

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
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CHANNEL CURRENTS

Back-2-School First Day of Classes:

DISTRICT:	DATE:
HISD	AUG 22 MON
ALDINE	AUG 17 WED

GALENA PARK	AUG 11 THU
CHANNELVIEW	AUG 15 MON
SHELDON	AUG 17 WED

HUFFMAN	AUG 10 WED
CROSBY	AUG 11 THU
GOOSE CREEK	AUG 10 WED

BARBERS HILL	AUG 17 WED
DAYTON	AUG 11 THU

NCA Chamber Luncheon Aug. 5

The North Channel Area Chamber will hold its monthly luncheon on Aug. 5 at 11:30am at the Jacinto City Town Center, 1025 Oates Road, Jacinto City 77029. Featured Speaker will be Frank Mulcahy, on the topic of Grow & Protect - New Benefit. Members \$20 Others \$30. RSVP to info@ncachamber.com or 713-450-3600.

City of Galena Park B2S Event August 5

City of Galena Park Back To School Event will be Friday, Aug. 5 from 10am to 2pm at Baggett Community Center. Free Backpacks, school supplies, music, health services, photo booth, carnival rides, and more.

North Shore ROTARY B2S August 6

North Shore Rotary and Sheldon ISD will hold a Back-to-School Backpack and School Supply Giveaway at Sheldon Lake Elementary, 13002 Sheldon Community Drive, Houston 77044. Drive-Thru Distribution starts at 9:00am. Must have student in car to receive Backpack and Supplies. All students welcome - Any District.

Galena Park ISD continues Free Meals

Galena Park ISD has announced it will continue its free breakfast and lunch programs for all students at qualifying schools. GPISD will continue its policy to operate the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program for the 2022-2023 school year.

Schools qualifying to operate CEP serve breakfast and lunch to all children at no charge and eliminate the collection of meal applications for free, reduced-price, and paid student meals. This new approach reduces burdens for both families and school administrators and helps ensure that students receive nutritious meals.

For additional information please contact the following person: Galena Park Independent School District Attention: Brian Aubin Director Student Nutrition Services Houston, TX. 77015 832-386-1211 baubin@galenaparkisd.com

Galena Park Library open for most services

Pandemic and Burst Pipes had caused closure

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX. – July 26, 2022 – All of the Harris County Public Library (HCPL) Branches were closed to the public due to the Covid-19 virus pandemic from March 2020 to May 2021. From June 2020 to May 2021 many of the HCPL's including the Galena Park branch offered virtual programs and curbside pickup for library materials and activities for all ages.

Ms. Sisi Medina, Galena Park's Branch Manager said they also continued to connect with the local schools with Crafts To Go during summer school in 2021. In addition, she said they offered some one-on-one English as a Second Language (ESL) and U. S Citizenship classes via on-line teaching sessions.

Galena Park's Branch closed indefinitely due to damages caused by a broken pipe during the statewide killer freeze of February 2021. The branch went through renovation until Fall 2021 but continued to serve the public in a limited capacity. We offered online programs, and continued ESL and Citizenship classes. Local users were redirected to Jacinto City's Library.

Medina said they held weekly Pop Up Library



Galena Park Library Staff L-R: Sisi Medina, Branch Manager Librarian, Nancy Vela, Cindy Castro, Venezia Gallardo & Silvia Romo-Duarte. (Allan Jamail Photo)



Teens and young adults using free adult computers. All ages can read on-line books or check out books for points to win many different prizes and an engraved metal Reading Medallion with lanyard. Library members can sign-up to win 4 Houston Astros tickets, for more details visit: hcpl.beanstack.org. (Allan Jamail Photo)

with their Curiosity Cruiser from May 2021 to December 2021 in the library parking lot and hosted their two annual celebrations in the parking lot, Booapalooza for Halloween and Curbside Posada for winter holiday celebrations. Finally in December 2021 they partially opened using just their lobby to members providing laptop and printer services again.

They reopened to the public on January 3, 2022 with new extended hours. With a small collection of books on shelving carts, borrowed furniture, and equipment they offered some normalcy back to the community. They now have children and adult computers available for research, gaming, and school class assignments connected to printers. Medina said, "We have the largest collection of Spanish books in both fiction and non-fiction in the entire county."

Medina said, "We're still not fully furnished, but we've been able to resume in-person programs and some services. We have our full collection of books on new shelving and new computer equipment. Our Summer Reading Program events have been well attended and we look for-

CONTINUED. SEE GALENA PARK LIBRARY, PAGE 7

LaChapelle oversees Baldree Community Center

CHANNELVIEW – Paul LaChapelle is the Felix Baldree Community Center Manager for Harris County Precinct 2. He began working for the precinct nearly a decade ago as a part-time staff member with youth programs. In his current role, Paul oversees the daily function of Baldree Community Center and works alongside his team to look for solutions to enrich the lives of Precinct 2 constituents in the North Shore and Cloverleaf communities. Paul was born and raised in Houston's North Shore area. He a graduate



The team at Baldree Community Center (L to R): Paul LaChapelle, Elizabeth (Betty) Castillo, Kathy Johnson, William Howard

of Stephen F. Austin State University. Outside of work, Paul enjoys spending time with his family especially his wife, Olivia, and their one-year-old Shih Tzu, Gizmo.

LaChapelle was recently interviewed by Pct. 2 as follows:
Q & A with Paul LaChapelle, Precinct 2's Baldree Community Center Manager

1. Describe the types of programs and activities

CONTINUED. SEE BALDREE CENTER'S LACHAPELLE, PAGE 7

COUNTY PROVIDES \$48M FOR CHILDCARE

New program funded by American Rescue Plan funds will allocate historic \$48 million dollar investment for childcare and early childhood development

HARRIS COUNTY - June 14, 2022, In a 3 to 2 vote, commissioners court approved a new program investing \$48 million American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds for childcare and early childhood development in Harris County. It is the largest known investment of ARPA dollars by any county or city in the nation for early childhood education.

"Early childhood programs have one of the strongest returns on investment of any type of public program. Those positive effects also endure

throughout the child's life, increasing their graduation rates and future earnings while reducing any possible contact with the criminal justice system," said Judge Hidalgo. "We have an obligation to go beyond just the minimum standard of funding roads and bridges and public safety. We also have an obligation to support our next generation of workers and innovators and leaders."

The program will increase accessibility to high quality childcare and early childhood development by 10% in the third-largest county in the nation. Approximately 105,000 children aged 0-3 with

CONTINUED. SEE \$48 MILLION FOR CHILDCARE, PAGE 5

NS Rotary hears of East Harris County Empowerment Council

CHANNELVIEW – At a recent luncheon meeting of the North Shore Rotary Club, Traci Dillard talked about the activities and goals of her social organization, the East Harris County Empowerment Council.

Founded in 2008 by Terence "Trey" Narcisse, of Barrett Station, the goals and mission of the Council are to Improve the Quality of Life. Dillard said that the Council "Connect Communities. Empower People. Transforms Lives."

The EHCEC serves 6 areas with 5 school districts: Channelview, Crosby, Galena Park, Jacinto City, North Shore and Sheldon. The staff for this work has grown to 17 persons, Dillard said.

Some of the programs of the Council include food



Rotary President Ken Wimberly thanks Traci Dillard for her talk on the EHCEC by presenting her with the traditional Gold Rimmed Cup for speakers.

fairs, leadership learning, vaccinations, small business grant applications, back to school giveaways, holiday dinners for needy families, and more.

Dillard characterized East Harris County as an underserved area with

great needs. There are food deserts, healthcare, high poverty rate, and lower than average life expectancy. She said that the Council works in all of

CONTINUED. SEE EHCEC AT ROTARY, PAGE 5

CHANNELVIEW ISD NEWS

GALENA PARK ISD NEWS

Channelview ISD hosts Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for New McGhee Elementary School

The Channelview Independent School District will host a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the completion of the new McGhee Elementary, which was constructed as part of the voter-approved 2019 Bond.

The campus is named after Joe McGhee, the man who donated the land for the original school house. His grandson, also named Joe McGhee, helped with the construction. The McGhee School was originally built for African-American children in Channelview before integration occurred 25 years later. In addition, the first African-American student to enroll in Channelview ISD was a descendent of the McGhee family. Artifacts from the original McGhee School will be moved to the new campus and placed in an in-house museum for students, parents and community members to visit.

Tours will be provided following the ceremony.

Who: CISD Superintendent **Dr. Tory C. Hill**, CISD Board of Trustees President **Patrick Lacy**, McGhee Elementary Principal **Lizette Castelline**, Great Grandson of Joe McGhee **Bobby Sparks**, Great Granddaughter of Joe McGhee **Richie McGhee Gradney**, and Great Great Granddaughter of Joe McGhee **Tammi Mac**, as well as students, staff, stakeholders and community members.

When: **Monday, August 8, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.**

Where: 1045 Sheldon Road, 77530

Contact: Lila Hollin
Executive Director of Communications
281-452-8080
lila.hollin@cvisd.org

Channelview ISD Welcomes New Director of Secondary Multilingual



Claudia Chavez-Pinto has been selected as the new Director of Secondary Multilingual for Channelview ISD.

Chavez-Pinto has been working in education for the past 20 years. She has served as an elementary and middle school principal. As a campus principal, her campus became a fine arts magnet school and received several TEA distinctions designations during her leadership. In addition, her campus went from an F grade (according to TEA) to a B grade during the first two years under her guidance. Her campus was also able to obtain all 10 points for accountability on TELPAS Growth with an emerg-

gent bilingual population of over 1,300 students.

“I am excited to join such a talented and diverse educational team who exhibits not only a passion for student learning and success, but also action driven and oriented to make it happen,” said Ms. Pinto. “You can expect for me to be an instructional leader who will collaborate with all stakeholders to provide the necessary support to enhance language development, acquisition, and student learning for all secondary emergent bilinguals as evident in student data.”

Channelview ISD 9th graders students paid a visit to Rice University

A group of incoming 9th graders had the incredible opportunity to attend Rice University’s Energy Explorations Academy this summer. These students had the chance to participate in an investigation-focused week-long camp. While learning about various energy sources and putting their laboratory skills to the test, students were able to gain first-hand experience. Great job!



A Message From The Superintendent

Dear GPISD Parents/Guardians & Families,

Summer is quickly coming to an end, and another exciting school year is just around the corner!

As we approach the First Day of School, I want you to know your child’s safety is of the utmost importance and will always be a top priority for the District.

I would like to briefly share with you some safety measures that have been implemented for the upcoming school year.

All 26 GPISD campuses and two day-care facilities will have a dedicated School Resource Officer during the week, more cameras have been added to the interior and exterior of our campuses and facilities, and there will be additional security trainings for our staff.

For more information regarding safety and security, please read our GPS magazine, you can click the picture on the next page to view the magazine.



John Moore, Ed.D. Superintendent

We hope your family enjoys the remainder of your summer break and we will see you on Thursday, August 11!

Sincerely,
John Moore, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Senior Gold Card

Galena Park ID is excited to offer the Senior Gold Card program for all GPISD residents 55 years of age or older.

The Senior Gold Card gives you free access to GPISD performing arts and regular season, home athletic events (playoff games are not included).

The GPISD Senior Gold Card is FREE to all eligible community members as a token of our appreciation for the many contributions you have made to the GPISD community and schools over the years. We want area seniors to continue being active members and supporters of our community and schools.

To receive your Senior Gold Card, please bring a valid driver’s license or I.D. to the GPISD Administration



Building, located at 14705 Woodforest Boulevard, or the GPISD Athletic Complex, located at 15025 Wallisville Road, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For questions or additional assistance, please call 832-386-1000.

SHELDON ISD NEWS



The school year begins Wednesday, August 17. Registration for the 2022-23 school year is underway. Registration is for new students only. New students should:

- 1.Go to www.sheldonisd.com/register/ to begin the registration process by completing the online pre-enrollment forms and uploading the required documents.
- 2.Campus staff will call to set up appointments to let families know once the application is complete.

Returning students do not have to register. Returning students should:

- 1.Complete the residency verification through Skyward Family Access.

COVID-19 VACCINES & BOOSTERS -ALL AGES-

JULY 18TH, 21ST, 25TH, 26TH, 29TH
AUGUST 1ST AND 4TH
9AM- 5PM

Walk-ins Welcome

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HARRIS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
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Building a Healthier Community

CHARLOTTE'S
WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Commonality

Too often when we watch television or read the news, we see examples of the differences in individuals. Over the past few years, we have seen how a difference can lead to much division. There have been numerous times when we have seen a slight difference sparked fights, shootings and sometimes riots.

Recently while attending an event in the community, I overheard several senior adults talking about how they cannot understand why their newer neighbors park vehicles all along the street. One gentleman was stating that if a fire truck or ambulance needed to drive down the road, it would not fit. An elderly lady was upset that her neighbors park in front of her home almost daily. Yet another adult was saying that each weekend, she gets tired of the loud music as well as trash being thrown in her yard.

Just a day later, I was with a younger group of people who were upset that every time they have a family gathering, their neighbors call the police. It seems that when they have these gatherings, they do not get started until around 8 p.m., as they all work outside of the home.

Not a week goes by that one person does not call me before 8 a.m. on a Saturday. I have explained that with working Monday thru Friday, I typically prefer no calls until after 10 a.m., so that I can get things done around the house or perhaps even sleep in a little later. And most people who know me, know I attend church on Sundays, yet you would be surprised as to how many people call on Sunday mornings. Even more shocking is the number who do it weekly.

How do we talk to people and express our beliefs and desires without coming across as angry or upset? We must look for common ground. Maybe if have a civic association or a homeowners association, we could bring these concerns up and ask that they address them. With friends and family, sometimes we have to remind them more than once. Maybe because we are too familiar with them, we do not always respect the boundaries that we do with strangers.

When there are new neighbors, perhaps we should stop by for a brief meeting. Take a few minutes to stop and introduce yourself and maybe give them your phone number. Share some basic information, such as if you have children in local schools, or how long you have lived on the street. Be a welcoming face and encourage them to get to know other neighbors and the community. A few minutes of your time can ease any uncomfortable feelings and perhaps open the door to a lifelong friendship. I believe that in a time where there is so much uncertainty, every small act will go a long way in making the world a better place.

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ASK DIAMOND JIM



PINEFOREST JEWELRY'S NEW "EXPERIENCE" STORE, UNDER CONSTRUCTION ON BELTWAY 8, TO BE COMPLETED IN 2023. SEE FULL DESCRIPTION OF THE EXPERIENCE IN THE COLUMN BELOW.

Diamond Jim: “How
did you get your
start in the
jewelry
business?”

In their youth Jim & Linda Mills invested their time, their meager resources, and their abilities into becoming entrepreneurs. They researched many businesses. The lure of gold and diamonds caught their attention. They began with learning how to manufacture jewelry, investing many, many hours into their new project which would become their livelihood. From this they learned how to repair jewelry. The next step was attending courses on everything from diamonds and precious stones, to metallurgy and refining, and appraising and sales. Finally, it was time to take a huge leap of faith.



Jim purchased a large Russian ingot of pure 24K gold. This ingot was embossed with the Russian “Hammer & Sickle” emblem. This was of great importance to Jim. From a symbol of communism he would create his capitalist company. He alloyed that gold ingot to 14K, and manufactured several trays of rings and pendants, some with diamonds and others with precious stones. With his designs in hand, Jim ventured out into the world of business! And then the process of building a real business began to happen. He was soon overwhelmed.

Jim broke the news to Linda that it was time to take another step...actually another leap of faith. On May 1, 1986, they opened Pineforest Jewelry, Inc. The business was an instant success. Giving customers a “WOW Experience” was a must in Jim and Linda’s minds. The reputation preceded any talk of Pineforest Jewelry. Three years later on a Christmas Eve... Jim and Linda witnessed customers lined up on the sidewalk, waiting in a line to enter the store in order to wait in still another line inside the store. In no time at all, Jim became the consummate diamond professional and since then has been referred to as “Diamond Jim”. Diamond Jim and Linda were forced to make another leap of faith. They were forced to expand! Later that year, They purchased a 7,200 SF building and began the hard work of creating the new home of Pineforest Jewelry.

To this day, Diamond Jim insists that every customer receive a “WOW Experience” from the moment they walk through the door. That dedication to exceeding customer expectations is the reason Pineforest Jewelry has earned the reputation as one of the highest rated jewelry stores in Houston, Texas. And now they are taking this “Experience” to the next level...construction of an 8,000 SF theme jewelry store. Slated to open in early 2023, “Diamond Jim’s Pineforest Jewelry Experience” will offer customers a unique jewelry experience unlike any other

Upon your arrival, you will find a jewelry store that inside and outside is based on an 1800s gold mine experience. At the entrance you will be greeted by a statue of a gold miner panning gold, a genuine ore cart on rails, and a boulder-surrounded entrance to the gold mine. You won’t see expensive crystal chandeliers, but instead will find mining tools, artifacts, mining timbers, stalactites and stalagmites, and the sounds of mining in the background!. In addition, videos of gold and silver mining, diamond mining, diamond and gemstone cutting, pearl diving, jewelry manufacturing and repair, and countless other jewelry-related videos will be located throughout the store. Our complete repair facility may be viewed through a continuous glass wall. An old time “Assay Office” will complete the feeling of the olden days... where your gold, silver, coins, and other precious metals can be evaluated and sold...or traded as the case may be. And last, but not least, you will be able to relax and complete your experience in our 600 SF restaurant!

WE WELCOME YOU TO YOUR NEW HOME...YOUR NEW EXPERIENCE...YOUR ONE-OF-A-KIND.

Thank you for reading the “Ask Diamond Jim” column and for supporting the North Channel Star Newspaper!
Diamond Jim is a master jeweler, diamond dealer and precious metals broker. Pineforest Jewelry has been a proud member of the Independent Jewelers Organization (IJO) and the Retail Jewelers Organization (RJO) for many years. See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com.
If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email jmills@pineforestjewelry.com.

Plug us in.



We'll turn you on.





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OPINION PAGE

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COUNTY
CONNECTION

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo



All Harris County Kids Deserve Quality Childcare

I have long been an advocate and a champion for programs that enrich the lives and secure a brighter future for Harris County children. Since taking office, my staff and I have been expanding the possibilities of what Harris County can achieve to help families. We spoke to parents and early childhood providers and experts and held community conversations in person and virtually, during which access to affordable, quality child-care was brought up again and again. We found that approximately 105,000 children with working parents under the age of three in Harris County live in a “quality child care desert,” in which there are few or no affordable options for quality child care. This, despite the numerous studies that show high-quality child care is linked to higher rates of educational attainment and adult employment, and lower drug use and criminal outcomes. To improve the quality of life for Harris County residents, investing in quality childcare for young children was simply something the data obliged us to try.

In June, Harris County Commissioners Court made history by approving a new program investing \$48 million American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds for childcare and early childhood development in Harris County. It is the largest known investment of ARPA dollars by any county or city in the nation for early childhood education. The program will increase accessibility to high quality childcare and early childhood development by 10% in Harris County and create up to 1,000 child care slots for children ages zero to three, with an emphasis on communities where there are few to no such options. It will help families afford child care, which is the second most expensive household item on average after housing in the family budget. The program will also help childcare centers recover and stabilize financially after the pandemic, support ongoing capacity-building for childcare providers, give a boost to workers by requiring participating childcare centers to pay staff \$15 an hour, and help mothers with new-found childcare return to work.

This historic program is not our first effort to assist families and children. Harris County invested nearly \$9 million in an Early Childhood Impact Fund, which is supporting home-based child care businesses, infant/toddler literacy, and resources for foster children. The county has also established the \$4.7 million COVID-19 Childcare Assistance Program to provide families with learning and childcare opportunities during the pandemic. The County created a Child Tax Credit engagement program that brought in over \$13 million in tax credits for Harris County families, and we also implemented best-in-class family-friendly workplace policies for County workers, including 12 weeks paid parental leave, additional sick leave and resources for finding child care. And I am proud to say that in July, Commissioners Court approved a \$7.7 million Maternal and Child Home Visitation Health Care Initiative for 300 of the most vulnerable mothers in Harris County (read more about this below).

All levels of government must be willing to assist in nurturing every child that is born. I am proud that Harris County has set a precedent for what local governments can do to support all of their residents and help them make a better future.



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Walking Billboards Promote pedestrians Safety

If you happen to visit a high-traffic area in one of the state's larger cities, you might come across some folks wearing sandwich boards, such as one sees during tax season or mattress sales. The Texas Department of Transportation has adopted this marketing device to promote its “Be Safe. Drive Smart” pedestrian safety campaign this month.

Pedestrians account for one in five traffic fatalities in the state. Last year, 5,366 traffic crashes involving pedestrians occurred, with 841 people killed. TxDOT is using the highly visible sandwich boards to remind both drivers and pedestrians to follow the rules of the road and watch out for each other. The boards are being worn by members of TxDOT's street teams.

“Only 1% of traffic crashes in Texas involve pedestrians, yet pedestrians account for 19% of all roadway deaths,” said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. “That’s because pedestrians lack the protective equipment—airbags, seat belts and bumpers—common to vehicles. To keep our most vulnerable road users safe, we urge motorists to always be on the lookout for people walking. Pedestrians also have the responsibility to be aware of their surroundings and follow the rules of the road.”

JULY 31 DEADLINE FOR NEWBORN ENROLLMENT IN TTPF

The deadline to open a Texas Tuition Promise Fund college savings account for a child younger than 1 year old is July 31, according to the state comptroller's office. Participants can lock in 2021-2022 tuition and fee prices for their loved little ones at Texas public colleges and universities by establishing an account by then.



The comptroller's report states: “According to the 2020 edition of Sallie Mae's Higher Ambitions: How America Plans for Post-secondary Education, planners save two times more for college than non-planners. Planners are also more likely to start investing for college when their child is young, which is associated with less expected student loan debt.”

Contributions to what are known as 529 plans, such as TTPF, are partially exempt from the federal gift tax. Up to \$16,000 annually (\$32,000 for married couples) can be given without triggering the gift tax.

WILDFIRE RISK REMAINS HIGH ACROSS STATE

As the nearly statewide drought shows no signs of abating, wildfire danger continues to spread across the state. The Chalk Mountain Fire in Somervell County and the 1148 Fire in Palo Pinto County caused local officials to urge residents to evacuate. Several lakefront homes were destroyed around Possum Kingdom Lake last week as a result of the 1148 Fire, which involved 457 acres and was about 50% contained as of Sunday, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service.

There were 16 active wildfires across the state, the largest being the Chalk Mountain Fire involving 6,705 acres. It was 10% contained as of Sunday.

day. A total of 215 counties in Texas now have burn bans in place.

TREE-KILLING BEETLE SPREADS TO MORE COUNTIES

The invasive emerald ash bore has been confirmed in two additional counties this month, according to the forest service. The invasive wood-boring pest is now confirmed in 11 Texas counties, with the addition of Morris and Rusk counties. It has killed millions of trees across 35 states since its arrival in the United States 20 years ago.

“The pest is a major threat to urban, suburban and rural forests as it aggressively kills ash trees within two to three years after infestation,” said Demian Gomez, with the forest service.

Counties where the emerald ash bore has been detected have their ash timber and lumber quarantined to prevent the spread of the pest. The beetle was first detected in Texas in 2016 in Harrison County. Since then, EAB has been confirmed in Bowie, Cass, Dallas, Denton, Marion, Morris, Rusk, Wise, Parker and Tarrant counties.

STATE AGAIN SHOWS LARGE JOB GAIN

Texas added 82,500 nonfarm jobs in June, the largest gain this year. The state again set new employment highs, as total nonfarm employment reached 13.43 million, according to the Texas Workforce Commission.

“This type of sustained economic success is only possible when employers and job seekers have maximum opportunities to reach their full potential, and TWC works hard to support those opportunities,” Bryan Daniel, TWC chairman, said.

Jobs in the oil and gas industry led the increase with 4,900 new jobs, while the construction sector lost 3,000 workers. The state's unemployment rate dropped a tick to 4.1%, down from 4.2% in May.

NEARLY 90,000 TEXANS HAVE DIED OF COVID-19

Approximately two-and-a-half years after COVID-19 began to sweep the country, nearly 90,000 Texans have died as a result of the disease, according to Texas Department of State Health Services, with more than 6 million cases reported since 2020. The BA.5 variant is now causing most of the infections, with a rolling seven-day average of 11,905 cases reported daily. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations on Sunday in Texas totaled 3,454, according to DSHS, which is up slightly from the previous week.

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THE
POSTSCRIPT

By
Carrie Classon

“Good Enough”

I've decided that I'm good enough.

I had a big birthday, and it got me to thinking, as big birthdays will, about what would change and what would stay the same in the decade to come. I found my list of self-improvement chores much shorter than in previous years.

I used to exhaust myself with these lists.

I would write them down and then worry I'd forget them—and how could I become a better person if I didn't have my goals in mind every moment? Every day, I'd review my lofty goals of being more productive and more mindful and eating better and exercising more and accomplishing all the things I dreamed of.

But this year, I found myself making lists of all the ways I liked my life and, surprisingly, all the ways I liked myself—just as I am. In fact, I woke this morning, this morning of the big birthday, and felt that I was good enough.

Of course, I'm not perfect. There isn't a day I don't waste valuable time, or miss an opportunity to be kind, or generally fall short of being the person I could be. But perfection is a terrible goal to set for oneself. I was never meant to be perfect and really, now that I think about it, perfect sounds a bit dull. Instead, I'm going to be grateful that I am good enough.

“Good enough” encompasses everything.

It covers the moments of overwhelming bliss that blindside me; walking down the street and seeing a shop filled with yellow flowers, or a small girl dancing in a dirty green onesie, or a giant furry dog pounding its feet on the ground, or the sun reflecting perfectly on a shiny piece of stone on the sidewalk. It's all the moments I catch—just in time—that cause my heart to swell and make me wonder how so much beauty could be around me so much of the time, and I am lucky enough to see it.

“Good enough” also covers the times when I feel alone and ignored. When friends don't write back and no one seems to notice my writing and I wonder if I might be delusional, typing away every day with no one reading my novel. It covers when I am tired and a little sore and I don't feel like taking my walk or doing my pushups or finishing the cleaning or the paperwork that seems overwhelming at that moment. “Good enough” covers it all.

And while I have always enjoyed articles about self-reinvention, I discovered with surprise, on this big birthday, that I'm not really interested in reinventing myself, because I like the self I've invented pretty well. Sure, she's got a few issues. But I'm used to her issues and none of them will get her arrested. She's good enough for me.

I realize (with a little disappointment) that this philosophy will probably not allow me to write a self-help blockbuster. “You're Good Enough: Get Over It” probably wouldn't make its way up the NYT bestseller list. And that's OK too. I used to think I had a lot more advice for other people than I have today. Today, I think it's good enough to manage my life as best I can and let others do the same. They are good enough as well.

It will be interesting to approach a new decade with fewer lofty goals and more kindness toward myself. I wanted to finish this column with words worthy of the occasion. I've decided this is good enough.

Till next time, Carrie

Carrie Classon's memoir is called “Blue Yarn.” Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.

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26-4t

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SEALED BIDS ADDRESSED TO THE CITY SECRETARY OF THE CITY OF JACINTO CITY AND MARKED "SEALED BID" WILL BE RECEIVED AT THE JACINTO CITY HALL, 1301 MERCURY DRIVE, JACINTO CITY, TEXAS, 77029 UNTIL 5:00 P.M. ON AUGUST 25, 2022 FOR SEWER REHABILITATION BY PIPE BURSTING METHOD OF APPROXIMATELY 650 FT. OF 6"-8" SEWER LINE ON THE 10500 BLOCK OF PALESTINE. BID SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT JACINTO CITY CITY HALL OR ON OUR WEBSITE AT www.jacintocity-tx.gov. A BID BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF 5% OF TOTAL BID MUST ACCOMPANY ALL BIDS SUBMITTED TO JACINTO CITY.

LEGAL NOTICE

A MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE JACINTO CITY PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY, 12202 MARKET STREET ON AUGUST 9, 2022 AT 10:00 A.M.

LEGAL NOTICE

THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND/OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY AND/OR ALL TECHNICALITIES AND TO ACCEPT ANY BID OR PART THEREOF, WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CITY COUNCIL IS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CITY.

30-2T

LEGAL NOTICE

Channelview I.S.D. will accept Sealed Request for Proposals for the following:

RFP# 2122-007 – Landscaping Services

Bids will be received until 4:00 p.m., Friday, August 05, 2022, at the Channelview ISD's E-bidding website. Please visit the electronic bidding website at <https://cvisd.ionwave.net> All necessary information may be obtained by calling the Business Office at (281) 452-8003, or the district website www.cvisd.org, under Departments Business Office Purchasing. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

29-2t

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

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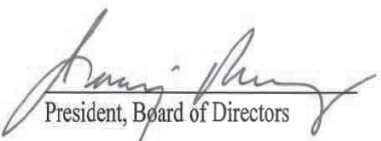
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LEGAL NOTICE

HARRIS COUNTY WATER CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 21

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF RULES

Notice is hereby given that the Board of the Directors of Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 21 at a meeting held on the 7th day of July, 2022 adopted an Ordinance Adopting Amended Rates and Fees for Services and Rules and Regulations Establishing Certain Other Policies and Providing Penalties and Violations Thereof. A copy of the Ordinance is on file at the principal office of the District, 15808 Avenue C, Channelview, Texas 77530-3702, where it may be read in full.


President, Board of Directors

29-2T

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Galena Park Library Open,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ward to having new furniture soon. We hope to be able to resume in-person ESL and Citizenship classes in the fall 2022.”

“In 2023, we hope to unveil a Family Place in our children’s department. This will provide a more robust play and education area for children and their caregivers,” Medina said. Read more about it here: <https://www.familyplacelibraries.org/what-family-place-library>

There’s now a free ENHANCED + library card for residents of Harris County, existing card holders can get the new enhanced card free. It’ll have the card member’s photo, address, date of birth, gender marker a 5 year expiration date and a scan able barcode. It can serve in some cases as a photo identification.

Medina invites the community to the free FOAMTASTIC FUN FOAM PARTY, Friday, August 5th at 2pm outside of the library.

Manager/Librarian Sisi Medina received her Master of Library and Information Science degree from San Jose State University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from California State

University, Northridge. She’s been at the HCPL Galena Park Branch since May, 2018 and with the HCPL since 2014. She’s worked at Katy and Tomball libraries prior to Galena Park and was a public-school teacher for 12 years prior to becoming a librarian.

Galena Park Branch Library ~ Hours of operation: Monday - 11am-8pm~Tuesday - 10am-6pm~Wednesday - 10am-8pm~Thursday - 10am-6pm~Friday - 1pm-6pm & Saturday - 10am-5pm.

Address: 1500 Keene Street, Galena Park, TX 77547(phone: 832-927-5470~ email: gp@hcpl.net ~ for more information visit: www.hcpl.net/branch/galena-park-branch-library

The original Galena Park library dates to 1948. In 1952, it moved to 1702 3rd Street. Construction on the current library on Keene Street began in March of 1996. It opened in December of same year thanks to a partnership between Harris County and the City of Galena Park. (allanj211@aol.com)

Baldree Center’s LaChapelle,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

available for seniors at the Baldree Community Center?

At Baldree, we work to program according to the pillars our Commissioner Adrian Garcia has laid out for us.

Empower: The pandemic kept our seniors in the house for quite some time. This created the doubt for some of our seniors that they no longer would have the ability to make a change in their own lives. By empowering our seniors, it gives them the courage and self-esteem to say, “I CAN do what I set my mind to.” Baldree empowers our seniors by making sure they have the resources to be independent at the community center and at home. For example, our exercise classes such as Low Impact Exercise gives them step-by-step instructions on how to move their body properly. Instructor Karla G. uses real life examples such as grabbing a box off a shelf to guide her class and to show our seniors how they can move to avoid injuries in their everyday life. We are also working to provide technology classes to

our seniors so they can be confident in navigating the internet on their laptops and phones. This type of support is empowering. It shows them they have the ability to work independently and to have the confidence to continue learning.

Educate: Empowerment and education go hand-in-hand. At Baldree, we like to give our seniors the most up-to-date information on technology, health, public safety, and other community resources. We often have volunteers, health professionals, and law enforcement officers conduct informative classes to make sure our seniors are ready to head back into the world with confident that they have the tools to complete their daily tasks.

Engage: In order to educate and empower, we have to be able to engage our seniors. We make sure to ask our seniors daily what they would like to see here at Baldree. We provide a safe space for people to share information about their interests and also tell us what doesn’t interest them!

Overall, we try to keep it fun to keep them coming back every day with a smile on their face and ready to get active!

2. How has the center worked to increase and improve the types of programs offered to seniors in the last year or so?

This question ties back to Precinct 2’s pillar — engage. We work to create activities we know our seniors will appreciate, find useful, and, above all, enjoy. We have created a bond where they now inform us what they would like to see here at Baldree. Also, this bond sparks creativity. As we work on one activity, other seniors get excited about wanting to create and volunteer to lead other projects.

3. What do you like most about working at the Baldree Community Center?

My favorite part about working at Baldree Community Center is conversing with the community and the people that I serve the community with. I love when I’m able to have conversations with constituents about

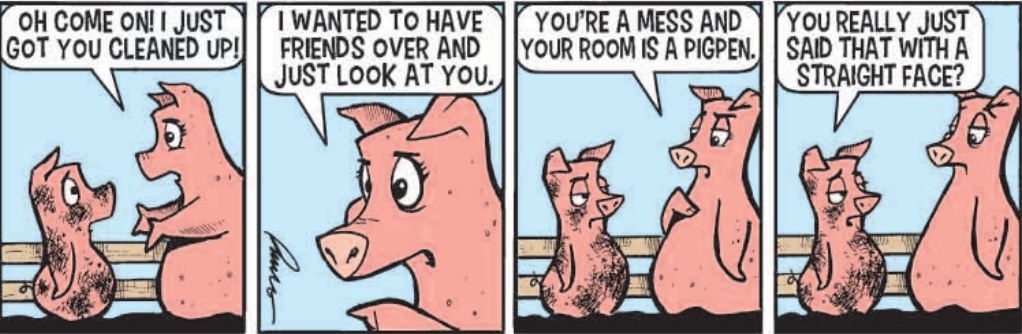
their background and figure out how I can be of service to them. I always try to leave time in my day to go out and talk to the seniors, the youth, or the parents that come out to our activities. Everyone has a story. It’s all about creating that safe environment for them to share so that you can better understand people and their situations. Also, I enjoy working with our Baldree Empowerment Team. This team consists of community leaders to make sure that out our constituents are receiving quality resources that are free or referred to a resource that is affordable.

4. How can people learn more about the programs and events at Baldree?

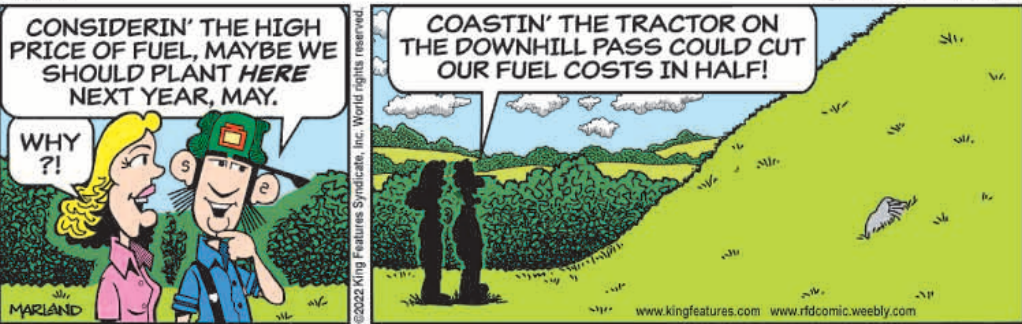
People can learn more about the activities and events happening at Baldree by accessing our Precinct 2 web page, contacting our call center at 713-274-222, and feel free to just stop by! The Baldree Community Center is located at 13828 Corpus Christi Street, Houston, TX 77015.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



R.F.D.



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

1				8			7
		3			5		2
	9		1		4		
		7	4			9	6
	4			3		2	
6					1		8
		9	8				5
	8				7	2	
4				6			3

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. Neckline differs. 2. Shoes are missing. 3. Towel end is missing. 4. Snorkel is shorter. 5. Trunks differ. 6. Net is smaller.

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August 1, 2022 Posting Date

King Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13						14	
15				16							17	
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31			32		33		34		35			
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		41			42			43		44		
45	46						47					
48				49		50				51	52	53
54				55						56		
57				58						59		

ACROSS

1 Witty one
4 Brings in
9 Rail
12 Mess up
13 Unconventional
14 Quarterback Manning
15 Airhead
17 Heavy weight
18 Verily
19 Made finer, as flour
21 Rope parts
24 "Holy —!"
25 Prefix with gram or center
26 Spasm
28 Picture puzzle
31 Towering
33 "Eureka!"
35 Nickelodeon's "Explorer"
36 Politico
38 Branch
40 Klutz
41 Village People hit
43 Place of worship
45 Thief
47 Equal (Pref.)
48 Terre Haute sch.
49 Inflatable pool toy

DOWN

1 Entanglement
2 "Entourage" character
3 Spike's warning
4 Actor De Niro
5 Turkey is part of it
6 — glance
7 Spectrum creator
8 Soon-to-be grad
9 Cartoon vamp
10 Medicinal plant
11 Peel
16 Coloring agent
20 Skedaddled
21 Greek salad cheese
22 Apple tablet
23 Melville sailor
27 Dance syllable
29 Russian river
30 Ump's call
32 Gentle soul
34 Newspaper piece
37 Headache aid
39 Fits together
42 Where the action is
44 Unruly group
45 Tears
46 Job-safety org.
50 Literary rep
51 Chopping tool
52 Fish story
53 Dogpatch adjective

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- AD SLOGANS: Which product's advertising slogan is "Look, Ma, no cavities!"?
- MOVIES: The movie "300" is based on which famous historical battle?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: How many presidents have served more than two terms?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: How far can a skunk's spray reach?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the southernmost major city on the continent of Africa?
- LANGUAGE: What is a funambulist?
- HISTORY: Who was the first woman to complete the Boston Marathon (unofficially)?
- TELEVISION: What was the name of the cruise ship on the sitcom "The Love Boat"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which colors make up the five-ring Olympic symbol?
- FOOD & DRINK: Which plant produces cacao beans, which are used to make chocolate?

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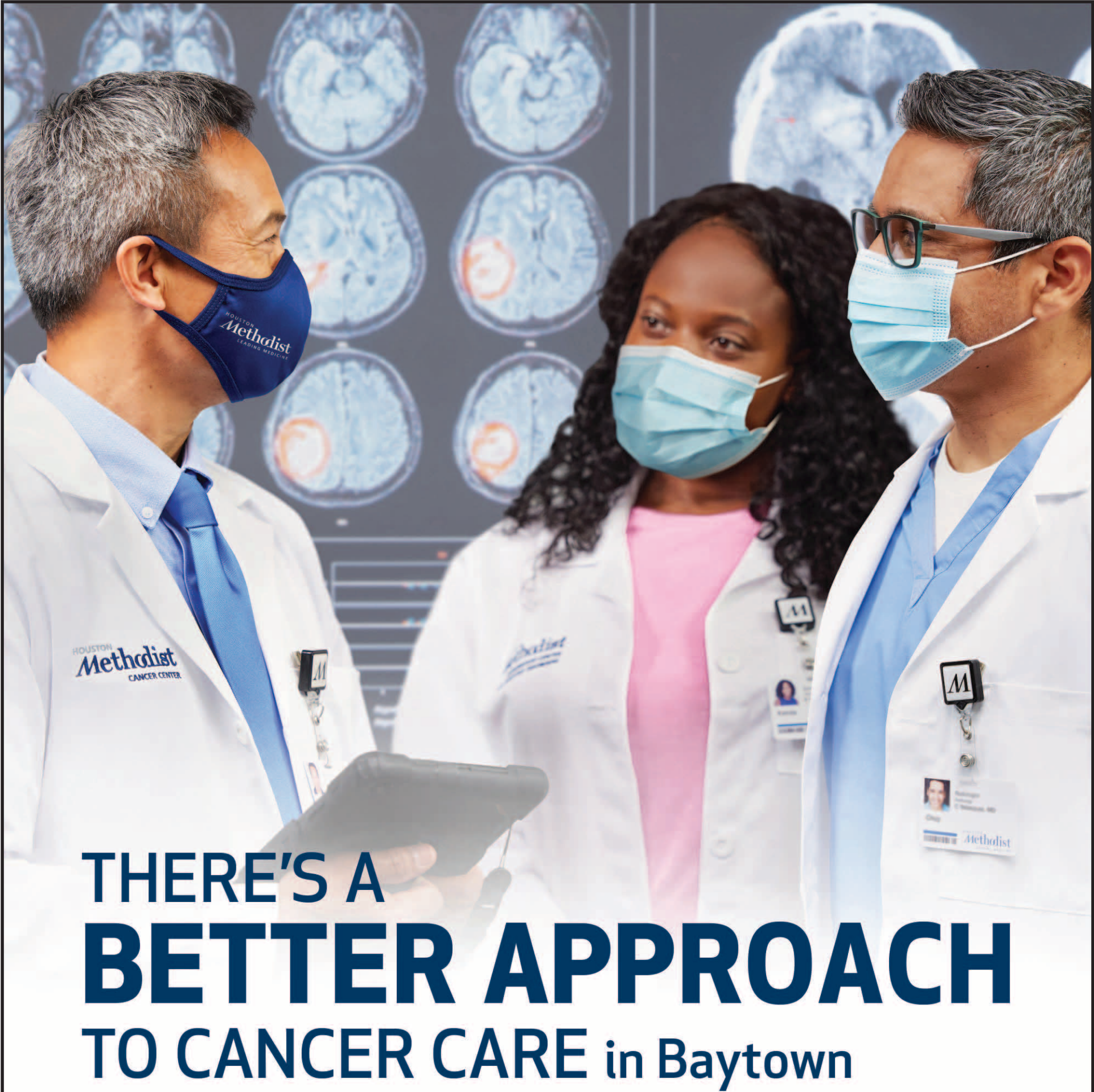
King Crossword

Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

W	A	G	R	E	A	P	S					
E	R	A										
B	I	R	D									
O	N											
F	I	B	E	R								
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A	D											
V	E											
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E												

1. Crest; 2. The Battle of Thermopylae; 3. One, Franklin D. Roosevelt; 4. About 10-20 feet; 5. Cape Town; 6. Tighthead walker; 7. Bobbi Gibb, 1966. The race was opened to women in 1972; 8. Pacific Princess; 9. Blue, yellow, red, green and black; 10. Cacao trees.



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