



Jackie Medcalf recently made a presentation to the community regarding the northern site cleanup on the San Jacinto River Superfund site. STORY BELOW and PAGE 5.

HIGHLANDS

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IN THE STARS

Harris County Debris Drop-Off

Residential debris drop-off sites are now open for Harris County residents to take their vegetative, construction, and demolition debris free of charge. A monitor will be on site verifying Harris County residency.

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EPA Evaluating Proposal for the San Jacinto River North Site Cleanup

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

The Texas Health and Environment Alliance (THEA) continues to be a thorn in the side of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over the cleanup of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site which continues to date.

Last Tuesday, July 30, the group met in Highlands, just miles from the site itself, to discuss successes and future work that needs to be done. Completion is on the horizon after decades of work to push the process along.

The contamination extended to both the northern and southern locations of the bridge over the San Jacinto River. The good



Community members listened intently as Medcalf offered a PowerPoint presentation detailing the proposed cleanup of the northern site of the San Jacinto River superfund site.

news is the southern portion of the cleanup is finally deemed complete.

"It's a big accomplishment," said Jackie Med-

calf, THEA founder and CEO.

Medcalf and THEA have been involved since 2011 pushing to hold the

EPA and the polluters accountable.

"Even though it's complete on the books, we still have some concerns," she

said. Contractors only dug out and remediated approximately 10 feet deep.

"Area residents are worried about what might be deeper. At the southern site, the agency has never required the parties to look below 10 feet so it's the unknown that people are concerned about," she said.

"Local knowledge is everything. It's one of the most important components of this process and the locals say that the site was contaminated deeper than 10 feet," she explained.

Those concerns, she said, came from people who worked on it or knew someone that worked there in the 1960s.

Continued. See SAN JACINTO RIVER, Page 2

Crosby ISD Kicks off New School Year with Focus on Excellence and Growth

By CISD Supt. Paula Patterson

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families.

We are now a week into the 2024-25 academic year! This is a new year with new opportunities to learn, grow, and inspire. Our students entered the buildings and classrooms, and our teachers welcomed them with open arms. On the first day of school, our staff members dried tears, and they made our parents feel safe knowing their children are in loving environments. Now that our students, staff members, and families are settling into the routine of



Paula Patterson
Crosby Superintendent

the school year, I appreciate everyone's patience as our communities adjust to the back-to-school hustle and bustle. I made rounds on the first day of school, visiting each campus. I'm always impressed how the hallways

quickly empty as students return to what they know. Each day, over the course of the next 10 months, each child in our care has the chance to have their best day ever and move one day closer to fulfilling their purpose in life.

I saw on our campuses that teachers are diving right into bell-to-bell instruction. This summer, district and campus leaders devoted several days to developing new strategies to nurture academic growth for our 7,000 students. Principals and other campus leaders are laser focused on the curriculum

Continued. See CROSBY SUPERINTENDENT, Page 2

At Goose Creek, Our Giant Story responds to challenges

By GCCISD Supt. Randal O'Brien

Yes, we will begin another school year soon and as you may have guessed, our theme is Our Giant Story. More to come on that theme later. Well, I hope you all have had the opportunity to spend time with friends and family, taking a break this summer and focusing on recalibrating for the opportunities ahead in the new school year. It is essential to take these moments of rest and rejuvenation, as they prepare us to face new challenges with fresh energy and a renewed spirit.

At Goose Creek CISD, we



Dr. Randal O'Brien

no longer look at our career choice through the lens of survival, but rather we welcome our next challenge – whatever that may be, as we are confident that we will endure all things. We understand our mission is too great not to accept and we

will provide our community with high-quality academic choices, creating a culture of mutual respect and true partnerships with our families, all within a safe and secure environment. Simply put, when we educate well and love what we do, we ultimately elevate our society, empowering generations to come. Our commitment to excellence drives us to continually improve all that we do, to meet the diverse needs of our students and families. Goose Creek's dedication to quality is the cornerstone of our educational philosophy. Although public

Continued. See GOOSE CREEK CISD SUPERINTENDENT, Page 2

Crosby's "Old 300" Chapter of DAR gives out Annual Awards

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

They have hardly been in existence for seven months, but The Old Three Hundred Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Crosby is already busy logging hours of community service and making their mark in the Crosby area and across the state.

On Saturday, April 20, 2024, the organization gathered to recognize community and chapter members for their service over the past year. Organized in September 2023 to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the town, the group got busy adding to their ranks and laboring hard to meet rigorous re-



Donna Davenport was awarded the Historic Preservation Medal of Excellence with Laura Richard and Susan Armstrong.

quirements of the National Society of the DAR to bestow prestigious awards.

"All members contributed to the work of the chapter that gained recognition at the state level," said vice regent Laura Richard.

Jody Fuchs, who was awarded the prestigious Historic Preservation Medal at the TXDAR State Conference in March, was recognized with a chapter certificate for the award with copies of recommendation letters from State Rep. Briscoe Cain, Harris County Pct. 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey, Crosby ISD Superintendent Paula Patterson, and Crosby ISD School Board President JR Humphries, and photos from the state award event.

Donna Davenport was awarded the Excellence in Historic Preservation Medal. This recognition honors individuals or groups that have saved and/or preserved their local history. This award applauds contributions that contribute to the education of local history for the present and future. "Davenport led the efforts to create the biggest birthday party we have ever seen for Crosby's 200th birthday, bringing awareness to local history and its preservation," Richard said.

Landon Darjean, a senior at Crosby High School, was nominated unanimously by teachers, counselors, and administrators to be the chapter's first recipient of the pres-

tigious and esteemed DAR Good Citizen award.

"The committee chairwoman worked with the campus to find the deserving student and the chapter was happy to recognize Landon for his outstanding qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism," Richard said.

Susan Armstrong was presented with a certificate and flowers to celebrate her 50th year as a member of the DAR. Jennifer Meaux was honored for her 10 years of membership. The chapter recognized two of their Junior Members—Madalynn Davis as the chapter's Outstanding Junior, and Han

CONTINUED. See OLD 300 DAR, Page 5

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Crosby ISD Embraces New School Year with Commitment to Excellence,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

process, taking time to learn the fairly new STAAR assessment and how it impacts the fairly new accountability system. In reading, kindergarten through 3rd grade, students will receive 30 minutes of phonics instruction daily. We know that students who are strong in phonics have a higher likelihood of becoming strong readers. Decodable readers from Benchmark Phonics will go home with students on a weekly basis, and students will take home guided reading books each day. From day one, Crosby ISD has a laser focus on improving instruction and refining time on task.

Students are our biggest stakeholders, and parents, guardians, grandparents, and neighbors are our most important partners each year. We ask for your help to ensure students are in class on time. Every minute tardy is a lost minute of learning. Our campus leaders will be flexible with tardy notices the first few days of school as we work to adjust traffic flow patterns to make them as efficient as possible.

We are doing everything we can to minimize the disruptions to the wider communities as the beginning of the year gets underway. This summer, TXDOT re-timed the lights along FM 2100 from Huffman through Crosby and Barrett Station. Several turn arrows were also added. We have deployed deputies from the Precinct 3 Constable's Office to assist us with traffic lights during the first several weeks of school. There are always growing pains during the re-adjustment to the back-to-school routines. A reminder to all drivers to obey school zone speed limits and be mindful of the increase in school buses, car riders, children on bicycles, and students walking home. Never pass a school bus when the bus is stopped with flashing lights and a stop sign deployed. We encourage parents to ensure their bike riders are always wearing a helmet.

This is a year of construction in Crosby ISD.

Crosby High School is currently undergoing a major expansion project. With any construction zone, there will be heavy-duty equipment and large trucks frequently entering and exiting the campus. We do not expect major disruptions to the traffic flow around CHS, but periodic delays are inevitable. Again, we ask for patience on this vital project that will increase classroom space at CHS by 50%. The project is expected to be completed in the fall of 2025.

Cougar Stadium is receiving a facelift as you read this. The district is replacing the original turf field at Cougar Stadium. The new turf will be sturdier, stronger, more shock absorbent, and safer for student-athletes. The new turf is also more heat-resistant than the original turf, feeling about 35 degrees cooler on average than the original turf. The district will replace the track at Cougar Stadium following the conclusion of the high school football season.

Congratulations to two Crosby High School Class of 2024 graduates, Madison Dorsey and Katelynn Zavala. They earned scholarships from the Harris County Education Foundation this summer. Both graduates received \$2500 to put toward their college careers. Congrats, you two!

Finally, Crosby ISD's new theme for the year is "Committed to Excellence." From student growth to leader development and community dedication, we'll focus on one of our five Cougar Commitments each year. Those core pillars are Excellence, Community, Students, Staff, and Service. We'll always have those 5 in mind, but this year, we are focused on "Committed to Excellence."

Here's to a wonderful year. Let's make it the best year ever until next year! I look forward to seeing our families at events, games, performances throughout the year, and yes, graduation. It'll be here before you know it!

We are Committed to Excellence! Go Coogs!



Aerial view of Cougar Stadium. The new turf is being installed and will be ready for the start of Crosby High School's football stadium. Work on replacing the track has also been started. It will be completed following the conclusion of the football season.



Closer look at the new turf at Cougar Stadium. The new turf is sturdier, stronger, more shock absorbent, cooler, and ultimately safer for student-athletes.



Superintendent Patterson unveils the 2024-25 Crosby ISD theme at Staff Convocation. This year's theme is "Committed to Excellence."



Crosby High School Class of 2024 graduate Madison Dorsey received a \$2500 scholarship from the Harris County Department of Education this summer.



Crosby ISD students started the 2024-25 school year on August 8. Superintendent Patterson visited each campus in the district that day, including Barrett Elementary School.



Crosby High School Class of 2024 graduate Katelynn Zavala received a \$2500 scholarship from the Harris County Department of Education this summer.



Superintendent Patterson started the first day of school by visiting with students and staff members at Crosby High School.

Goose Creek CISD Embrace a New School Year with Focus and Resilience

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

school funding has reduced via inflation, we will continue to provide relevant courses of the highest caliber and ensure that no other provider will match what we do regarding school choices, or the quality of education delivered or the commitment of our teachers and staff. We maintain this level of commitment to our families because it is simply the right thing to do!

There may be political distractions swirling around our nation this fall, however, our ongoing projects coming to fruition, like the needed facilities completed from our 2019 bond, our annual budget recalibration and our competitive pay package approved by our board for our teachers and staff, underscore our commitment to attracting and retaining top talent from our region. I am happy to report that we are starting the school year off with a singular focus of honing in on the academic success of every child. Which brings me back to our theme, Our Giant Story. Our Communi-

ty Engagement Team will be rolling out more information on this engaging opportunity, but suffice it to say, that we believe in the power of connecting with each other, both on a personal and professional level. In doing so, we will create a certain synergy that comes through the power of selflessness and connectedness. You see, as teachers, we understand that what we do is not about us, but about providing a pathway or opening a doorway or shining the light on what was once unknown. We believe that education is the key to a brighter future and by shifting the paradigm of how our children think, to become self-sufficient, critical thinkers with strong character and a high-quality education, we know they will be equipped to achieve anything they set their minds to as young adults entering our society!

We too are prepared for any challenge that may come our way – a hurricane, a flood, a pandemic, a freeze – in fact, we no

longer claim to be survivors; we have become conquerors, and we have proven it time and time again. Our resilience and adaptability are testaments to the strength of our community and our unwavering dedication to our students' success. These experiences have only served to fortify our resolve to handle whatever comes our way.

If you are new to Baytown, Highlands, West Chambers or Goose Creek CISD – welcome to the land of the Goose! We are thrilled to have you join our community, and we look forward to working together to create an environment where every student can and will thrive. We want to thank each and every one for being a part of this incredible journey. I look forward to hearing about your Giant story as we make this school year one of personal and professional growth and excellence in all that we do, while we are in Our Giant Era.

EPA Weighs Approval for San Jacinto River North Superfund Site Clean up,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

For now, however, the EPA says that testing will occur during the 5-year review period after the remedial action.

"Our immediate concern is the TxDOT bridge replacement because their plans show the support structures will go 100-feet below ground and it's going to be right on the edge of that southern impoundment. We're extremely concerned about what will be encountered for the bridge replacement," she said.

THEA has pushed for the EPA to coordinate with TxDOT and earlier this year at a community advisory meeting, for the first time, for them both to be at the same meeting.

"Since they will be working near a superfund site, they will have hazmat crews that will be present during their construction. In my opinion, it shouldn't be tax dollars that pay for waste pit contaminants that are encountered. It should be the responsible parties," Medcalf said.

She believes the

northern site is moving in the right direction, but we're not comfortable enough with the 100 percent design to submit it.

"The timeline is a huge problem," she lamented. "They are going to be isolating the site with this double wall cofferdam structure that will be 30-feet wide. This is going to be a monstrous structure and the 7-year timeline stretches out the risks of that site getting hit with a hurricane or flooding," she explained.

The original decision by the EPA was to get it done in 2.5 years and that could still happen, but it's up to the EPA to put their foot down to get it excavated as soon as possible, according to THEA.

"Our position is that the risk of year-round excavation is not as great as stretching it over a 7-year period," she said.

The threat is that six inches of flooding over the threshold would cause the area to flood within two hours. Then the question is how to take care of the spillage.

"It's important for

people to know that this 100 percent design is not final, and it has not been approved by the EPA, but it could be so that's why we're talking about it to let everyone know the ball is in the EPA court," she said.

The EPA could approve the design, or take over the site with an independent contractor that will provide more trust and integrity than the responsible parties.

"It will mean that it's not a company hired by the polluter to clean it up," she said.

Medcalf said an EPA takeover would also mean an additional six months to one year delay which she said they were comfortable with considering the responsible parties have 700 days of delays.

"To agree to a shorter timeline and get it done with more integrity, a six-to-12-month delay is worth it," she said.

Barbers Hill Press

Dayton

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2024

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Reserved BH Football Season Ticket Information

Barbers Hill ISD has an online ticket platform for reserved tickets for all home Varsity Football games. All tickets will be sold online or at the gate. BHISD has implemented the following processes and guidelines for purchasing tickets to the home Varsity Eagles football games that are scheduled for the dates listed below:

Friday, August 30 vs. New Caney Friday, September 6 vs. Manvel (Hall of Honor) Friday, September 20 vs. Richmond Foster Friday, October 4 vs. Baytown Sterling (Homecoming) Friday, October 18 vs. Beaumont United (Youth Night) Friday, November 8 vs. Beaumont West Brook (Senior night)

Online reserved seating renewals will be available August 5, 2024 through August 16, 2024. During this time, you will be able to purchase the same tickets you had in 2023. If you are not satisfied with your current seat selections, you may forgo the purchase of the reserved seats and wait for the general public sale on August 19, 2024. Each seat packet is \$45 for the season.

Reserved seats not bought during the renewal period will be sold to the GENERAL PUBLIC online beginning on Monday, August 19, 2024.

Ticket sales are final and are non-refundable.

All reserved tickets will be digital. The District will no longer print physical reserved tickets.

Upon purchasing a 2024 season ticket package you will receive an individual digital ticket (one) for all six home games. Be sure to save your tickets somewhere safe to be scanned at each game! Or, download the HomeTown Fan App to easily store your tickets on your smartphone.

Get your Tickets:

1. Search your school.
2. Choose the event.
3. Read the Event info and tap "Buy Tickets"
4. Choose your tickets and quantity
5. Enter your payment and contact info, then tap "Submit"
6. Your tickets are saved in the app

Judge Dismisses Most Claims in Barbers Hill Hair Length Lawsuit

HOUSTON — A federal judge on Tuesday dismissed most of the claims in a lawsuit filed by a Black high school student who alleged that school officials committed racial and gender discrimination when they punished him for refusing to change his hairstyle.

The ruling was another victory in the case for the Barbers Hill school district near Houston, which has said its policy restricting hair length for male students instills discipline while teaching grooming and respect for authority.

But in his order, U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Brown questioned whether the school district's rule causes more harm than good.

"Not everything that is undesirable, annoying, or even harmful amounts to a violation of the law, much less a constitutional problem," Brown wrote.

The Associated Press left phone and email messages seeking comment with the school district and George's attorney, Allie Booker, on Tuesday.

George, 18, was kept out of his regular high school classes for most of the 2023-24 school year, when he was a junior, because the school district said his hair length violated its

dress code. George either served in-school suspension at Barbers Hill High School in Mont Belvieu or spent time at an off-site disciplinary program.

The district has argued that George's long hair, which he wears to school in tied and twisted locs on top of his head, violates its policy because it would fall below his shirt collar, eyebrows or earlobes if let down. The district has said other students with locs comply with the length policy.

George and his mother, Darresha George, filed a federal civil rights lawsuit last year against the school district, the district superintendent, his principal and assistant principal as well as Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and Attorney General Ken Paxton.

The suit also alleged that George's punishment violates the CROWN Act, a new state law prohibiting race-based hair discrimination. The CROWN Act, which was being discussed before the dispute over George's hair and which took effect in September, bars employers and schools from penalizing people because of hair texture or protective hairstyles including Afros, braids, locs, twists or Bantu knots.

The lawsuit alleged the school district's policy was being enforced mainly on Black students. But Brown said George had not shown "a persistent, widespread practice of disparate, race-based enforcement of the policy."

The lawsuit also alleged that George's First Amendment rights to free speech were being violated. But Brown wrote that George's lawyer could not cite any case law holding that hair length "is protected as expressive conduct under the First Amendment."

Brown dismissed various claims that George's due process rights under the 14th Amendment were being violated. He also dropped Abbott, Paxton, the district superintendent and other school employees from the case.

The only claim he let stand was an allegation of sex discrimination based on the school district's lack of clearly defined policies on why girls could be allowed to have long hair but boys could not.

"Because the district does not provide any reason for the sex-based distinctions in its dress code, the claim survives this initial stage," Brown said.

Brown's order comes after a state judge in Febru-

ary ruled in a lawsuit filed by the school district that its punishment does not violate the CROWN Act.

At the end of his ruling, Brown highlighted a 1970 case in which a judge ruled against a school district in El Paso, Texas, that had tried to prevent a male student from enrolling because his hair length violated district policy. The El Paso judge's ruling was later overturned by an appeals court.

The judge in the El Paso case had written that "the presence and enforcement of the hair-cut rule causes far more disruption of the classroom instructional process than the hair it seeks to prohibit."

"Regrettably, so too here," Brown said in reference to George's case.

Barbers Hill's hair policy was also challenged in a May 2020 federal lawsuit filed by two other students. Both withdrew from the high school, but one returned after a federal judge granted a temporary injunction, saying there was "a substantial likelihood" that his rights to free speech and to be free from racial discrimination would be violated if he was barred. That lawsuit is still pending.

STATEMENT BY BHISD:

Judge dismisses Claims against District

Judge Brown's decision Aug. 6 to dismiss all charges of prejudicial behavior on the part of our district and its staff along with the Feb. 22 decision in state District Court by Judge Chap Cain validates what our district has maintained throughout this ordeal ... high expectations for all students in all things are not racist.

Our policies and our procedures for 95 years have been established by our community via a locally elected board of trustees. Having high expectations for all students in all things is why we are one of the highest achieving districts in the state and it is why parents of all ethnicities continue to move to our district in record numbers.

Our district will not succumb to a cancerous cancel culture that seeks to intimidate, falsely accuse and use race in a disingenuous way to serve a political end.

Tesla Cybertruck combusts after Crash in Baytown area, leaving One Person dead

CHAMBERS COUNTY, Texas — State troopers are investigating a deadly crash involving a Tesla Cybertruck in the Baytown area. The Incident Occurred on August 5th, 2024, at 1:45 a.m. on Fisher Road near the Grand Parkway.

Troopers with the Texas Department of Public Safety said the Cybertruck driver was heading west on Cedar Parkway when the vehicle left the roadway near Fisher Road for an unknown reason.

The Cybertruck hit a concrete culvert and went up in flames, DPS said. The driver died at the scene, DPS said. They have not been identified due to severe burns. DPS also said they could not identify the license plate or VIN due to the fire.



Automotive industry reporter David Tracy said that this incident is possibly the first fatal crash in-

volving the Cybertruck. Tracy said these types of fires need to be handled differently by first responders.

"My sincerest condolences to the family of whoever was in that vehicle. From a flammability standpoint,

EVs are not a significant-ly, more likely type of vehicle to catch fire. With that said the way electric vehicles combust is different," Tracy said.

Elon Musk, the founder and CEO of Tesla, claims that the vehicles are essentially indestructible, but this seems to be far from the case.

The National Transportation Safety Bureau has investigated Tesla crashes in the past but said it has not yet been called in to look into this wreck. Meanwhile, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said it's aware of the crash and fire and is getting additional information from Tesla. Media reached out to Tesla for comment, but hasn't heard back.

Disaster Recovery Centers Open in Baytown and Sunnyside August 7

AUSTIN — FEMA has opened two Disaster Recovery Centers in Harris County on August 7 to provide one-on-one help to Texans affected by Hurricane Beryl.

Center locations:
Sunnyside Health & Multi-service Center
4410 Reed Rd
Houston, TX 77051
Baytown Community Center
2407 Market Street
Baytown, TX 77520
The centers operate from

8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday – Saturday, closed Sunday. Any center can help with both Hurricane Beryl and the April 26-June 5 storms and flooding. To find a Disaster Recovery Center near you, go to [fema.gov/drc](https://www.fema.gov/drc).

All centers are accessible to people with disabilities or access and functional needs and are equipped with assistive technology.

Residents in **Austin, Bowie, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Jas-**

per, Jackson, Jefferson, Liberty, Orange, Matagorda, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Polk, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Walker, Waller and Wharton counties can visit any open center to meet with representatives of FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration. No appointment is needed.

To shorten wait times at Disaster Recovery Centers, Texans are encouraged to apply to FEMA online, by phone or using the FEMA

App before going to a center for follow-up help. To apply, homeowners and renters can:

Go online to [disasterassistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov).

Download the **FEMA App** for mobile devices

Call the FEMA helpline at **800-621-3362** between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. Help is available in most languages. If you use a relay service, such as video relay (VRS), captioned telephone or other service, give FEMA your number for that ser-

vice. Visit any Disaster Recovery Center.

To view an accessible video about how to apply visit: [Three Ways to Register for FEMA Disaster Assistance - YouTube](https://www.threeways.com).

For more information about Texas disaster recovery, visit: [fema.gov/disaster/4798](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4798). Follow FEMA Region 6 on social media at x.com/FEMARegion6 and on Facebook at [facebook.com/FEMARegion6/](https://www.facebook.com/FEMARegion6/).

OPINION PAGE

OPINION

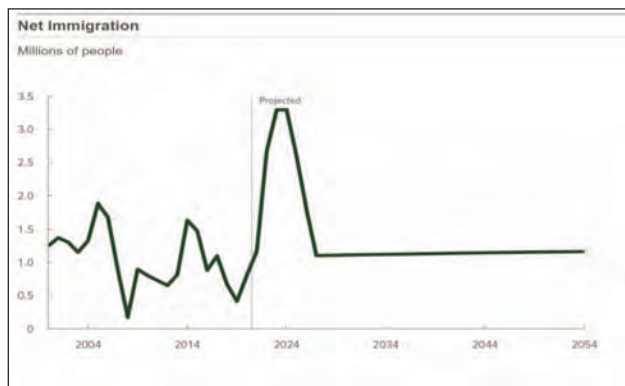
By BILL KING



Spike in Immigration will reduce Federal Deficit by nearly \$1 Trillion

Polling consistently shows that Americans are concerned about the surge in immigrants entering the county in recent years. While there certainly are many legitimate reasons for those concerns, it is also true that a larger population drives higher economic growth. Higher growth also increases tax receipts for all levels of governments, including the federal government.

The CBO projection is primarily based on its conclusion that the surge in immigration will result in a U.S. population that is nearly 9 million higher than its baseline projection. Its projections assume that increase took place/will take place during 2021-2026. It expects that immigration after 2026 will return to historical norms of slightly over one million new residents per year.



The CBO's estimates are based on some assumptions which are questionable. First, the CBO assumes that about half of the new immigrants will be legally employed. There are significant restrictions on immigrants' ability to legally work while in the U.S. For example, those here claiming asylum, but whose case has not been adjudicated, are not allowed to work unless granted special permission.

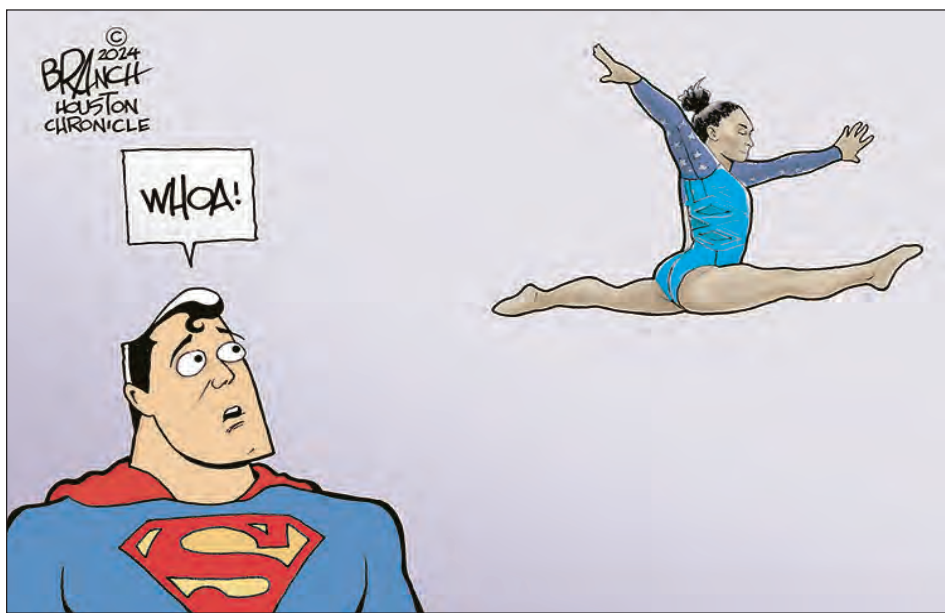
It is also important to note that the CBO included a significant caveat, that while immigration will likely benefit the federal government's finances, it will likely take a toll on state and local budgets. Increased revenues to state and local governments are not as a direct effect as the effect on increased payroll taxes for the federal government.

However, the important point the CBO report drives home is the link between population and economic growth. Those who long for a less crowded America must also recognize that fewer people also means fewer people buying groceries, eating out at restaurants, buying cars and building or renting homes. It means lower, perhaps even, negative economic growth.

Note 1 - The CBO return to normalcy in the immigration numbers could obviously be dramatically affected by the election results. If Trump is true to his promises, immigration could fall well below one million per year.

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

Americanisms advertisement featuring an American flag and the quote: "Barbeque may not be the road to world peace, but it's a start." - Anthony Bourdain



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Pattern of Abuse at Texas Juvenile Facilities

A federal investigation into five state facilities concluded children in custody face excessive force, sexual abuse and a lack of vital services, The Dallas Morning News reported.

At a news conference last week, Kristen Clarke, assistant attorney general in the Justice Department's civil rights division, said children held in those facilities are not receiving the treatment and rehabilitation they are supposed to get.

"Our investigation provides reasonable cause to believe that, far from achieving those objectives, TJJJD engaged in a pattern of abuse, deprivation of essential services and disability-related discrimination that seriously harms children and undermines their rehabilitation, all in violation of their rights," Clarke said.

In response, the Texas Juvenile Justice Department said it had made "several significant improvements" in staffing, educational programs and mental health care. The Legislature appropriated more than \$1 billion last session to improve youth facilities.

The youth facilities are located in Gainesville, Edinburg, Brownwood, Giddings and Mart.

Investigators found evidence of physical and sexual abuse, according to the report.

TXDOT ADOPTS LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

"Connecting Texas 2050" was adopted recently by the Texas Transportation Commission to help guide priorities in the next quarter-century. The plan establishes the vision, goals, objectives and strategic recommendations for the state's transportation system.

"With a growing population and new technologies changing how we move, these goals will help us plan for decades to come and connect future generations of Texans," Marc Williams, TXDOT executive director, said.

The agency held a series of public meetings to gather input from the state's citizens. Among the priorities listed were safety, alternative modes of travel, public transportation options and maintaining the state's existing transportation infrastructure.

To learn more about the



plan, go to www.ConnectingTexas2050.com.

COURT: BUOYS CAN STAY IN RIO GRANDE UNTIL TRIAL

A full panel of the U.S. Fifth Circuit of Appeals ruled last week that a 1,000-foot-long barrier of buoys can stay in the Rio Grande until a full trial is held. The buoys, meant to deter illegal migrants, were placed on orders by Gov. Greg Abbott. Their legality was challenged by the federal government, which argues their placement violates federal treaties between the United States and Mexico.

At issue is whether this stretch of river is navigable, according to a report in the Texas Standard. A trial over the legal merits was slated to start in an Austin federal court this week.

FLESH-EATING BACTERIA ON RISE ALONG COAST

Authorities are warning of an outbreak of flesh-eating bacteria, with nearly a dozen people infected thus far, The News reported. Galveston County officials said 11 cases of vibrio infections have been reported this summer, compared to just two at this time last year.

The bacteria occur in coastal waters and are found in higher concentrations when water temperatures are warmer. It can be contracted when an open wound comes into contact with coastal waters, or from eating raw or undercooked shellfish.

"There's no need to panic," Dr. Phillip Keiser, CEO of the Galveston County Health District, said in a statement. "Use common sense: avoid raw seafood, practice good hygiene, and stay informed to keep safe."

The Centers for Disease Control estimates 80,000 cases of

vibrio occur in the U.S. each year.

PUC GETS 72 APPLICATIONS FOR ENERGY LOAN PROGRAM

The Public Utility Commission received 72 applications for loans available through the Texas Energy Fund, which if all granted would provide \$24.41 billion to finance 38,379 megawatts of power generation projects in the region served by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas.

"Texans have made it clear that they expect reliable electricity today and well into the future, and I am pleased to see industry leaders responding to that call and planning for major investments in dispatchable power for the state," PUCT Chairman Thomas Gleeson said.

The program will provide low-interest loans to finance new construction or upgrades to existing power-generating facilities within the ERCOT region, which serves most of the state. Funding for the loan program was approved by Texas voters in a constitutional amendment election last November.

NINE TEXAS COURTHOUSES GET HISTORIC GRANT FUNDING

The Texas Historical Commission recently awarded more than \$46 million in preservation grants to historic courthouses in nine counties. Four grants for full restoration were awarded for courthouses in Comanche, Kimble, Van Zandt and Willacy counties.

Castro and Gonzales counties received planning grants that will create planning road maps for future restoration work. Donley, Duval and Refugio counties received emergency grants to address critical issues endangering these courthouse buildings and affecting their use.

THC has awarded more than \$400 million since the program's inception to restore courthouses in Texas.

"As part of our mission to save the real places that tell the real stories of Texas, we hope to work with even more counties in the future," Joseph Bell, THC executive director, said.

WATER BOARD DETAILS HOW IT WILL SPEND \$1 BILLION

The Texas Water Development Board last week began detailing how it will divide \$1 billion in taxpayer approved funds for water infrastructure and supply projects throughout the state, The Tribune reported. Up to \$45 million will be reserved for towns with fewer than 1,000 residents, while about \$130 million will go to towns with 1,001 to 10,000 residents.

The board said it plans to spend up to \$450 million toward existing financial assistance programs, \$90 million on water loss and conservation programs, and \$15 million on awareness and educational programming.

"We have a whole lot more applications that are submitted than we have capacity in any given program year to provide financial assistance," said Kathleen Ligon, interim assistant executive administrator at the Water Development Board.

The board has already received 68 requests for funding from this pot of money.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Tiny Tent



I haven't gone camping in a tent in a long time.

I grew up camping and, for much of that time, it was in a tent. My parents would take my sister and me to the Boundary Waters between Minnesota and Canada for about a week. We'd paddle our canoes from one lake to the next. We'd listen to the loons at night. We'd build a fire. We'd eat dried food—which miraculously tasted better the farther we paddled from civilization. We'd drink water right out of the lake, before we needed expensive filters. We'd use the latrine deep in the woods. I still vividly remember the time I felt flies landing on my behind—only to look down into the latrine and see a whiskered woodchuck looking up at me!

When I was a teenager, I went camping with a group of girlfriends. We called ourselves the "Future Old Maids of America," or FOMA for short, and had T-shirts made. (None of us remained very loyal to our cause.)

Much later, when I became a 50-year-old graduate student, I splurged on a nice one-person tent and a lightweight air mattress and a compact, fold-up chair. (I've noticed that with both camping gear and lingerie, the less material there is, the more it costs.) I loved camping in my tiny tent, as I drove from the Southwest to the Midwest and back, listening to coyotes and surviving the occasional thunderstorm.

So, when an opportunity to go tent camping came up, of course I was tempted.

My first cousins on my mother's side are having a reunion on Lake Ontario, east of Toronto. It's quite a way away, and my husband, Peter, and I had ruled it out because Peter has to attend an important condo board meeting that weekend.

I wasn't going to go without Peter, but several of my cousins had decided to go without their spouses and, as I got thinking about it, I wasn't sure how many more of these opportunities would happen in my lifetime. I am one of the youngest of my original 34 cousins on my mother's side. Several cousins have died, and none of them live close together. So this chance to drive to Canada and see a lot of my cousins in one place seemed like it might be important.

I wrote to my Canadian cousin, "Is it too late for me to tell you I'm coming?"

"Of course not!" she said.

I called up my sister. "Do you have room for me in your car?" I asked.

"Of course!" she said.

Her husband is a pastor and does not get much vacation, but my niece and nephew will be coming. And now, so will I. We will camp all the way up and stay in tents while we are there.

So I'm digging my fancy little tent out of the closet. I'm airing out my sleeping bag. I'm checking to see if my air mattress still holds air. I'm trying to remember how to assemble my complicated little chair. I'm pulling together all the things I will need in my tiny tent at night—a flashlight, a bottle of water, a puff jacket for the cold.

It will be fun to see all my cousins. I know that.

But, right now, I am looking forward to being in my tent again—sensing the changes in the weather, hearing the animals move around at night, feeling that I am entirely outdoors, with nothing but a thin layer of polyester between my tiny tent and the great open sky.

Till next time, Carrie

Advertisement for Star Courier newspaper, including contact information for Barbers Hill, Dayton, and North Channel stars, and subscription rates.

Crosby Celebrates 200th Anniversary with Formation of 'Old 300' DAR Chapter,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Crosby High School senior Landon Darjean was awarded the prestigious DAR Good Citizen Award by Regent Alicia Spear and Vice Regent Laura Richard.



Donna Davenport earned the Diamond Award for the Most Service Hours in 2023.



Susan Armstrong celebrated her 50 years of service with flowers and a certificate from Regent Alicia Spear.

nah Richard for her work as a Page at the Texas Society DAR State Conference in March 2024.

Chapter Regent Alicia Spear presided over a short graduation for three of the members for completing the NSDAR Genealogy Education Program (GEP) courses. Nancy Davis completed GEP course 3 and 4, Laura Richard completed GEP courses 1-5 and 7, and Susan Burgess completed the rigorous GEP Registrar's

Course.

The chapter awarded members for their significant hours of service as reported in the NSDAR's Service To America Online Tally. The Old Three Hundred chapter's total of service to the community totaled an amazing 4,263 hours of service. Donna Davenport received the Diamond Sparkling in Service award for her outstanding 1,434.5 hours of service. The Ruby Sparkling in Service award

went to Alicia Spear, Regent, and Michael Vosloh. The Emerald Sparkling in Service award was given to Frances Tisdale, and the Sapphire Sparkling in Service award was presented to Maggie Herron, Cathy Hill, Susan Armstrong, and Laura Richard, Vice Regent. The Member for Member award recognized daughters for bringing in verified members during the previous year. The chapter recognized Tatum MacNaughton, Laura Ri-

chard, Judy Smith, and Frances Tisdale.

There were many chapter awards given to members and to the chapter for their work, including recognitions for financial records, participating in the Boston Tea Party 250th Anniversary, promoting and hosting a local book club, supporting NSDAR projects such as planting pollinator gardens, supporting DAR Schools and the DAR museum. The chapter re-

ceived recognition for including a National Defense event in their annual program, and for their work to beautify and preserve the Lynch Cemetery and the gravesite of Humphrey Jackson and his wife, who were part of Stephen F. Austin's "Old Three Hundred."

The chapter is a growing and thriving organization with goals of providing support and service in the Crosby area. The next chapter book club is Thurs-

day, June 6 at 7 p.m. and the club is reading *The First Conspiracy: The Secret Plan To Kill George Washington* by Brad Meltzer.

The next chapter meeting is on Saturday, June 15 at 1 p.m. If you are interested in learning more about DAR membership, please contact the chapter at [HYPERLINK "mailto:old300chapterregistrar@gmail.com"](mailto:old300chapterregistrar@gmail.com) or old300chapterregistrar@gmail.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.03 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 5**.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.030000 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.028534 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.030079 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.044726 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2024 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 5** from the same properties in both the 2023 tax year and the 2024 tax year.

The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 5** may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 5** exceeds the voter-approval tax rate for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 5**.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 5**, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 5**.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 5** is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 22, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at EMS Station 1, 5915 FM 2100, Crosby, Texas 77532. **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 5** shall take action on the proposed tax rate on August 22, 2024, following the hearing to be held.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 5** is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Board of Commissioners of **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 5** at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property})/100$$

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR the proposal: **Sharon Cotton, Luther Brady, Larry Lee Hall, and James Blaha**
 AGAINST the proposal: **None**
 PRESENT and not voting: **None**
 ABSENT: **Brent Burley**

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 5** last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 5** this year.

	2023	2024	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.030000	\$0.030000	Increase of 0.000000 or 0.00%
Average homestead taxable value	\$185,999	\$196,364	Increase of \$10,365 or 5.57%
Tax on average homestead	\$55.80	\$58.91	Increase of \$3.11 or 5.57%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$863,653	\$937,853	Increase of \$74,200 or 8.59%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the District Counsel for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 5** at (713) 652-6500 or npierce@smithmur.com or visit www.hcesd5.org.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.046998 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of **HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 14**.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.046998 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.043226 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.045040 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.077221 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2024 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 14** from the same properties in both the 2023 tax year and the 2024 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 14** may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 14** exceeds the voter-approval rate for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 14**.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 14**, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 14**.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 14** is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 26, 2024, AT 12:00 PM AT 2301 EAST WALLISVILLE ROAD, HIGHLANDS, TX 77562.

HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 14 SHALL TAKE ACTION ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE ON AUGUST 26, 2024, AT 12:00 P.M., FOLLOWING THE HEARING TO BE HELD.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the voter-approval tax rate but not greater than the de minimis rate and does not exceed the rate that allows voters to petition for an election under Section 26.075, Tax Code. If **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 14** adopts the proposed tax rate, the **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 14** is not required to hold an election so that voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate and the qualified voters of the **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 14** may not petition the **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 14** to require an election to be held to determine whether to reduce the proposed tax rate.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property})/100$$

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR the proposal: **Jim Strouhal, Mark Taylor, Johnny Gaeke, Jerry W. Ickes**
 AGAINST the proposal: **None**
 PRESENT and not voting: **None**
 ABSENT: **Elaine Marshall**

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 14** last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 14** this year.

	2023	2024	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.045173	\$0.046998	Increase of 0.001825 per \$100, or 4.04%
Average homestead taxable value	\$189,477	\$192,662	Increase of 3,185, or 1.68%
Tax on average homestead	\$85.59	\$90.55	Increase of 4.96, or 5.80%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$566,188	\$697,209	Increase of 131,021, or 23.14%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact Coveler & Peeler, District Counsel for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 14** at 713-984-8222 or adkins@coveler.com, or visit www.hcesd14.org for more information.

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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

Public Notice – City of Baytown

Atlas Tower 1, LLC proposes the construction of a 145 ft. Self-Supporting communications tower (149 ft with appurtenances) located at 4949 BORUSAN Rd, Mont Belvieu, TX in the Baytown Census area, at latitude 29° 42' 33.55" N (NAD83) and longitude -94° 54' 36.83" W (NAD83). The proposed tower will not require lighting for FAA aviation safety. The proposed tower can be identified by FCC Form 854 File Number A1292668. Interested persons may review the application by going to www.fcc.gov/asr/applications and entering the FCC Form 854 File Number A1292668. Interested persons may raise environmental concerns about the proposed structure by filing a Request for Environmental Review with the Federal Communications Commission. The Federal Communications Commission strongly encourages interested parties to file Requests for Environmental Review online; instructions for making such filings can be found at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest. The mailing address for interested parties that would prefer to file a Request for Environmental Review by paper copy: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554.

LEGAL NOTICE **LEGAL NOTICE** **LEGAL NOTICE** **LEGAL NOTICE**

Public Notice – FM 3083 – Transco Ready Mix

Atlas Tower 1, LLC proposes the construction of a 125 ft. monopole communications tower (129 ft with appurtenances) located at 101 FM 3083 Rd, Conroe TX 77303, in Montgomery County, at latitude 30°20'52.18"N (NAD83) and longitude -95°27'32.4"W (NAD83). The proposed tower will not require lighting for FAA aviation safety. The proposed tower can be identified by FCC Form 854 File Number A1287899. Interested persons may review the application by going to www.fcc.gov/asr/applications and entering the FCC Form 854 File Number A1287899. Interested persons may raise environmental concerns about the proposed structure by filing a Request for Environmental Review with the Federal Communications Commission. The Federal Communications Commission strongly encourages interested parties to file Requests for Environmental Review online; instructions for making such filings can be found at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest. The mailing address for interested parties that would prefer to file a Request for Environmental Review by paper copy: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554.

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REV 30-2T

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 527041; Estate of LIZZIE HUGHES RODGERS a/ k/a & b/k/a JOANN RODGERS Deceased; In Probate Court No. 4 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on AUGUST 2, 2024 to:

DAVID LEE RODGERS

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 12, 2024



by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

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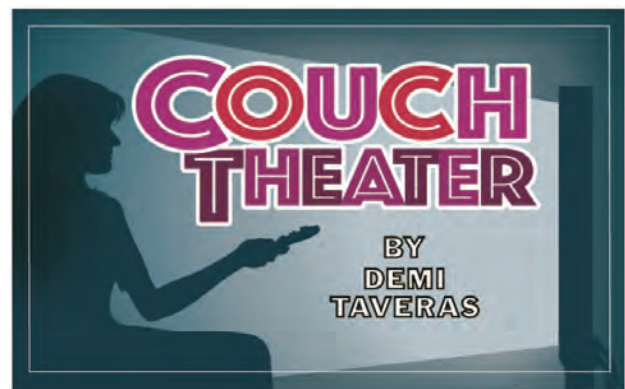


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Matt Damon, left, and Casey Affleck star in "The Instigators."

"The Instigators"

"THE INSTIGATORS" (R) — This new heist comedy film available now to stream stars none other than Matt Damon ("Drive-Away Dolls") and his best friend's little brother, Casey Affleck ("Oppenheimer"). It seems that the sexual harassment allegations surrounding Affleck during the #MeToo movement have become a thing of the past, as he begins to star in leading roles again. In this film, Affleck stars as Cobby, an ex-con with whom Rory (Damon) teams up for a once-in-a-lifetime score that will give Rory the money he needs to take care of his son. But with this being Rory's first heist, it's safe to say that nothing will go as planned. Luckily, he has Casey Affleck to show him the way, right? OK,

OK, putting my aversion for Affleck aside, if you do give this film a try, look out for Jack Harlow in his second film role ever. Acting seems to fit the rapper well. (Apple TV+) ***

"THE UNION" (PG-13) — Speaking of controversial actors from Massachusetts, this film dubbed as a "spy action comedy-thriller" stars Mark Wahlberg ("Arthur the King"). He portrays construction worker Mike, who runs into his high school sweetheart Roxanne (Halle Berry) at a bar in New Jersey. After a night of nostalgia and reminiscing together, Mike is appalled when he wakes up in London the following morning. Having drugged and brought him to the headquarters of her

organization, Roxanne reveals that she's a spy and that a list with the identities of every U.S. spy has been compromised by the enemy. So, she needs a "nobody" to train up in order to get the list back, and her old flame Mike is exactly that nobody. J.K. Simmons ("Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse"), Mike Colter ("Evil"), and Lorraine Bracco ("The Sopranos") co-star in the film, out on Aug. 16. (Netflix) ***

In Case You Missed It "CIVIL WAR" (R) — This dystopian thriller from A24 became the second highest-grossing film in the production company's history, suggesting that viewers greatly resonated with its plot of a modern civil war taking the U.S. by storm. The film follows a handful of war photographers and journalists who are in the throes of a conflict between an authoritarian version of the U.S. government and the secessionist forces, led by states like Texas and California. Through the eyes of these journalists, who come from all walks of life, viewers get to see firsthand how exhilarating and traumatizing it is to not only see these heinous acts of war up close but to photograph them frequently. Beloved actress Kirsten Dunst ("The Power of the Dog") leads this film, and her co-stars include her husband Jesse Plemons ("Killers of the Flower Moon"), Wagner Moura ("Narcos"), Cailee Spaeny ("Priscilla"), and Stephen McKinley Henderson ("Beau Is Afraid"). Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

(c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.



FQ: Did Cameron Diaz completely retire from acting? The last thing I remember her in was the musical "Annie." Is she ever coming back? — E.M.

A: A-list actress Cameron Diaz announced her retirement from professional acting in 2018, four years after the movie "Annie" came out, which was sadly considered a box-office bomb. She devoted the next several years to life with her family and appeared not to have any plans to work in Hollywood again.

But in 2023, she returned with a new project, a film with Jamie Foxx (her co-star from "Annie") titled "Back in Action." While filming in Atlanta, Foxx collapsed on the set and endured a lengthy hospitalization. It was touch and go for a while, but Foxx fortunately survived. Filming resumed earlier this year, and "Back in Action" is scheduled to be released on Netflix in November.

Diaz is continuing to build her filmography with "Outcome," a film written by, directed by and starring Jonah Hill ("Moneyball"). She will follow this with voicing the role of Princess Fiona again in "Shrek 5." After that, Diaz might want to take another break, but if not, we'll be thrilled to see her back on the big and small screens. ***

Q: I recently watched the movie "Queenpins" on Netflix, starring Kristen Bell. Is the movie based on a true story, and was one of them really a former Olympian? — K.L.

A: Yes and no. "Queenpins," a buddy comedy that "takes coupon clipping to a criminal level," according to Entertainment Weekly, is loosely based on a scam started by three women in Arizona who sold counterfeit coupons to purchasers in bulk. The fraudulent coupons looked so authentic that cashiers would override their registers, allowing them to go through. The manufacturers apparently suffered losses of hundreds of millions of dollars, according to EW.

None of the characters in the movie were exactly based on the real-life perpetrators or those involved in the investigation. Kristen Bell and Kirby Howell-Baptiste, who both starred in the NBC comedy series "The Good Place," played the fictional characters of a former Olympic gold medalist



Cameron Diaz (Upcoming in "Back in Action" and "Shrek 5")

and a wannabe influencer, who both become counterfeiters. Singer-songwriter Bebe Rexha co-starred as a computer hacker, alongside Vince Vaughn ("Bad Monkey") who portrayed a postal officer. ***

Q: When is "Chicago Med" returning with new episodes? Are there any big changes in the cast? — F.W.

A: NBC's "Chicago Med" returns for its 10th season on Wednesdays beginning Sept. 25 at 8 p.m. ET, followed by "Chicago Fire" and "Chicago P.D." on the same night. Dominic Rains, who played Dr. Crockett Marcel, has exited the show after five seasons, paving the way for two new characters. Sarah Ramos ("Parenthood") and Darren Barneet ("Never Have I Ever") joined the medical team as physicians.

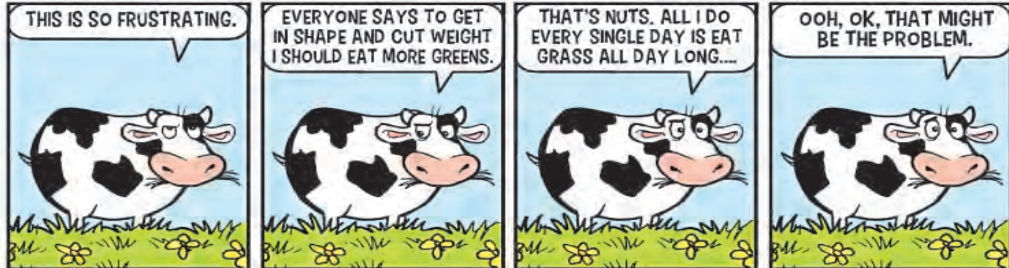
Meanwhile, season 12 of "Chicago P.D." will welcome Toya Turner ("New Amsterdam") as a new officer, and Dermot Mulroney ("My Best Friend's Wedding") will debut as the new chief on "Chicago Fire," following Eamonn Walker's departure last season.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

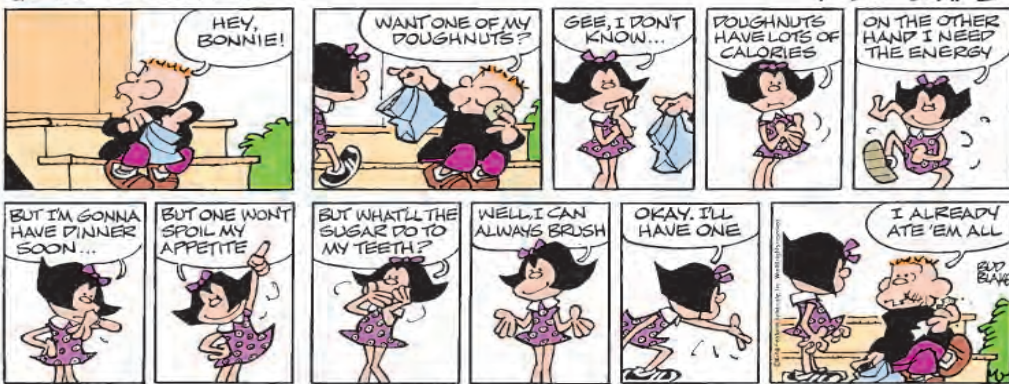
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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



TIGER



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. Grid with numbers 5, 9, 1, 8, 2, 7, 4, 3, 6, 8, 5, 7, 2, 6, 8, 3, 4, 3, 6, 5, 1, 4, 3. Includes difficulty level: Moderate, Challenging, HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS by Henry Boltinoff. Two panels of a man looking at a doghouse. Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Shingles are different. 2. Bowl is larger. 3. Doghouse opening is different. 4. Bottom of shirt is different. 5. Paw is moved. 6. Finger is moved.

August 12, 2024 Posting Date King Crossword. Grid with clues: ACROSS 1 Persian leader, 5 Kipling hero, 8 Dull sound of impact, 12 Earring site, 13 Enzyme suffix, 14 Bagel feature, 15 River to the Baltic, 16 Boom times, 17 Director, 18 Spanish explorer, 20 Some babies, 22 Contemplate anew, 26 Vatican VIPs, 29 Television, 30 Italian article, 31 Jazzy, 32 Automaton, for short, 33 Farmland unit, 34 Oklahoma city, 35 Weir, 36 Grove units, 37 Contemplate anew, 40 Eyebrow shape, 41 Excuses, 45 Pocket bread, 47 Passing craze, 49 Aloe —, 50 Scott Turow book, 51 German conjunction, 52 Black, in verse, for short, 53 Go by, 54 Nonclerical city, 55 Lairs, 7 Camper's din-nerware, 8 Daring swimwear, 9 Tabasco, for one, 10 Last (Abbr.), 11 "Gloria in Excelsis —", 19 Surprised cries, 21 Rowing need, 23 Model, Campbell, 24 Concerning, 25 Burnian turn-downs, 26 Bartlett, for one, 27 Shoppe descriptor, 28 Mollifies, 32 Timid, 33 Showed up, 35 Pol. party org., 36 Business card no., 38 Face-to-face exams, 39 — Warbucks, 42 Actress, Neuwirth, 43 Press, 44 Without, 45 Soda, 46 Chef Garten, 48 Santa — winds. © 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez. 10 questions: 1. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin prefix "audio-" mean in English? 2. TELEVISION: Gladys Kravitz is the annoying neighbor in which TV comedy? 3. ANATOMY: About how many taste buds does the average human tongue have? 4. GEOGRAPHY: The Brandenburg Gate is in which European capital city? 5. HISTORY: Who was the leader of the Soviet Union during WWII? 6. MOVIES: Which movie features the line "I'm the king of the world!?" 7. MYTHOLOGY: What is the name of the Egyptian sun god? 8. LITERATURE: "The Great Gatsby" is set in which U.S. city? 9. MONEY: What is the basic currency of Poland? 10. FOOD & DRINK: Which country is associated with the side dish kimchi? Solution time: 25 mins. © 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

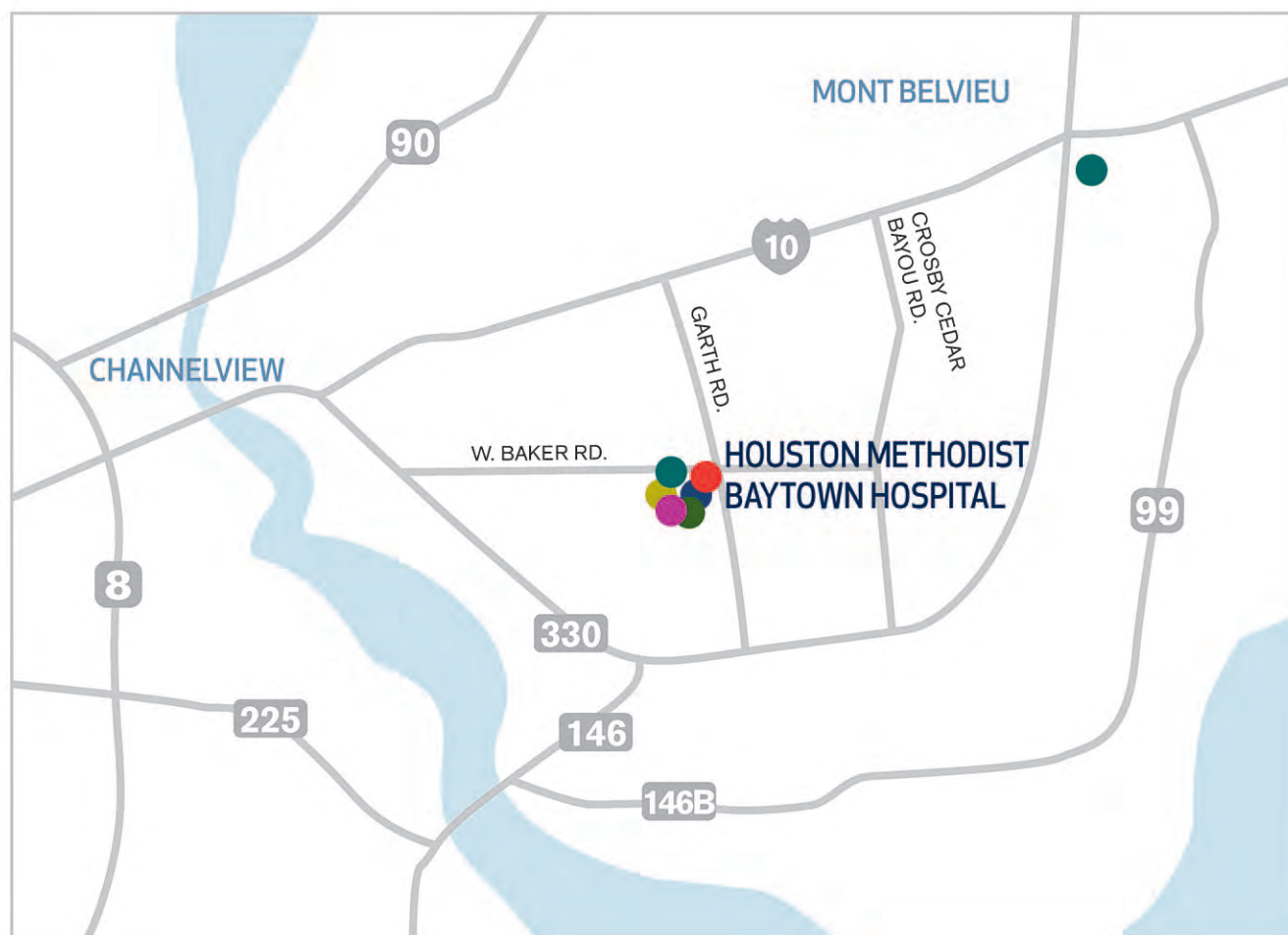


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