears they have been using the tugs to "dredge" the sandbar with their area for additional barges.

prop washes to deepen the According to residents the sandbar is a shrimp and flounder estuary. The mooring area activites have already disturbed the marine life on the sandbar and if it remains it will do further harm. The chosen area is in a FEMA Special Hazard Floodway which is the pathway the San Jacinto river takes across I-10 when we have a flooding event. It is in very close proximity to the UP RR trestle. We are all very

aware of what happens

during a flood event in this

area, we now do not only

have to worry about barges we have to worry about railroad trestle strikes, damage to Meadowbrook Park, the San Jacinto River Estates area and the possibility of barges being moved by flood waters onto I-10 itself. Also to be considered is a repeat of a loose barge striking one of the pipelines which run through the San Jacinto River such as the incident in 1994 which set the river on fire.

An example of the frustration and anger at the abuse of the river is voiced in a statement to this newspaper by nearby resident Greg Moss:

"The barges are coming in the river being moored close to Riverside Marina. We knew it was coming and tried to stop it. These barge companies privatized a public water way for their profit. How can anyone in the government allow this. These barge companies charge a mooring fee. This is a public waterway. I'd like to know how I get my percentage of the fee since it just as much my river as it is Buffalo Marine's."





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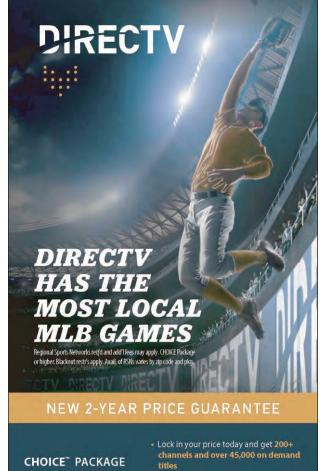
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IVY JEANNETTE ROBINSON

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 MAY 5, 2023

by WESTON COTTEN Attorney for the Estate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 514311; Estate of RUBEN MAREZ Deceased; In Probate Court No. 4 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on APRIL 26, 2023.

ANNIE MAREZ A/K/A ANITA LUISA MAREZ

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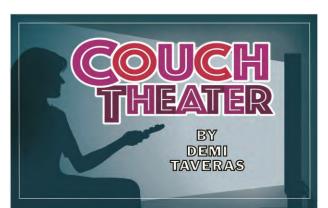
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Lucy Paez and Jennifer Lopez star in "The Mother."

May 12. (Netflix)

"BUPKIS" (TV-MA) —

A new series described as

the dramatized version of

Pete Davidson's life is out

now on streaming. The

eight-episode, action-com-

edy series follows the co-

median-actor as he tries to

navigate his unique fami-

ly dynamics and the com-

plexities of rising to fame,

according to the Hollywood

Joe Pesci ("The Irish-

man") and Edie Falco

("The Sopranos") play

main roles as Davidson's

relatives, while a myriad of

big names in Hollywood

make guest appearances

throughout the half-hour

episodes, including Bobby

Cannavale, Steve Busce-

mi, Al Gore, Kenan Th-

ompson and Machine Gun

Kelly. While viewers

should anticipate lots of

self-deprecating humor

and absurdist elements,

Reporter.

"The Mother"

"THE MOTHER" (R)

In this action-drama film directed by Niki Caro, Jennifer Lopez stars as the nameless titular character, an ex-assassin who cuts a deal with the FBI. Forced to leave her newborn baby girl behind, the mother-assassin goes into hiding in order to keep her daughter safe, since there are other dangerous assailants on the lookout for both. So, the Mother remains in hiding until news of her now-12-year-old daughter's kidnapping reaches her. Now, she must resort back to her killer roots to find her daughter and free her from her captors.

While the story sounds like it's been done a few times before, Lopez's performance as an action star carries the film, along with other great performances by Gael Garcia Bernal and Joseph Fiennes. Premieres

6

7

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6

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and

each small 9-box square contains all of the

numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

♦ Moderate ♦ ♦ Challenging

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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expect some profoundly heartwarming and human moments in between. (Peacock)

"TILL" (PG-13) — The brutal murder of 14-yearold Emmett Till during the Civil Rights Movement in 1955 swept over our na-

His tragic story catapulted the young African-American boy into becoming a historic symbol posthumously, no doubt due to the fact that his mother, Mamie Till-Bradley, refused to let him die in vain. Making conscious choices to leave Emmett's casket open and speaking publicly about the circumstances that lead to his death, Mamie uses an experience that no mother should have to face as a way to help bring about justice for Emmett.

This biographical film emphasizes Mamie's powerful activist acts and the weight they still carry decades later. Premieres May 9. (Prime Video)

<u>"CRATER"</u> (PG) — From the producers of "Stranger Things" comes a sci-fi adventure film taking place on a mining colony on the moon! In the year 2257, a boy named Caleb, who spent his entire life in the colony, is about to relocate to a faraway planet after his father passes away. But first, Caleb wants to travel across the moon to a mysterious crater full of wonders that his father once told him about. Opting to bring along his three best friends and a new friend from Earth for the ride, the gang of five steal a rover and embark on a journey of a lifetime. Isaiah Russell-Bailey and Mckenna Grace star, with Scott Mescudi (aka rapper Kid Cudi) taking on the role of Caleb's father. Out on May 12. (Disney+)

LYWIII

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Jonathan Majors hardly had time to bask in the success of "Creed III" (which grossed \$272.2 million) when he stepped in some deep doo-doo. Everything's come crashing down after allegations of violence in an incident on March 25 in New York, when he allegedly had a dispute with a 30-year old woman, who, afterward, was taken to a hospital with minor injuries to her head and neck. His court date was set for May

As a result of this incident, he's been dropped from "The Man in My Basement" with Willem Dafoe, from the Texas Rangers baseball team's ad campaign, and from the forthcoming Otis Redding biopic. Once upon a time, you were innocent till proven guilty, but rats desert a sinking ship as soon as the waters start churning.

One star who seems invincible is Sylvester Stallone. At 76, he's on fire. He's starring in and producing the Prime Video film "Never Too Old to Die," as well as Prime's crime series "Tulsa King," which had one of the biggest cable debuts in 2022.

Stallone reprised his role of Stakar Ogord in "Guardians of the Galaxy: Vol. 3," which opened May 5, and he's launching his Paramount+ reality series "The Family Stallone," co-starring his real-life family. Still upcoming for the actor is 'The Expendables 4," with Jason Statham, Dolph Lundgren and Andy Garcia, due Sept. 22.

The 1996 classic "Twister" starred Bill Paxton (who died in 2017), Helen Hunt and Philip Seymour Hoffman (who died in 2014) — the latter two being Oscar winners. The film grossed \$495.7 million. Twenty-seven years later, it will finally get a sequel, starring Anthony Ramos (of "Hamilton" and "In the Heights"). Ramos is also the upcoming star of "Transformers: Rise of the Beasts," opening on June 9. Then, he'll be everywhere you turn, in

> **ACROSS** Standard

13 Crib cry 14 Verdi opera

18 Teeny bit 19 Lincoln's coin 20 Long-limbed

22 Wild guess

25 "Light My

24 "How sweet

Fire" band

29 Rock's Brian 30 Berth places

31 Quick swim 32 "Jump" band

35 Always

40 Vivacity

42 "Jeremy"

band

46 Privy to

47 Robust

49 Honey

48 Mine yield

bunch?

50 Historic Scott

37 Task

36 Gourmand

41 Sci-fi prefix

Greek cheese

12

4 Like custard 8 Jubilation

17 Zorro's marks

Candle count



Jonathan Majors ("Creed III")

the Marvel series "Ironheart," Sony's "Dumb Money" with Paul Dano and Sebastian Stan (due Oct. 20), and the sci-fi film "Distant" with Zachary Quinto, due at year's end.

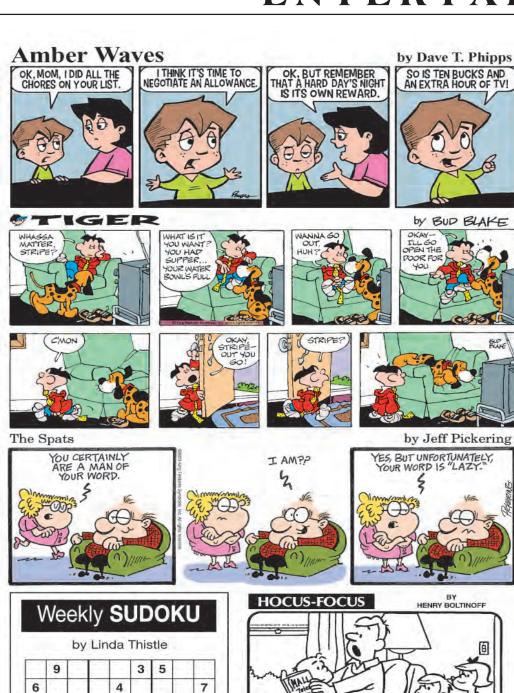
Pedro Pascal, who began acting in 1996 at the age of 21, has finally hit the big time. Now, at 48, he's definitely ready for anything they throw at him. Despite headlining two of the hottest shows on cable — Disney+'s "The Mandalorian" (as Din Djarin) and HBO Max's "The Last Of Us," (as Joel Miller) — he still found time to star in Ethan Coen's solo directorial film opening on Sept. 22, "Drive-Away Dolls," with Margaret Qualley and Beanie Feldstein (whose Broadway "Funny Girl" turn was less than great).

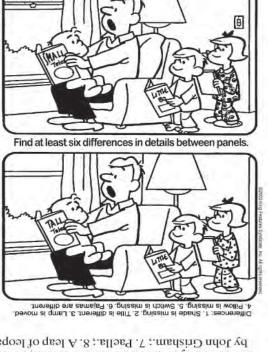
Pascal also has the drama film "Freaky Tales," opposite Ben Mendelsohn. As if that weren't enough, he's executively producing and starring in the HBO series "My Dentist's Murder Trial."

Only 27 years of auditions ... is that all it takes to become an overnight sensation? (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

May 8, 2023 Posting Date

ENTERTAINMENT





Solution time: 26 mins. ANSWERS — King Crossword



50 DOWN 11 Relaxed 16 Feet, slangily Lobbying org. Previously 19 Cushions

Seminary study Void

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46

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42 43

22 Transparent 23 Seabird 25 Scrabble

Garden pavilpiece 26 Schiller poem used by

Beethoven 27 Ceremony © 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

44 45 51 28 Mast 30 Macadamize 33 Marsh birds 34 Flunk 36 Goofed

> 37 First bed 38 Sharpen 39 Slender woodwind 40 Hay bundle

42 Third degree? 43 Corn serving

44 Exist 45 Kitten's cry

test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MOVIES: Which animated movie includes the line, "Fish are friends, not food"? 2. TELEVISION: What is the name of the "Sesame Street" Muppet who lives in a trashcan?

3. GEOGRAPHY: What is the largest country geographically in Africa? ANATOMY: What is complete heterochro-

5. U.S. STATES: Which two states don't recognize Daylight Savings Time?

6. LITERATURE: Which best-selling novel (1989) is set in Clanton, Mississippi?

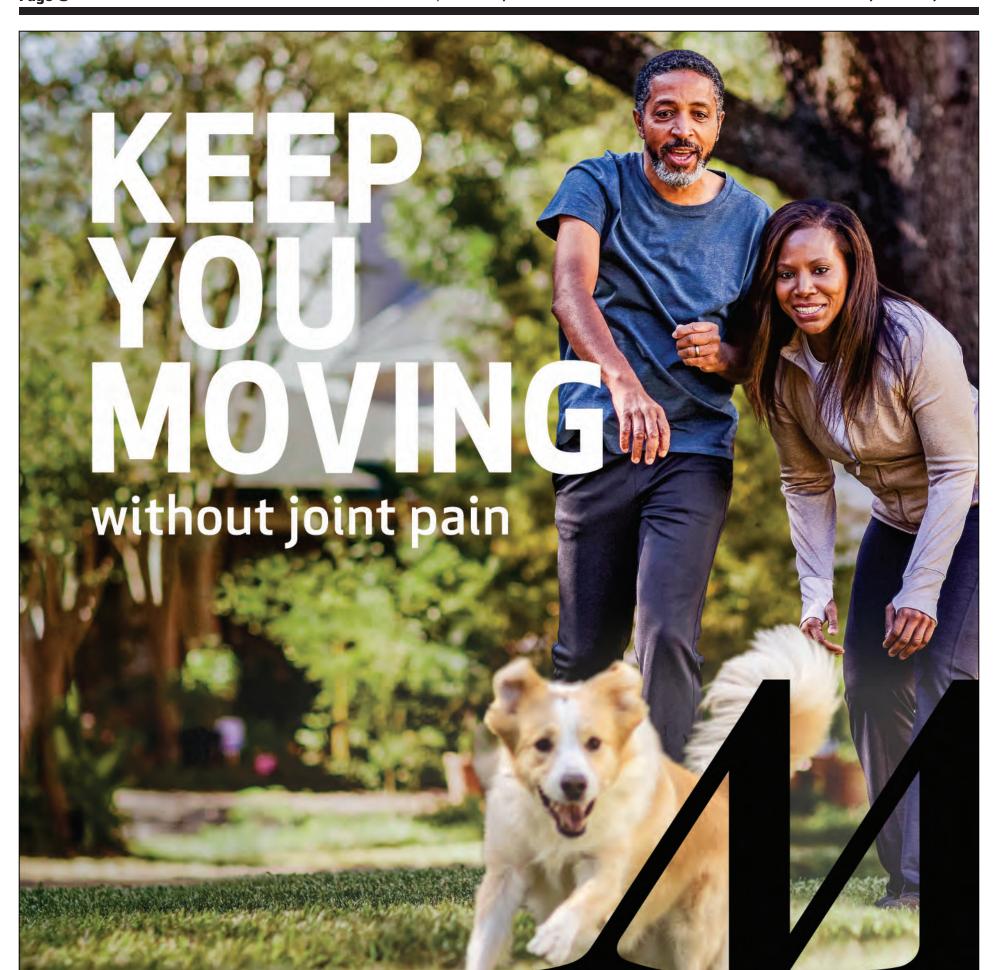
7. FOOD & DRINK: What is the national dish of Spain? 8. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of

leopards called? 9. HISTORY: Which two Greek city-states fought the Peloponnesian War?

10. AD SLOGANS: Which company once urged customers to "reach out and touch someone" by telephone?

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by John Grisham; 7. Paella.; 8. A leap of leopards.; 9. Sparta and Athens.; 10. AT&T. 1. "Finding Nemo" (Bruce the Shark); 2. Oscar the Grouch; 3. Algeria.; 4. When someone's eyes are two different colors.; 5. Hawaii and Arizona.; 6. "A Time to Kill," by John Grisham 1. Trivia Test Answerst



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