

FM2100 to be Widened to SH99, Page 2

HMB Hospital achieves High Ranking, Page 3

Jackson Lee Honored by City



Mourners file past Sheila Jackson Lee's casket, which lies in State at Houston City Hall. (Allan Jamail Photo)

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

# Star Courier

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2024

P.O. DRAWER 446, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

## IN THE STARS

### Mayor Whitmire's BACK-2-SCHOOL Fest August 3

The Mayor's Office is hosting a Back to School Fest on August 3rd 2024, from 8 AM to 2 PM at the George R. Brown Convention Center Halls A & B! Enjoy FREE resources and giveaways including backpacks, school supplies, and on-site health screenings and dental screenings. Register now and prepare to kick off the new school year. [bit.ly/Back2SchoolFest](http://bit.ly/Back2SchoolFest)

### Back2School Sales Tax Holiday Aug. 9 thru Aug. 11

(AUSTIN) — Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar is reminding shoppers they can save money on clothes and school supplies during the state's sales tax holiday on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 9-11. This will be the 25th year of Texas' oldest sales tax holiday. State law exempts sales tax on qualified items — such as clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks — priced below \$100, saving shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend. The dates of the sales tax holiday and list of tax-exempt items are set by the Texas Legislature.

Continued. See SALES TAX HOLIDAY, Page 5

# Lions Club supports CUIC for Beryl Recovery

Huffman Lions donate \$3000; organizing Crosby club

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

Since 1971, a group of Huffman community members organized a Lions Club that has supported the community and bridged the gap for many who have needed assistance. Last week, the club and district leadership extended a helping hand to Churches United In Christ in Crosby with a donation of \$3,000 to help with Hurricane Beryl recovery.



Lions Club leadership from Huffman and District 2 joined CUIC leaders for a check presentation of \$3,000 to help with Hurricane Beryl recovery efforts. Top row, from left, Skip Greenwade, CUIC board president; Mike George, Lions Club First Vice District Governor, District 2-S2; Dr. Shirley Ellisor, CUIC board secretary; Bill Simpson, Lions Club District Governor, District 2-S2; Leah Dyess, Miles Dyess, president of Huffman Lions Club; and Tom Landel. Front row, from left, Alicia Martinez, volunteer; Cedric Patterson, CUIC board vice president; Stephanie Arnold, CUIC board member; Vickie Davis, CUIC volunteer; Camilla Martinez, CUIC volunteer, and Jenna Landel.

Mike George, who serves as First Vice District Governor and is from Dayton, found out that the Crosby Community Center was giving out food following the hurricane and discovered the ministry of CUIC. He reached out to Dr. Shirley Ellisor, CUIC board secretary, and she explained their need to him. George contacted the Texas Lions Foundation and applied for a \$3,000 emergency grant that was funneled through the local Huffman club and presented to CUIC for assistance and recovery from the hurricane.

Continued. See LIONS CLUB SUPPORTS CUIC, Page 2

# Crosby's School Year starts Aug. 8; New HS addition

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families,

Welcome to August! Crosby ISD students return to class on Thursday, August 8th. The dawning of a new school year means new ways to grow and learn. In this week's column, I wanted to share some of what's new for the 2024-25 Academic Year.

This will be an exciting year of construction in Crosby ISD. The district just broke ground on the first new school construction project in eight years. Crosby High School is in the middle of a 75,500 square foot expansion that will increase classroom space by 50%. CHS will have a new academic wing that adds 32 classrooms, 8 labs, and room for more



Paula Patterson  
Crosby Superintendent

than 900 additional students. The Career and Technical Education (CTE) space at CHS is also expanding to add more welding booths, a new carpentry lab, and more opportunities to offer our students courses that will plug them into a career in the trades. We are using

Continued. See CROSBY SUPERINTENDENT, Page 5



GROUNDBREAKING FOR THE CROSBY HIGH SCHOOL EXPANSION MONDAY, JULY 29, 2024  
Pictured left to right: Trustee JR Humphries, Assistant Secretary Karen Thomas, Secretary Heather Barrett, President Kea Lynn Lewis, Superintendent Paula Patterson, Vice President Jennifer Roach, Trustee Lisa Kallies, Trustee Phillip Chapman. PHOTO OF NEW BUILDING ON PAGE 5

# Sheila Jackson Lee Honored, Lies in State in City Hall Rotunda

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. ~ Monday, July 29, 2024 ~ As the sun came up early Monday morning the late Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee's (S JL) mourners began making their way to Houston's City Hall Rotunda where they showed their respect to her and members of her family. Jackson Lee is only the second person to lie in state in City Hall in Houston's history. She was 74 when she died on July 19 after being treated for pancreatic cancer.

Husband Elwyn Lee, daughter Erica and son Jason could be seen next to her casket accepting condolences from hundreds of Shelia's friends and con-

stituents. After the public's viewing of her flag draped casket the line of people signed a guest attendance book before exiting city hall.

The best way I can describe the death of "THE CONGRESSWOMAN" as she's been referred to by most everyone is her passing has shocked millions, locally and across the nation. She's one of those people you'd never expect to not often see or hear or read about on some news media outlet of accomplishing some benefits for people in need. She gave so much of herself to others it makes me wonder if this led to her not being able to take the amount of time needed to look after her own health.



Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee

SJL was no ordinary elected official, so it's fitting and deserving her goodbye ceremonies will not be normal either. They'll be four days of sep-


arate ceremonies honoring the late U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee. "I attended the first of four, the kick-off ceremony today Monday morning (7-

29-24) and took the casket photo for this article for the North Channel Star newspaper and its other papers (Star Courier, Northeast News)." With the heat-in-

dex over 107 degrees thousands lined up in the sweltering heat to say goodbye to their beloved congress-  
Continued. See Sheila Jackson Lee Honored, Page 5



Sheila Jackson Lee's casket lies in honor at the Houston City Hall Rotunda. (Exclusive photo by Allan Jamail)

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Community Resource CREDIT UNION



# Huffman Lions Club supports CUIC for Beryl Recovery,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"It couldn't have come at a better time for us," said Ellisor, who said they had been hard pressed to meet the need in the community.

"This will provide for more water, food, and cleaning supplies for those struggling to recover from Hurricane Beryl," she said.

Lions Club District Governor Bill Simpson from the Humble club attended the presentation of the check and also brought along some good news.

"We'd like to organize a new Crosby club, sooner rather than later," he said.

George echoed the feeling and has begun the

work to have the first organizational meeting by the end of August.

"Anyone who would like to know more about the Lions Club, can contact me, or Tom Richard at the Chamber of Commerce," he said. The Huffman Lions Club is a member of the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce.

There are 16 districts in Texas alone, governed by a district governor, and Huffman, Humble, and the future Crosby club all fall into District 2 which hosts 53 clubs over seven counties including the Houston metro area.

Several years ago, there was a Lions Club in Crosby that disbanded

during the pandemic.

"Crosby High School still has a Leo's Club at the high school that's very active and we hope to pair them with their own Crosby Lion's Club beginning in August," Simpson said.

Simpson said that once the Crosby club was up and running, he hoped that they would adopt CUIC as one of their projects to assist with not just funds, but food distribution and any other efforts offered by the charity.

Ellisor said they were already familiar with the Lions Club because of the active Leos Club at Crosby High School, the youth organizational arm of the

Lions Club.

"They are wonderful service kids," Ellisor said. "They are our biggest student supporter at CUIC. They're hard workers and we appreciate them so much."

Currently, they are sponsored by the Huffman Lions Club, but Simpson said they would move them back to the Crosby club once it was operational.

Miles Dyess has been a member of the Huffman Lions club for 25-plus years and said they stay busy.

One of their biggest events is at their annual Easter Egg Hunt at First Baptist Church in Huffman.

"This year we provided rides, balloons, about 8,000 eggs, popcorn, and cotton candy. It was a big show," he said.

They are also annual sponsors of the Unified Show at the Huffman Hargrave FFA Livestock Show each year in January.

"Last year, we purchased approximately \$5,000 worth of projects

and donated them back for resale," he said. The money benefits the students who ultimately use it to purchase more projects or use it for scholarship money.

In late September, they host the Fun Festival at the I. T. May Center, one of their fundraisers where they sell popcorn, cotton candy, and funnel cakes.

"The Leo Club, our students at Huffman ISD, come out and sell sausage on a stick," he said. The Leo's are members beginning at age 11 and up, led by Christine Jordan.

They also send students to the Texas Lions Camp every year providing them opportunities for fun and leadership learning.

The Lions Club, however, is known for their investment in eye care.

"We have eye glass boxes to collect old ones and donations all over the community," Dyess said.

"We have a facility in Conroe that rehabs the glasses, cleans and sterilizes them, and then we're able to give them away to

people who need them," he said.

They meet on the second Monday of the month at the I. T. May Center in Huffman at 7 p.m. On the fourth Monday they meet at Los Compadres Restaurant in Huffman at the same time.

"Our students in school who have eye problems, the nurses work with us and optometrists in the area and we can give them a free eye exam, and the first pair of glasses they receive for free," he said.

To become a member of the Lion's Club, fill out an application found on their website and club members pay dues of \$50 twice each year.

"We are always looking for new members who are interested in being involved in the community and are ready to roll up their sleeves and give back," Dyess said.

Simpson said they are looking at several large projects for the Lions District in the coming months and they would like to make sure that Crosby is included.



## Notice Final Environmental Assessment Available for Public Review FARM-TO-MARKET ROAD 2100 From Huffman-Cleveland Road North to State Highway 99 Control Section Job (CSJ): 1062-02-011 Harris County, Texas

This notice advises the public that the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has issued a final environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 2100 improvement project, and that the final EA is available for public review. The proposed project would improve FM 2100 from Huffman-Cleveland Road to State Highway (SH) 99 in Harris County, Texas.

The approved final EA is on file and available for inspection Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the Houston District Office, 7600 Washington Avenue, Houston, TX 77007, (713) 802-5000. It is also available online at [www.txdot.gov/projects/projects-studies/houston/fm2100-sh99-huffman-cleveland.html](http://www.txdot.gov/projects/projects-studies/houston/fm2100-sh99-huffman-cleveland.html).

Pursuant to 23 CFR 771.119(h), TxDOT will issue a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for this project no sooner than 30 days after the issuance of this notice of availability.

For further information or to request a copy of the approved final EA, please contact David Jamar, Environmental Project Planner, (713) 802-5132, [David.Jamar@txdot.gov](mailto:David.Jamar@txdot.gov).

The EA is written in English. If you need an interpreter or document translator because English is not your primary language or you have difficulty communicating effectively in English, one will be provided to you. If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. If you need interpretation or translation services or are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation to review the EA, please contact Gabriel Adame, TxDOT Public Engagement Coordinator, at (713) 802-5199 no later than 4 p.m. CT, at least three business days before the date on which you would like to review the EA. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for TxDOT to arrange.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

## GOOSE CREEK CISD NEWS

### Back to School



As we gear up for an exciting new school year at Goose Creek CISD, we are thrilled to announce our upcoming back-to-school events! These events are designed to help students and families kick off the school year with enthusiasm and confidence.

**Meet the Teacher Night** for elementary students will be on August 8. This is a fantastic opportunity for our youngest learners to meet their teachers and get acquainted with their classrooms.

**Junior High Tadpole Camp** for new 6th graders will be on August 5. This camp is a great way for our incoming students to walk the campus and get comfortable with their new school environment.

**Junior High Open House** will take place on August 27. Parents and students are invited to tour the school, meet teachers, and learn about the exciting programs and activities available.

**High School Fish Camp** for new 9th graders is scheduled for August 8. This event will help our new high schoolers transition smoothly and confidently into their new academic setting.

Finally, **High School Open House** will be on September 17. This is a perfect opportunity for parents and students to connect with teachers and learn about the various courses and extracurricular activities offered.

Welcome back to school, Goose Creek CISD! Let's make this year the best one yet!

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## Dayton

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2024

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

### ON THE HILL

#### ONEOK Emergency Drill Ongoing

We are conducting a full-scale tabletop exercise at Mont Belvieu as a preparedness exercise for a natural disaster. Please don't be alarmed if you notice any larger emergency response vehicles coming in and out of the area over the next few days. We are working with local authorities, and this is just a drill.

#### Mont Belvieu City 811 Day + Touch a Truck August 10

Saturday, August 10, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | City Park  
Join us at the Mont Belvieu City Park for a day of fun & awareness. You'll find representatives from local industry leaders, info on how to start a project at home that involves digging, and lots of hands-on activities.

#### MB City Park - Anything but a Boat Race

Saturday, September 7, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. | City Park  
Get ready for a race like no other! Join us for the exhilarating Anything But A Boat Race, where participants will defy convention and race in vessels that are anything but traditional boats. Leave your expectations at the shore and embrace the creativity and ingenuity of this one-of-a-kind event. Details & registration will be posted summer 2024.

#### Walk-A-Thon October 5

Saturday, October 5, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | City Park  
Mark your calendars as the city of Mont Belvieu comes together for a meaningful cause. Our Walk-A-Thon fundraiser is dedicated to supporting a local fund, which offers crucial financial assistance to community members undergoing cancer treatments.

## Houston Methodist Baytown achieves High rankings in Latest U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals List

**BAYTOWN – (July 19, 2024)** — U.S. News & World Report has ranked Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital as tied for No. 18 in Texas and tied for No. 7 in the Houston metro area in its 2024-25 Best Regional Hospitals list. The rankings are based on scores in patient care, patient safety, outcomes, nursing, advanced technology and reputation.

"This recognition highlights the dedication of our entire team of employees and providers who strive to meet the highest standards in safety, quality and service," stated Adrienne Joseph, CEO of Houston Methodist Baytown. "Every day, we are focused on providing unparalleled care for our community and it fills me with pride to see our efforts rewarded among such a prestigious group."

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital was also recognized for several high-performing procedures and conditions,



U.S. News & World Report recently ranked Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital as the No. 7 hospital in the Houston metro area and No. 18 hospital in Texas.



Adrienne Joseph, CEO of Houston Methodist Baytown

including: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; colon cancer surgery; diabetes; heart attack; heart failure; kidney failure;



pneumonia; and stroke. At the system level, Houston Methodist Hospital in the Texas Medical Center was once again

named to U.S. News & World Report's Best Hospitals Honor Roll and named the No. 1 hospital in Texas for the 13th year in a row. U.S. News has ranked Houston Methodist Hospital in at least one specialty for the past 32 years and has placed it on its Honor Roll for the eighth time. Additionally, three other Houston Methodist community hospitals ranked regionally including: Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital ranked No. 9 in Texas and No. 6 in the Houston metro area; Houston Methodist The Woodlands Hospital ranked No. 8 in Texas and No. 5 in the Houston metro area; and Houston Methodist Willowbrook tied for No. 23 in Texas and No. 9 in the Houston metro area.

For the full list of rankings, visit [health.usnews.com/best-hospitals](https://www.health.usnews.com/best-hospitals).

**About Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital**  
Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital has pro-

vided Baytown and east Harris, Liberty and Chambers counties with excellent medical care since its opening in 1948. The hospital continues to grow to meet the health care needs of its growing community through an ongoing construction and renovation program that has seen the opening of a new five-story patient tower, emergency center, outpatient center and medical-surgical units. As a health care leader, the hospital is proud to have a fully integrated residency program focused on educating and inspiring future practitioners. Today, Houston Methodist Baytown provides the most advanced and innovative procedures while never wavering from its focus on compassionate care and providing a safe, patient-centered healing environment. [Houstonmethodist.org/baytown](https://www.houstonmethodist.org/baytown).

## Baytown PD Investigates 1992 Cold Case Homicide of Melvin McAfee

The Baytown Police Department is investigating the cold case homicide of Melvin McAfee, a resident of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Melvin, who was born in Chicago, Illinois, was found deceased in Baytown at the age of 41. In June of this year, through a three-year partnership initiated in 2021 with the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, Othram, and the FBI – Investigative Genetic Genealogy, we successfully identified the victim as Melvin McAfee.

On April 19, 1992, at

approximately 6:00 p.m., the Baytown Police Department responded to a deceased person call in the 700 block of Tri City Beach, Baytown, Texas. Upon arrival, officers discovered the body of an unknown male, lying face down in a concrete drainage ditch just south of the Southern Pacific Railroad on Tri City Beach Rd. The body was covered by several sheets and blankets.

An autopsy was conducted by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences on April 19, 1992. The death of this unknown black male was classified



Melvin McAfee

as a homicide. The body was exhumed on August 11, 2021, and transferred to the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences for further analysis. Additional genetic testing and

investigative work confirmed the victim's identity as Melvin McAfee on June 14, 2024.

Chief of Police John Stringer states: "The Baytown Police Department is dedicated to pursuing justice for victims and their families. We are thankful to our partners at the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences and the FBI's Investigative Genetic Genealogy Unit for providing their expertise, which helped identify this victim. While it has been 32 years, this investigation is not over. Our detectives need the assistance of any-

one with information on this case to come forward."

Any information regarding this case is crucial to providing closure to Mr. McAfee's loved ones. We urge anyone with information to contact Baytown Crime Stoppers, your tip will remain anonymous. You can call the Baytown Police Department at (281) 422-8371 or Baytown Crime Stoppers at (281) 427-TIPS (8477). Tips can also be submitted online at <https://www.p3tips.com/tipform.aspx?ID=544>, or through the P3 Tips app available on the Apple Store or Google Play.

## State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR)

### Overview of STEAR:

**Purpose:** STEAR provides local emergency planners and responders with essential information on community members who may require extra help during evacuations, sheltering, or other emergency situations.

**Eligibility:** The registry is open to individuals with disabilities, those with access and functional needs, limited mobility, communication barriers, or those requiring medical or personal care assistance during emergencies.

**Registration:** Registration is voluntary and can be completed online through the STEAR website or by calling the designated phone number.



### State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR)

The State of Texas offers the option to register with the STEAR program, a free registry that provides local emergency management planners and responders with information related to your needs during an emergency.

### Who Should Register?

- People with disabilities
- People who are medically fragile
- People with functional needs such as:
  - Limited mobility
  - Communication barriers
  - Require additional medical assistance during an emergency event
  - Require personal care assistance
- People who require transportation assistance



Register online at [Stear.tdem.texas.gov](https://www.stear.tdem.texas.gov)



Call 2-1-1 or use your video phone relay option of choice

Registering in STEAR **DOES NOT** guarantee you will receive a specific service during emergencies.

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OPINION PAGE

TRIBUTES To Sheila Jackson Lee



State Representative Armando Walle:

I'm heartbroken at the passing of my former boss & mentor @JacksonLeeTX18. In 2001, I was young & didn't know much about politics as her staff. SJL quickly taught me about being relentless for your constituents. She was driven & immensely loyal. She always had my back and I was always grateful. Rest in power SJL.

Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia:

Words cannot fully express the impact of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. The word 'tireless' gets thrown around in politics, but there's no one I've ever met with that kind of work ethic who could compare Congresswoman Jackson Lee. Her work didn't only benefit the Houstonians she represented for decades; it helped make our nation better for all Americans. Saying she will be missed is an understatement. My condolences to her family and to all who loved her. Thank you, Congresswoman, for your dedication to our city, county, state and country.

Former Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner:

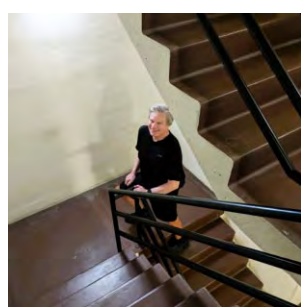
I am deeply saddened by the death of my dear friend and colleague, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. From City Hall to the Halls of Congress, Sheila Jackson Lee has served her constituents well. She has written and passed key legislation and has stood on the floor of the United States House of Representatives speaking passionately for the interests of her district and the country she loved. She has worked with and advised Presidents of our great country, met with global leaders, and has been embraced by world renowned artists. But her work on the ground, in some of the poorest and under-resourced communities; the channeling of billions of federal dollars back to her district; her presence at someone's bedside, giving words of comfort to families who lost loved ones; her appearances at places of worship and events showcasing the global diversity of our City; and her uncanny ability to be everywhere, working every day for those who needed a champion, made her truly exceptional.

When she was elected to the United States House of Representatives she stood in the shadow of Barbara Jordan, Mickey Leland and Craig Washington. Without question, she rose to the occasion and served with great distinction. Even if you disagreed with her politics, you had to respect her work ethic. We can honestly say Sheila Jackson Lee left it all on the field. Rest in peace my sister. Thank you for all you gave us. And, thank you to her family for sharing her with us. We will not forget her sacrifice or yours. Sheila - to God be the glory for the good you have done. It was truly a job well done!

Americanisms
Sheila Jackson Lee
'Her strength and stamina were truly never-ending and her determination to rally a chorus to the fuse of justice was unwavering.'
---Tribute from Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Climbing the Stairs



I told my husband, Peter, when he first announced the idea, that I thought it was dumb.

I probably didn't say 'dumb,' because I try to be nicer than that. But I let him know that I thought his idea of getting exercise by climbing stairs in the stairwell was, well, kind of dumb.

'Find out if I can access the stairs in the stairwell!' he told me, after we had purchased this condo, sight unseen, during the pandemic. We didn't see it for almost two years. When we were finally ready to move, the movers were late, and we had to change our airplane tickets. So I flew out to see our condo for the first time without Peter.

I'm going to tell you honestly, it was not impressive.

The condo had been occupied by the woman who bought it when the building was built in the 1980s. She died right there at home, and things had gone downhill toward the end. Other than a fresh coat of paint on the walls and ceiling, very little updating had been done. So I was seeing all this for the first time, and Peter's big concern was whether the stairwell was accessible so he could climb the stairs.

It was, I reported. But I couldn't imagine how that would be any fun at all.

When Peter finally moved in to the condo, he started climbing the steps in the stairwell—12 rounds a day. The building is 20 stories high, and the top 17 are accessible, which means he climbs 238 stories every day.

That works out to 2,856 stairs, if you are interested in doing the math.

While I walked the neighborhood and admired the old mansions and the manicured gardens and the friendly dogs, Peter climbed the stairs every day, seven days a week.

If this wasn't dumb, it certainly seemed a little crazy to me.

But the thing I didn't count on is that Peter didn't go down the stairs. That would be hard on his knees, he explained. He took the elevator down to the third floor and then climbed up those 17 stories. Then he did it again. And every time he took the elevator down, he had a conversation with a different person in our building.

He got to know the young working professionals and the retired folks. He got to know the housekeeper who cleans up the public areas and the maintenance man. He got to know all the dogs who were going out for a walk and all the people who owned them.

And Peter became kind of famous.

He started carrying business cards with our name and picture on them and handed them out when he met new people. 'You're the wife of the guy who does the stairs!' strangers said to me.

So when there was a vacancy on the condo board, it should have come as no surprise that Peter was asked to fill it. Campaigning for a seat on the board was about the last thing Peter would ever do, but everyone on the board knew him by now, and he seemed like a smart choice.

Of course he was. Now Peter spends a lot of time reading documents and attending meetings for his new duties as board member.

Eventually, after the weather warmed, he bought a bike, and he started riding around town. I have to believe this is more enjoyable. But if there is rain in the forecast, Peter doesn't hesitate. He climbs the stairs.

And when the weather is fine, I'm sure everyone in the elevator misses him.

Till next time, Carrie

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

PUC Outlines Consumer Protection Rules

As the dog days of August approach and electric bills soar, the Public Utility Commission is reminding consumers of rules in place to protect them from having their power disconnected due to financial difficulties, especially during extreme heat.

'Ensuring the power stays on for all Texans, regardless of their financial situation, is a top priority for all of us at the PUCT,' Executive Director Connie Corona said.

Several utilities have suspended disconnections to allow customers to recover from Hurricane Beryl, which caused widespread outages, particularly in the Houston area.

Consumer protection rules require electric providers to offer bill payment assistance programs, though electric cooperatives and municipally owned utilities in Texas are not subject to this rule; however, most offer some form of bill assistance. Options include a payment arrangement or a deferred payment plan.

Customers seeking assistance should start by contacting their electric provider. They can also learn what assistance programs are available in their area by dialing 211.

MIGRANT APPREHENSIONS DROP TO 2021 LEVELS

The number of migrants apprehended by federal officers in June was at its lowest level in more than three years, according to figures released by the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol and reported by The Texas Tribune. Border Patrol agents apprehended 83,356 migrants in June across the southern border, down from 117,901 in May and the lowest since January 2021, the month President Joe Biden took office.

'Recent border security measures have made a meaningful impact on our ability to impose consequences for those crossing unlawfully,' acting CBP Commissioner Troy A. Miller said in a statement. 'We are continuing to work with international partners to go after transnational criminal organizations that traffic in chaos and prioritize profit over human lives.'

Biden issued an executive order, effective June 5, that es-



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

sentially ended granting asylum to migrants.

Gov. Greg Abbott in previous statements has credited the state's multibillion-dollar mission, Operation Lone Star, for the decline in migrant apprehensions, The Tribune reported.

TEXAS SECOND-WORST STATE FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH OUTCOMES

A new report from a national women's health nonprofit concludes Texas is among the lowest performing states for women's health outcomes, Texas Public Radio reported.

Only Mississippi ranked worse in the study by the Commonwealth Fund, which analyzed data on maternal mortality, insurance access and other factors in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

One major issue is the lack of maternity care centers or obstetricians in many rural Texas counties, with 46% defined as 'maternity care deserts.' The state also ranked last in the country for health care access and affordability.

'It means that women enter their pregnancy having had less access to health care, particularly if they're poor or low income, and in a poorer health situation than they would have been in had they had health insurance coverage,' said Sara Collins of the Commonwealth Fund.

FEDS OK SNAP HOT-FOOD PURCHASES IN BERYL-AFFECTED COUNTIES

Federal food assistance recipients in 36 counties affected by Hurricane Beryl can use their benefits to buy hot foods and ready-to-eat meals, the

Texas Health and Human Services Commission announced last week.

The approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture applies to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients in Angelina, Austin, Brazoria, Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, Hardin, Harris, Houston, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Lavaca, Liberty, Madison, Matagorda, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Polk, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler, Victoria, Walker, Waller, and Wharton counties.

'The ability to purchase hot food is a necessity for SNAP recipients who are still recovering from the effects of Hurricane Beryl,' said HHSC Deputy Executive Commissioner of Access and Eligibility Services Molly Regan. 'Many families still cannot prepare meals due to power outages.'

No action is required of SNAP recipients to receive this additional benefit. To find local resources, such as food and shelter, dial 211 and select Option 1.

EXPERTS: POWER OUTAGES LIKELY TO CONTINUE

Experts say widespread outages such as that caused in July by Hurricane Beryl, and in recent years by other weather-related events, are likely to continue in the future because the state's massive power grid is unprepared for severe weather events, The Tribune reported.

The state had 210 weather-related power outages from 2000 to 2023, according to data from the U.S. Department of Energy — more than any other state. In July, Beryl knocked out power to 2.6 million customers in Southeast Texas. That came on the heels of a mid-May windstorm, known as a derecho, that hit the Houston area with 100-mile-per-hour winds and knocked out power to 1 million customers.

'It's like the big, bad wolf: huff and puff and blow the house down,' said Michael Webber, an energy resources professor at the University of Texas at Austin. 'And I don't think any utility or city designs for weather like that, at least not weather that frequent.'

The state's stand-alone power grid will need decades of public investment in order to make it more resilient against storms, which down poles and power lines across Texas.

'The current distribution infrastructure isn't adequate apparently for the job at hand,' Michael Skelly, CEO of Grid United, said. 'What level of reliability do we want to try to get to and what are we prepared to invest?'

Both CenterPoint and Oncor have proposed investing billions to strengthen poles and wires, and install underground wires, but that will likely come at a cost to consumers.

'Ultimately, the bill is going to get loaded onto the backs of the customers, whether or not they were pleased with how [the power outage] was handled,' Sandra Haverlah, president of the Texas Consumer Association, said.

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# Sheila Jackson Lee Honored,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Mourners line up to honor Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee at the Houston City Hall Rotunda. At right, husband Elwin Lee greets wellwishers and thanks them for their presence. (Photo by Allan Jamail).

woman.

The former municipal judge, City Council member and longtime Democratic member of Congress layed in state in the City Hall rotunda all day today (Monday). Jackson Lee's more than 30 years as an elected representative from Houston warranted Mayor John Whitmire bestowing her with the highest honor he possibly could, he said.

"This is a celebration," Whitmire said. "God does not allow us to choose when we lose a loved one, or friend, or colleague, but he does allow us to celebrate their lives, and pay our respects, and honor them."

Whitmire opened the proceedings Monday morning outside the City Hall steps alongside Jackson Lee's family and other elected officials. The group then ushered into the rotunda, where they quietly

stood in front of Jackson Lee's casket as a Houston Symphony string quartet played "Amazing Grace and Ave Maria."

"Her honorable reputation far exceeded the boundaries of the 18th Congressional District in Houston. She had no boundaries when it came to helping someone. "We loved her because we trusted her to look out for those of us in need of help. She was instrumental in getting Harris County's residents some of the nation's first COVID virus testing performed, myself included. She fought for those who needed someone to defend them or to get them their fair share of services to improve their lives. She was a voice for those who are voiceless." She was the congresswoman, who helped lead federal efforts to protect women from domestic violence and recognize Juneteenth as a national holiday will never be forgotten.

President Joe Biden came in the afternoon, he placed his hand on her casket and said goodbye to her. He also visited with her family and offered his condolences to them.

The words that Biden wrote in the guest book, after he placed a bouquet of flowers near her flag draped casket & bowed his head in prayer and then signed the guest book with these words; "FEARLESS, PROUD, AND BOLD. MAY GOD BLESS A DEAR FRIEND AND GREAT AMERICAN. MAY GOD BLESS YOU, SHEILA JACKSON LEE."

"No matter the issue — from delivering racial justice to building an economy for working people — she was unrelenting in her leadership," Biden said.

I'll be attending her final funeral ceremony on August 1st at the Fallbrook North Church. Look for next week's newspaper for my photos and article.

# Precinct 2 crews busy removing Storm Debris



Wednesday, 7/24/2024 - Harris County picking up vegetative debris in a Precinct 2 neighborhood in Aldine. Not everyone has their debris separated into types of debris—vegetative (trees, shrubs, etc.), construction (fences, shingles, etc.), or other debris. If your vegetative debris is mixed with other types of debris, it's possible the county will not pick it up. (Photo by Marina Sugg)

# Crosby Superintendent's Message,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



March 7, 2024 (Crosby, TX) - Today, Superintendent Patterson and members of the Operations and Finance teams went over the final floor plan review for the expansion of Crosby High School. Program Manager representative, Robert Arcement with Lockwood, Andrews, and Newnam, reviewed the changes made to schematic drawings. The new academic wing will feature two floors, each with 16 classrooms and 4 labs, for a total of 32 classrooms and 8 labs. The CTE section of Crosby High School will also be expanded to the south side of Crosby High School. The review process during the last few months was able to add 4 classrooms to the original plans, by reducing unnecessary collaborative and flex spaces. 4 additional classrooms is room for approximately 100 additional students. In total, the CHS expansion will provide room for 900 additional students. The CHS expansion project will go out for construction bids in the next few weeks, followed by final approval by the Board of Trustees. Construction is expected to begin in June with completion in November 2025.

funds from the 2017 voter-approved bond to build the additions. It's an exciting time to see construction work begin again as we expand and improve the learning environments for our students. Students and families will see the construction barriers and hear heavy equipment, but the work should not have a major impact on the traffic flow around CHS this year. The new academic wing and CTE space are expected to open in late 2025.

ed at each campus in the district. We are aiming to have teachers work even closer with curriculum coordinators to make behind-the-scenes connections that can transform learning in the classroom. Principals and other campus leaders are plugged into the curriculum process like never before. District and campus leaders devoted three full work days this summer to developing new strategies to nurture academic growth in our 6900 students.

School. We also want to welcome Mr. Kyle Leonard to Crosby ISD as a new assistant principal at Crosby Middle School. Mr. Kody Griffin and Ms. Alexis Cisneros are also new to the district as new assistant principals at Crosby High School. Ms. Christina Castillo is also returning to Crosby ISD as our new Director of Elementary Curriculum & Instruction. Ms. Castillo previously worked as a teacher and coordinator in the district. Welcome back!

We are launching a new communications platform across the district. Teacher-parent chats, permission forms, district alerts, principal newsletters, and much more will now be shared through ParentSquare. It's an app and website designed to be convenient for families. Some parents will elect to have their non-emergency notifications sent throughout the day, while others have the option of receiving a digest of daily communications at 6pm. Head to www.crosbyisd.org/parentsquare to watch "how to videos" and read more about signing up for ParentSquare.

We are expanding our reading incentive program called "Pages for Pizza." We launched this as a pilot program during summer school in partnership with Marco's Pizza here in Crosby. We're now expanding it this fall for students in kindergarten through 5th grade. Our young readers will have goals for the amount of pages read to earn a free pizza at Marco's. We want to thank Marco's franchise operator, Mr. Clarence Howell, for his support.

Finally, I wanted to share our new theme for the year. Our Leadership Definition Task Force aligned with our "Portrait of a Graduate" strategic plan to develop a series of five Cougar Commitments. Each year, we'll focus on one of these core pillars: Excellence, Community, Students, Staff, and Service. This year, we are Committed to Excellence!

There are new faces, new promotions, and familiar faces in new roles this school year. We want to congratulate Ms. Allison Weaver on her new assignment as the Associate Principal of Crosby Middle School. Ms. Weaver was previously an assistant principal at Crosby High

I can't wait to see our schools filled with laughter and learning again. May our families be blessed as we return to our back-to-school routines. May our students be hungry for knowledge, and may our staff members be recharged, refreshed, and ready to lead.

We are Committed to Excellence! Go Coogs!

# Sales Tax Holiday,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"For a quarter of a century, Texans have saved more than \$1.8 billion on everything from blue jeans to ballpoint pens in preparation for the back-to-school bell," said Hegar of the sales tax holiday weekend, an annual event since 1999. "As the father of three, I know firsthand how these expenses add up over the years, and this weekend is the perfect time for folks to save some of their hard-earned cash on items they need."

The Comptroller's office estimates that shoppers will save \$143.4 million in state and local sales tax during this year's sales tax holiday.

Apparel and school supplies that may be purchased tax free are listed on the Comptroller's website at TexasTaxHoliday.org.

During the annual sales tax holiday, qualifying items can be purchased tax free in person or by

any other means including over the internet, by telephone, or by mail. Purchases are exempt when either:

- the item is both delivered to, and paid for by, the customer during the exemption period; or
- the customer orders and pays for the item, and the seller accepts the order during the exemption period for immediate shipment, even if delivery is made after the exemption period ends.

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STATE OF TENNESSEE, DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

v. BUSTER DARLISON SMITH

Docket No. V-23-033

The State of Tennessee, Department of Children's Services, has filed a petition in Bradley County Circuit Court, seeking to terminate the parental rights of Buster Darlison Smith to the child, Jakob Austan Riehl, b. 7/01/2016.

A trial in this case is set for October 25, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Buster Darlison Smith must appear before this Court on that date to determine whether his parental rights to the subject child should be terminated and forever ended. The Court is located at 155 N. Ocoee Street, Cleveland, TN 37311.

**If Buster Darlison Smith does not come to the trial, the State will ask the Court to allow it to proceed without contest.** That means that the State will ask the Court to let it present proof without having any lawyer appear and defend Buster Darlison Smith's rights in Court.

Any appeal of this Court's final disposition of the complaint or petition for termination of parental rights will be governed by the provisions of Rule 8A, TRAP, which imposes special time limitations for the filing of the transcript or statement of evidence, the completion and transmission of the record on appeal, and the filing of briefs in the appellate court, as well as other special provisions for expediting the appeal.

You may obtain a copy of the Petition and any subsequently filed legal documents or hearing dates in the Circuit Court Clerk's Office located at 155 N. Ocoee Street, Cleveland, TN 37311. This will constitute appropriate service on him for all future filings in this case.

28-4t

## Screenings to Identify Disabilities

CISD Special Education department provides screenings for children with suspected disabilities in an effort to identify every student with a disability who lives within the district's boundaries. Crosby ISD is committed to providing excellence in education to all students, and the screenings are designed to help identify children who may qualify for the district's special education programs. Eligible students with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21 can be provided with services to ensure their successful participation in school. These services and supports may be provided through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act. Special education services are also available starting at birth for eligible children who have a visual and/or auditory impairment.

If you know a child who may be challenged with a disability, please contact the Crosby ISD Special Education office at 281-328-9200, Extension 1108. If the child is already a student in Crosby ISD, please contact the counselor at the child's school. The counselor will be happy to assist you.

The special education personnel will coordinate efforts to evaluate the student and, if eligible, ensure that the student is provided with supports and services needed to benefit from instruction.

28-3t

**ESTATE SALE**   **ESTATE SALE**   **ESTATE SALE**   **ESTATE SALE**

## ESTATE SALE

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THURSDAY Thru  
SATURDAY  
9:00 am TO 5:00 pm

28-1T

**LEGAL NOTICE**   **LEGAL NOTICE**   **LEGAL NOTICE**   **LEGAL NOTICE**   **HOUSE FOR RENT**   **HOUSE FOR RENT**   **HOUSE FOR RENT**   **LEGAL NOTICE**   **LEGAL NOTICE**

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE - RFP #25-002

The Barbers Hill Independent School District is accepting proposals for a multiple award bid for:

### Restaurant Branded Personal Pizza for Resale

Proposals will be accepted on or before: **2:00 p.m., Friday August 16, 2024**

The RFP can be obtained by visiting <https://www.bhisd.net/departments/financetax-office/purchasing> or contact Amy Presley at 281-576-2221 ext. 1268 to obtain a copy of the RFP.

The school district reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, waive any formalities and/or technicalities in the proposal and award the contract to the best proposal that serves the interests of the district. The district may negotiate with vendors that submit viable proposals.

29-2t

### HOUSE FOR LEASE

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28-2T

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27-4T

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 525320; Estate of JOYCE VERNELLE (PEET) TWITTY Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on JUNE 5, 2024 to:

### JOY JOHNELLE MOSES

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 JUNE 13, 2024

  
by WESTON COTTEN  
Attorney for the Estate

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### PET MATTERS

In Memory of Susan Hoffman



## Houston BARC receives \$25,000 grant to support lifesaving work

HOUSTON – BARC, the City of Houston’s Animal Shelter and Adoption Center, is set to receive a \$25,000 grant investment from national nonprofit Petco Love in support of their lifesaving work for animals in Houston.

Petco Love is a national nonprofit leading change for pets by harnessing the power of love to make communities and pet families closer, stronger, and healthier. Since its founding in 1999, Petco Love has invested nearly \$400 million in adoption and other lifesaving efforts. And Petco Love helps find loving homes for pets in partnership with Petco and more than 4,000 organizations — like ours — across North America, with 6.8 million pets adopted and counting.

During Hurricane Beryl, BARC faced significant challenges, including power outages and generator failures, resulting in the loss of refrigerated medication and a temporary halt in adoptions. The shelter also received damage to outdoor horse stalls and fences. Staff worked tirelessly through the storm to ensure the safety of the animals while intake continued, and this grant will help restore essential vaccines, repair damaged property, and support ongoing lifesaving efforts.

“In times of a disaster like Hurricane Beryl, we know animal shelter staff are strained as they work tirelessly to keep pets in their care safe while also facing hurdles brought on by the severe weather emergency,” said Susanne Kogut, president of Petco Love. “We are proud to support our partner organization, BARC, to ensure their shelter pets get the best possible care after the storm and before they are adopted into loving homes.”

“We are deeply thankful to Petco Love for their generous grant, which comes at a critical time for BARC as we recover

from the impacts of Hurricane Beryl,” said Jarrad Mears, BARC’s Shelter Director. “This lifesaving investment will enable us to not only restore vital vaccinations lost during the storm’s power outages and repair damaged property but also to strengthen our efforts in saving more lives. Their partnership allows us to continue providing the highest standard of care to our pets and serve our community with resilience and compassion.”



POWERED BY 

BARC takes in more than 20,000 pets annually regardless of behavior, breed, or medical condition. BARC works each day to improve Houstonians and their pets’ health and safety by pioneering programs such as low-cost and no-cost spay/neuter services, mobile adoptions, transfer/rescue partnerships, and pet registration and microchipping. BARC is also committed to public safety through animal enforcement, which answers calls for service from the community and investigates cases of animal cruelty.

For more information about BARC Animal Shelter, visit [www.HoustonBARC.com](http://www.HoustonBARC.com). Learn more about Petco Love here: [petcolove.org](http://petcolove.org).

## FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers now Open for help

Harris County, TX, July 18, 2024, The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has opened five Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) locations in Harris County for residents seeking federal aid after the recent disasters in Harris County, including Hurricane Beryl.

“There is so much need in Harris County after Hurricane Beryl and the other two disasters we’ve been through recently, but the good news is that help is here. I’m so glad that our community is already applying for this assistance that does not have to be repaid, and we are working hard to spread the word. Thank you to President Biden and FEMA for helping us get these crucial recovery resources out into the community as quickly as possible. Right now our community needs all the help we can get, and so I also encourage anyone who is able to help out their neighbors by volunteering,” said Judge Lina Hidalgo.

FEMA has already received more than 315,000 applications for Individual Assistance for Harris County residents affected by Hurricane Beryl.

How to Apply for FEMA Aid (Individual Assistance):

Residents affected by Hurricane Beryl, the derecho and/or the San Jacinto River flooding can apply for direct financial assistance from the federal government under FEMA’s Individual Assistance (IA) program to cover the cost of support like home repair and temporary housing at any of the DRC locations. People who have damage from more than one of the recent disasters will need to submit a separate application for each disaster.

People can visit any of the Disaster Recovery Center locations below to apply for direct FEMA aid:

- Acres Homes Multi-Service Center: 6719 W Montgomery Rd, Houston, TX, 77091
- Thomas A. Glazier Senior Education Center: 16600 Pine Forest Lane, Houston, TX, 77084
- Denver Harbor Multi-Service Center: 6402 Market St, Houston, TX 77020
- Spring Spirit: 8526 Pinner Rd, Houston, TX 77080
- Leon Z Grayson Community Center: 13828 Corpus Christi St, Houston, TX 77015

People can also apply for aid by visiting [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov), calling 800-621-FEMA or by downloading the FEMA app. Anyone can find the

closest DRC location to them using [fema.gov/drc](http://fema.gov/drc).

How to Apply for SBA Low-Interest Disaster Loans:

The Small Business Administration has also opened two Business Recovery Center (BRC) locations in Harris County for businesses seeking low-interest disaster loans, which are designed to help cover the cost of economic loss during a disaster. Businesses can visit any of the Business Recovery Center locations below to apply:

- Trini Mendenhall Community Center: 1414 Wirt Rd, Houston, TX 77055
- University of Houston-Downtown (UHD): Room B106, 1st Floor, 320 North Main St, Houston, TX 77002

People can also apply for SBA loans online at [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster) or calling 800-659-2955.

Please visit [www.readyharris.org](http://www.readyharris.org) for more information on hours and parking at DRC and BRC locations. Additionally, people who need more information about DRCs or people who are interested in volunteering to help those affected by Hurricane Beryl can call 2-1-1.

You can read the Star-Courier current and back issues on our website:  
[www.starcouriernews.com](http://www.starcouriernews.com)

## ENTERTAINMENT

July 29, 2024 Posting Date

### King Crossword

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**ACROSS**  
 1 Swear  
 5 Understood  
 8 Six-pack units  
 12 Slightly  
 13 French assent  
 14 October birthstone  
 15 Sultry Horne  
 16 Annoying  
 18 Michelangelo works  
 20 Pumped (up)  
 21 Medit. nation  
 22 “— Blue?”  
 23 Cook in the oven  
 26 Sun spot  
 30 Take courses?  
 31 Pie — mode  
 32 Felon’s flight  
 33 Fake ally  
 36 Cavorts  
 38 Mel of baseball  
 39 UFO crew  
 40 Top floor  
 43 Cargo  
 47 First-termers  
 49 Contrite one  
 50 Staffer  
 51 Brit. record label  
 52 Actress  
 53 Colonial flag maker  
 54 “Norma —”

**DOWN**  
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 2 Cab alternative  
 3 Trig function  
 4 Equilibrium  
 5 Really dig  
 6 Belonging to us  
 7 Dead heat  
 8 Universal  
 9 Per person  
 10 Handle  
 11 Santa’s ride  
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 27 Carrier to Amsterdam  
 28 Napkin’s place  
 29 Ambulance initials  
 31 Invoice fig.  
 34 Loud sounds  
 35 Engrave  
 36 GPS suggestion  
 37 Egyptian deity  
 39 Golfer Els  
 40 Miles away  
 41 Half a sextet  
 42 Turner and Danson  
 43 Disaster aid org.  
 44 Get overemotional  
 45 Prefix with pad or port  
 46 Snare  
 48 Mal de —

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### Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

MOM, SINCE MY BIRTHDAY IS NEXT WEEK I THINK I’M ABLE TO DO OLDER STUFF.  
 NOW THAT I’M BIG I CAN STAY UP LATER AND EVEN WATCH SCARY MOVIES.  
 EVENTUALLY I MIGHT GET OLD ENOUGH TO HELP OUT WITH DOING THE LAUNDRY.  
 FUNNY, YOUR FATHER HASN’T HIT THAT AGE YET.

LET’S GET THE GROUND RULES CLEAR SO WE DON’T ARGUE.  
 BALLS HIT OVER THE FENCE ARE HOMERS. UNDER IT, TRIPLES.  
 BALLS LOST IN THE BUSHES, DOUBLES.  
 BALLS THAT HIT THE WIRES OR HYDRANT ARE FAIR.  
 BALLS THAT HIT ANY PART OF THE TREE ARE FOUL.  
 THAT COVERS ALL POSSIBILITIES! LET’S PLAY BALL!

TIGER  
by Bud Blake

MY WIFE LET ME REMOVE ALL OF HER CLOTHES LAST NIGHT...  
 ...FROM THE DRYER.

The Spats  
by Jeff Pickering

### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

7		5		2				1
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:**  
 ♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
 ♦♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Hand is moved. 2. Ear is larger. 3. Man is thinner. 4. Avning is different. 5. Tree is moved. 6. Cap is larger.

**Answers**  
 King Crossword  
 Solution time: 23 mins.

### Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION: What was SpongeBob SquarePants’ original name when the story was pitched?
- MOVIES: Which famous horror film was set at Crystal Lake, New Jersey?
- LANGUAGE: In Great Britain, what are stabilisers?
- MUSIC: Which band had a hit with the 1961 “The Lion Sleeps Tonight”?
- GEOGRAPHY: How many U.S. states have a border with Mexico?
- MATH: How many sides does a hectogon have?
- INVENTIONS: In what year were flat-screen TVs first sold?
- FOOD & DRINK: What kind of cheese is used in a caprese salad?
- U.S. STATES: Which state’s nickname is “The Land of Enchantment”?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What kind of dog is Scooby-Doo in the animated cartoons?

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8. Fresh mozzarella. 9. New Mexico. 10. A Great Dane.  
 5. Four: California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. 6. 100. 7. 1997.  
 1. SpongeBob. 2. “Friday the 13th.” 3. “Training Wheels.” 4. The Tokens.

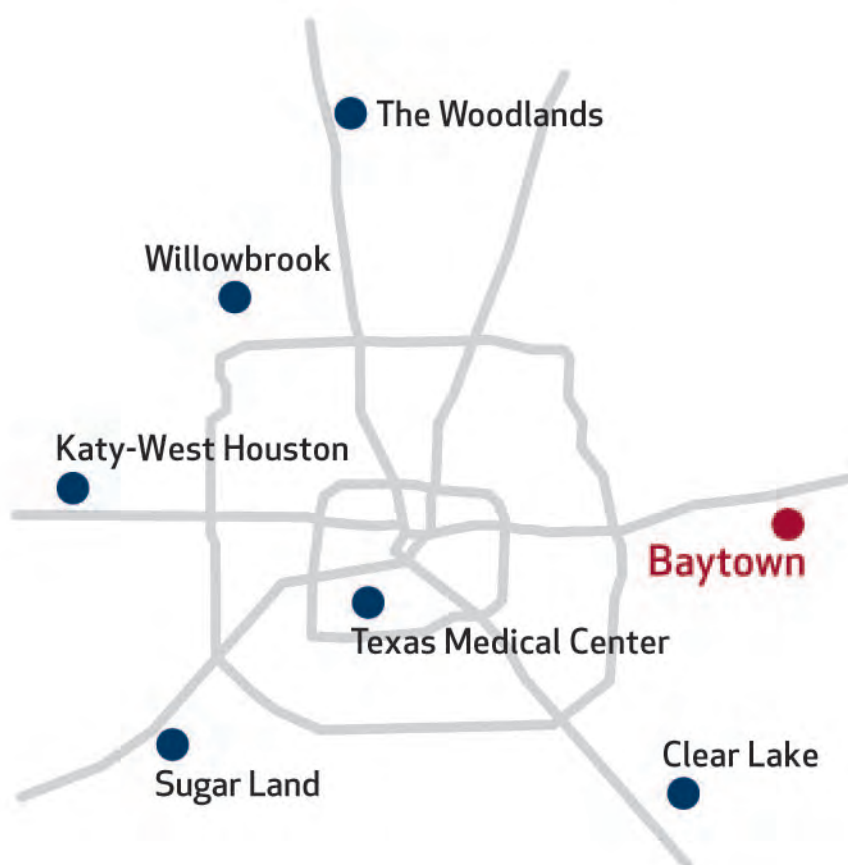




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