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Dr. Benny Soileau, superintendent of Huffman ISD, listens intently to the numbers being presented for the proposed \$91,834,037 bond referendum. Voters can have their say at the polls on Nov. 7.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

## IN THE **STARS**

# Huffman ISD plans \$91 million bond vote

# November election will authorize 9 projects to meet growth

#### **EVENTS Back-2-School** First Day of **Classes:**

**DISTRICT:** DATE: AUG 10 THU ALDINE AUG 28 MON

AUG 7 MON

AUG 9 WED

**CROSBY** 

**HUFFMAN** 

GOOSE CREEK AUG 14 MON GALENA PARK AUG 9 WED SHELDON AUG 9 WED CHANNELVIEW AUG 16 WED

DAYTON AUG 9 WED BARBERS HILL AUG 16 WED

#### **C/H Chamber Lunch** Thursday, August 17

**Chamber Monthly** Luncheon, at Peso's Mexican Restaurant. Thursday, Aug. 17 starting at 11:30am, 6512 FM2100, Crosby. Guest Speaker is Bella Dion with Sterling White Funeral Home, speaking on Communication across generations. \$20 lunch, 281-328-6984.

#### **NOW OPEN** New Laundromat 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.

Last Monday night, the Huffman ISD board of trustees voted unanimouslv to approve going out for a \$91,834,037 bond referendum in the November election to address needs across the district as growth on the horizon is

already presenting chal-

**Bv David Taylor** 

lenges.

Star-Courier Editor

Superintendent Dr. Benny Soileau was grateful for the work done by the bond committee, some 100plus community members invited to participate in the process, a nod to their critics who helped defeat the previous bond.

"We had an average of about 65 that regularly attended as we met five or six times," Soileau said, "including those that opposed the last bond. They were able to offer their per-



David J. Faltys, vice president of Government Capital Securities Corporation, presents the financial package for the proposed \$91,834,037 bond referendum to Huffman ISD board members last Monday, Aug. 8. Homeowners with \$100,000 or less will not see any increase in their taxes.

spective."

The superintendent said the money to be spent came directly from the committee's proposal and

The architect for the project is PBK Architects of Houston, a well-known firm in the education building space.

None of the design work or bidding will be done until after the potential pas-

The bond package addresses nine particular projects across the board.

The highest ticket item is a new Career Center at \$33.56 million. The building will house vocational instruction classrooms at Hargrave High School and will be built adjacent to the 100-plus acres purchased for a new high school in the

"This will help reduce some of the crowding for classes we're already experiencing at the high school," Soileau said. "It was something that the community wanted and was strongly expressed in our bond committee meet-

The second project is an Operations Center. The \$8.07 million building will house the police depart-

See HUFFMAN BOND ISSUE,

# Crosby Bicentennial plans progressing

Saturday, September 23rd is the Big Celebration; Full Day of Special Historical and Fun Events

By David Taylor Star-Courier Editor

With only five weeks left before the biggest birthday party in Crosby's 200-year history, plans are progressing and being finalized for the bicentennial celebration scheduled for Saturday, September 23.

A critical vote earlier in the summer welcomed the participation and sponsorship of Anheuser-Busch to the party, a boost to the coffers for the celebration.



Restoration of the Southern Pacific Caboose in Crosby Park, by Pct. 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey, will be one of the signature events.

"Anheuser-Busch is a big supporter of the Folds of Honor and large community events," said Jim Ferris, co-owner of Wismer Distributing Company in Mont Belvieu. The beer company's sponsorship allows the event organizers to secure a top name band

"These are good, salt of the earth people and we care about the community," Ferris said.

for the evening.

For 13 years, Anheuser-Busch has supported the

Honor and given out more than 44,000 scholarships totaling over \$21 million in donations to

Folds of



the organization.

"They now also include First Responder's in those donations to families who

See BICENTENNIAL, Page 2

# Cancer Benefit for Kids at Crosby Fairgrounds Aug. 26

CROSBY - Kids Kicking Cancer will host a fundraiser benefitting families with kids who have cancer on August 26th at the Crosby Fairgrounds.

Steven and Brooke Mc-Cauley know firsthand the toll that's taken on a family whose child has pediatric cancer. In 2020 the McCauleys were given the devastating news that their son West had Bilateral Retinoblastoma, a potentially fatal cancer that develops in the eyes and brain. Both of West's eyes had to be removed to prevent the disease from spreading. The Addi's Faith Foundation played a huge part in getting

See KIDS CANCER BENEFIT, page 7



# Youth drowns in Lake **Houston Boat accident**

LAKE HOUSTON-- A body found in Lake Houston last week is believed to be that of a 17-year-old who went missing after being aboard a sinking boat over the weekend, according to Houston police.

Early on Sunday, authorities responded to a possible drowning call at 20000 Atascocita Shores Drive along Lake Houston, where three people were boating.

Houston police said the boat started to sink, and two of them were able to swim to shore, with one of them walking to a nearby gas station for help.

Officials later said they were still searching for the third boater and issued a missing persons report for 17-year-old Marvin Reyes Oliva.



Officials recover and examine the boat that sank in Lake Houston which killed one boater.

HPD described Oliva as a Hispanic male, 6 feet 2 inches tall and weighing 140 pounds. Authorities said he was last seen wearing a yellow shirt.

In an update Monday, police said a body was found at the lake at 7:20 a.m.

Police said the body is believed to be of the missing 17-year-old, but the identification is still pending by the medical examiner's office.

## **RACHEL'S DINER**

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





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

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# <u>GOOSE CREEK CISD</u> **NEWS**

# **GCCISD Prepares for** the Best First Day



The Young Gents Step Team, under the direction of Michael Jackson at Bowie Elementary, performs a lively routine at all three Convocations.

By: Susan Passmore

Chanting "We are Victorious," "We are Giants," "We are Champions," "We are Public Education," and "We are Goose Creek," more than 4,000 Goose Creek CISD employees at the three 2023-2024 Convocations prepared to welcome students to the "best first day of their lives," as challenged by Dr. Randal O'Brien, GCCISD superintendent.

Students Clark Owen from Travis Elementary. Yanitzy Pulido from Victoria Walker Elementary, and Sebastian Perez from Alamo Elementary, welcomed staff members to their feeder pattern's 2023-2024 Convocation, thanking them for all they

A video featuring students and staff from across the district set the tone of spirit and pride for the start of the new school year. The Young Gents from Bowie and Travis elementaries and Cedar Bayou Junior School, under the direction of Michael Jackson from Bowie, treated employees to a lively step performance.

Kendall David, executive director of community engagement, introduced Giants of the Month for August. Emily Patrick, a former teacher at IMPACT Early College High School

who lost her battle with cancer this summer, was named Giant Staff Member of the Month at the first Convocation, and the award was accepted by her mother Linda Patrick. Angie Johnson from Goose Creek Memorial High School was honored as Giant Alumnus of the Month at the second Convocation. and Nathan Malonson from Ross S. Sterling High School received the Giant Student of the Month award at the third Convocation, all presented by Laurie Terry and Nellie Baktashi of Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital, sponsors of the Giants

Richard Clem, immediate past president of the Goose Creek CISD board of trustees, paraphrased a Bible verse, speaking of the importance of all roles in education as well as of being patient and kind.

"Assistant principals do not delight in evil but rejoice in the truth," Clem

Clem collaborated with the cheerleaders to present spirit sticks to Travis Elementary, Pumphrey Elementary and Clark Elementary.

board members, executive council, administrators, teachers and all departments as Giant Educators.

expressing his gratitude for the jobs they do every

Quoting famous Texan and world-renowned journalist Dan Rather, O'Brien said. "The dream begins with a teacher who believes in you, who tugs and pushes and leads you to the next plateau, sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called 'truth."

O'Brien encouraged educators to continue to share the truth.

"My friends, we can't change the past, but we can focus on the present to affect our future," O'Brien said. "Keep sharing those nuggets of truth with our students. Your impact on their lives matters more than you will ever know!"

Dr. Adolph Brown, servant leader, author, huclinical morist, psychologist, and TV talk show host, presented a humorous account of his journey through life, warning educators never to "judge a book by its cover."

Who I am today began with Head Start and public education," Brown said.

Door prizes were announced and staff members enthusiastically returned to their campus-O'Brien recognized es, anticipating the arrival of more than 24,000 students for the "best first day of their lives." Photos by Carrie Pryor-Newman



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Crosby's History is tied to the Railroads. Crosby Station circa 1945

have lost a loved one," he said.

Ferris said they had requested the Clydesdale horses for the celebration, but they were already booked for another event the same day.

"We've always been a part of the Crosby Fair and Rodeo, giving away scholarships, and we helped pay for the new roof on the building," he said. Ferris said they were honored to be part of the bicentennial celebration.

During Harvey, Ferris said they quit canning and bottling beer to can water to give away to folks in the community who needed

Donna Davenport, president of the Crosby Historical Society and co-organizer for the bicentennial celebration, said the band will be named in the coming weeks.

One of the biggest donations to the celebration came from Pct. 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey. "He asked how he could

help us, and I mentioned that the caboose in the park needed repairs and painting," she said.

According to Jeannie Peng with Pct. 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey's office, the work began in July and will be completed in time for the bicentennial celebration.

"The caboose is classified as a Southern Pacific 1017-C40-1 and was retired and donated to Harris County in 1979 where it serves to symbolize the importance of the railway and early development of the town of Crosby, and ultimately its name," Peng said. "In 1877, the name of the town was changed to Crosby after the Texas and New Orleans Railroad (T&NO) post-Civil-War Vice President, Josiah Frazer Crosby. The T&NO was later acquired by Southern Pacific Railroad."

Repairs, she said, include, but are not limited to, sandblasting, bondo work, power washing, and painting.

The cost of restoration is estimated at \$34,000.

# **Highlands Horizons holds** successful Purse Bingo

Congratulations to all of our beautiful purse winners!!

Thank you again to everyone who came out to support Highlands Horizons in our efforts to better our community. We will have some blessed kiddos this year and couldn't do it without you all. Keep an eye out for our Pecan Sale fundraiser coming up in the fall.



WINNERS POSE WITH THEIR PURSES.





**HIGHLANDS HORIZONS CLUB 2023** 



Dr. Adolph Brown, motivational speaker, servant leader, humorist and talk show host, has a little fun with KiKi Moore from Goose Creek Memorial High



Clark Elementary principal Kem Scheidt receives the spirit stick for her feeder pattern



**Pumphrey Elementary Pelicans show their** spirit and take home the GCCISD spirit stick from their recent Convocation.



Travis Elementary Tigers accept the spirit stick for their Convocation.



# **Barbers Hill** \* Dayton FIES

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

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023

**MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580** 

#### **ON THE** HILL

#### **Traffic** Alert for FM562

**Beginning August** 14, 2023 TxDOT will be performing construction activities on the FM562 bridge approaching Smith Point. The bridge will be closed for 15 to 20 minutes at a time between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Emergency vehicles will be given priority to expedite passage if needed.

**Chambers County** will remain in contact with TxDOT throughout this process to ensure the safety of our residents.

#### Small Business Non-Profit Grant

**GRANT INFO** The Chambers County **Commissioners Court** has approved a small business grant program to assist businesses impacted by Covid-19 in Chambers County and help business grow.

Do not miss the opportunity to apply for this Small Business and Nonprofit grant. If your organization was in existence before December 2019 and experienced a reduction in income due to COVID-19 you may be eligible to receive up to \$25,000 depending on gross

annual income. Request the application by filling out this form: https:// bit.ly/

<u>SmallBizNonprofitGrant</u> To apply, you will

need: \*Government ID \*Assorted Tax

Documents \*Lease or Mortgage Information (if

Applicable) Payroll or Owner Draw Information (if

Applicable) \*Profit and Loss Statement

#### Chambers County Clerk's Office closed August 22

Heads up.. the Chambers County Clerk's Office will be closed from 3 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, August 22, 2023 as staff participate in a mandatory training.

# Governor signs "Save Women's Sports" Act

By Mayes Middleton **Texas State Senator** 

AUSTIN - Texas Gover-Greg Abbott has ceremonially signed the Save Women's Sports Act, Senate Bill 15, into law. I am proud to have authored this important legislation to keep men out of women's sports.

The Save Women's Sports Act protects fairness in women's college sports by ensuring biological men don't cheat women out of victories, hard earned spots on teams, steal athletic records from female athletes, and put women's athletic scholar-



Texas Governor Greg Abbott Signing the Senate Bill 15. Senator Mayes Middleton is at right.

ships unfairly at risk. Generations of women before us have fought for the opportunity to compete, and you can't have fair competition when women are forced to compete against biological men. With SB 15, Texas will ensure fairness for women in sports

Today, the TWIA Board voted for NO RATE HIKE. This is a huge victory for Coastal Texans! The pressure to increase rates comes from Board decisions to over-allocate reinsurance costs to policyholders. I will continue to fight for Coastal Texans to reform TWIA's purchasing of reinsurance.

# News and Updates From Chambers County



Last month Chambers County Commissioners Jimmy Gore (Precinct 1) and Mark Tice (Precinct 2) attended the North and East Texas County Judges and Commissioners Association training in Galveston to learn about tax rates, road and bridge programs and important legal up-

In addition to our hard-working Commissioners Court, Chambers County boasts some of the most respected elected officials and Department heads in the state. Chambers County Attorney Ashley Land was slated as a guest speaker during this event and shared her knowledge and experience with judges and commissioners from across the state.



Several weeks ago Chambers County Commissioners Jimmy Gore (Precinct 1) and Tommy Hammond (Precinct 3) had the opportunity to participate in a "pop up" information meeting with H-GAC.

In this meeting the Commissioners had very productive conversations with H-GAC staff, sharing positive developments across the County as well as concerns and issues that we are experiencing.

We are proud to partner with H-GAC and thankful that our Commissioners are always willing to advocate on behalf of our County and



Hot Cars Can Be Deadly Don't leave children or pets in cars; call 911 if you see a chill or pet in a car alone.

Beware of Heat-Related Illness Call 911 if you see these symptoms: high body temperature, vomiting and pale, clammy skin.

Summer Clothes Wear lightweight, light colored clothes.

Plan Your Day Avoid going out during the hottest hours, and wear sunscreen.

# Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown

# Saturday Morning Sports Injury Clinic Returns This Fall

This fall, Houston Methodist Orthopedic & Sports Medicine Clinic in Baytown is once again providing a convenient sports injury clinic tailored for young athletes. Taking place on Saturday mornings, the clinic is managed by board-certified sports medicine physicians equipped to assess injuries promptly and treat pa-

tients on a walk-in basis. As students gear up for the new school year and the excitement of fall sports, our dedicated sports injury clinic stands ready to provide young athletes with accessible

care, eliminating the need

to wait for weekday appointments. This clinic is designed to cater to student-athletes who may have sustained injuries during games the preceding week.

"Fall is a busy time for student sports programs, and our goal is to simplify the process of receiving treatment for injured students," emphasized Dr. Michael Hopson, an orthopedic surgeon at Houston Methodist Orthopedics & Sports Medicine Clinic in Baytown and team physician for the Houston Astros, Rice University and Barbers Hill High School.

The clinic offers compre-

Dr. Michael Hopson

hensive services, including imaging, concussion assessment, personalized treatment, and protocols for returning to the game. Accomplished athletic trainers and physical therapists will also be available on-site.

"Our clinic is outfitted with cutting-edge imaging technologies, enabling us to identify issues and begin appropriate treatment quickly. This can be the pivotal factor in expediting the healing process and facilitating a return to the field," said Dr. Hopson.

The Saturday clinics can also save parents the expense and time of a trip to the emergency room.

"When physicians can see the athletes immediately following an injury during a Friday night game, it improves care because we provide treatment from the beginning,"

said Dr. Hopson.

This year's clinics begin Saturday, August 19th and continue through Saturday, November 4th, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. They will be held at the Houston Methodist Baytown Outpatient Clinic at 1677 W. Baker Road, Suite 1701, Baytown, Texas, 77521. No appointments are required, but please bring your school's medical form provided by your athletic trainer or coach and relevant insurance informa-

tion. Please  $\underline{houstonmethodist.org/ath-}$ <u>lete</u> or call **281.427.7400** for more information.

#### ★ OPINION PAGE ★



#### Cornyn Highlights Bill to Lower Drug Costs for Texans

'The list price for Humira is more than \$80,000 per year per patient. That's higher than the median household income in Texas.'

'Patients in Texas and across the country are experiencing sticker shock at the pharmacy counter like never before.'

'There's a bipartisan desire to stop the anticompetitive behaviors... that are costing patients and taxpayers a fortune, and I hope we can make progress this Congress and finally put a stop to some of the gamesmanship.'

WASHINGTON – Today on the floor, U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) discussed his bipartisan Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Act, which passed unanimously out of the Senate Judiciary Committee last Congress and would help lower drug prices by preventing bad actors' anti-competitive use of patents to block generic and biosimilar competition from coming to market. Excerpts of Sen. Cornyn's remarks are below.

"The list price for Humira is more than \$80,000 per year per patient. That's higher than the median household income in Texas."

"Humira is one of the most egregious examples of patent abuse, but it's far from the only one."

"Earlier this week Senator Blumenthal, the Senator from Connecticut, and I reintroduced a bill called the Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Act to put an end to this anti-competitive practice that keeps drug prices artificially high."

"There are two practices in particular that this bill will address. One is called patent thicketing, which involves building layers upon layers of patents to prevent competitors from ever hitting the market. That's what AbbVie did with Humira."

"The other anticompetitive behavior this bill will address is something called product hopping, which occurs when a company develops a reformulation of a product that's about to lose exclusivity, and then pulls the original product off the market. This is done not because the new formula is more effective, but because it prevents generic competitors."

"The Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Act puts an end to this practice by expressly prohibiting manufacturers from engaging in product hopping. It also facilitates market entry for generics and biosimilars, which lead to more options and lower prices for patients."

"Patients in Texas and across the country are experiencing sticker shock at the pharmacy counter like never before."

"There's a bipartisan desire to stop the anticompetitive behaviors that I described here today that are costing patients and taxpayers a fortune, and I hope we can make progress this Congress and finally put a stop to some of the gamesmanship."

Senator John Cornyn, a Republican from Texas, is a member of the Senate Finance, Intelligence, and Judiciary Committees.



# The Fight Against Surprise Fees: Share Your Story

Have you ever had to pay a junk fee? Junk fees are hidden, or surprise charges are often added right at the end of transactions – and they cost American consumers tens of billions of dollars each year. Junk fees are frequently found in banking, utility service, cell and cable service, travel, and entertainment transactions—but they can appear just about anywhere.

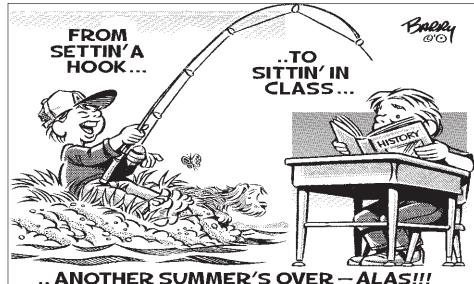
I am working to put an end to these unfair practices. Several of my Congressional colleagues and I are collecting powerful stories reinforcing the need for action, and this is where you come in. I want to hear from you if you've run into surprise fees when buying tickets online, such as "family seating" fees, "early termination" fees, or "surprise resort" fees.

Reply to this -newsletter to share your own personal stories of encountering junk fees.

President Biden himself has expressed his determination to tackle this issue. In his State of the Union address earlier this year, and again just a few days ago, he made his commitment to banning junk fees clear.

Junk fees are nothing more than a tax imposed by greedy corporations, and it's time to fight back. Reply to share how junk fees have personally impacted you.

I will ensure a fair and transparent marketplace for all Americans.



# STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

# Child Care Centers Closing Across State

An unprecedented number of child care centers are expected to close across the state as pandemic relief funding ends, the Texas Standard reported. A survey conducted by the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children of about 1,600 child care programs indicated 44% were likely to close their doors without additional funding. Federal pandemic relief funds ended for most centers in June.

The Texas Legislature declined to pass a \$2.3 billion House proposal for child care providers, with the intent that the money be used to raise the average wage of staff from \$12 per hour to at least \$15 per hour.

Since 2020, Texas child care providers have received more than \$4 billion in COV-ID-19 funding, according to the Texas Tribune. The money helped cover child care costs for more than 800,000 Texas children.

"This is going to be something that affects every community here in the state of Texas and will have a lasting effect on our economy as the supply of workers in all industries is shortened because of the lack of child care," Cody Summerville, executive director of TAEYC, said.

# NO ADDITIONAL IMPEACHMENT ARTICLES FOR PAXTON

The deadline has passed with no additional impeachment charges against suspended Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who already faces 20 articles of impeachment in a trial set in the Senate for Sept. 5, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

House members in late May voted 121-23 to send the articles of impeachment to the Senate, accusing Paxton of bribery and misuse of office. Paxton was indicted in 2015 for securities fraud, with that trial now set for 2024.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who will preside over the impeachment trial, said it will likely last two to three weeks.

NEW LAW CRACKS DOWN ON STREET RACING

HIGHLANDS

Editor & Publisher...

Marketing Executive.....

# STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

Gov. Greg Abbott last week signed two laws cracking down on illegal street racing. House Bills 1442 and 2899 enhance penalties for those involved in such activities and provide law enforcement and prosecutors additional tools to address those crimes.

"Street takeover" events have been occurring in Austin, Fort Worth and other cities, where intersections are blocked by vehicles doing donuts in intersections while others film the event.

Abbott ceremonially signed the bill in Fort Worth, where a street takeover led to a pair of fatalities.

"Street racing and street takeovers are not a victimless crime," said Mayor Mattie Parker. "Right here in Fort Worth, we lost a wonderful young couple who had three children. These types of incidents are all too common across the country."

Abbott announced the formation of a task force in February to combat street takeovers. The Texas Department of Public Safety, working with local law enforcement, has made more than 50 arrests and nearly 400 traffic citations related to illegal street racing across the state.

#### WILDFIRE DANGER CONTINUES TO RISE AS STATE BAKES

Texas A&M Forest Service is warning of increased wildfire danger as high temperatures and dry conditions continue to cover the state.

"Since mid-July, wildfire activity has increased substantially across Texas due to expanding drought conditions," said Wes Moorehead, Texas A&M Forest Service

CROSBY

Gilbert Hoffman

..Willie Glasgow

Fire Chief. "Over the past two weeks, state and local firefighters have responded to 280 wildfires that burned almost 10,000 acres."

While the risk of wildfire has increased, the five active wildfires across the state have largely been contained. The number of counties with burn bans in place increased to 168 as of last weekend.

A&M REACHES \$1 MILLION

# SETTLEMENT WITH JOURNALISM PROFESSOR Texas A&M University

Texas A&M University reached a \$1 million settlement with a journalism professor whose botched hiring led to the resignation of the university's president, The Dallas Morning News reported.

University officials released the results of an internal investigation last week that admitted "mistakes were made during the hiring process."

Kathleen McElroy, a former editor for the New York Times and a journalism professor at the University of Texas at Austin, accepted a tenure-track position to restart A&M's journalism program. A public signing ceremony was followed with backlash, including from six A&M regents, because of her work to diversify newsrooms. The original offer eventually was reduced to a one-year contract with no protection from being summarily fired. McElroy decided to stay at UT-Austin while making public how the offer had changed.

"I hope the resolution of my matter will reinforce A&M's allegiance to excellence in higher education and its commitment to academic freedom and journalism," McElroy said. She is a Texas A&M graduate.

#### TEXAS LEADS NATION IN 'FAMILY ANNIHILATION' CASES

Cases of "family annihilation," where one family member kills at least two close family members, occur every five days in the United States, according to a study originally made by the IndyStar and analyzed by the Statesman. That analysis indicated since 2020 such homicides have occurred in Texas 33 times —more than any other state.

Firearms are used most frequently in family annihilations in the state, the study showed. Texas, the second most populous state in the nation, leads the country in firearm-related deaths, with 4,613 reported in the state in 2021, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

The data focused on the two and a half years since the COVID-19 pandemic.

"A lot of the stressors of the COVID pandemic exacerbated the issues around domestic violence and mental health," Mikisha Hooper, with the Texas Council on Family Violence, told the Texas Standard. "So that isolation, the financial pressure, and those types of things are exacerbating the increase in the number of homicides that we're seeing," she said.



#### Summer Cold

So, I got a cold.

If you catch a cold in the winter, everyone is sympathetic. They tell you to drink hot tea and put on another sweater. A cold in the winter just seems like part of the season, and I can turn the thermostat up and wait it out.

A summer cold is totally different.

A summer cold seems like an act of idiocy. A summer cold feels like I'm being difficult on purpose. I feel I must have done something really stupid—because who gets sick in the middle of the summer? And yet, here we are.

My husband, Peter, takes good care of me when I have a cold. He shows up with all sorts of pills and supplements he says I should ingest. And so I do, but I'm not sure they help. They make Peter happy, and that's the point. But when I don't get better after two days, Peter starts to frown at me. He wants me to say that I am at least better than yesterday. But today I am not better than yesterday. Today I am considerably worse than yesterday, and yesterday I was worse than the day before.

Peter does not approve of this trajectory. He feels I am headed in the wrong direction and need to do something to rectify my course. But I don't know what I can do—besides drinking orange juice and trying to sleep a bit more. Colds take time.

And Peter probably has a point about pushing myself. I felt bad yesterday but attended a Zoom meeting with some ladies I'm very fond of. I had almost no voice when I started, and much less when I was done. Peter gave me a disapproving look.

In order to get ready for the meeting, I had to work a little harder to get everything done a little earlier. Then I had dinner and got a stomachache. The stomachache had nothing to do with being sick, so you would think it would have the courtesy to hold off until I wasn't coughing quite so much—or at least until I had a voice, so I could complain about it.

But this one was terrible. So I went to bed early with a stomachache and a cough and a sore throat and the feeling that I must have behaved very badly to get all these things at once.

And, while perhaps I didn't behave badly, I suspect I didn't listen as well as I might have. I suspect, if I'd been paying attention, I would have noticed I was getting more and more tired before I finally got sick. I might have noticed a stomachache forming while I ate a bit more. I might have wondered if it wouldn't be a good idea just to rest, for a change, to have a day when I didn't have a goal or a deadline I had to make-and beatbecause it was the only way I had to measure if I'd done well that day.

Maybe "doing well" sometimes means doing less, not trying quite so hard, letting myself simply relax. Maybe paying more attention would be a smart thing to do, since my body is going to insist I rest eventually—either voluntarily, or by force.

"What are you doing out

of bed?" Peter wants to know as I write this.

"I'm just writing a little today," I tell him, because I am. I'm going to write just a little. Then I'm going to work very hard at being a little more lazy.

Till next time, Carrie

FAX Line....713-977-1188 email: grafikstar@aol.com Member Texas Press Association

Star\*Courier

Barbers Hill ★ Dayton PRESS

North Channel \* Star

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# **Burn Ban in effect for Harris**

Harris County, August 8 - Harris County Commissioner's Court approved a burn ban in Unincorporated Harris County due to extreme temperatures and continuous dry conditions. Harris County joins 168 Texas counties that have already implemented a burn ban, including our neighbors in Galveston, Waller, Chambers, and Liberty

"The burn ban is in place to reduce the potential of a devastating wildfire happening in our community," said Fire Marshal Laurie L. Christensen. "The excessive heat conditions we have been experiencing and lack of rain have elevated KBDI levels and vegetation fuels. The safety of Harris County is in our proactive actions- let's heed the ban, reduce risks, and protect our community."

The burn ban means no outdoor burning is allowed, except in an enclosure that contains all flames and/or sparks; outdoor burning activities authorized by TCEQ; approved ceremonial fires; non-commercial cooking such as backyard cookouts and barbeques are allowed; and welding and other "hot work" performed in accordance with county fire code requirements.

Violation of the ban is a Class "C" misdemeanor, punishable by up to a \$500 fine. In addition, any person who starts a fire that causes damage to property without the owner's consent may be charged with Reckless Damage or Destruction, a Class C misdemeanor, or arson, a felony.

Preparation is critical when protecting your property and home from the threat of wildfire damage. Here are a few effective actions and precautions you can take to minimize the risk:

- DO NOT burn on "red Flag" or windy days, and think twice before burning outdoors when KBDI approaches 700 or more.
- LPG tanks should be far enough away from buildings for valves to be shut off in case of fire. Keep the area around the tank clear of flammable vegetation.
  - Store gasoline in an approved safety can away from occupied buildings.
- All combustibles such as firewood, wooden picnic tables, boats, and stacked lumber should be kept away from structures.
- · Clear roof surfaces and gutters regularly to avoid the build-up of flammable materials such as leaves and other debris.
  - Remove branches from trees to a height of 15 feet or more.
- In rural areas, clear a fuel break of at least three times the fuel length around all structures.
- Have fire tools handy such as a ladder long enough to reach your roof, a shovel, a rake, and a bucket or two for water.
- Place connected garden hoses on all sides of your home for emergency
- Assure you and your family know all emergency exits from your home.

The Texas Forest Service (TFS) measures drought conditions based on the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) scale. KBDI conditions between 600 and 800 have the potential to lead to intense, prolonged wildfires. As of August 8th, Harris County's average KBDI is 681. Texas counties can implement a burn ban if their KBDI is above 575. 68 percent of Texas counties are currently under a burn ban.

The burn ban will be in effect for 90 days or until TFS determines that Harris County is no longer experiencing a drought.

To contact our office for questions, please email: fmosupport@fmosupport@hctx.net

To submit any fire and life safety complaint or concern, go to: https:// www.hcfmo.net/report- $\underline{hazard}$ 



#### **TOP TEN MOVIES**

Aug. 14, 2023

1. Barbie (PG-13) Margot Robbie, Ryan Gosling 2. 2: The Trench (PG-13) Jason Statham, Jing Wu 3. Oppenheimer (R) Cillian Murphy, Emily **Blunt** 4. Teenage Mutant Ninja **Turtles: Mutant Mayhem** (PG) Micah Abbey, Shamon Brown Jr. 5. Haunted Mansion (PG13) LaKeith Stanfield, Rosario Dawson 6. Sound of Freedom (PG13) Jim Caviezel, Mira Sorvino 7. Mission: Impossible -**Dead Reckoning Part** One (PG-13) Tom Cruise, **Hayley Atwell** 8. Talk to Me (R) Ari

McCarthy, Hamish **Phillips** 9. Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (PG-13) Harrison Ford, Phoebe Waller-Bridge 10. Elemental (PG) Leah

(c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

Lewis, Mamoudou Athie

County for next 90 days



HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT 2

## COOLING CENT

A Cooling Center is an air-conditioned facility where Precinct 2 residents can go to find relief from the heat. Harris County Precinct 2 operates ten (10) Cooling Centers during the summer months.

MON & WED 8AM - 5PM; TUES & THURS 8AM - 9PM; FRIDAY 8AM - 12NOON

**Bay Area Community Center** 5002 East NASA Parkway Seabrook, TX 77586

**East Harris County Activity Center** 7340 Spencer Highway Pasadena, TX 77505

**Felix Baldree Community Center** 13828 Corpus Christi Street Houston, TX 77015

**Hardy Community Center** 11901 West Hardy Road Houston, TX 77076

**JD Walker Community Center** 7613 Wade Road McNair, TX 77521

**Leonel Castillo Community Center** 2101 South Street Houston, TX 77009

**Mangum-Howell Community Center** 2500 Frick Road Houston, TX 77038

**Martin Flukinger Community Center** 16003 Lorenzo Street Channelview, TX 77530

**North East Harris County Community Center** 10918 1/2 Bentley Street

**Pep Mueller Community Center** 14750 Henry Road Houston, TX 77060









monitoring are ongoing.

#### **Highlands Acid Pit Superfund Site Public Notice**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6

#### August 2023

required to ensure remedy protectiveness; collect additional surface water and sediment samples around the Site to determine if the contaminated upper aquifer is impacting areas beyond the Site; determine the need for institutional controls and implement the institutional controls, as appropriate; evaluate the current extent of contamination in the upper aquifer and determine impacts to long-term protectiveness; and determine if the Site poses a vapor intrusion concern for nearby properties.

EPA completed the sixth five-year review for the Site in June 2023. The next five-year review is required by June 2028. A copy of the 2023 five-year review can be viewed at the following document repository:

> Highlands Public Library, Stratford Branch 509 Stratford Street Highlands, Texas 77562

Site status updates and the five-year review are available on the Internet at https://www.epa.gov/superfund/highlands-acid-pit

> All media inquiries should be directed to the EPA Press Office at (214) 665-2200

For more information about the Site, contact:

Stephen Pereira/Remedial Project Manager (214) 665-3137 or by email at pereira.stephen@epa.gov

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 (EPA) has

completed the sixth five-year review of remedy implementation

and performance at the Highlands Acid Pit Superfund site (Site)

Clear Lake Road in Highlands, Harris County, Texas. Nearby

In the early 1950s, the Site received an unknown amount of

oil and gas refining processes. Waste disposal activities

Cleanup included the excavation and off-site disposal of

institution controls. Site maintenance and groundwater

land use includes residential, ecological and undeveloped areas.

industrial waste sludge, believed to be spent sulfuric acid, from

contaminated the soil and groundwater with hazardous chemicals.

hazardous soil, backfilling of the excavated area with clean soil,

establishment of vegetation and installation of a security fence.

The five-year review concluded that the remedy for the Site is

need to be taken to ensure protectiveness: complete a climate

currently protective of human health and the environment. For the

remedy to be protective over the long term, the following actions

vulnerability assessment to determine if changes in climate may

affect remedy protectiveness and whether adaptation measures are

The remedy also included monitored natural attenuation and

in Harris County, Texas. The 3.3-acre Site is located at the end of

Adam Weece/Community Involvement Coordinator (214) 665-2264 or 1-800-887-6063 (toll free) or by email at weece.adam@epa.gov



#### Sitio Superfund Highlands Acid Pit Aviso Público Región 6 de la Agencia de Protección Ambiental de los Estados Unidos

### Agosto 2023

La Región 6 de la Agencia de Protección Ambiental (EPA, por sus siglas en inglés) ha llevado a cabo la sexta revisión de cinco años de la implementación y rendimiento del plan de limpieza del sitio Superfund Highlands Acid Pit (Sitio) en Highlands, Texas. El sitio de 3.3 acres está ubicado al final de Clear Lake Road en Highlands, condado de Harris, Texas. El uso de los terrenos cercanos incluye áreas residenciales, ecológicas y no desarrolladas.

A principios de la década de 1950, el Sitio recibió una cantidad desconocida de lodos de desecho industrial, que se cree que era ácido sulfúrico gastado, de los procesos de refinación de petróleo y gas. Las actividades de eliminación de desechos contaminaron el suelo y las aguas subterráneas con productos químicos peligrosos. La limpieza incluyó la excavación y la eliminación fuera del sitio de suelo peligroso, el relleno del área excavada con suelo limpio, el establecimiento de vegetación y la instalación de una cerca de seguridad. La acción correctiva también incluyó atenuación natural monitoreada y controles institucionales. El mantenimiento del Sitio y el monitoreo de las aguas subterráneas siguen en curso.

La revisión de cinco años determinó que las acciones correctivas aún protegen la salud humana y el medio ambiente. Para que las acciones correctivas brindan protección a largo plazo, se deben tomar las siguientes medidas para garantizar la protección: completar una evaluación de vulnerabilidad climática para

determinar si los cambios en el clima pueden afectar la protección de las acciones correctivas y si se requieren medidas de adaptación para garantizar la protección de las acciones correctivas; recolectar muestras adicionales de las aguas superficiales y sedimentos alrededor del sitio para determinar si el acuífero superior contaminado está impactando áreas más allá del sitio; determinar la necesidad de controles institucionales e implementar controles institucionales, según sean apropiados; evaluar el alcance actual de la contaminación en el acuífero superior y determinar los impactos en la protección a largo plazo; y determinar si el Sitio presenta una amenaza de intrusión de vapores para las propiedades cercanas.

La EPA completó la sexta revisión de cinco años para el Sitio en junio de 2023. La próxima revisión de cinco años se requiere para junio de 2028. Se puede ver una copia de la revisión de cinco años de 2023 en el siguiente repositorio de información local:

Biblioteca Pública de Highlands, Sucursal de Stratford 509 Stratford Street Highlands, Texas 77562

Las actualizaciones del estado del Sitio están disponibles por Internet en https://www.epa.gov/superfund/highlands-acid-pit

Todas las preguntas de los medios deben dirigirse a la Oficina de la Prensa se la EPA al (214) 665-2200

Para obtener más información sobre el Sitio, comuníquese con:

Stephen Pereira/Gerente de Proyecto de Limpieza (214) 665-3137

(214) 665-2264 o por correo electrónico a pereira.stephen@epa.gov o 1-800-887-6063 (número gratuito) o por correo electrónico a weece.adam@epa.gov

Adam Weece/Coordinador de Participación Comunitaria

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#### \$20 MILLION CROSBY MUD BOND ELECTION November 7, 2023

- NO TAX RATE INCREASE.
- DISTRICT TAX RATE HAS DECREASED BY APPROXIMATELY 15 CENTS OVER LAST 10 YEARS.
- \$20,000,000 bond authorization, however bonds will be issued only on an as needed basis.
- Bond authorization is needed to repair and install water, sewer and drainage facilities to serve District customers and keep system in compliance with law.
- Early Voting by Personal Appearance is at Crosby Branch Library at 135 Hare Road, Crosby, Texas 77532, or at any of the early voting polling locations to be published on www.HarrisVotes.com the following days and times:

Monday, October 23 through Saturday, October 28: 7:00 am – 7:00 pm Sunday, October 29: 12:00 pm – 7:00 pm Monday, October 30 through Friday, November 3: 7:00 am – 7:00 pm

November 7, 2023 Election Day Voting from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm is at Crosby Branch Library at 135 Hare Road, Crosby, Texas 77532, or at any of the polling locations to be published on www.HarrisVotes.com.

For more information, please see the District's website at www.crosbymud.org or call 281-328-4242. We strongly encourage you to vote at the election.

#### **FOR RENT**

**FOR RENT** 

**FOR RENT** 

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#### **LEGAL NOTICE**

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**CHILD CARE** 

**CHILD CARE** 

BABY SITTING - All Kinds -Highlands Area Baby sitting in my home, Day, Night, Weekend Meals Furnished - Good References FRANCES DANIEL 281-683-5215

#### **NOTICE OF SALE**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code that CROSBY BOAT, RV & MINI STORAGE, located at 15118A FM 2100, Crosby Texas 77532, will hold an online sale from August 28th to September 11th until 10:00 o'clock a.m., at the following link http://wbauctioncrosby.hibid.com/auction/ current to sell for cash only the contents of Unit B-16, Juanita Avalos and K-8, Hope Star in order to satisfy a Landlord's Lien. The property to be sold is Household items and etc.....

31-2T

**CEMETERY PLOT** 

**CEMETERY PLOT** 

**CEMETERY PLOT** 

#### **CEMETERY PLOT**

SINGLE PLOT LOCATED IN BEAUTIFUL GARDEN OF MARK AT STERLING WHITE CEMETERY. PRICE REDUCED \$1500 713-569-0445

#### **NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 516458; Estate of FRANCES ALINE RUSH Deceased; In Probate Court No. 1 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on AUGUST 7, 2023.

#### DAVID RUSH

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 AUGUST 10, 2023

by WESTON COTTEN

281-421-4050

**LEGAL NOTICES** APPEAR IN THE **HIGHLANDS** STAR CROSBY COURIER, AND THE **NORTH CHANNEL** STAR.

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# — IN THE STARS

#### **MILESTONES**

#### **BIRTHDAYS**

Aug 18-Denise Smith Aug 19–Lisa Cutbirth Sherwood Jett Natalie Elizabeth King

Aug 20-Patti Farmer Ruby King Ronald Phillips Gertrude Rutledge Natasha Webb Pastor Phillip Morris

Aug 21–Gary Jackson
Alice Seaburg
Jimmy Ray Slot
Patrick Williams
Rick Ross
Sheri Ross
Jessica Cain

Aug 22–Lacie Paige Burton G.A. Kearney James R. Townsend Tonia Watkins Aug 23–Tarshira Harper

Daniel Stone John Wilson Aug 24–Donche Webb Alex Catie Maxey

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 18–Bruce & Debbie Mercer Aug 19–Tony & Margaret

Boyd Aug 20–Carl & Myrtis Richard Aug 23– Greg & Angie Basquez

Kaylin & Caleb Morgan Aug 26– Lee Ward & Jo Ann Hammac

Aug 28–Gilbert & Mei-ing Hoffman

Aug 29–Kent & Barbara Nelson

Aug 30–Gene & Vi Fleming Aug 31–Glenn & Linda Conard

# Kids Cancer

Benefit, ing

prosthetic eyes for baby West.

In an effort to give back, the McCauleys have organized a great day of fun activities to raise money in support of Addi's and families of kids with cancer.

The full day of events is open to the public and includes all-day live music from some of the area's favorite bands, a BBQ Cook Off, Cornhole Tournament, Live Auction, Silent Auction, Car Show, Kids' Zone, Mutton Bustin', Food Trucks, Vendor Booths and more!

Entry is \$15 for adults and \$5 for kids. One free kid's entry for each unopened toy donated. Scan the QR code on the flyer or visit the website for more information or to register for any events, make a donation, become a vendor, or to volunteer.

Come help us make this a great event!!

--By Juli Hain

## Huffman Bond Issue,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ment and academic training center.

"It will also house office space for our maintenance, custodial, and food services," he said. In addition, it will provide a much-needed training space.

"We don't have enough training space. When we have trainings like at the beginning of the school year, we occupy all our conference rooms, our board room, and we just run out of training space."

The space can also be used for training ancillary staff and non-salaried staff, he said.

More space will be added to Huffman Middle School at \$9,860,000. It will provide an additional 5-7 new classrooms.

"It will include the expansion of some of the existing core spaces as well because we're just overcrowded there," Soileau said.

Another \$15.58 million is earmarked for roofing, mechanical, and plumbing projects. The facility preservation also includes fire alarm and safety upgrades at several campuses.

For safety and security concerns, another \$6,647,938 will go towards access controls, fencing, entry point control, and

security film. and feeder programs.

gy is old and replacing

parts of it would give them

means one access point for

entry and exit at each cam-

pus with a checkpoint gate

and a shack manned by a

guard before anyone comes

tance between anyone en-

tering and kids and staff,"

"That gives us some dis-

The guard would be able

Technology network in-

to run the Raptor system

for checking visitors in for

frastructure and integrat-

ed AV technology updates

to the tune of \$3.629.500 is

school will get a new gym-

competition gym at our

high school. We need more

gym space to accommodate

the larger number of kids

that are participating in

programs," Soileau said.

That extends to the com-

munity who also uses the

gym for youth programs

Athletics at the high

"We don't have a true

close to the school.

all four campuses.

also included.

he said.

The future of security

fits on compatibility.

"This also relates to the infrastructure to wire the new police department giving them access to all the cameras," he said. Soileau said the current technolo-

"Our girls basketball team was practicing in the middle school cafeteria. We need more space to address Title IX issues to create more equity in the district," he said. Cheerleaders need a space where their stunting has a high ceiling.

The bond also proposes an additional \$738,000 for six new school buses.

To help curb growth at the elementary level, \$3 million is reserved for the addition of portable buildings as necessary.

"We've hired an architect to help us plan how to install these. We're not just talking about sidewalks, but ADA compliance, electrical, water, sewer, and internet infrastructure that has to be managed properly if we have to scale the location to more than one portable," he said.

David J. Faltys with Government Capital Securities Corporation explained to the board that no one with a homestead of \$100,000 or less will have to pay any new taxes with the bond.



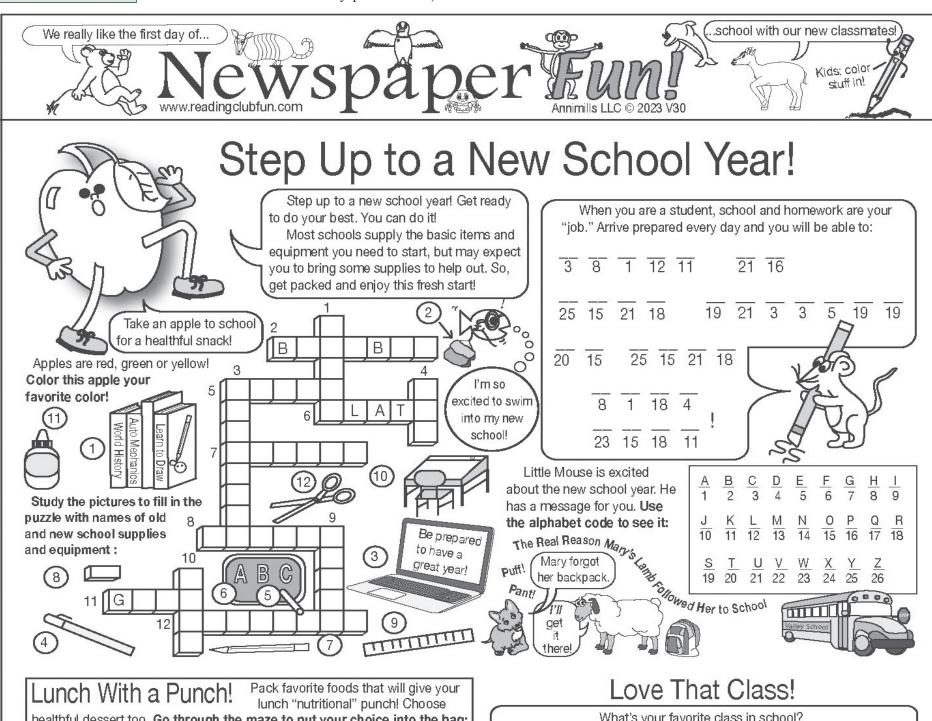
#### **MOMENTS IN TIME**

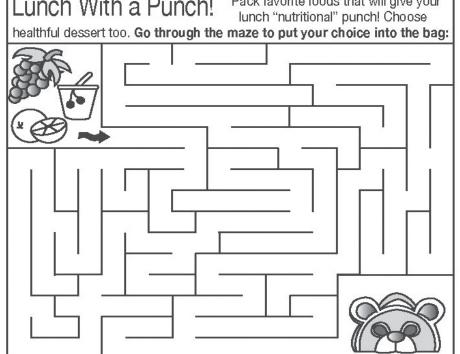
\* On Aug. 29, 1998, a strike by 6,200 Northwest Airlines pilots seeking a 15% pay raise left 70,000 frustrated passengers high and dry around the U.S. The pilots had been in contract negotiations for more than two years, and an agreement was finally reached on Sept. 10 after the strike had cost the airline \$26 million per

\* On Aug. 30, 1951, Sgt.
John R. Rice, a decorated World
War II veteran and part-Native
American soldier killed in the
Korean War, was refused burial
in Sioux City, Iowa's Memorial
Park Cemetery on the grounds of
his ethnicity. After hearing the
news at a press conference,
President Harry Truman
authorized a telegram to Rice's
widow, Evelyn, offering her a
plot in Arlington National
Cemetery, which she accepted.

\* On Aug. 31, 1888, 43-yearold Mary Ann "Polly" Nichols, a prostitute from London's East End and married but separated mother of five, was found brutally murdered near Whitechapel Road, becoming the first known victim of serial killer Jack the Ripper.

\* On Sept. 2, 1969, the original "Star Trek" TV series aired its final episode after running for just three years. While it never rose higher than No. 52 in the ratings, it remains a beloved cult classic, eventually generating movies and other series.





that smarts

What's your favorite class in school? E IGNLANGUAGE W S D F V G E Ε G В 0 G U Н В 0 AOP ING C H C U T G P O K J N C I S U M B F E H Y UERGGNIDAERLIUHG There is so much to learn. I'm going to try something new this year!

#### Find and circle these subjects:

music history reading band writing spelling gym art health

foreign languages mathematics science



#### "How Do You Like Them Apples?"

Have you heard about a man named **Sir Isaac Newton** (1643-1727)? He lived in England. He was one of the world's greatest mathematicians. One day when he was wandering in a garden thinking, he watched an apple fall from a tree (some stories say that he was hit in the head by a falling apple.) This action made him think about **"gravity"** or the force with which the earth pulls things toward its

center. If you throw a ball into the air, gravity is what causes it to fall back down to you. Gravity gives us weight on the earth. It is the force that keeps the planets in our solar system on their paths.

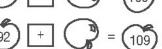
Scientists use math. Can you fill in the missing math symbol or number to make each equation correct?







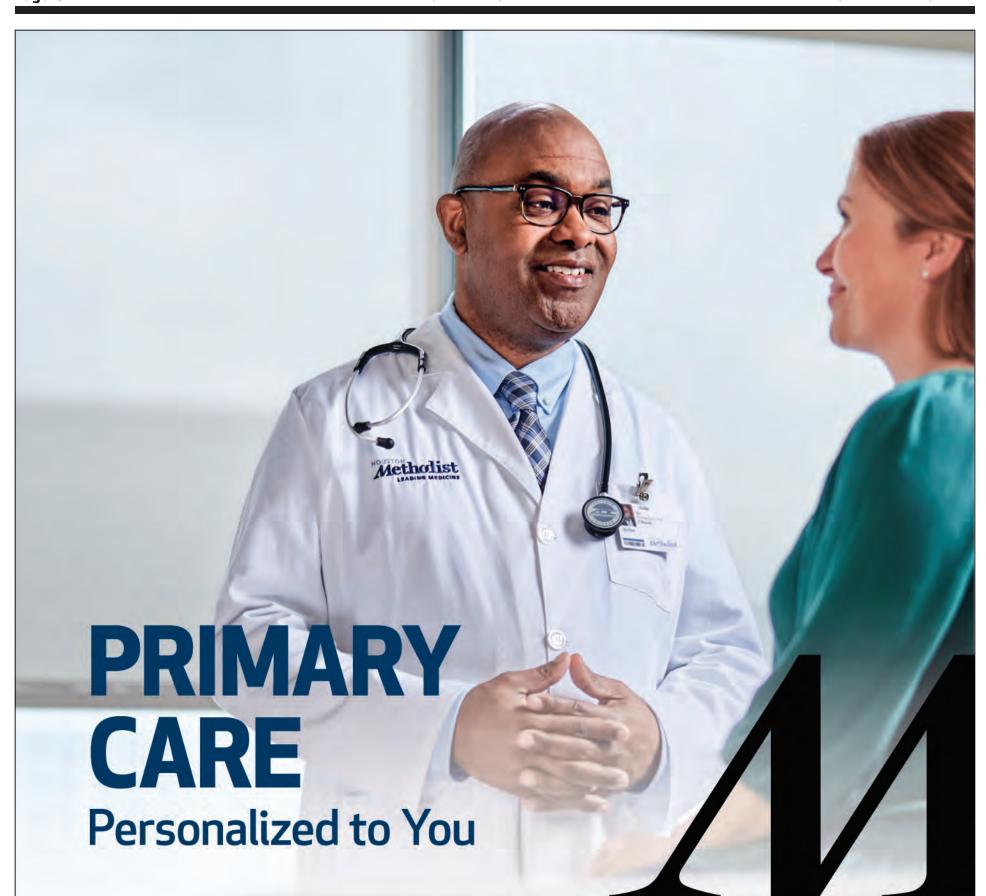












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