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CHANNEL CURRENTS

SEP. 22, THURSDAY
Joe Stephens Golf Tournament & Dinner
Join Judge Joe Stephens and friends for a day of Golf and fine dining.
Thursday, September 22nd at Stonebridge @ Newport, 16401 Country Club Drive, Crosby TX 77532.
12pm Tee Time, Dinner & Auction after the tournament. \$600 per team, includes golf, lunch and dinner. Four Player Scramble. Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, closest to pin, and longest drive.
Info and reservations, 281-857-5406 or votejoestephens@gmail.com.

SEP. 9, FRIDAY
Art Exhibit Opening
CRUZANDO FRONTERAS, Crossing Borders, Opening night reception Friday, September 9th at 6pm.
Harris County Cultural Arts Center, 13334 Wallisville Road, Houston, TX 77049. Info 832-356-4378.

SEP. 10, SATURDAY
Teen Youth Summit
Judge Lucia Bates invites all Teens to this event, at Goose Creek Memorial High School, 6001 E. Wallisville Rd, Baytown 77521. 10:00am to 2:00pm.
The Summit is designed for 7th thru 12th grade students. Free Event, lunch, prizes, information, door prizes. Info 713-274-0900.

Battleship Texas safely sails to Galveston drydock

\$35 million restoration will take over a year

HOUSTON (Aug. 31, 2022) – The Battleship Texas Foundation announced that the iconic Battleship Texas completed a milestone journey on Wednesday, August 31 from the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site to Galveston. The Battleship Texas, commissioned in 1914, is the only surviving dreadnought to have served in both World War I and World II.

The historic ship will now undergo an extensive, \$35 million repair at Gulf Copper & Manufacturing Corporation's shipyard to fix the hull. The Battleship Texas Foundation selected Gulf Copper's shipyard in October 2021 as the repair location since they recently acquired a floating drydock that is capable of lifting the Battleship Texas out of the water. In addition, the location of the yard in Galveston significantly reduced the risks associated with towing the Battleship Texas due to sheltered waters and a short travel distance.



TWO ICONS: Under tow, the iconic Battleship Texas passes under the iconic Harman Bridge on the way to a Galveston drydock for restoration work. More photos p.8

“It’s an important piece of history. We feel like we’re working for the people of the state of Texas so that they can be proud of their ship,” said Tony Gregory, president and CEO of the Battleship Texas Foundation. “We are proud to have played a part in maintaining the integrity of the ship so future generations can continue to learn about her service and history.”

The ship closed to the public in August 2019 to

Continued. See Battleship sails, Page 7

NS Mustangs take Lions bite away

North Shore 42 – Spring 0

By Allan Jamail

Spring, TX. September 3, 2022 at Planet Ford Stadium the GPISD North Shore Mustangs pulled the teeth from the Spring Lions. The toothless Lions were kept scoreless by the Eastside Boys new defensive line. Mustangs 42 – Lions 0.

After losing their talented and experienced line who helped win the 2021 State Championship title Coach Jon Kay and his assistant coaches rebuilt their defensive line. So far

CONTINUED. SEE MUSTANGS DEFEAT LIONS, PAGE 2



NS #8 David Amador catches 55 yard Kaleb Bailey pass and scores. . (Photo by Allan Jamail)



NS defense #93 Ry'Nichols & #19 Dillon Dixon gang tackle Lions runner for a loss of yards. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Yellowjackets Swarm Panthers

GPHS 37 - Caney Creek 7

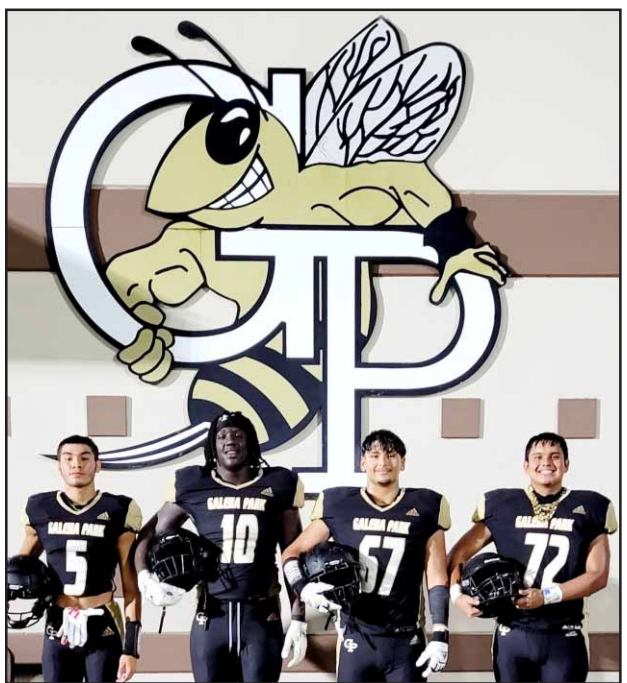
By Allan Jamail

GPISD Stadium – Houston, TX. ~ September 2, 2022 on a rainy night on a slippery field the home team Galena Park Yellowjackets (GP) (5A-D2) decalwed the New Caney ISD Caney Creek (CC) Panthers 35 -7.

The Panthers suffered turnovers by fumbling throughout the game. The Eastside Jackets took advantage of the fumbles and racked up 21 points in the first quarter. GP's junior Oswaldo Flores kicked the extra points. GP missed on a 2 point conversion and made one.

Head Coach Spiro Amantos kept his stinging Gold Blooded jacket defense swarming CC and never let them on the scoreboard until late in the fourth quarter. SEE BOX SCORED.

So far the Jackets have relied heavily on the run game and have a nest full of ground gainer's. On a wet field in misting rain if a team can avoid passing the slippery ball using a



GP Yellowjackets Game Team Captains.
L - R: Seniors, #5-Jonathan Renteria, #10-Timothy Marshall, #67-Jorge Garcia and #72-Justin Leal. (Photo by Linda Jamail)

running offense that's the winning ticket. The Gold Blooded Jackets offense did just that, making all five touchdowns with rushing plays.

If the Jackets are to get into the post season games

they need to develop a balanced offense with a passing game along with a dual threat pass-run option quarterback.

CONTINUED. SEE GP YELLOWJACKETS BEAT PANTHERS, PAGE 2

Galena Park Fun Club tours Port of Houston: D. Harding retires



THE 2022 GALENA PARK FUN CLUB NEW OFFICERS.
L-R: Retiring after 25 years as President Dorothie Harding, Patricia LeCamus, new President, Barbara Cooper, Vice Pres., Barbara Simmons, Treasurer & Lucille Dailey-Metcalf, Admin Asst.

By Allan Jamail

August 2022 / The Galena Park Fun Club (GPFC) recently announced the retirement of Dorothie Vance Harding the club president for over 25 years. At the age of 90 she said she has no plans of dropping out of active service with the club.

Patricia Gerold LeCamus was elected as GPFC's

new president, she graduated from Galena Park High School in 1967. Other officers elected are, Barbara Cooper, Vice Pres., Barbara Simmons, Treasurer & Lucille Dailey-Metcalf, Admin Asst. For more information and or to join “TEXT” - - 281-650-6778 (Patricia).

GPFC is an organization with members 55 years of age and older, they

meet every second Friday of the month at the GP Alvin Baggett Center. Members enjoy all sorts of fun activities and at least once a month they take a day trip provided by Harris County Precinct 2. They recently went on a boat tour of the Port of Houston on the touring vessel M/V

CONTINUED. SEE GP FUN CLUB, PAGE 5

GP YELLOWJACKETS BEAT PANTHERS,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1--

Scoring by quarter:					
	1	2	3	4	Final
CC	0	0	0	7	7
GP	21	0	0	14	35



7 GP's Anthony Mata burst through tacklers for 2nd score. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



3 GP's Jordan Balderas shakes off a defending Panther for a 15 yard score. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

The Panthers went home wet and beat by a stingy relentless swarming defense in the non-district game. Statistician Linda Jamail.

The Yellowjackets will travel to play a non-district game with the Splendora Wildcats Friday, September 9, 2022 at 7:30- PM. Stadium location, 23411 FM 2090 — Splendora, Texas 77372



21 GP's Francisco Martinez crosses goal line for game's 1st score.



24 GP's Jonathan Gutierrez drags defenders to make a 2 point conversion score. (photo By Allan Jamail)

OBITUARIES

CARMEN NADOLNEY

AUGUST 20, 1937 – AUGUST 30, 2022



her family and friends, she will truly be missed by all.

Friends are invited to visitation with the family on Wednesday, September 7, 2022 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Earthman Funeral Directors, 8303 Katy Fwy, Houston, TX 77024, recitation of the holy rosary will follow at 7:00 PM. A mass of christian burial will occur Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 1:30 PM at Annunciation Catholic Church, 1618 Texas Avenue, Houston, TX 77003. The rite of committal to follow funeral mass at 3:00 PM, at Forest Park Lawndale, 6900 Lawndale Street, Houston, TX 77023.

Pallbearers, Tim Daly, Jim Gustafson, Marshall Harrod, Marshall Lepley, Gordon Lewis, C.P.A., Ben Ramsey, Joe Slovacek, Wayne Wetzel, Honorary Pallbearers, Dennis Albright, Edward de la Houssaye, David Dominy, Judge Robert Echols, Dane Grant, Col. Ron Hutson, Louis Macy, Bryan Mueche, County Com. Mark Tice, Senator John Whitmire, Doctor Bob Wilkins.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.earthmanhunterscreek.com for the Nadolney family.

We are heartbroken to announce the death of Carmen Theresa de la Houssaye (Grimm) Nadolney. She was a life-long resident of Houston and passed away at Methodist Hospital after heart surgery complications at the age of 85.

She is preceded in death by her father, Edward de la Houssaye, mother, Lucille (Scardino), sister, Marie-Celine, brother, Raymond, son, Robert Grimm and Claire Nadolney.

Carmen is survived by her loving husband, Frank Nadolney, (33 years); David, Christine, Sherry; grand-children, Khristen, Shannah, Catherine, Ethan; her son, Mark Grimm, wife Cindy, and daughter Amy; her daughter Paula (Grimm) Matthews, husband Donald, grand-sons Kevin and Keith Matthews, great grand-daughter Kennedy; great grand-sons, Kison and Kaige (Monticello, Florida); her brother, Edward de la Houssaye, sisters, Mary Harrod and Jeannine Humphrey, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, numerous other relatives.

She graduated with honors, Incarnate Word Academy, work at DuPont (1955-1981),

earned an AS degree in Accounting at the University of Houston (1976), worked at Transco (1982–1997), and Nadolney Enterprises.

On Thursday, November 22, 1963, Harris County Democratic Headquarters called DuPont Headquarters and asked them to send ladies for receival line at the Rice Hotel to meet and greet President John F. Kennedy and his wife Jacqueline.

And was a member of numerous groups and organizations: I.W.A., Charity Guild, Amiketos, Crestwood Garden Club; Petroleum Club, Houstonian Club, and Daughters of the American Revolution.

She loved the beach, gardening, traveling, black-tie ballroom dancing and most of all

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NS Mustangs take Lions bite away

North Shore 42 – Spring 0

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with exceptions to their penalties this “D” line appears speedy and prepared to tangle.

The game had a forty-five minute rain delay but once underway those Mustangs were eager to get out of the corral. Wearing new uniforms they bucked Lions on offense and defense.

The NS offense is a balanced offense, they score in the air and on the ground better than last season at this same time. They made 227 passing yds, 262 rushing yds, totaling 489 yd. However that’s how they look now, but remember they’ve not had any real competition yet. Carlos Dominguez NS’s extra point kicker was 100% accurate as usual.

Coach Kay said he feels they have an explosive offense with some new talented players who can make big plays.

The Mustangs on their last outing was without penalties but this game they lost their discipline and had nine penalties, three were for 15 yds including two that were personal fouls. You can’t win playing with this many penalties and giving up that many yds. When you meet tough post season teams you cannot afford to give your opponent free first downs.

Scoring by quarter:					
	1	2	3	4	Final
NS	14	14	14	0	42
SL	0	0	0	0	0

The undefeated NS Mustangs will host Friday, September 9, 2022 at 7:00 the undefeated Aldine Westfield Mustangs in a non-district game. Address: GPISD Stadium 15025 Wallisville Road Houston, TX. 77049. Linda Jamail statistician.



NORTH SHORE MUSTANGS GAME TEAM CAPTAINS.
L - R: #2-Christopher Barnes, #5-Jacoby Davis, #9-Kaleb Bailey and #99-Elijah Fields (Photo by Linda Jamail)



ABOVE: NS #2 Christopher Barnes catches a 27 yard pass from quarterback Kaleb Bailey. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

LEFT: NS #8 David Amador catches Kaleb Bailey's 20 yard pass and out runs Lions defender to the goal line for a TD. (Photo by Allan Jamail).



Mustangs defense #99 Elijah Fields & #19 Dillon Dixon sacks Lions quarterback. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

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CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Keep Believing

There are times that you feel as though you are running into a brick wall. Perhaps you have tried to do something 10 times without success, give it another try. Instead of throwing in the towel, take a break, breath and try it again.

Rusty Hardin is known as one of the best defense lawyers in the United States. Earl Campbell will always be remembered as a great running back. Mary Lou Retton won the hearts of Americans after her performance in the Olympics. Outside of the world of sports, there are others who will be remembered for their dedication to their profession or hobby.

John Brady served as the pastor of Woodforest Baptist Church from 1961 until 2007 and he will always be remembered as a soul winner. He would share the gospel of Christ with everyone he met. Dr Charles Grant, former President of San Jacinto College North, will be remembered for his love of serving others. It did not matter if he was serving by way of Rotary or through a community project of the North Channel Area Chamber, he did it with a smile and usually a corny joke of two. His love of serving others has been contagious in our community for over 60 years.

There are others who have worked diligently to improve their health. No matter how many hours they have spent exercising and dieting, the journey to better health has taken a while. There are individuals who have been working out for years and then they finally reach a goal.

Think about the days when an employee stayed with one employer for 40 to 50 years. At the time of retirement, they received a very well-deserved award. I am sure there were days that they thought about quitting or even changing employers, but somewhere in their mind, they realized they has invested their energy and time into that company. They did not want to give up or walk away without reaching a goal.

Think about individuals who learn to crochet or knit. They spend hours learning to make blankets, scarves and other items that mean much to the recipients. Recently, I saw a picture of a homemade quilt that my friend Dolly spent over 70 hours making. She did not give up and the finished product is a beautiful gift for her niece.

Many individuals attend college and some work while doing so. They spend much more time on gaining their education than those who are attending in school only. At the end, they have invested years in getting that degree. And ask any of them, they will tell you it was worth the wait.

There are many individuals who have been praying for a desired outcome for days, months or even years. I know personally how many times I have wanted to stop praying and throw my hands up in the air. Yet, as I have persevered and just yesterday, God answered yet another of my prayers. It is a prayer that I have shared with many over the years, so I cannot take credit for it finally being answered, yet I am smiling ear to ear and celebrating the answer. Never give up on your dreams. Keep believing.

Suspect charged in Fireworks warehouse arson and explosion



Fireworks explode last July 4 in a Top Dog Fireworks Warehouse on I-10 in Channelview.

HOUSTON – One of three men has been charged after fireworks were ignited inside a warehouse in east Harris County, according to the Harris County Fire Marshal Office.

The wanted suspect, Alex Herrera, 28, has been charged with arson.

The incident was reported on July 4, at 10:30 p.m. at TOP DOG Fireworks Warehouse, located in the 14000 block of the East Freeway.

Officials said one of the three suspects was seen igniting the fireworks inside the store, prompting customers to panic. The ignition of the firework also caused the buildings audio and visual alarms to sound off, resulting in an emergency evacuation. Investigator said the firework ignited is called a “bursting bouquet.”

The suspects allegedly stole \$200 worth of fireworks during the incident. No injuries were reported.

When the sparks are coming at them, it’s like shrapnel coming at you. It’s hot so the burn potential there,” said Cy-Fair Fire Chief Amy Ramon. “The potential for loss of human life could have been staggering.”

He added that if this had gone sideways, customers and employees not only faced the potential of being badly burned by the fireworks, they also risked being trampled in the chaos if there wasn’t a way for them to get out of the store.

“Most of these buildings I have seen are metal buildings, so if the fire gets large enough and the metal building comes down, then you’ve got a collapse so people had the potential to be injured or killed in that kind of scenario too,” Ramon said.

HCFMO released surveillance video of the incident:

TOP DOG Fireworks warehouse released the following statement:

“Thank you to law enforcement for tracking down the perpetrator. This scary incident could have been much worse. We are grateful no one was injured and the firework was contained. This emphasizes why we have so many safety precautions and we urge everyone to keep safety in mind when handling fireworks.”

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: “Are Sapphires mined in the United States?”

As the only source of sapphire mining in the United States, the mines of Montana have established a reputation for producing stunning sapphire gemstones and a steady supply.



Although sapphires can be found throughout Montana today, the majority of the finds can be attributed to four major locales: Yogo Gulch, Rock Creek, Dry Cottonwood Creek, and the gravel bars along the Missouri River northeast of Helena.

Sapphire production in Montana was, at least initially, a byproduct of the *gold rushes* of the 1860s. Early prospectors searching for gold in the gravel of the Missouri River repeatedly discarded the annoying blue pebbles that continually clogged their sluices without much thought to what they may be. The discovery that these stones had value is attributed to Ed “Sapphire” Collins who forwarded samples of these pebbles to Tiffany & Co. in 1895. When Tiffany purchased the lot for \$3,750 (approximately \$110,300 as of 2018) and declared that the stones were “sapphires of unusual quality,” a small-scale sapphire rush began.

A year later, a part-time prospector and sheep farmer, John Ettien, discovered the source of the sapphires – an igneous dike about five miles in length.

Gold prospectors quickly learned that turning their operations to sapphire mining was proving more lucrative than gold. Stakes claimed along the 5-mile vein of the Yogo dike exchanged hands many times until 1899 when a trio of British businessmen purchased what had been coined the New Mine Sapphire Syndicate for \$100,000 (approximately \$2.9 million as of 2018).

Montana Sapphire Mining in 2020

The Missouri River, Rock Creek, and Dry Cottonwood Creek deposits are associated with high yields of high-clarity *fancy sapphires*, with colors ranging from light pinks, purples, oranges, yellows, and greens, to pale blues. These sapphires are extremely unique in that they are free of *cavities* and *inclusions* and feature high uniform clarity and even coloring.

Untreated Yogo sapphires are famous for their excellent blue color and exceptional clarity; and many believe their natural qualities surpass heat-treated stones from all over the world. However, their primary drawback is their small size. Cut gems from Yogo Gulch are very rarely more than one carat in size.

As we moved into 2020, the Rock Creek region of Montana continued to show the richest deposits of natural sapphires. Two areas of the region, known as Eureka Gulch and Sapphire Gulch, are being mined with practices that show an incredible amount of respect and responsibility to protecting the land and environment. Sapphire rough from here usually measures in from 2mm to 1 inch in size with a variety of unique and rare colors.

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.

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OPINION PAGE

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OPINION

By BILL KING



Examining Harris County Funding for Law Enforcement

For the most part, I find the “defunding the police” debate little more than partisan rhetoric which serves more to obfuscate than elucidate any meaningful discussion about the appropriate level of law enforcement funding. This is especially true in the current back and forth between Democrats and Republicans on Harris County’s funding of law enforcement.

Unfortunately, an attempt to describe how the current County administration has funded law enforcement involves unpacking the County’s Byzantine accounting practices. It is even more complicated by the fact that the County recently changed its fiscal year, which resulted in a “short year” accounting period of seven months this year.

But after studying the numbers in some detail, here are my three takeaways:

- The County does not spend anywhere close to two-thirds of its budget on law enforcement as Judge Hidalgo has claimed.
- Prior to 2021, Commissioners Courts, under both Republican and Democratic control, increased the County’s law enforcement budget by about 5% each year. Since inflation for most of the time was running at about 2%, those increases represented real increases in capacity. However, in 2021, the Commissioners Court only increased the law enforcement by about 2% when inflation was running at 7%, thereby, cutting the budgets by 5% in real economic terms. This also coincided with a dramatic increase in crime.
- This year, in the face of intense public pressure over an exploding crime wave, Commissioners Court granted some one-time funding increases to law enforcement. These fell during the short-year budget. If those one-time funding grants are annualized, they would represent about a 10-11% increase. However, the proposed budget for next year rolls back about half of those increases. Therefore, funding available to law enforcement next year will be less than what they have this year.

The “Two-Thirds” Claim

The claim that Harris County spends two-thirds of its budget on law enforcement is based on excluding the County’s spending on flood control, the toll road system and public health. The expenditures for those areas are technically separate entities but ones which are governed by the Commissioners Court and their budgets are consolidated with other County spending for accounting purposes. It also includes a host of expenditures that most people would not consider a law enforcement function.

According to the County’s most recent audit, about 34% of the County expenditures were for the “Administration of Justice,” of which law enforcement would be a subset. Therefore, the County’s spending on law enforcement is clearly less than one-third, not two-thirds, of its total spending.

Law Enforcement Expenditures Since 2019

District Attorney

The first two years the Democrats controlled the Commissioners Court, they increased the District Attorney’s budget a little over 6% each year. However, in the third year, a year in which crime had begun to explode and the backlog of cases at the courthouse was growing exponentially, they only increased her budget by 1%.

In the face of intense public pressure, the Court added about \$10 million in funding to the District Attorney’s budget this year (FY2022 short year), which on an annualized basis would represent a 13% increase.² However, the proposed budget for the coming year rolls back almost half of that increase.

Since the Democrats have taken control of the Commissioners Court, they have increased the District Attorney’s budget by 26%. During the same time, they have increased the budget for the Public Defender’s office by 217%

Constables

Total funding for the Constables has followed a very similar pattern to that of the District Attorney. Funding was increased modestly the first two years then cut back significantly in the third. They too received a one-time increase in 2022 that is mostly rolled back in the proposed budget.

Sheriff

The Sheriff’s Department has also followed the same general patten but has fared somewhat better on its funding due to the County being forced to deal with the ongoing disaster at the County jail, which is included in the Sheriff’s budget.

I think it would be hard to describe the Commissioners Court funding of law enforcement over the last four years as anything other than anemic, especially considering the significant surge in crime we have seen in our area. During that crime wave, the County was awash with about \$1.4 billion in federal COVID funding. Many other local governments used significant portions of those funds to shore up law enforcement to deal with the crime wave that we have seen across nearly the entire country. Harris County did not.

With a proposed budget that quickly retreats from the one-off funding increases this year, the current majority on Commissioners’ Court has clearly signaled their intention to continue funding law enforcement at minimal levels if re-elected. I think that is why you see virtually every law enforcement group lining up in opposition to the Democratic candidates in the upcoming election.

But while Harris County residents may be increasingly alarmed about crime, many also have grave reservations about a Republican Party whose views are becoming increasing out of step with theirs.

As a result, the upcoming election, in my view, will turn on whether voters’ concerns about national partisan issues, like 2020 election denial and abortion, outweigh their concern the troubling policies of Commissioners’ Court over the last four years on local issues like public safety funding. Of course, County government has little to do with those national issues but everything to do with public safety.

Note 1 - For the purposes of this discussion, I am only going to look at the funding levels for the Sheriff, the Constables, and the District Attorney. While there are certainly other expenditures that relate to the criminal justice system, it is the budget of these departments that



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Flooding in Dallas prompts Disaster Declaration

Heavy rains through Texas last week caused flooding, particularly in the Dallas area, prompting Gov. Greg Abbott to issue a disaster declaration for 23 affected counties. Texans who were affected by the rain, which dumped more than 10 inches in Dallas, are encouraged to file insurance claims with their providers and to complete the voluntary Self Reporting Damage Survey issued by the Texas Department of Emergency Management by visiting damage.tdem.texas.gov. The survey helps the state identify damage across Texas to gain an understanding of what areas were affected during the recent severe weather.

Counties included in the disaster declaration are Camp, Culberson, Dallas, Duval, Ellis, El Paso, Henderson, Hopkins, Hudspeth, Kaufman, Kerr, Live Oak, Marion, Montague, Navarro, Pecos, Rains, Smith, Tarrant, Upshur, Van Zandt, Webb and Wood. Additional counties could be added as damage is assessed.

BURN BANS LIFTED; FIRE DANGER DROPS

The heavy rains across a chunk of the state have reduced the wildfire risk, with the Texas A&M Forest Service for the first time in months not responding to any active wildfires. The number of counties with burn bans has dropped to 166. At its high point, 224 counties in the state were under burn bans.



The number of counties under extreme or exceptional drought has dropped as well. The percentage of Texas in the “exceptional drought” category dropped by more than half to 12.4%, according to kut.org.

BATTLESHIP TEXAS HEADED TO GALVESTON FOR REPAIRS

The Battleship Texas will leave its home at the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site on Aug. 31 and make its way to the Galveston Shipyard for repairs, weather and tides permitting. A livestream video of the departure will be available to the public on the Battleship Texas Foundation’s YouTube channel and Facebook group page.

The former U.S. Navy battleship was launched on May 19, 1912, and saw action in World War I. It also escorted war convoys across the Atlantic during World War II, fought at Normandy on D-Day, and provided naval gunfire support in the Pacific dur-

ing the Battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. The ship was decommissioned in 1948.

While in dry dock, the ship’s hull will be repaired or replaced from four feet above the waterline down to the bottom, thanks to \$35 million in funding provided by the 2019 Texas Legislature. The grand reopening of Battleship Texas is expected to be sometime in 2024.

COASTAL POLICYHOLDERS PROTECTED BY EMERGENCY RULE

An emergency rule issued by the Texas Department of Insurance will protect Weston Property & Casualty Insurance Company policyholders who live along the Texas coast. Weston, a Florida insurance company licensed in Texas, is in liquidation and has been ordered to end its operations by Sept. 7, possibly leaving Texas policyholders in danger of not being covered against wind and hail damage.

More than 23,000 Weston policyholders live in possibly affected areas, according to TDI. They will be eligible to be insured through the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association for free for three months, after which a payment plan can be set up. Homeowners are encouraged to work with their insurance agent to find coverage.

CONDITIONS HEATING UP FOR DOVE SEASON

An especially scorching summer might make it trickier for dove hunters with the season opening just around the corner.

“Hunters will likely see larger concentrations of birds at watering holes and food sources than they have in the past due to limited resources,” said Owen Fitzsimmons with Texas Parks & Wildlife. “Agriculture production has been hit hard by drought so birds may be more reliant on native foods this September. Look for stands of common sunflower, croton and other native annual forbs and grasses.”

In general, dove season begins on Sept. 1, depending on the geographic zone. Go to the TPW website at tpwd.texas.gov for specific dates.

PUC CREATES OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The Public Utility Commission has created an Office of Public Engagement to “provide a single point of contact for consumers, stakeholders, legislators, and other affected parties to make their voices heard at the PUC.”

“We’re very excited to build a team dedicated to bringing together all the parties and all the resources necessary to resolve what are often complex issues in a way that emphasizes collaboration among everyone involved and ultimately benefits customers and rate payers,” Peter Lake, PUC chairman, said.

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

“Not Much of a Joke”

It wasn’t much of a joke, as far as jokes go.

I saw the man wearing two hats, one on top of the other. The second hat may have been for his wife. It was decorated with intricate drawings. He was walking with her, a third hat tied to the handle of a stroller, and the family was making its way through the artisan market, where hats and ceramics and glass and handwoven, hand-carved, handmade items of all types are sold.

The man had his hands full, guiding the stroller loaded with purchases and keeping an eye on his wife, who was darting in and out of the artists’ stalls and, as I passed him, noting his two hats, I gave him a serious look and said, “I believe you need another hat.”

The man touched his hand to his hat, remembered he was wearing two and burst into laughter.

It was a real laugh, a belly laugh. He suddenly realized he looked silly, and he thought it was funny that I was bringing this to his attention in such a serious voice. And I was ridiculously pleased because I’d made the joke in Spanish.

Language is so tricky.

For decades, I’ve been able to ask where the bathroom is located and how much something costs. I’ve steadily picked up vocabulary because so many cognates are shared between Spanish and English. But then I’ve gotten stuck. I have to plan sentences before I say them. I have to ask people to speak more slowly or to repeat themselves three times. I do better with cab drivers and hotel employees because they have made it their life’s work to understand the fractured sentences of tourists and can make a reasonable guess as to what I’ve said.

But I’ve never been able to make a spontaneous joke.

I reached the conclusion about 10 years ago that I was never going to be fluent, so there wasn’t much point in trying. I’d become a writer, and I realized in a new way how inadequate my Spanish was, how far I was from being able to say anything important or meaningful. And so I quit.

But coming back to San Miguel de Allende has changed my mind. Because at its core, language is not about putting together beautiful sentences or showing off my vocabulary and grammatical skills.

Language is about connecting with people.

I will never understand Spanish as clearly as I would like. I won’t get the subtle inferences, the implied meanings. I’ll always be a little naive and clueless and have to have things spelled out for me. But, as I think about this, I realize I’m a little like this all the time—in any language.

What matters is that last night, I overheard two elderly Mexican tourists who could not find their way back to their hotel. The hotel was only a block and a half away. It was not an emergency. But I understood their confusion and said, “I know where that is. I am going there.”

They looked a little skeptical. This blond woman did not look like a local. But they slowly followed me (one had a cane) and, when we finally made it to their hotel, I was absurdly pleased.

My progress in Spanish is slow. I lose hope on a regular basis.

But yesterday, I helped two old women find their way. And the day before that, I made a joke. It wasn’t much of a joke, but somebody laughed—and at least for today—that is all the motivation I need.

Till next time,

Carrie

Photos from the column and a link to YouTube videos can be found at CarrieClasson.com.

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most directly affect the ability to actually take criminals off the street.

Note 2 – The District Attorney’s Office maintains that they have not actually received all of the promised funds. Because the County’s monthly financial statements are so far out of date (latest available at this time is April), I cannot verify whether they have or not.

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.

GP Fun Club tours Port,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



The Galena Park Fun Club heading to their Port of Houston boat tour of the Houston Ship Channel.

Sam Houston. Dorothie's been very active with church and community services and has been a familiar face with working at Galena Park's (GP) elections. She served as President of the Peace Lutheran Ladies Circle in GP, served as president of Dorcas Guild, Eunice Guild and Zeal. Was Benevolence Chairwoman for 17 years at Zion Peace Lutheran. Chairwoman for 7 years on the GP Recreation Board, GP Zoning Board Chairwoman, Vice President of AARP, Chapter 1160 and once served as President of Heritage Hall Trip Planner in Jacinto City.

Rotary helps with Back-2-School Backpack Distribution

Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary Club partnered with the Galena Park ISD Resources and Training Center to distribute backpacks and school supplies to students. GPRTC president is Maria Barraza, a teacher at GPHS. Congratulations and welcome back to classes, students.



FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 2: Texans begin Lovie Smith Era; Texas gets first taste of SEC when it hosts No. 1-ranked Alabama

The Lovie Smith Era begins for the Texans on Sunday when they open the 2022 season under their new head coach when they host the Indianapolis Colts at NRG Stadium at noon on CBS.

Smith, the former head coach of the Chicago Bears and Tampa Bay Buccaneers, served as the Texans' defensive coordinator last year after one-and-done head coach David Culley.

After General Manager Nick Caserio interviewed a number of candidates, he realized he had his head coach already in house in Smith.

Smith led the Bears to the NFC title in 2006 before losing to the Colts and Peyton Manning in the Super Bowl. He led the Bears to three playoff appearances, two appearances in the NFC title game and brings an 89-87 record into his third stint as a head coach.

While Culley was a nice guy, he was in way over his head as a head coach. Smith brings experience and stability to his new duties and I expect the Texans to be much more competitive in 2022 after going 4-13 under Culley.

Yes, the Texans were 3-0 in pre-season play, but as I've stated in past columns, the 1989 Cowboys were 3-1 under Jimmy Johnson in his first season as the Cowboys head coach and finished 1-15 in the regular season. Texans' fans should not pine their hopes on meaningless practice games. Then again, this team has the ability to be more competitive in 2022 thanks to a strong rookie class led by LSU cornerback Derek Stingley Jr., (LSU), offensive lineman Kenyon Green (Texas A&M), safety Jalen Pitre (Baylor) and running back Dameon Pierce (Florida). Peirce was the star of camp and pre-season and could be Houston's starting running back against the Colts.

While much has changed for the Texans, the Colts also made a change for the better at quarterback when they traded for Matt Ryan in the offseason. Ryan is definitely a big upgrade over Carson Wentz who was one and done in Indy. Ryan should be the missing touch to a very good Colts offense.

While the Texans begin their season on Sunday, the NFL kicks off its 2022 season on Thursday when the defending Super Bowl champs the Los Angeles Rams host Buffalo, who many are picking to win it all this year, in prime time on NBC. That should be a heck of an opener.

Other key games in Week 1 feature Kansas City visiting Arizona, while the Cowboys will host Tom Brady and Tampa Bay on Sunday Night Football. Week 1 concludes on Monday Night Football with Russell Wilson returning to Seattle to lead his new team, the Denver Broncos, against his former team the Seahawks. The MNF opener will also be the debut of Joe Buck and Troy Aikman as the new voices of Monday Night Football.

While the NFL will take top billing this weekend, there are a couple of interesting college games on tap in the Lone Star State.

Texas gets its first look at what life will be like when they join the SEC when Steve Sarkisian's team hosts Nick Saban and his No. 1-ranked Alabama Crimson Tide in Austin on Saturday.

Texas and Oklahoma will join the SEC in 2025, if not before, and this game should give UT fans of preview of what lies ahead for their team. Texas is 7-1-1 all-time against the Tide. The last time these two met was in the BCS title game in 2010 following the 2009 season which Saban's team won 37-21 to give him the first of his six national title in Tuscaloosa.

The game will be nationally televised on FOX with a noon kickoff.

While Texas hosts Alabama, the Houston Cougars will trek to Lubbock to take on the Red Raiders. These two teams met a year ago with UH jumping out to a 21-7 halftime lead before Tech outscored Dana Holgerson's team 31-0 in the second half to secure a 38-21 victory. Red



Raider fans are excited about first-year head coach Joey McGuire and the life he has pumped back into the mediocre program. McGuire hit the ground running and had a nice first recruiting class and is putting together a top-20 2023 class. This will be a big test for his young team, while Holgerson and the Coogs will look for a win to keep their College Football Playoff hopes alive.

It should be an interesting weekend, so without further ado, let's take a look at what's in store for us this weekend.

NCAA

Alabama at Texas: Texas fans will get an idea of what life will be like in the SEC when they host No. 1-ranked Alabama on Saturday in Royal Memorial Stadium. UT head coach Steve Sarkisian served as Nick Saban's offensive coordinator for a number of years and knows how he operates. That might help a bit, but he'd better hope his players put forth their best effort or it could turn into a long day in the Capitol City. The Crimson Tide finished 13-2 a year ago and, in a rebuilding, year reached the CFP national title game, where they lost to fellow SEC foe Georgia. That loss still rankles Saban and his team and you had better believe they want to send a message to the rest of the SEC and those in Columbus, Ohio, and points beyond that they intend to be the top dog when the 2022 season concludes in Los Angeles' SoFi Stadium and the CFP title game in January of 2023. Texas struggled on defense last year and if that unit isn't improved this year, 'Bama QB Bryce Young (4,872 yards, 47 TDs), the reigning Heisman Trophy winner, will slice and dice UT up come Saturday. Young in breaking in a new set of receivers, but they don't rebuild in Tuscaloosa, they reload replacing a group of five-star wideouts with another group of five-star wideouts. The Alabama running game got a boost with the addition of former Georgia Tech back Jahmyr Gibbs (746 rushing yards, 35 receptions, 465 yards, 6 total TDs). Texas must establish star running back Bijan Robinson (1,127 yards, 15 total TDs in 190 games) to take pressure off of QB Quinn Ewers, who will be making only his second start in college football after transferring from Ohio State. A rebuilt UT offensive line will have its hands full with All-American linebacker Will Anderson Jr. (17.5 sacks in 2022) and his teammates. UT may hang around in this one, but look for Young and the Alabama offense to pull away in the second half to send Horns fans home unhappy. My pick, Alabama 36, Texas 20

Houston at Texas Tech: Dana Holgerson returns to Lubbock where he served on former Tech head coach Mike Leach's staff as a young offensive coach. He returns with a team that many believe can contend for a spot in the CFP playoffs, but in order to do so, they need to run the table, which means winning in Lubbock on Saturday. Houston finished 12-2 a year ago and returns starting QB Clayton Tune (3,544 yards, 30 TDs) and star wide receiver Nathan Dell (90 receptions, 1,329 yards, 12 TDs), but will be without the services of freshman star running back Alton McCaskill (961 yards, 18 total TDs), who suffered a season-ending knee injury during spring drills. As stated earlier, Tech fans are juiced about new head coach Joey McGuire. McGuire was the assistant head coach at Baylor and prior to that won three state championship at Cedar Hill High School, played in another title game and forged a 141-42 record in 12 years at the Dallas-suburb school. McGuire is enthusiastic about being the Tech head coach and will turn the offense over to QB Tyler Shough (872 passing yards, 3 TDs in 4 games in 2022) and running back SaRodrick

Thomas (500 yards, 10 TDs). Look for the Tech defense to be much improved led by former Eisenhower star cornerback Adrian Frye. UH knows if it can get a win on the road in Lubbock, then it could very well run the table. My pick, Houston 33, Texas Tech 28

NFL

Buffalo at Los Angeles Rams: What an opener for the 2022 season! The defending Super Bowl champs host the team many are picking to win it all in 2023, the Buffalo Bills. The Rams finished 12-5 a year ago en route to their big game win over the Bengals in their home stadium. Head coach Sean McVay's team will be looking to become the first team since the 2004 and 2005 New England Patriots to win the Lombardi Trophy two years in a row. The Rams return a strong nucleus led by quarterback Matthew Stafford (4,886 yards, 41 TDs) and wide receiver Cooper Kupp (145 receptions, 1,947 yards, 16 TDs). They added another capable receiver in Allen Robinson, who languished with the Bears for a number of years. Robinson should flourish in McVay's offense and with a real QB in Stafford. While the defense took a hit with the loss of Von Miller, who ironically signed with Buffalo in the offseason, the Rams still have three-time Defensive MVP Aaron Donald (12 sacks) wreaking havoc in the middle. Donald and his teammates will get a good test in Game 1 with a Buffalo offense that is loaded and led by perhaps the best young QB in the game in Josh Allen (4,407 passing yards, 34 TDs/763 rushing yards, 6 TDs). Allen should be in store for a huge season, as well as dependable wide receiver Stefon Diggs (103 receptions, 1,225 yards, 10 TDs). The Bills are also excited about the prospects of fellow wide receiver Gabriel Davis (35 receptions, 549 yards, 6 TDs) who announced his big-game capabilities in the AFC Divisional playoff loss to Kansas City with eight catches for 201 yards and four touchdowns. Miller should give the Bills another solid defender to go along with a top 5 defense and should provide a spark coming off the edge. This should be a wild game, but I'm going with the defending champs to pull it out late. Maybe, just maybe, these two teams will meet once again come February in Arizona in Super Bowl XVI. My pick, Los Angeles Rams 36, Buffalo 33

Indianapolis at Houston: The Texans and their new head coach host AFC South division rival Indianapolis and their new QB Matt Ryan on Sunday at NRG Stadium. Houston fans will get an early look on how much Lovie Smith and his staff have improved what was a horrible defense in 2021. The secondary has been upgraded with draft picks Stingley at corner and Pitre at safety and those two will get a real test in their first pro games when they face the veteran Ryan (3,698 yards, 20 TDs in his last year in Atlanta) and the NFL's leading rusher in 2021 in Jonathan Taylor (1,811 yards, 20 total TDs). They will also have to contend with an up-and-coming wide receiver in Michael Pittman Jr. (88 receptions, 1,082 yards, 6 TDs) and one of the league's best offensive lines. On offense, the Texans have handed the QB job to second-year man Davis Mills (2,664 yards, 16 TDs). His top target will continue to be productive Brandin Cooks (90 receptions, 1,037 yards, 6 TDs), and he should have a better running game with the signing of former Colts RB Marlon Mack and rookie sensation Damien Pierce, who lit it up in the preseason. I think the Texans hang around in this one, but look for Ryan and Taylor to be the difference makers in the fourth quarter. My pick, Indianapolis 26, Houston 23

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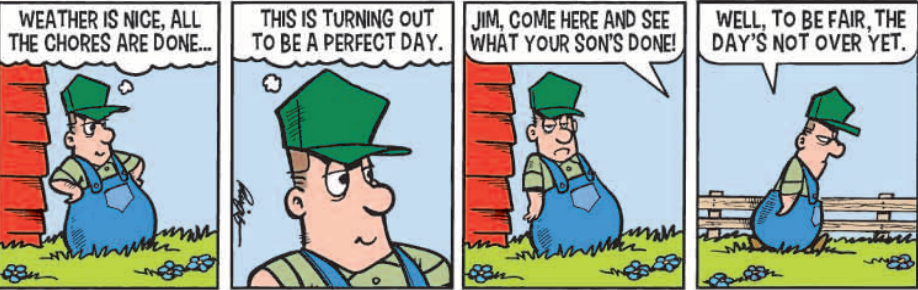


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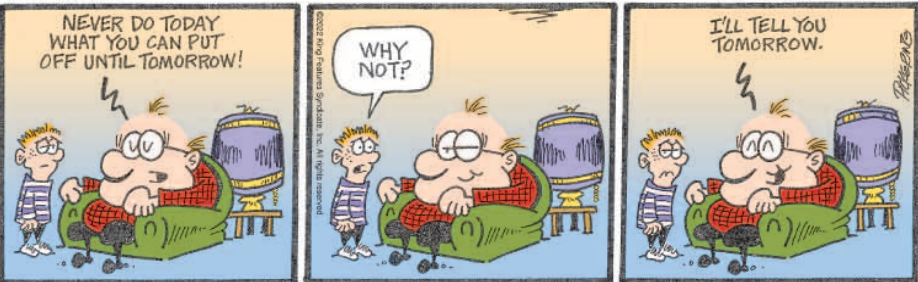
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The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Differences: 1. Bow is smaller. 2. Bat is moved. 3. Cake is different. 4. Cap is reversed. 5. Shirt is different. 6. Sneaker is different.

Battleship Texas sails to Galveston,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Early Wednesday morning the Battleship Texas passes the Lynchburg Ferry south landing, and Seguin Park.

prepare for the restoration and required a dedicated project group consisting of the Battleship Texas Foundation, the operator of the ship, Valkor Energy Services, the project management and engineering firm for the ship repair, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the administrator of the ship. Resolve Marine Group was contracted in 2020 and co-ordinated with the Battleship Texas Foundation and Valkor Energy Services to reduce the amount of water leaking into the ship to help ensure a safe journey.

After an extensive campaign to save it from destruction, The Battleship Texas was decommissioned and commemorated as a museum at the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site on April 21st, 1948 – 112 years to the day that the Texas Republic won its independence. The restoration project is expected to be completed between June and September 2023, after which the Battleship Texas will seek a new place to reside and reopen to the public.

ABOUT THE BATTLESHIP TEXAS

FOUNDATION
Formed in 1998, the Battleship Texas Foundation exists today as an advocate for Battleship Texas, and to help develop the historic ship into a premier hands-on museum and visitor attraction. The Battleship Texas Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; as of August 1st, 2020, Battleship Texas Foundation has taken the lead in the operations of Battleship Texas, with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department retaining an advisory and oversight role.



Battleship Texas is pulled by a tug boat in the ship channel, and guided by several others on its way to Galveston.

celebrity extra

by Dana Jackson

Q: Is the TV series “Big Sky” coming back this fall, or next year? I can’t keep track of all my favorite shows, since they don’t all start during the fall TV season. — L.Y.

A: Yes, “Big Sky” will return to ABC on Wednesday, Sept. 21 at 10 p.m. ET. With each season having a separate storyline, there will also be an expanded title this season — “Big Sky: Deadly Trails.” Constance Zimmer is expected, but not confirmed, to be returning, since last season’s story left viewers hanging.

According to Precinct TV.com, Zimmer isn’t a series regular and is quite busy, so “this could lead to her not being available to film ‘Big Sky’ season three.” However, I can confirm several big stars who are joining the show this season on a contract basis. Jensen Ackles (“Supernatural”) debuted as Beau Arlen at the end of season two, but will be back, along with Jamie-Lynn Sigler (“The Sopranos”). Singer/actress Reba McEntire will play Sunny Bricker, the owner of a “glamping” business whose custom-



Kylie Bunbury portrays Cassie Dewell in ABC's “Big Sky.”

the upcoming movie directed by Greg Mottola, is not a remake of 1985’s “Fletch” or its sequel, “Fletch Lives,” but it is the same character originally portrayed by Chase. In the 2022 version, Fletch, as played by Jon Hamm, is a semi-retired investigative journalist who finds himself accused of a string of murders. Hamm’s “Mad Men” co-star, John Slattery, also stars in the movie as Fletch’s newspaper editor.

According to Mottola, the two characters have a love-hate relationship. Even before Chase stepped into Fletch’s shoes decades ago, the character was originally conceived by author Gregory Mcdonald in a series of books. His novel “Confess, Fletch” was actually published in 1976. The new film is based closer to the character from the books, rather than Chase’s portrayal, as Hamm didn’t want to just mimic the legendary comedic actor’s mannerisms. Look for “Confess, Fletch” in theaters and on-demand beginning Sept. 16.

*** Q: I saw a preview for a new movie starring Jon Hamm, with the name “Fletch” in it. Is it a remake of the Chevy Chase film of the same name from years ago? — J.G. A: “Confess, Fletch,”

Trivia Test Answerst
1. Nauru, an island nation in the Pacific Ocean.; 2. The Year of the Tiger.; 3. 1995.; 4. 70. She just celebrated her Platinum Jubilee.; 5. Hugh Jackman.; 6. West Virginia.; 7. Earth.; 8. Anubis, god of death.; 9. Three.; 10. Buddha was born in what is modern-day Nepal.

September 5, 2022 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Milan's La —
6 Mops the deck
11 First game of the season
12 Fortune-telling decks
14 Gift giver's words
15 Not level
16 Italian "three"
17 Trombone part
19 Coach Parseghian
20 Coup d' —
22 Summer on the Seine
23 Not kosher
24 Hose material
26 1955 Platters hit
28 — -di-dah
30 Pinnacle
31 "Pretty please?"
35 From the area
39 Writer Kingsley
40 Highland hat
42 "Elephant Boy" actor
43 UV ray-blocking stat
44 James — Garfield
46 Stanley Cup org.

DOWN

1 Stylish
2 Breakfast bowlful
3 Whatever amount
4 Late July babies
5 As — (usually)
6 Pupil
7 Diminish
8 "Right you —!"
9 Emma of fiction
10 Sound system
11 Frequently
13 Major mix-up
18 "Am — blame?"
21 Bridge fees
23 Printing errors
25 Aye under
27 Texter's chuckle
29 Sites of rapid growth
31 Squander
32 Chevy model
33 Boost
34 Eg. and Syr., once
36 Big gorge
37 Loathes
38 Humdingers
41 Taj —
44 Out of the storm
45 Simple
48 Pro Bowl stats
50 Singer Sumac

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King Crossword

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

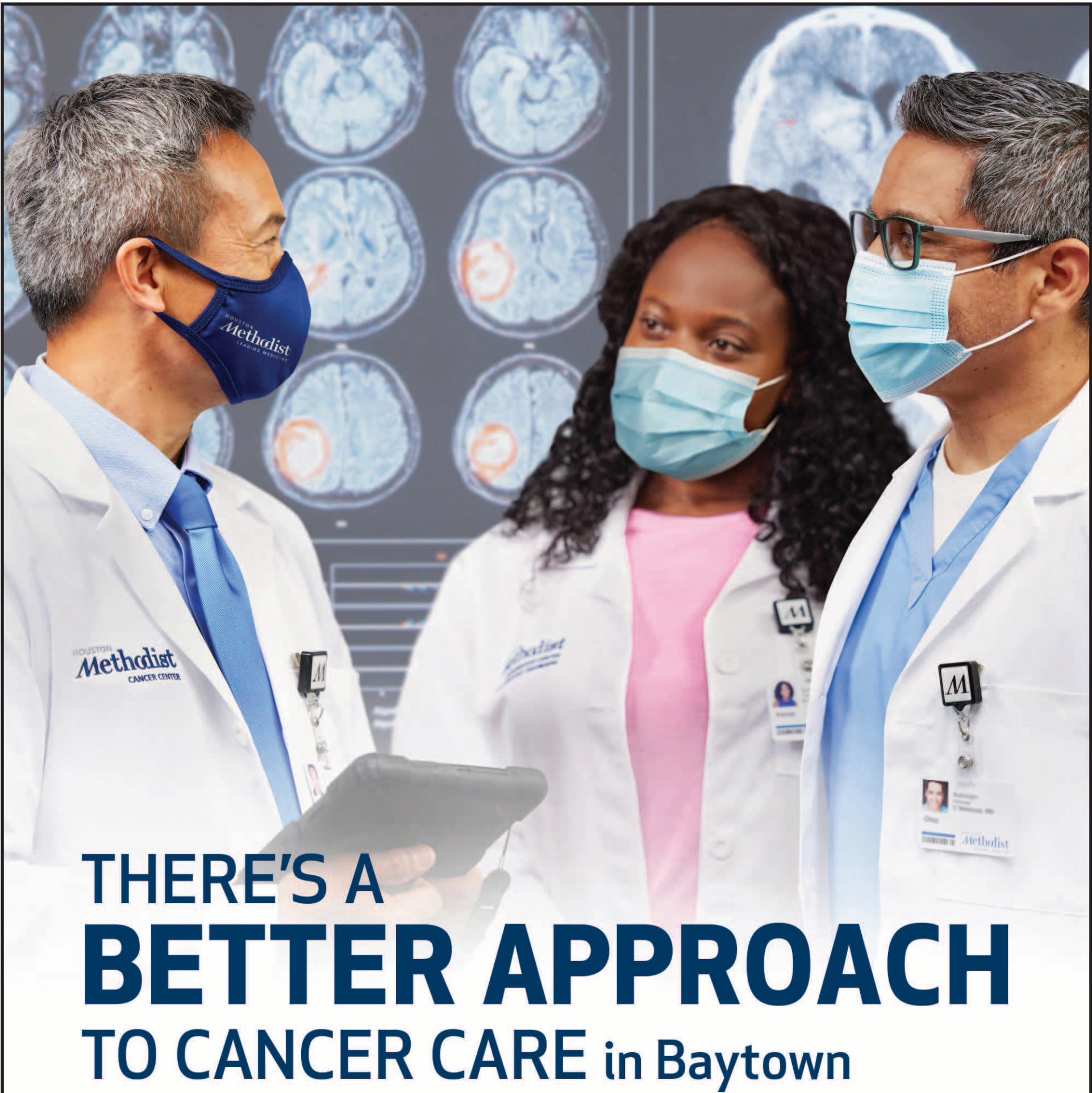
Across: 1. SNAKE, 2. MOP, 3. FIRST, 4. GIFT, 5. NOT, 6. ITALIAN, 7. TROMBONE, 8. COACH, 9. COUP, 10. SEINE, 11. KOSHER, 12. HOSE, 13. PLATTERS, 14. DI, 15. Pinnacle, 16. Pretty, 17. From, 18. Writer, 19. Kingsley, 20. Highland, 21. Elephant, 22. UV, 23. James, 24. Stanley, 25. Cup, 26. SNAKE, 27. MOP, 28. FIRST, 29. GIFT, 30. NOT, 31. ITALIAN, 32. TROMBONE, 33. COACH, 34. COUP, 35. SEINE, 36. KOSHER, 37. HOSE, 38. PLATTERS, 39. DI, 40. Pinnacle, 41. Pretty, 42. From, 43. Writer, 44. Kingsley, 45. Highland, 46. Elephant, 47. UV, 48. James, 49. Stanley, 50. Cup.

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the only country in the world without an official capital city?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which Chinese zodiac animal is celebrated in the year 2022?
3. BUSINESS: When did the auction site eBay launch?
4. HISTORY: How many years has Queen Elizabeth been on the throne?
5. MOVIES: Who played Wolverine in the X-Men movie series?
6. U.S. STATES: Which state's motto is "Mountaineers are always free"?
7. ASTRONOMY: What is the only planet in our solar system that isn't named after a Greek-Roman deity?
8. MYTHOLOGY: Which Egyptian god has the head of a jackal?
9. TELEVISION: How many times has the hospital's name changed in the drama "Grey's Anatomy"?
10. RELIGION: Where was the founder of Buddhism born?

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