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Waste Pits remediation THEA releases a video of current progress at the Southern Impoundment of the SJR Waste Pits.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2023

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

VACATION NOTICE: NO ISSUE THE WEEK OF JULY 4TH, NEXT ISSUE WILL BE JULY 13.

BIRTHDAYS

Jun 29-Sarah Muldrow Peggy Smith Jun 30–Hannah Barron Alan Boudreaux Lisa Boudreaux Rosetta Farrar

Jul 1-Susan Butler Deanna Hildebrand Otis McGaffet Jul 2–Mark Whittaker Jul 3–Marsha DeLay LaHoma Johnson

Bryan Sanders Josh Beck Jul 4-Helen Bennett Ken Dusek Lois Searcy JoAnn Turner Wendy West

Jul 5-Bobby Cantrell PeeWee Farmer Terry Sain Jul 6-Marca Lee Gentry

Thurmon Ickes Jul 7–Chasity Herman
Jul 8–Jeremey Hensarling Melinda Horn Desmond Hernandez Jul 9-Dustin Mannes

Doug Beck Jul 10–Jeantte Thompson Jimmie Michalsky Jul 11–Eric Willingham Jul 12-Debbie Langham

Heather Patterson Lisa Worthen Jul 13–Anita Davis Lisa Sanders Troy Woodall

ANNIVERSARIES Jun 29--John & Jean Lee

K.D. & Linda Strickland Don & Anna Mattingly Jul 3–Larry & Shirley Marlin Jul 6–Tommy & Jacqueline Criner Jul 7–Skyler & Kacy Browning Jul 12–Earl & Doris Roach John & Lisa Cutbirth Jul 13–Harvey & Sherry Little Jerry & Debbie Moore

Summer Fun: 4th of July, Fireworks, **Barrett Station 37th Homecoming**

EAST HARRIS COUN-TY – As summer officially starts this week, families and individuals are planning travel, cookoffs, swimming and picnicking, and the traditional fireworks show.

In the Crosby area, there will be fireworks July 3 at 9pm at Newport, and on July 4 at 9:30pm at First Baptist Church on FM2100 in Huffman.

Of course the big downtown fireworks show will be Freedom Over Texas, at 9:30pm July 4th at Eleanor Tinsley Park in downtown Houston. Tickets are \$10, but 5 and under are free. Festivities start at 4pm, and include several music acts.

Houston Symphony will play a free concert July 4th at Miller Outdoor Theater, a Star Spangled Salute, starting at 8:30pm with a free fireworks show at 10pm.

If you are a Willie Nelson fan, he plays July 2nd at the Mitchel Pavilion in



Constable Sherman Eagleton waves to the crowds watching the Homecoming Parade in 2021.



Crosby ISD board and staff supported the Barrett Station Homecoming Parade with this float.

Independence Day; attend public displays and leave the fireworks to the professionals! FIREWORKS DISPLAYS nd Baptist Church Golf Club of Houston Faith Church Newport 16401 Country Club Road Gleannloch Farms 19828 Gleanbury Pointe Dr First Baptist Church INDEPENDENCE DAY Pine Forest County Country Club 6055 Creekside Forest Drive

The Woodlands. Admission \$39.50 and up, starting at 4:30pm.

Baytown will celebrate the Holiday at Bicentennial Park on two days, July 3rd and July 4th. There will be a parade, fireworks extravaganza, and live music by Grammy-winning artists Sunny Sauceda, Siggno, and LeAnn Rimes. Fireworks will be at 9:30pm. Events are July

CONTINUED. See Barrett Homecoming, Page 2

THEA video details Superfund Site remediation

Hurricane **Preparedness For** San Jacinto Cleanup

With a storm threatening to enter the Gulf, here's a look at hurricane planning at the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site. The cleanup is proceeding on schedule at the Southern Pit. The EPA carefully weighed whether work should continue

through hurricane season and decided the work benefits of cleaning up the site outweighed the risk of a storm. The EPA is mandating that the contractor:

Minimize the areas that are open for excavation and the amount of stockpiled waste material at any one time, and

Put secondary containment around the soil management and water treatment areas.

What is involved in the should not just stop. The cleanup of the Southern Pit? Watch a short video to see how the work will progress:

https://txhea.us15.listmanage.com/track/ click?u=95db50a21 <u>8 b a d 6 0 9 d 6 9 e 5 c 5</u> 3 c & i d = 2 a a 7 f 9 4 8 d e&e=766f8e0225.

Or see THEA website or YouTube.com for an active link: <u>www.TxHEA.org.</u>



Work Update:

Cleanup operations at the Southern Pit of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site started last fall. Since then the EPA reports that trucks have hauled 16,000 cubic yards of material from the site for off-site

EPA officials have been meeting every week to get updates on the progress from onsite personnel which includes third party oversight from EPA contractors.

Huffman native commanded **Nuclear Submarine**

Huffman native turns over command of USS Greeneville

KITTERY, Maine -Cmdr. Robert Lane turned over command of the Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Greeneville (SSN 772) to Cmdr. Chad Tella in a traditional change of command ceremony held Friday, June 16, at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY) in Kittery, Maine.

The ceremony was presided over by Capt. Daniel Reiss, commander of Submarine Squadron (SUB-RON) Two, the parent



Man drowns saving girl in San Jacinto River

Good Samaritan tried to save woman

CROSBY - A man drowned in the San Jacinto River while he attempted to rescue a woman who was swimming late Sunday night, deputies with Harris County Sheriff's Office said.

It happened at the Xtreme Off Road Park and Beach on Gulf Pump Road and Beaumont Highway in

Deputies said multiple people were riding their ATVs and 4-wheelers through a wooded area.

At some point, witness-



Harris County Sheriff's Deputies at the scene of the drowning at Xtreme Off Road Park near Crosby, Sunday night.

es saw a woman who was swimming in the river but she began screaming for help as the current apparently tried to pull her away from the shore.

As the woman screamed for help, several men jumped into the water to save her. One of the men CONTINUED. SEE MAN DROWNS, PAGE 5

RACHEL'S DINER

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





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Barrett Station 37th Annual Homecoming,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Constable Sherman Eagleton and Judge Joe Stephens enjoying the Homecoming Parade last year.



4th of July Celebrations,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

3rd from 6pm to 10pm, and Tuesday July 4th from 4pm to 10pm.

In Barrett Station the community will hold its 37th Annual Homecoming events the week of July 10th through 16th, following the theme of "WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER."

This annual event turns out thousands for the weeklong activities, and everyone in the community has a chance to participate. Events include music, town halls, movies, games, a cookoff, a flag football game, and the highlight of the Homecoming Parade.

Schedule of Events: MONDAY, JULY 10 --BSMA Praise & Worship service at 5pm

TUESDAY, JULY 11 --MUD #50 meeting and Town Hall from 6pm to 8pm, and Movie in the Park 7pm to 9pm

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12 -- Spades & Dominoes Tournament, 6pm to 9pm.

THURSDAY, JULY 13 -- Community Corn Hold Tournament at 6pm

FRIDAY, JULY 14 --BST Casanova Cookoff &

Campout SATURDAY, JULY 15 -

- BST Homecoming Parade at 10am, Community Flag Football Game at 5pm.

Honoring a Hero

HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT 2



Kathy Lyerla remembers the call that prompted a sigh of relief from her husband just days before he took his last breath. Precinct 2's Veteran Services Officer, Cassie Gibson, notified Lonnie "Gino" Lyerla that he was approved to receive full veterans' disability benefits. The Vietnam veteran was in hospice care having just been diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer three months earlier.

Kathy believes he needed the news to rest peacefully because he knew his family would be taken care of. Now, she volunteers at Precinct 2's VV Ramsey Veterans Services Center to thank Cassie for her help and honor her husband. She's thankful and proud to be a part of Precinct 2; a community that cares for veterans and their families.

Mental Health Awareness Month



May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and we're proud to announce our Mental Health Smart Pod is o

Prioritizing public safety

The Harris County Sheriff's Office requested approval from Commissioners Court to apply for a grant from the United States Department of Justice to purchase virtual reality training equipment to better prepare personnel for responding to calls for service involving de-escalation and crisis intervention situations. The equipment will also improve the way detention staff responds to incarcerated individuals experiencing a mental health crisis.

Commissioner Garcia was joined by his colleagues on the court in the unanimous vote in favor of the item. As the former Harris County Sheriff, he knows first-hand the importance of leveraging technology for training for difficult scenarios deputies

Huffman native commanded nuclear sub,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

command of all PNSY

Lane praised the crew for their hard work and dedication during what he called a "challenging yard period."

"We tested this crew's resolve in ways we never could have expected," said Lane, a Huffman, Texas native and graduate of the University of Houston. "Still, the crew of Greeneville rolled up their sleeves and got the job done."

'Shipyard life is not the most glamorous of tours, but it is important nonetheless," Lane added. "This crew and shipyard workers have inspired me over the last three years. I have no doubt they will finish the job, under Cmdr. Tella's leadership, and return the ship to the fleet stronger, tougher, and better than ever before."

Lane, a prior-enlisted electrician before commissioning in 2001, climbed the ranks through the submarine nuclear power pipeline and his previous tours include the USS Jefferson City (SSN 759), USS Maryland (SSBN 738), and USS La Jolla (SSN 701). Lane and his wife Carrie have three children, Trevor, Sabre, and Katie.

Tella also spoke during the ceremony praising his predecessor and the crew expressing his anticipation and excitement to get the boat back out to sea during his tenure.

Tella, a Plano, Texas native and graduate of Pennsylvania State University, previously served as executive officer of the USS Ashville (SSN 758). He also served on the USS Cheyenne (773) and USS Santa Fe (SSN 763). Tella and his wife Lauren have one son, Corbin.

Greeneville, commissioned in 1996, is the 61st and penultimate Los Angeles-class submarine and the only vessel in U.S. Navy history to be named after Greeneville, Tennessee. The submarine has a crew of more than 110 personnel, is more than 362 feet long, and can displace nearly 7,000 tons.

The Los Angeles-class, sometimes called the LAclass or the 688-class, is a class of nuclear-powered fast attack submarines that forms the backbone of the U.S. Navy's submarine force. Fast-attack submarines are multi-mission platforms enabling five of the six Navy maritime strategy core capabilities sea control, power projection, forward presence, maritime security, and deterrence. They are designed to excel in anti-submarine warfare, anti-ship warfare, strike warfare, special operations, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, irregular warfare, and mine warfare. Fast-attack submarines project power ashore with special operations forces and Tomahawk cruise missiles in the prevention or response to

regional crises.

Q&A with Raul Camarillo, **Precinct 2's Community Liaison**



1. Describe your role in Precinct 2 and what you enjoy most about

I am a Community Liaison and a member of the Community Relations Team. My priority is to Engage, Educate & Empower members of the Pasadena community and assist with connecting them to the resources they

What I enjoy the most about my job is engaging with people in my community. I get the greatest satisfaction in

helping them find solutions to overcome the issues in their lives. 2. When and why did you decide to make Pasadena your home?

In 1999, my wife and I decided to move to Pasadena because of the school district. Our two daughters were attending a school system that was too large, and we felt that the school district in Pasadena would be a better fit for the type of learning experience our children needed. All my children graduated from Pasadena ISD schools, my oldest from South Houston HS, my middle child from Pasadena Memorial HS, and my son from Sam Rayburn HS.

3. What do you love most about the community in Pasadena?

Even though Pasadena is the second largest city in Harris County, this city has a small-town feel to it because the people in this community are very friendly and

4. What has been your favorite moment or project as a community liaison for Precinct 2?

In 2021 during the COVID pandemic, our community relations department partnered with community organizations to provide rental assistance programs. We also held events in Precinct 2 communities for the public to learn about protecting their families from eviction. The three largest events were done with one of our community partners, Pueblo's Church in Pasadena. We were able to assist hundreds of households from losing their apartments and becoming homeless with these types of events.

5. What do think people may not know about Pasadena or/and precinct? Most people don't know that the City of Pasadena has a beach at El Jardin Beach Park. Harris County Precinct 2 has the other beach at Sylvan Beach Park. Both beaches are the only free public beaches in Harris County.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2023

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Travel **Tips Over** The Fourth Of July Holiday

You must slow down or move over for tow trucks and emergency vehicles stopped on the roadside with their emergency lights activated.

When tow trucks and other emergency vehicles - police, fire, EMS and highway response trucks - are stopped on the side of the road with their lights activated, state law requires drivers to slow down or move over.

Texas traffic laws require drivers to leave the lane closest to the emergency vehicles stopped on the road (if the road has more than one lane traveling in the same direction) OR to slow down at least 20 miles per hour

below the speed limit. TDLK regulates the towing industry as well as the Driver Education and Safety program.

Safety tips for driving this weekend:

• Slow down and pay attention to what you're doing. If you get tired, pull over in a safe spot and walk around to reenergize.

 Don't drink and drive, even a little bit.

• Designate a (sober) driver.

• Stay off the mobile phone – this includes texting. Designate a "co-pilot" to oversee the phone while you're driving so you can concentrate on the task at hand.

 Stay weatheraware. We're not expecting bad weather, but this is Texas and you never know.

· Leave plenty of time to get to your destination. Roadways are likely to be crowded. Drive friendly - the Texas way!

About TDLR

TDLR provides regulatory oversight for a broad range of occupations, businesses, facilities, and equipment in Texas. The agency protects the health and safety of Texans by ensuring they are served by qualified, licensed professionals. Inspections of individuals, businesses, and equipment are done on a regular basis to safeguard the public. Currently, the agency regulates 37 business and occupational licensing programs with almost 1,000,000 licensees across the state.

GHWCC Honors Lee College President

Dr. Villanueva Recognized as a Community Leader of the Year by Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce

Dr. Lynda Villanueva, president of Lee College, was recognized as a 2023 Community Leader of the Year by the Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce (GHWCC) at its annual conference for women on Friday, May 19, at The Westin Galleria Houston.

Dr. Villanueva, who has served in her leadership role at the institution since January 2020, was acknowledged for her dedication and support of women and girls — improving the quality of life for students and families.

She was among five recipients recognized — rep-



director, GHWCC Women's Business Center; Dr. Villanueva; and Pearl Chu, director, Technical Domains & University Relations, SLB. Photo Credit of GHWC

Houston region. They include Dr. Brenda Hellyer, chancellor of San Jacinto College; Malisha Patel, SVP and CEO of Memorial Hermann Sugar Land & Memorial Hermann Southwest; Rhonda Trow, resenting the greater director, Community & Government Affairs, Howard Hughes Corporation and Kelly Whitley, vice president, Investor Relations & Communications, Murphy Oil Corporation. Dr. Villanueva was commended for her work in the Baytown area.

"What a privilege to be chosen by the Women's Chamber representing the Baytown community," Villanueva shared. "I'm absolutely humbled to receive this incredible honor alongside a group of powerful, strong women who

are an inspiration to future business owners, industry leaders, and educators."

The Greater Houston Conference for Women is the premier women's business conference in the greater Houston region and serves as a vehicle to increase the visibility of our women leaders to a national and international audience.

"The GHWCC was delighted to celebrate Dr. Villanueva as an outstanding community leader for her dedication to giving back to the community and for changing the trajectory for our next generation of leaders," said Suzan Deison, GHWCC CEO/ president/founder. "She is truly a role model for women and men alike."

July 4th Celebration at City Park

We have a full day of fun ready for you this 4th of July in Mont Belvieu! From the Bud Heat Wave 5k, to cool times at the wave pool, to festivities and fireworks at City Park; we have something for everyone all day!

Start the day at the Texas Bud Heat Wave 5K and 5 Mile Run sponsored by Wismer Distributing and the City of Mont Belvieu.

Race starts at 7 AM! Register at www.texas5milerun.org

The Eagle Pointe Wave Pool will open early at 11AM with BOGO admission all day!

Join us at City Park beginning at 3PM for some great food from your favorite food trucks, fun & games for the whole family, and freebies to light up the night!

National Anthem at 3:20 PM Wild Fire at 3:30 PM

Rick Trevino at 5:30 PM

Bag of Donuts at 7:30 PM Fireworks begin at 9 PM!

CONTESTS & TOURNAMENTS

jï Watermelon Eating Contest at 3:45 PM (sponsored by MB Link)

How fast can you eat your watermelon? Compete to see who will take home this year's watermelon trophy! We'll have age groups divided up for more fun & com-

petition. Sign up at the MB Link tent at the event. iï Washer Tournament at 4 PM

(Sponsored by Blackmon Plumbing)

Are you ready to defend your titles? Sign up at the event at the washer tournament tent prior to the tournament start time.

jï Cornhole Tournament at 4 PM (sponsored by Bayou City Baggerz)

You can play for fun or compete against your friends & neighbors for ultimate bragging rights.

Backyard and competitive division sign-ups are live on the Scoreholio app!

Uppers: https://app.scoreholio.com/link/f4k



FULL EVENT SCHEDULE AT MONTBELVIEU.NET/JULY4TH

 $Lowers: \underline{https://app.scoreholio.com/link/CnTA}$

Backyard: https://app.scoreholio.com/link/wVoZ

FOOD & DRINKS

We'll have several of your local food truck favorites selling American classics and treats to keep us cool!

VOLUNTEERS

Want to help with one of our features like the washer tournament or a dunk tank? We always have something fun for volunteers to do! Sign up online at www.montbelvieu.net/vendors

For a full schedule and more information on our July 4th Celebration, visit www.montbelvieu.net/July4th

Waffle House – Grand Re-Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

BAYTOWN – Waffle House, located at 7203 Garth Road, celebrated their Grand Re-Opening with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with the Baytown Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors and staff.

Waffle House recently completed a renovation of their restaurant that included their trademark shiny red soda-shop-style bar stools and benches. As a new member of the Baytown Chamber of Commerce, their Ribbon Cutting ceremony was coordinated to take place during their Grand Re-Opening. Stop in and check out their newly renovated restaurant and get some of their fluffy

waffles or some scattered, smothered, covered, chunked, diced, peppered, capped, topped hashbrowns and remember their motto, "Friends don't let friends eat pancakes".

Waffle House has been in business since 1955 and were founded on the principals of providing the friendliest service in town, while also offering the opportunity for rewarding and quality careers. Today, they continue to provide great career opportunities for more than 40,000 associates. If you are interested in learning about their career opportunities, you visit

www.wafflehouse.com/careers/.



Pictured left to right: Charles Johnson, Erica Rodriguez, Carmen Parris, Mike Nebgen, Tracy Guilbeaux, Chachi Torres, Waffle House Baytown staff, Jackie McDowell, Selina Hebert, Jeff Walters, Blythe Adam, Kim Kelly, and Bella Dion

OPINION PAGE \bigstar \bigstar



Texas Fails to Enact Gun Safety Measures to Protect Communities

Washington DC — GIFFORDS, the gun violence prevention organization led by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, criticized Governor Greg Abbott and the Texas legislature for failing to take action against gun violence this legislative session.

Peter Ambler, GIFFORDS Executive Director:

"While families still mourn the tragedy at Robb Elementary last year, and the devastating mass shooting in Allen just weeks ago, Governor Abbott continues to ignore their demands for action. When 19 children and two teachers were senselessly murdered in their classrooms, voters called on elected officials to take swift action to ensure that no child or parent has to experience this kind of tragedy. Legislators have failed our communities with their lack of action this session and continue to choose gun lobby profits over the lives of our children. I am furious that Republican leadership would betray these victims and families. We will continue to stand behind Texans and demand change in our fight against gun violence. When it comes to keeping our communities safe, there can be no debate: the time for action is

Steven Kling, GIFFORDS Gun Owners for Safety Senior Ambassador, Texas Chapter:

"Texans are supposed to have each other's backs, but Governor Abbott and lawmakers in the state continue to look the other way while our fellow Texans are shot and killed in record numbers. We have lost far too many friends, neighbors, and children to this epidemic. Instead of protecting our communities, lawmakers would rather accept funds from the for-profit gun lobby, which is contributing to these mass shootings. Like countless others here in the Lone Star State, I refuse to allow this to be our reality. We will never stop fighting until our streets and schools are once again safe."

Last Wednesday marked one year since the horrific mass shooting at Robb Elementary in Uvalde, Texas, and GIF-FORDS released a new report on the aftermath of the Uvalde shooting. The Uvalde Report: A Path Forward for a Community—and Nation—Struggling to Heal highlights key recommendations for reforms at the local, state, and national levels. After speaking with Uvalde residents and national experts, GIFFORDS Law Center outlined the following recommendations to improve support for the community:

- Pass, Implement, and Improve Gun Safety Laws
- Expand Community-Based Programs and Services for At-Risk Youth and Young Adults
 - Develop Long-Term Mental Health Services
 - Address Structural Racism
 - Reform Victim Compensation Systems
 - Create Trauma-Informed Schools

GIFFORDS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving lives from gun violence. Led by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, GIFFORDS shifts culture, changes policies, and challenges injustice, inspiring Americans across the country to fight gun violence.

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 7705 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank



with Slim Randles

'ol Wheezer"

Doc smiled and felt really good inside when he heard the familiar bird song.

"Hey there, Wheezer," he said, "happy nesting!"

For some reason, this mourning dove with the speech impediment comes around to Doc's back yard every spring, and Doc thinks that's just all right. If ol' Wheez didn't have that distinctive voice, Doc would never know if this bird favored his yard or was just another bird looking for a home. Let's face it, Wheezer looks just like every other dove in

But he was back and flirting with a good-looking lady dove up on the branches of the locust tree. Doc always wondered whether doves mate for life, and this was the same Mrs. Wheez he sees every year, or if Wheezer had to court a new lassie each spring.

"I'll have to look it up," Doc said, knowing that he

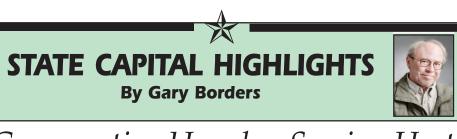
But he did go over to the concrete block wall and clean out the crud from the hollow in the top block by the gate. Doc had put dirt in it years ago, and each spring, the Wheezer family hauled in twigs and grass and made a place to raise their family.

And each spring, as Mrs. W. sat on her eggs, it would take Doc a few days before she would tolerate him coming and going through the gate. This was the dove family he was close to. They let him get right up to maybe a foot from the ugly little baby birds each spring, and he was careful never to move quickly or make a noise. That was his contribution, you see, to the putting together of the "Doves in the Concrete Block" family.

Wonder how long doves live? Doc thought. Wonder how long old Wheezer will last? I'll have to look it up. No he won't.

Brought to you by Wild Birds Unlimited. They have lots of things to keep those birds happy and healthy. For your local store: webmaster@wbu.com.





Conservation Urged as Searing Heat Wave Sweeps State

Texas' power grid reported record electricity use early last week. Both the Public Utility Commission of Texas and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas are urging residents and businesses to voluntarily reduce electricity use as temperatures soar above 100 degrees over much of the state. So far the grid, which administers 90% of the state's power load, has been able to keep up with demand.

Temperatures set record highs for June in several Texas cities: 111 degrees in Junction, 115 in Laredo, and 113 in Del Rio. The heat wave stretches from the Pecos River Valley in the west to the Rio Grande in the south to the Pineywoods in the east. State Climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon pointed to several factors, including near-record temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico, a high-pressure system trapping the heat over the state, and climate change.

"Texas is running about 2 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than it did during the 20th century," Nielsen-Gammon told the Texas Tribune. "So if you're close to a temperature record, that will put it over the edge."

ERCOT has implemented a voluntary curtailment program for so-called flexible customers - such as bitcoin mining facilities — to reduce power use during periods of high demand."These customers are large power users but have the flexibility and willingness to reduce their energy use quickly, if needed. By working with these large loads during peak demand periods, we will better serve all Texans while keeping the grid reliable and resilient." said ERCOT.

STORMS SPUR SPATE OF **DISASTER DECLARATIONS**

Storm systems have caused widespread damage across the state and prompted Gov. Greg Abbott to issue disaster declarations for Ochiltree, Cass, Franklin, Harrison, Marion, Upshur, Wood, Camp, Gregg, Hopkins, Panola, Smith and Titus counties. The storms caused loss of life, severe



damage to power lines and structures, and flash flooding. A subsequent declaration came after a tornado hit Matador in West Texas and killed four people. That declaration covers Motley, Nolan, Fisher, Jones, Kent, and Stonewall counties. Just days earlier a tornado killed three and injured dozens in Perryton in the Texas Panhandle.

"What Texans in Perryton have gone through over the past couple of days have been nothing short of horrific," Abbott said. "At the same time, it's encouraging and inspiring to see the way the community has come together to rebuild."

HOPE RISES FOR BREAKING **LEGISLATIVE IMPASSE**

An impasse over property tax relief appears to be near an end after the Senate unanimously passed a package that would cut both homeowners' property taxes and taxes on thousands of businesses by a record \$18 billion, the Austin American-Statesman reported. At the same time, House Speaker Dade Phelan appointed a select committee to provide "recommendations for longterm, sustainable" relief. The first special session called by Abbott ends this week, making it likely a second session will follow. The Senate bill would raise the homestead exemption to \$100,000, with an additional \$40,000 exemption for homeowners 65 and older. The franchise tax on businesses would further exempt an estimated 67,000 small businesses. Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick have feuded over which version of

the property tax bills should ultimately prevail, with Abbott backing a House plan passed on the first day of the special session.

AG'S OFFICE TRIES TO DEFY COMPTROLLER OVER PAXTON'S PAY

The Texas attorney general's office attempted to continue paying impeached Attorney General Ken Paxton, who was suspended pending a Senate trial set for Sept. 5. The Dallas Morning News obtained communications between the attorney general's chief of staff and the Texas comptroller's office, regarding Paxton's paycheck for June. "Simply put, it is unclear that the CPA (Comptroller of Public Accounts) has authority to withhold AG Paxton's salary under these circumstances," Lesley French, office chief of staff wrote in an email to the director of the comptroller's fiscal management division on Wednes-

day, The News reported. Paxton is accused of bribery, obstruction of justice and abuse of office - allegations he has denied. The comptroller's office has oversight over the state's expenditures, and officials there noted money is appropriated for only one attorney general. After Paxton's suspension, former Secretary of State John Scott was appointed the interim attorney general and is now leading the office. The attorney general's position pays \$153,700 annually.

LATINOS NOW MAKE UP **BIGGEST SHARE OF STATE'S POPULATION**

In new population estimates released last week by the U.S. Census Bureau, Latinos now make up the largest share of the state's population and have since at least July 2022. The bureau reported Hispanic Texans made up 40.2% of the total, edging out non-Hispanic white Texans, who made up 39.8%, the Texas Tribune reported. Hispanic Texans are expected to make up a majority of the state's population in the decades to come. Recent census estimates indicate 49.3% of the state's residents under 18 are Hispanic.

ERCOT CAN'T BE SUED, HIGH COURT RULES

The Texas Supreme Court on Friday ruled that ER-COT, which operates the state's power grid, is a government entity and is immune to lawsuits resulting from Winter Storm Uri in February 2021. The 5-4 ruling reversed a previous judgment from a Dallas appeals court, The Dallas Morning News reported.

Chief Justice Nathan Hecht, writing for the majority, said it should be immune to suits because "it prevents the disruption of key governmental services, protects public funds, and respects separation of powers princi-

ERCOT is the nation's only power grid contained wholly within a single state.



"Stubby's Company"

I spent the week visiting my parents at their retirement home "up north," and so I got to see them and my mother's outside pet, Stubby, the red

I hadn't seen Stubby since last winter, when he had made an elaborate network of tunnels in the deep snow outside my parents' window facing the lake. My mother fed him on the ground beneath the bird feeder, and Stubby would pop out of one of his several tunnel entrances to eat, then pop into his tunnel and emerge on the other side. He occasionally had some red squirrel visitors. I named one Evald, after a greatuncle, and my mother named the second one Sigfrid, after another one of her uncles. But the squirrel visitors were just that—they stayed for a short time, enjoyed Stubby's handouts and left, leaving Stubby alone with my parents.

Stubby seemed happy to see us.

We all sat outside on the deck after dinner, and Stubby came out and chattered at us. He popped under the deck and reemerged on the other side. He ran along the deck railing and then stopped and stood up, his front paws together, his fingers knitted, as if he was about to make a speech or say the blessing.

"I think he likes the company," my mother said. I think my mother enjoys Stubby's company, and this is quite a

My mother has been battling with red squirrels since they moved "up north" more than 30 years ago. The red squirrels do everything in their power to get in to the bird food, although my father's technique of wiring a length of stovepipe onto the pole that holds the bird feeder thwarts their efforts to make it to the mother lode. Instead, they have to sit below the feeder and wait for the chickadees to drop seeds-which is slow go-

They also dig up my mother's garden and her flowerpots. They hide seeds in the pots and make a terrible mess, leaving potting soil all over the deck. My mother spent a portion of many days over the last 30 years chasing red squirrels off the deck.

But all that changed with Stubby.

Stubby has been my mom's friend and charity case for a full year now, ever since he lost the end of his tail and gained a name and my mother's sympathies. Now he is her year-round outdoor pet, and he sits just outside the window watching her activities inside.

My mom buys a special bag of bird food, just for Stubby, and puts some outside below the feeder or along the top of the deck railing, for him. If the food gets low, Stubby climbs up a Norway pine and chatters loudly to alert my mother to the shortage. By now, Stubby has her very well trained.

My mom knocks on the window to let him know she sees him. Stubby stands up and looks at her, fingers knitted. They have a good relation-

I don't think my mother ever expected to have a red squirrel as a pet. I know she resisted for a long time. But Stubby has changed her mind about at least one red squirrel, and I think that is kind of remarkable. Getting to know Stubby has changed what my mother thinks about red squir-

"He's pretty smart," my mother says.

"He knows a lot more than we think," my dad agrees.

Stubby stands on his hind feet, his fingers knitted together, and watches them through the window. I like to think Stubby has reconsidered his opinion of people as well.

Till next time.

Carrie



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Advice on a Summer Road Trip with your Pet

WHAT YOU NEED TO **KNOW ABOUT PETS AND**

DISTRACTED DRIVING Summer is a season of travel. More people hit the road during the warmer months, whether to visit friends and family, explore new places, or go on outdoor adventures. And the good news is, many summer travelers are bringing their pets along. But are pet parents taking enough precautions to keep every-

THE PERILS OF DISTRACTED DRIVING

one in their car safe?

We often think nothing of adjusting our GPS system, changing our music, or petting our furry passenger while we drive, but the implications of taking our eyes off the road, our hands off the wheel, or our minds off of driving, can be very serious. According to the Center for Disease Control, or CDC, distracted driving and a failure to pay attention to road and traffic conditions cause 25 to 30 percent of police-reported traffic crashes, which add up to roughly 1.2 million crashes each year. In addition, the National Highway Traffic Administration, or NHTSA, notes that roughly 20 percent of car accident injuries involve distracted

DISTRACTED DRIVING AND

driving.

Distracted driving is of most concern in summer, when it typically reaches its peak as more younger drivers take to the road, and more people in general take the opportunity to travel, explore, or visit family. Traveling with pets compounds this concern, as unrestrained pets can both cause distractions and make accidents more dangerous.

"Pets can easily take a driver's attention from the road, posing a serious risk not only to the pet but also to the passengers riding in the same vehicle," says Michael Leung, co-founder and lead product designer of Sleepypod, a manufacturer of premium pet carriers and pet restraint systems. "If there is nothing restraining a pet in a hard stop or car accident, the pet can become a projectile and potentially collide with fellow pets or human passengers."

Such a collision could be catastrophic, regardless of a pet's size. A 10-pound dog in a 50-mile-an-hour car crash exerts 500 pounds of force. Meanwhile, an 80-pound dog in a 30-mile-per-hour crash exerts 2,400 pounds of

Unrestrained pets may also fall or jump out of open windows or flee the car in fear after a crash, potentially becoming lost, injured, or worse.

KEEPING PETS SAFE WITH RESTRAINTS

A quality, rigorously tested pet restraint can make all the difference in preventing distracted driving and keeping human and pet passengers safe during an accident. Interestingly, an American Automobile Association (AAA) survey found that, while more than 80 percent of drivers admitted that they recognize the dangers of driving with an unrestrained pet, only 16 percent used pet re-

"Hopefully, you'll never have to put a car restraint for your pet to the test," says Michael, "But taking an extra minute to properly secure a pet before headadventures could offer peace of mind and reassurance.'

BEST PRACTICES FOR PET RESTRAINT

Michael spearheaded Sleepypod's rigorous advanced crash-testing program, which includes a large and growing family of crash test dummy dogs and cats featuring sensors and monitors that measure car crash and pet restraint data. In addition, he and his research and development team gather real-life accident data through Sleepypod's Crash Replacement Program, which offers customers who have used a pet safety restraint while in an accident replacement pet restraints or discounts on new pet restraints.

Michael offers the following tips for minimizing pet-related distractions and keeping pets safe during accidents:

--Pets should always be restrained in a back seat to prevent them from injury if an airbag is deployed.

-- If you cannot restrain your pet with a reputable, tested car restraint, the next safest option is to place your pet in the footwell behind the front seat.

--Smaller pets are safer when fully contained in a restrained carrier, while larger dogs should ride in a car safety harness that does not connect the pet with an extension tether.

--Pets should be unable to slide forward far enough to "submarine," or drop off the seat, at any point during a collision.

Securing pets is the best way to ensure you and your pets have happy, distraction-free travels during summer, and all year round.

Man drowns in San Jacinto River near Crosby,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

did not return.

According to Maj. Jamie Razo with HCSO, the Marine and Dive Unit were called to the scene to search for the missing man

using sonar. Divers went into the water, and that was when the body of the

Deputies said the woman does not know the man has claimed many lives.

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man was recovered.

that saved her.

The man's family identified him as German Reynaga, 28 years old.

This area of the river

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



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

PERMIT NO. WQooo5136000

APPLICATION. Intercontinental Terminals Company LLC, P.O. Box 698, Deer Park, Texas 77536, which owns a for-hire chemical storage and shipment facility, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0005136000 (EPA I.D. No. TX0135593) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater and stormwater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 300,000 gallons per day via Outfall 001 and treated wastewater and stormwater at an intermittent and flow-variable rate via Outfall 002. The wastewater treatment facility is located at 1030 Ethyl Road, Pasadena, in Harris County, Texas 77503. The discharge route is from the plant site directly to the Houston Ship Channel Tidal. TCEQ received this application on April 6, 2023. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying at Pasadena Public Library, 1201 Jeff Ginn Memorial Drive, Pasadena, Texas prior to the date this notice is published in the newspaper. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.

https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-95.163333,29.735&level=18

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

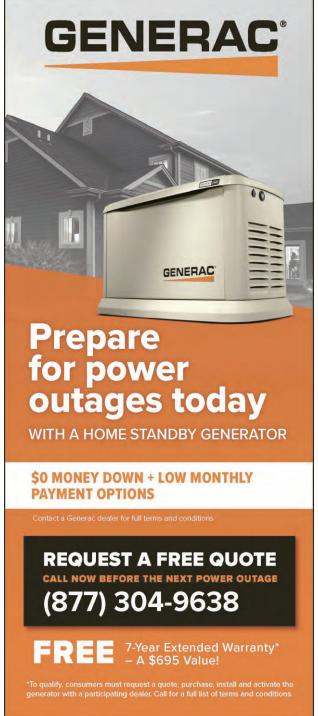
Further information may also be obtained from Intercontinental Terminals Company LLC at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Michael Gaudet, Environmental Compliance Manager, at 281-884-0360.

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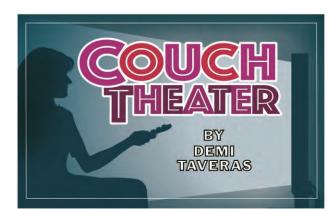
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Sarah Snook, left, and Lily LaTorre star in "Run Rabbit Run."

"M3GAN" (PG-13) -

The Blumhouse sci-fi/hor-

ror success "M3GAN,"

which premiered in the-

aters earlier this year, is

out on streaming June 27.

Allison Williams ("Get

Out") plays Gemma, a ro-

boticist whose niece, Cady,

comes to live with her fol-

lowing the death of her

ma's latest work project

included the development

of a child-sized robot doll,

nicknamed M3GAN (Mod-

el 3 Generative Android).

Gemma lets Cady pair up

with M3GAN and watches

as Cady's emotional strug-

gles dissipate. But since

M3GAN's main purpose in

her programming is pro-

tecting Cady, the robot doll

quickly escalates her lev-

els of protection to a dead-

ly category for just about

everyone else. A sequel to

the film is expected in ear-

ly 2025. (Amazon Prime

Coincidentally, Gem-

parents.

"Run Rabbit Run"

"RUN RABBIT RUN" (TV-MA) — Hot off the finale of the series "Succession," Sarah Snook has a new psychological thriller film premiering June 28. Snook plays a fertility doctor, also named Sarah, who has a 7-year-old daughter, Mia. Following the death of Mia's grandfather, the tone of Sarah and Mia's lives is melancholic and grim, which makes Sarah recall the mysterious disappearance of her 7-yearold sister, Alice, years ago.

When a white bunny strangely appears in their home, a sinister air subsequently takes over Mia. Sarah becomes increasingly terrified by Mia, who tries to convince her mother that she is a reincarnated version of Alice.

Critics have compared Snook's performance in the film to Toni Collette's in "Hereditary" (2018). (Netflix)

"HIJACK" (TV-MA) — In this new thriller series (we're sticking with the horror genre this week!) releasing on June 28, the stakes have never been higher — literally and figuratively.

On an almost sevenhour flight from Dubai to London, with 200 passengers on board, a group of hijackers gain control over the plane right after takeoff. As the hijackers veer the plane off course and try to keep everyone subdued, business negotiator Sam Nelson (Idris Elba) attempts to do what he does best and negotiate with the hijackers to get everyone off the plane safe.

But, in the event that his way with words doesn't pull off the job, Sam refuses to let the plane go down without a fight: "It's either us or them." (AppleTV+)

"BURIAL" (NR) — Taking place in 1945 Berlin, this British war thriller film follows a female Soviet soldier named Brana (Charlotte Vega). A part of the Red Army unit, Brana and her fellow soldiers are assigned to carry, from Berlin to the Soviet Union. a casket of unknown contents that must be buried every night and dug up every morning. When they realize they're in pursuit by several Nazi loyalists, they realize the contents of the casket are none other than Adolf Hitler's remains.

Critics have praised the performances of Vega, Harriet Walter ("Ted Lasso") and Tom Felton (the "Harry Potter" films), but also stated that the film lacks a certain vigor to make it all come together. "Burial" premieres June 30. (Hulu) (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Candace Cameron Bure, who has starred in more than two dozen Hallmark movies and 18 "Aurora Teagarden Mysteries" films, announced in April 2022 that she was leaving Hallmark to take on an executive role at Great American Media to develop, produce and star in original rom-coms and holiday

In November, she told the Wall Street Journal that she left Hallmark because it was a completely different network than when she started. Bure explained, "My heart wants to tell stories that have more meaning and purpose and depth behind them. I knew that the people behind Great American Family were Christians that love the Lord and wanted to promote faith programming and good family entertainment."

Her remarks were believed to allude to Hallmark's trend toward progressive themes, including recognition of the LGBT community in their productions. Well, "Aurora Teagarden Mysteries' moved on without her. Mutiny is a witch! It now stars 29-year-old Skyler Samuels, who had a recurring role in "Wizards of Waverly Place;" starred in the films "The Stepfather" (2009), "Furry Vengeance" (2010), "The DUFF" (2015) and "Scream Queens" (2015); and played the Frost sisters in the Fox series based on "X-Men," titled "The Gifted." She co-stars with Jason Statham in "Meg 2: The Trench," due later this year.

"SPIDER-MAN" Tom Holland learned the hard way that playing a good guy is a piece of cake compared to playing a criminal. During the production of the AppleTV+ crime series "The Crowded Room," in which he's arrested for a shooting in Rockefeller Center, Holland admitted, "We were exploring certain emotions that I've definitely never experienced before, and then on top of that, being a producer dealing with the dayto-day kind of problems that come with any film set just added that extra level of pressure."

Juggling producing chores while playing a character in a severe mental state apparently pushed him to a breaking

30 Privy to

34 Chic, to

33 Joke

"See ya!"

26

31



Candace Cameron Bure ("Aurora Teagarden Mysteries")

point, so he's decided to take a year off from acting. Amanda Seyfried co-stars, and it dropped June 9.

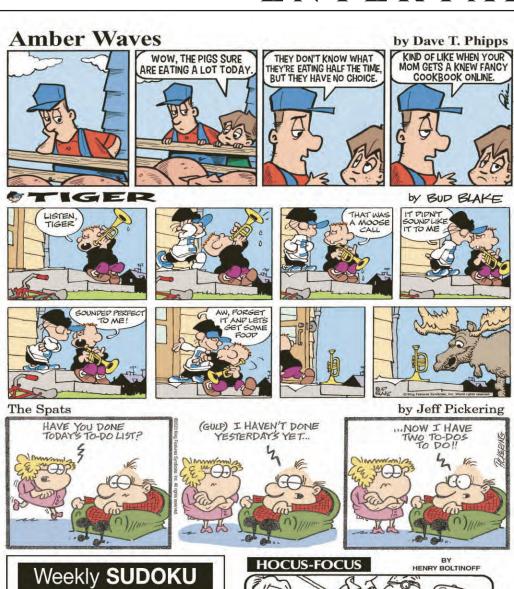
Many were shocked when James Corden announced last April that he was ending his hosting stint of "The Late Late Show" on CBS, which he'd done since 2015. Everyone wondered why he walked away from a yearly paycheck of \$6 million.

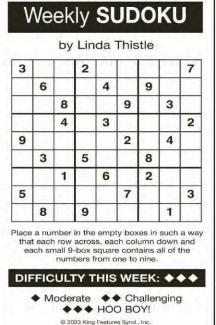
But CBS, who stuck by him when there was a ton of backlash from his bad behavior at restaurants, decided for him. The show, which cost \$65 million a year, was only making \$45 million a year in advertising revenue. A CBS executive confessed "It was simply not sustainable. CBS could not afford him anymore."

His show averaged 971,000 viewers during the 2020-21 season, while his competition, "Late Night With Seth Meyers," at NBC was pulling in 1.01 million viewers. Add in the fact that CBS is vacating their longtime Fairfax Television Center and would've needed to relocate his show, and it's a no-brainer.

While Carpool Karaoke is probably what most viewers will miss, he's back home in London, and our crosswalks are once again safe from his crosswalk musicals! (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

ENTERTAINMENT



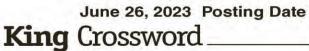








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26 Nap site

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the tallest building in the world? 2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What does

HTTP stand for in a website address? 3. LITERATURE: Which kind of animals are

featured in the novel "Watership Down"? 4. HISTORY: When was the first iPhone released?

5. MOVIES: What kind of fish is Nemo in "Finding Nemo"? 6. GAMES: What is the final course on Mario

Kart video games? 7. ASTRONOMY: How many planets in our solar system have moons?

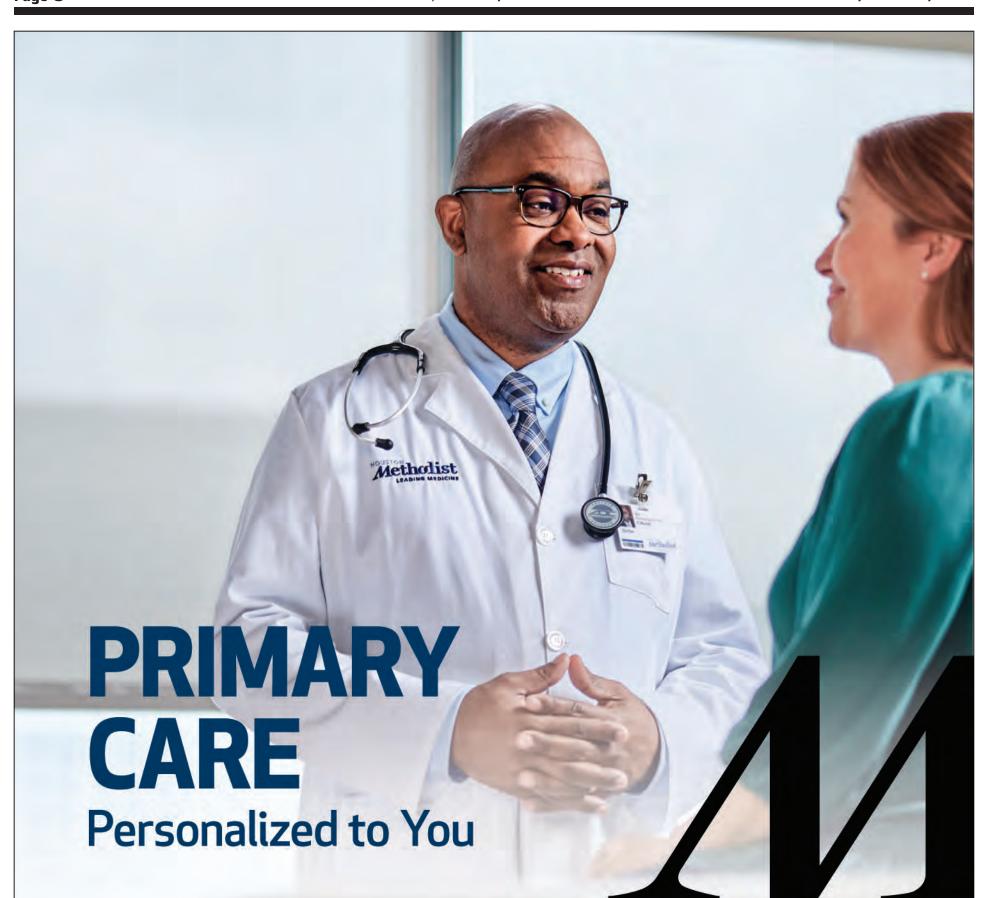
8. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was licensed as a bartender? 9. MEDICAL: What is a more common term

for somniloquy? 10. TELEVISION: How many castaways are

on "Gilligan's Island"? © 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

3. Rabbits.; 4. 2007.; 5. Clownfish.; 6. Rainbow Road.; 7. Six of the eight planets.; 8. Abraham Lincoln.; 9. Talking in your sleep.; 10. Seven. 1. Burj Khalifa, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.; 2. HyperText Transfer Protocol.;

Trivia Test Answerst



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