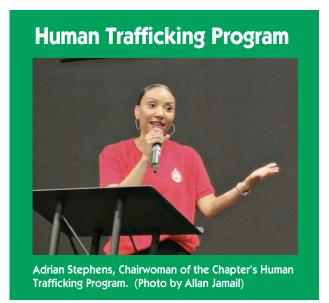
NORTH CHANNEL STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper



Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City VOLUME 11, NO. 22 (#472) THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023 www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

Precinct 2 Begins Road Improvements on Dell Dale Street in Channelview

Jacinto City changes Trash Pick-up Days

Starting Monday, May 3 waste collection days will change to MONDAY and THURSDAY. The last Saturday that waste will be collected is April 29. Heavy waste collection will occur on Thursdays.

Contact WM at 800-800-5804 with questions.

Tina's Resale Shop closing after 20 years

Tina Zorrilla is retiring after 20 years, and permanently closing her Resale Shop at 10407 Market Street in Jacinto City. All merchandise is 50% off, including furniture, antique collectibles, sports memorabilia, cameras, jewelry, and much more. Open Tues-Sat 11-6. See details on page 5.

It's a Dirty Business

Joe Flanagan of Lonestar Siteworks has available time for Dozer, Backhoe and Tractor work. Call or text him for a Free Quote on your next Dirt(y) project. 832-530-0054. He's well recommended, fast and inexpensive. Call now.

Free Student Desks at Ace Hardware

Sunday, June 11th from 10 am to 2 pm at the Galena Park Ace Hardware (Kiran Bardai, owner/operator) located at 1401 Holland Ave, Galena Park, TX 77547, students and or parents can build a free-totake-home student desk in just 45 minutes. The Houston Tool Bank will provide everything you need, including pre-cut building materials, tools, instructions and expert facilitators. This is a family friendly event, all ages and abilities are welcome. Volunteers needed. For more details call; 713-674CHANNELVIEW – Harris County Precinct 2 crews will soon begin making improvements to a dark and busy stretch of road in Channelview.

The Revive 2 Thrive project comes almost six months after Jacqueline Gonzalez, 25, was hit and killed while attempting to cross the street near the 2200 block of Dell Dale Street on the night of December 5.

"There's no sidewalk, so she decided to cross the street to get over to where there was a side-



walk, but it was very Commissioner Adrian Garcia at the Groundbreaking Ceremony

dark the car who hit her didn't see her," said Jacqueline's mother Susana Gonzalez.

Gonzalez said, she went to Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia for help after authorities determined poor lighting also played a factor in the crash.

"We have looked at the crash data and there's a significant number of crashes involving injury in the area because num-

CONTINUED. See Dell Dale Improvements, Page 3

Human Trafficking Community Awareness Program

By Allan Jamail

May, 20, 2023 – Saturday morning President Debra Johnson and Chairwoman Adrian Stephens of the East Harris Chambers Liberty County Alumnae Chapter (Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated) had a public forum on human trafficking. The event was well attended by women, men and young adult teens at the Fellowship of Purpose church on Wallisville Road.

Alisha Kent Norman, President Elect began the event by introducing the two moderators, Ms. Kachelle Kelly and DJ Supastar. The panelists were,



Human Trafficking Community Awareness Program presenters. Panelists seated L-R: Dr. Juanae Johnson, Ms. Marion Reed, Ms. Shani Bacy & Dr. Nissi Hamilton. Standing L-R: DJ Supastar- Moderator, Mrs. Debra Johnson-President, Mrs. Adrian Stephens- Chair & Ms. Kachelle Kelly- Moderator. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Ms. Shani Bacy, Dr. Nissi Hamilton, Dr. Juanae Johnson, and Ms. Marion Reed.

The moderators alternated questions to each of the panelists and they then gave a thorough answer that provided the audience with lots of helpful information on how to prevent them or a family members from becoming a trafficking victim. The audience attendees were allowed to ask the panelists questions regarding specific issues they wanted addressed.

Adrian Stephens, CONTINUED. See Human Trafficking Program, Page 3

East Houston United wins 4th NBL-United States Championship in a row.

By Allan Jamail

May 19, 2023 Houston, North Shore, San Jacinto College North the East Houston United (EHU) Basketball Team barley escaped a defeat at the hands of the Lake Houston Flight winning 98 – 95. With the score tied at 95, with 3 seconds left in regulation PLAY, Josh Anderson for United passed the ball to Brandon Taylor who made the 26 foot 3 point buzzer shot for the winning basket.

CONTINUED. See East Houston Basketball, Page 3



Gun BuyBack continues on June 10th at NRG

HOUSTON - Mayor Sylvester Turner joined Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis and Houston Police Chief Troy Finner today to announce the date of the next gun buyback.

The gun buyback program is part of the Violence Reduction and Crime Prevention section of the Houston Police Department. The City of Houston has committed \$1 million to a robust gun buyback initiative to reduce violence and prevent crime by removing illegal or unwanted firearms from the street.

The next gun buyback will be held from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 10, at NRG Park, in the Yellow Main Street Lot, 9051 S Main Street. The location



Officers check guns that have been turned in as part of the City-County BuyBack program.

is Gate# 16 off Main Street, the Yellow Main Street Lot main gate.

People can bring their unwanted guns and exchange them for a gift card. \$50.00: Non-functioning

firearm

\$100.00: Shotgun or Rifle (Hunting)

\$150.00: Revolver \$150.00: Semi-Auto Handgun

Continued. See Gun BuyBack, Page 3 ABOVE: Standing Top Row, L-R: Owner, Cedric Washington, Dillon Eden (Crosby High), Joseph Gilliam (North Shore High), Gavin Faure, (Lacombe, Louisiana), Xavier Howard, (Jack Yates High), Head Coach Kevin Williams Sr., Corey Alpough, (Channelview High), Owner, AJ Bocard & Brandon Taylor (Galena Park High).

Seated L-R: Owner Chris Butler, Torrence Green, New Orleans, LA., Kyron Williams, (Humble High), lan Eberhardt, (Port Arthur, TX), Josh Anderson (CE King High) Maurice Redmond III Channelview) with baby Brixley Redmond & Asante Belton, Jonesboro, LA. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

AT RIGHT: East Houston United #10 Corey Alpough (2023 League MVP) goes airborne between two Lake Houston Flight players to tie the game with less than 30 seconds left on the clock. Read game ending buzzer shot below. (Photo by Allan Jamail)





SHELDON ISD NEWS

King High School Graduates 796 Seniors

On Friday, May 26 approximately 796 seniors graduated from King High School with a ceremony at Panther Stadium. The Class of 2023 has \$4.14 million in academic scholarships and \$1.44 million in athletic scholarships. Approximately 41% are graduating from the Early College High School with their associates degree. This is a higher percentage than previous years and higher than the national average. The Class of 2023 has 14 seniors enlisting in the armed forces with two ROTC Army scholarship winners. Graduates have more than 320 industrybased certifications which they obtained while in school. Sheldon ISD desires to graduate students with personalized learning that prepares them for their future in college and/or a career. Congratulations to the Class of 2023.



VALEDICTORIAN HILARY TRISTAN









Pre-kindergarten Registration Now Available

Sheldon ISD is now accepting enrollment for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students for the 2023-24 school year. Sheldon ISD's mission to provide a personalized learning experience to equip students with the skills needed to be successful in college and/or a career begins as early as pre-kindergarten. Skills like literacy development are critical to begin at an early age. Sheldon offers full-day pre-kindergarten for children four years of age at two early childhood facilities. The district provides a curriculum, Fueling Brians, that focuses on the whole child, with classrooms that focus on developing the left and right brain executive functions. To register, please go to www.sheldonisd.com/register.

In North Shore, nearly everyone reads the NORTH CHANNEL STAR. Your Hometown Newspaper.

Sheldon ISD to Host Summer Movie Night



On June 8 at Panther Stadium, Sheldon ISD will host a Summer Movie Night. There will be carnival games, concessions, and an opportunity to meet the new Superintendent Dr. Demetrius McCall before the movie CARS starts at dusk. Carnival games and concessions will be available beginning at 5 p.m. Please bring cash if you wish to participate in the carnival or purchase concessions. A Meet and Greet will be held at the Panther Zone for the new Superintendent Dr. McCall. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy the show. Panther Stadium has a clear bag policy, no umbrellas, and metal detectors will be in use upon entrance.

Dr. King Davis Announced as HAABSE Pinnacle Award Recipient



Retiring Sheldon ISD Superintendent Dr. King Davis has been announced as a Pinnacle Award recipient from HAABSE (Houston Area Alliance of Black School Educators).

Dr. Davis was the superintendent in Sheldon ISD for seven years. He will be recognized at a conference in July, along with Sheldon ISD's former Deputy Superintendent of Academics (now Superintendent in Crosby ISD) Mrs. Paula Patterson.

GALENA PARK ISD NEWS

GPISD Had a Merry Meet

Houston, TX: Galena Park ISD (GPISD) recognized Scott Merry, the University Interscholastic League (UIL) District Academic Meet Director, for his meticulous organization and facilitation of the March 24th Academic Meet at North Shore Senior High School (NS-SHS).

The goals of the UIL Academic Meet are to motivate students through comprehensive competitions, challenge students to think critically and provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of essential knowledge and skills. The 21-6A Academic District Meet included hosting eight schools and 22 events at NSSHS. Merry also supervised and directed 125 members of GPISD personnel and 42 student volunteers - such an undertaking required nearly seven months of preparation and countless hours of coordination. Thanks to Mr. Merry, Galena Park ISD is a shining example of how neighboring school districts can work together for the good of all students.

A certificate was presented to Scott Merry on behalf of the Board of Trustees and Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools.

Story Credit: Dr. Tommie L. Smith

Photo Credit: Jerome Delafosse



Pictured: The NSSHS administrative team; Wanda Heath-Johnson, GPISD Board Trustee; Scott Merry, UIL District Academic Meet Director; Dr. Joe Coleman, NSSHS Principal; Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools



CHARLOTTE'S

By Charlotte Jackson



Learning to Plan

hile heading to a doctor's appointment on Monday, I was shocked to see so many people on the freeway not only ignoring the posted speed limit, but also weaving in and out of traffic as if they were on a racetrack. I am the first to admit that I am spoiled by only making two turns and traveling four miles to get to my office, but this was insane. Another thing that I noticed was the poor conditions to the sides of the freeway. When I looked to my right to change lanes, I saw so much junk on the shoulder. And the weeds were way out of control.

At first, I was thinking about how my dad raised me to believe that if you were on time, you were late. And if you were late, you were fired. He sure needs to return to Houston and teach some classes. If someone needs to be at work by seven in the morning, I was taught to lay out my clothes the night before and leave early enough to arrive at least fifteen minutes early. My mom instilled the idea of using a planer before I ever entered junior high. But looking at the traffic today, this too must be a lost art.

Drivers were speeding up, switching lanes, slamming on their brakes and by the time I arrived at the doctor, twenty minutes prior to my appointment, I had to sit in the car and pray to bring my blood pressure down. When I went inside and was talking to staff as well as other patients, we all agreed that someone needs to teach time manage-

As I started the venture home, I again noticed the conditions of the roads. One that that struck me was that the closer I got to Loop 610 at Interstate 10, the nastier the roads appeared, and the landscaping looked more than neglected. So, in my head, I began planning another project.

I realized that we need a team. One person to host the meetings and another one to help publicize the meetings. We need input from those who are lifelong Houstonians as well as the newer neighbors. We need people to photograph the conditions and we need someone to research who we need to contact. I think this is out of the hands of our city and county officials. This is something that will need to be addressed with the Texas Department of Transportation. We are going to need to plan on colleting signatures from our community as well as letters asking that something be done.

Just a few weeks ago, when I was driving two ladies who were in town from out of state, they asked why the concrete barriers on the Beltway seemed to be dirtier than they were closer to Interstate 45. Is it because of the refineries? Was it because we were outside of city limits?

Somehow by the time I arrived home, I was planning the project for the beautification of the roads and reflecting on how to add time management to the list of skills I have been talking to others about that we should be volunteering to teach for free to first time job applicants. Always thinking, always planning and always wanting to make a difference. If you would like to be involved in either project, please contact me at charlotte.jackson@yahoo.com

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Gun BuyBack June 10th,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

\$200.00: Rifle Semi-Auto

The Gun Buyback program is completely anonymous for the public in keeping with our objective of retrieving as many firearms as possible from Greater Houston residents.

"I know someone will criticize the program - but the truth is gun buybacks work as one tool in a comprehensive initiative to fight gun violence. Homicides, gun violence, and overall violent crime is down across our City, and we want to keep that momentum going," said Mayor Sylvester Turner. "The gun buyback along with the use of shot spotter, doing more to reduce domestic violence and mental health calls and robust technology and police overtime are pieces of the puzzle that may prevent someone from pulling the

trigger in the future or at least think twice before resorting to violence."

The City has held two previous successful gun buybacks. The first gun buyback collected 793 guns, and the second event collected 1252 guns. Harris County Precinct One, the Harris County Sheriff's Office, and the City of Houston collaborated on a third gun buyback at Deussen Park earlier this year. Officials collected

793 firearms. "As Mayor Turner alluded to, there have been questions about gun buybacks and whether or not they're effective at improving public safety," said Commissioner Rodney Ellis. "After three wildly successful buyback events, one thing is not up for debate: that this community is ready to be a part of the solution to end gun vio-

Dell Dale Improvements,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ber one its dark, it's a long stretch without any indication that you have to control your speed," said Commissioner Gar-

Garcia and his team have since committed \$1.6 million to the project which will include three phases and 1.8 miles of sidewalk.

"We have devised a Revive to Thrive phase 3 project which will include the sidewalks, it will be phase 1. The second phase will be street lighting and third phase will be a caution light at the intersection of where the accident happened," Garcia said.

Garcia said work on the project is expected to begin in the next month with all three phases expected to be complete by October 2024.

East Houston Basketball Champions,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The game was a nail bit- ed he called time to get all to finish with both teams swapping the lead continuously. It appeared the defending champion EHU was going to lose their first championship game in four years. But as the ole saying goes, "NEVER UN-DER ESTIMATE THE HEART OF A CHAMPI-

Head Coach Kevin Williams Sr's team was no doubt in trouble but Coach Williams kept calm on the sidelines and when need-

ter, barn burner from start players on the same page as to how to pull off another victory and out of the hands of defeat.

Sponsors of the league are, Cutting Edge Barber & Beauty Shop, KB3 Charity, Connecting Dots, Molten, Cargo Express and Extended Stay.

Corey Alpough received the National Basketball League-United States Most Valuable Player Award. Brandon Taylor received the Gerone Bull Woods Finals MVP.

Dealing with the loss of a loved one is never easy, but maybe these guys can help!

We're the only funeral home in the Houston area providing full-time, certified therapy dogs for the comfort of our families and guests



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ASK DIAMOND JIM



Diamond Jim: "Divergences in **Ratios Show** Silver is Undervalued"

Last week, Citigroup analysts published a report calling for silver to reach \$30 per ounce within 9 months.

Could Citigroup be exaggerating or on target? Today's silver spot price is about \$23.50 per ounce; so a move to \$30.00 would be a 28% jump. Let's look at a few data sets that augur for higher silver prices... Throughout human history, about 8.5 ounces of silver have been extracted from the earth for every one ounce of gold.

According to the World Gold Council, an estimated 208,874 tons of gold have been mined. The distribution of gold above ground is as follows:

*Jewelry: 46%

*Bars and coins: 22%

*Central banks: 17%

*Other: 15%

According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), about 1.74 million metric tons of silver have been mined. Here are the top five uses of silver by percentage, including bullion, solar, jewelry, and electron-

*Jewelry: 40%

*Electronics: 25%

*Industrial: 15%

*Bullion: 10%

*Other: (art, religious objects, currency) 10%

The gold-to-silver price ratio is influenced by supply-and-demand trends, macro-economic conditions, and investor sentiment. In particular, industrial demand is an enormous tailwind for silver.

Mining production: currently, the gold-to-silver ratio is nine ounces of silver mined for every ounce of gold. Meanwhile, the gold-to-silver price ratio average for the past 250 years is 40:1. So now we get to the GREAT NEWS... Today, the gold-to-silver ratio is about 85:1. The 85:1 gold-to-silver ratio; historically, when the spread gets this wide, silver can explode higher to close the gap in a short time.

Since January 2000, this has happened four times. As stated previously, the average GSR in our modern era has been around 40:1. Historically, the ratio has often moved sharply lower. And when it does, it does so fiercely, swiftly, and lucratively for those positioned before the move.

The ratio fell to 30:1 in 2011 and below 20:1 in 1979. Let's just say it goes to 60:1 (padding it to be conser vative). A gold price of \$2,000 would translate into a silver price of over \$33. If, as many analysts predict, gold rises to \$3,000 per ounce in the next up cycle, and the gold-to-silver ratio reverts to 40:1, silver would more than triple to \$75. That could still be a conservative price target for a raging silver bull market. Time will tell. (Credit to Jon Forrest Little for this article)

If you are looking to get the lowest price for physical Gold and Silver, look no further than Pineforest Jewelry. We are precious metals bullion dealers. Contact us if you would like to set up a private appoint-

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★ OPINION PAGE ★



Gun Violence is the Leading Cause of Death for Children in the United States

June is Gun Violence Awareness Month

– A Call for Action and Prevention

HOUSTON – Gun violence is a public health crisis, and it is urgent to raise awareness and reflect on the importance of gun violence education and prevention. The number of mass shootings across the country continues to grow, and we must work collectively towards effective preventive measures. June is Gun Violence Awareness Month and Harris County Public Health (HCPH) highlights the alarming statistics and call upon residents to join forces in putting an end to the number one cause of violence of our youth.

Males aged ten to 14 years in the United States had an 85.7% increase in firearm-related deaths of males of this age range, the largest percentage increase in firearm-related deaths (from 2016 to 2020). For females, the age five to ten category had the largest percentage increase in firearm-related deaths from 2016 (34 deaths) to 2020 (46 deaths), an increase of 35.3% in firearm-related deaths of females of this age.

Texas has one of the highest rates of gun violence in the United States, including homicides, suicides, and unintentional shootings. The effects of firearm violence extend beyond victims and their families to the communities they live in. Even people who survive a firearm-related injury may experience long-term consequences, including problems with memory, thinking, emotions, and physical disability from injury to the brain; paralysis from injury to the spinal cord; and chronic mental health problems from conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder.

"Harris County Public Health (HCPH) recognizes gun violence as a public health crisis that devastates families and communities, and we are proactively working to build safer, healthier, and stronger communities" said HCPH Executive Director Barbie L. Robinson.

The Community Health and Violence Prevention Services (CHVPS) Division under HCPH addresses the reduction of gun violence and works in partnership with local agencies. This allows for a coordinated holistic response to improve community health and welfare and reduce violence. Since the beginning of this program, as of May 2023 CHVPS has prevented 18 instances of violence. through its Violence Interruption Program. Additionally, the CHVPS Holistic Assistance Response Team (HART) is an alternative first responder model in which non-law enforcement providers (crisis intervention specialist and a certified emergency medical technician) respond to non-emergent, non-violent 911 calls in the Harris County Sheriffs Office's District 1 area, which encompasses Cypress Station and has responded to 2,816 calls through May 6th.

Nonetheless, gun violence is a community issue, and we must come together to address the root causes of it. We urge our residents to join hands in the fight against gun violence. By working together, we can create safer neighborhoods, protect our loved ones, especially our young. It is time to prioritize public safety, advocate for sensible gun laws, and invest in prevention strategies that save lives.

To commemorate violence awareness month, CHVPS will be hosting events throughout June at various locations as follows:

DateTimeLocation

June 13, 202312 - 4 pmCarriage Place Apartments/Casa Paz-505 Wells Fargo Dr. Houston, TX

June 19, 202310- 2 pmYellowstone Park (George T. Nelson Park)3820 Yellowstone Blvd., Houston TX 77021

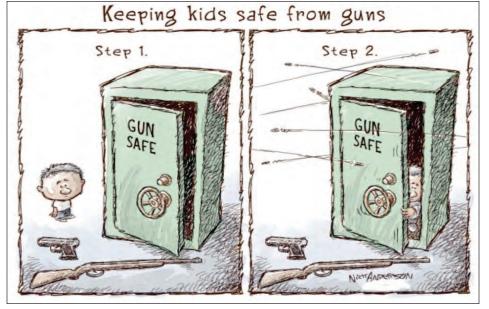
June 24, 202310 to 2 pmSunnyside MSC4410 Reed Road, Houston TX 77051-2718

June 29, 20231 to 6 pmWesley Square Apartments - 7402 Calhoun Rd #202, Houston, TX

In recognition of National Gun Violence Awareness Month in June, residents are encouraged to support gun violence awareness by pledging to Wear Orange on Friday, June 2nd, to raise awareness about gun violence, and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors.

For additional information on the CHVPS program, please visit hcphtx.org or call (713) 274-4877 or email violenceprevention@phs.hctx.net.

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.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

Abbott, Patrick Spar Over Tax Relief

Gov. Greg Abbott late last week warned lawmakers to be prepared for several special sessions to pass a tax reform bill that he will accept, as well as a school voucher plan that failed to pass during the regular session.

Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick are at odds over how to deliver more than \$17 billion in property tax relief, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

During the first special session, called immediately after the regular session ended May 29, the House of Representatives quickly passed a tax relief bill that Abbott supports, then adjourned. The governor said the measure could result in eventually eliminating property taxes. The Senate has not taken action. Patrick, who presides over the Senate, countered that eliminating all property taxes would result in local sales taxes more than doubling to 19%.

"Whenever sales taxes underperform, property taxes will immediately go back up," Patrick tweeted.

Speaking before the Texas Public Policy Foundation last Friday, Abbott proposed reducing the overall tax burden through population growth and an expanded business market paying taxes.

"Texans want to own their own property, not rent it from government," Abbott said.

SCOTT NAMED INTERIM ATTORNEY GENERAL

John Scott, who most recently served as Texas Secretary of State under Abbott, has been appointed the short-term interim Texas attorney general after Ken Paxton was forced to step aside while awaiting trial in the Senate. Paxton was impeached by the Texas House on May 27.

"John Scott has the background and experience needed to step in as a short-term interim Attorney General during the time the Attorney General has been suspended from duty," Abbott said.

Scott also worked as a deputy attorney general under Abbott, overseeing all civil litigation undertaken by that office, then served as chief operating officer of the Health and Human Services Commission. Paxton's trial in the Sen-



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

ate is slated to begin no later than Aug. 28, according to the Texas Tribune.

LEGAL HEAVYWEIGHTS TO PROSECUTE PAXTON

Two well-known Houston attorneys have been hired to prosecute the impeachment case against Paxton. Dick De-Guerin and Rusty Hardin have more than 100 combined years of courtroom experience, the Statesman reported.

"The people of the state of Texas are entitled to know whether their top cop is a crook," DeGuerin said. For his part, Hardin implored the Senate to make the proceedings public. That body plans to adopt rules of engagement for the trial on June 20.

Paxton, a three-term Republican, was impeached by a lopsided margin in the House. Impeachment is the rough equivalent of a grand jury indictment. The Senate will act as a court to determine his guilt or innocence of the 20 articles of impeachment. It requires a two-thirds majority to convict Paxton, whose wife, Angela Paxton, is a state senator.

DeGuerin has defended a number of high-profile clients, including former U.S. Rep. Tom DeLay and singer/songwriter Billy Joe Shaver.

PUC CHAIRMAN RESIGNS FROM PANEL

Peter Lake has resigned as chairman of the Texas Public Utility Commission, effective July 1. Appointed in the aftermath of the widespread outages caused by Winter Storm Uri in February 2021, Lake oversaw the overhaul of the embatled commission, including adopting weatherization standards for power plants and rebuilding the beleaguered Texas

power grid, according to The Dallas Morning News.

"Together we've overcome sometimes seemingly insurmountable challenges and delivered on our promise to Texans that we'd keep the lights on," Lake said in a statement.

Meanwhile, another PUC commissioner appointed last August to the five-member board was unanimously confirmed by the Senate in the closing days of the regular session. Kathleen Jackson of Beaumont previously served on a number of boards and commissions, including the Texas Water Development Board.

FINAL COVID-19 WORKERS' COMP REPORT

The workers' compensation division of the Texas Department of Insurance has issued its final update of COVID-19 worker's comp claims. By April 30, insurance carriers reported nearly 100,000 COVID-19 claims and 472 fatalities. A little more than half of the overall claims and of the fatalities involved first responders and correctional officers.

Because of the low number of new claims, no further updates are anticipated.

HISTORIC INVESTMENTS MADE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Texas higher education leaders appear pleased with funding allocated by the Legislature during the regular session, with a record \$5 billion allocated for the next two years.

"The 88th Legislature showed Texas' commitment to expanding opportunity through higher education and our determination to be at the forefront of higher education research, development, and innovation," said Commissioner Harrison Keller of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Several bills overhauled and increased state funding for community colleges and established the Texas University Fund to increase the state's investment in research at the state's public universities. Several other programs should expand access to higher education, including the Texas Leadership Scholars Program, as well as increased funding for student financial aid.

TEXANS, BEWARE OF POISON HEMLOCK

Students of philosophy and history may recall the Greek philosopher Socrates was forced to drink a concoction made of hemlock, resulting in his death. The beautiful but deadly plant has been spotted in Texas, according to a story in the Houston Chronicle. A Dallas-area woman has taken to social media to warn about some weeds she pulled up and the severe adverse reaction that quickly occurred. Only a quick shower and a trip to the

emergency room saved her life.

Poison hemlock has a smooth, green stem and an umbrellashaped cluster of white flowers.

All parts of the plant are extremely toxic to both humans and livestock, according to Texas A&M Agrilife. It can grow up to 10 feet tall. It is reportedly especially common in the Edwards Plateau region of the state west of San Antonio and Austin along creeks and bottomlands.



"Footprints"

They put in a new sidewalk," my neighbor said, "and the first thing that happened was, a cat walked across the cement and left little footprints!"

My neighbor was amused. "I hope they leave them. They're so cute!"

I thought those prints would probably survive. No one was going to take the trouble to cover up a few cat prints on the sidewalk with concrete.

A few years back, they started putting poetry on the sidewalk, laid right into the cement. I stop and read the poetry on my walk. I'll ponder for a moment or two, then move on. I'm not great with poetry. It fills me with questions that have no answers.

I want to ask the poet, "Can you tell me the rest of the story?" But there is no more. I'm sure the poet would be disappointed in me. But I like reading the poetry anyway.

Some pavement was replaced recently, and a leaf landed on it. There remains a perfect leaf print, and I took a picture of it. If I see the cat prints, I'll take a picture of them, too. I'm proud of that cat, leaving its mark.

Several years ago, I was camping in the northeast corner of New Mexico. I took a guided hike that showed prehistoric tracks. The tracks were made by dinosaurs when that piece of land, now desert, had been right at the edge of an ancient sea that stretched all the way to Canada. The land by the shore of this sea was jungle. The interpretive signs said there were a lot of animal tracks right there, because it was easier to walk on the beach than through the dense jungle. Just like today, creatures liked walking along the beach. The sand was dense, there was a lot of clay in it, and many of those prints were filled in and eventually turned to solid rock. The tracks on display in this park were estimated to be 200 million years old.

I tried to imagine leaving footprints that lasted 200 million years. I failed.

But the most interesting part, to me, was one particular dinosaur track where the paleontologists said the dinosaur had slipped. They knew this because dinosaurs held their tails aloft and only touched them to the ground when they needed extra stability—if they were going to fall. And that's what happened. A dinosaur was walking along this beach—I'm going to imagine it was a nice sunny day—the sand (with all that clay in it) was slippery and... Whoops!

She slipped and caught herself in the nick of time with her tail. Then she kept walking. We don't know what happened after that one moment in time—that moment that happened 200 million years ago. Just like the poems in the sidewalk, there is no more. But today, we can still see her tracks.

I love that.

The cat prints and the poetry and the leaf print in the cement will not last 200 million years. I've no idea if the planet will be here that long. But they will last longer than the poet who wrote the words or the cat who left the prints or the tree that dropped the leaf. And I think that is, somehow, wonderful.

I'd like to leave a small print somewhere. Nothing big. Nothing ostentatious. Maybe just a book that is in print for a few years before it disappears. That would be nice. Maybe just a record of a time when I slipped and—at the last moment—caught myself.

Till next time. Carrie.

Star Curier

USPS 244-500

Barbers Hill Dayton PRESS

NORTH CHANNEL STAR

Editor & Publisher. Gilbert Hoffman
Associate Publisher Mei-Ing Liu Hoffman
Assignment Editor. Mei-Ing Liu Hoffman
Marketing Executive Willie Glasgow
Production Manager. Gerardo Hernandez

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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

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

• RFP# 2324-002 – Student/Athletic Accident Insurance Bids will be received until 10:00 a.m., Friday, June 16, 2023, at the Channelview ISD's Ebidding 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 \rightarrow Business Office \rightarrow Purchasing. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Notice for Private Nonprofit Schools with students who reside in the Galena Park ISD attendance

Please be advised that Galena Park ISD will hold a Zoom meeting for administrators of all Private Nonprofit Schools that have students who reside in the Galena Park ISD attendance area. Information on program planning, availability, and eligibility criteria of Federal funds and services (Title I, II, III, IV, and Special Education programs) will be held on Monday, June 19, 2023, at 9:00 am. For additional information about this meeting, please contact Amy Cole at 832-386-1028 or at acole@galenaparkisd.com.





PERFECT FOR YOUR OUTDOOR GRILL **JUST IN TIME FOR FATHER'S DAY**





SUSAN LYNN HOFFMAN

Susan Lynn Hoffman died on Tuesday, May 23rd in Phoenix, Arizona at the age of 64, from Cardiac Arrest suffered during a scheduled heart procedure.

Susan was a graduate of New Castle, Pennsylvania High School, class of 1976, and Arizona State University, class of 1980, with a bachelor's degree in Political Science. Susan's career was as a Legal Assistant, and for most of her life she was employed by Attorney Scott Palumbo of the law firm Palumbo Wolfe & Palumbo. She was a valuable member of the firm who will be greatly missed.

Susan's interests included extensive travel, and care for every conceivable stray animal she encountered. With her sister Trisha, Susan had travelled to Mexico, Australia, Canada, and Florida and Washington States. She cared for many stray animals, including cats,



dogs, and birds. She kept some, but found foster homes when possible. She supported animal shelters and encouraged others to do the same. She was also an avid sports fan, following NASCAR and the NFL. She had been to several Super Bowls, and a Rose Bowl game.

Susan was born on September 24, 1957 in New Castle, Pennsylvania to Gilbert E. B. Hoffman and Carol Louise Lutz Hoffman. Her mother Carol preceded her in death in 2017. Susan is survived by her husband Terry Blanchard, her sister Trisha (Patricia) Alison Hoffman, her nephew Derek Geffs, stepsons



Kevin and Billy Blanchard, and several step-grandchildren. She is also survived by her half-sister Kristan Liu Hoffman and family of Cincinnati, Ohio. She also leaves extended Cramer family in Florida.

Susan had planned to retire in a few short years, and had a second home in the woods of Show Low, Arizona where she was able to retreat and enjoy the quiet of the country. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends. Funeral arrangements are private, and donations can be made in her name to animal rescue organizations.



BARC ANIMAL SHELTER & ADOPTIONS ADOPTING A PET

As the City of Houston's municipal Animal Shelter, BARC receives more than 15,000 animals each year. Many of these pets are adoptable and made available to the public, and thousands have found forever homes through BARC's adoption program. Looking to adopt a new BFF? You've come to the right place!

Adoptions are done on a first come, first served basis. We recommend visiting the shelter as soon as possible as animals are often adopted quickly! Please note that we are not able to place adoption holds for pets.

How do I adopt a pet?

All adoptions must be done in person. Start the process by planning your visit to the shelter. Appointments are not needed to adopt a pet!

To adopt you must be 18 years of age or older and have a valid, government issued photo ID. If the address on your ID does not match your current address, please provide an alternate proof of address such as a recent utility bill, lease agreement, or car insurance. Digital or hard copies will be accepted.

Our staff will review the pet's details with you to ensure that you are prepared to be as successful as possible with your new pet! Please allow at least one hour to interact with our available animals, speak to our medical team if necessary, and complete the adoption process. Depending on the number of guests we're serving, the pet adoption process can take anywhere from 60-90 minutes - our last adoption is processed at 5:00PM.

Please come prepared to take your new pet home with you. If the pet you've fallen in love with is already spayed or neutered, they will go home the same day. Otherwise, they will stay at the shelter and will be scheduled for surgery on the next available day. BARC provides a cardboard carrier for cats or a leash for dogs, but you may prefer to bring a travel crate or kennel for safe transport.

How much are adoption fees?

BARC's normal adoption fees are outlined below. We often have adoption promotions at reduced fees! Check out BARC's social media channels for the latest promotions. You can find us on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and Nextdoor!

> Adult dogs are 5 months & older, puppies are 4 months and under Adult cats are 5 months & older, kittens are 4 months and under

	Normal	
Adoption Fee		Senior 4 Senior
(60Y+ Adopter)		
Dogs	\$50	\$2*
Cats	\$20	\$2*
Puppies	\$75	\$75
Kittens	\$20	\$20
PURRFURRED Pet**		REDUCED FER

Adoption fees for all pets are waived every day for Veterans and active Military members thanks to our Veteran Companion program! Proof of service or military ID must be presented at the time of adoption.

BARC ADOPTION CENTER, 3300 Carr Street, Houston TX 77026

Open Tuesday - Sunday 12pm-5pm

Phone: 832-395-9084 Email: BARCadoptions@houstontx.gov

You can read the North Channel Star curent and back issues on our website: www.northchannelstar.com

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Position available for AD SALES representative. Experience helpful but not necessary. Possible to work from home. Suitable for Part Time, or Full Time. Commission plus. Send letter of interest to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com or call 713-252-8000.

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HELP WANTED

NEWSPAPER MANAGING EDITOR

Position available for journalist or manager with local newspaper. Experienced in writing, interviewing, sourcing, computer layout, ad sales, record keeping, promotions. Salary plus benefits. Send letter of interest to grafikstar@aol.com or call 713-252-8000.

Attention Non-Profit Private Schools, Home Schoolers

Non-profit private schools and homeschoolers who legally qualify as non-profit (currently hold a 501-C3 certificate) are invited to meet with a representative from Channelview Independent School District to learn more about federally funded services available for eligible residents of Channelview ISD. Please contact the district, Dr. Patricia Glaeser (patricia.glaeser@cvisd.org), Director of Federal Programs, no later than Thursday, June 15, 2023.

Atención Escuelas Privadas y Educados En Casa

Escuelas privadas sin fines lucrativos y estudiantes educados en casa, que legalmente califican como una entidad no lucrativa y que tengan un certificado 501-C3, son invitados a una junta con representante de Channelview para aprender más sobre servicios financiados por el gobierno federal que están disponibles para los residentes elegibles en dichos distritos. Por Favor de contactarse con Dr. Patricia Glaeser la coordinadora del Programa Federal de Distrito de Channelview (patricia.glaeser@cvisd.org), a no más tardar el día Jueves, 15 de junio de 2023.







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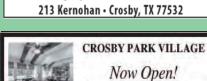
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Human Trafficking Program,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Chairwoman of the Chapter's Human Trafficking Program closed the meeting with praises and thanks to the attendees, moderators, panelists and all those who helped with the event and the sponsors of handout materials, and the lunch with refreshments. Everyone received a free gift swag tote back with lots of helpful literature and home necessities.

Often human traffickers will meet their victims on the growing social media internet platforms. They start by chatting with small talk at first to get the victim comfortable with them and to gain the trust of their victim. Some vulnerable teens become legitimately dissatisfied with their home life and want to get out of it. A cunning trafficker can sense this through chatting and make false promises of rescuing their victim by promising a better life. Parents need to let their kids know these tactics but more importantly parents need to investigate their kids messaging cell phone usage. A responsible parent will demand to check into their kid's cell phones records.

Predators of school age children victims can meet through a recruiter who's a classmate who'll introduce them to the trafficker who'll then offer them a better home life. Parents need to know everything about their children's school friends that they associate with.

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked worldwide - including right here in the United States where its reached epidemic proportion and spreading like a disease.

It can happen in the North Channel area and in any community across the world. Victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality. Each trafficker might use different methods to lure victims into trafficking situations.

Statistics show traffickers sometimes use violence, manipulation,

false promises of wellpaying jobs, romantic relationships and other techniques.

Because of language barriers, and/or fear of their traffickers, and/or fear of law enforcement it can frequently keep victims from seeking help. thus making it a hidden

Traffickers look for victims who are easy targets whether a citizen of the United States or some other country for a variety of reasons, including: psychological or emotional vulnerability, economic hardships, lack of a social safety net, natural disasters and/or political insta-

Child trafficking vic-

tims, whether for labor, sex or organ trafficking, come from all backgrounds, include both boys and girls. They span a wide age range from 1 to 18 years old. Sex trafficking victims up to roughly 25 years old most often started as young as 14. Children are trafficked out of, or into the United States from all regions of the world and represent a variety of different races, ethnic groups and religions. They may be brought to the U.S. legally or smug-

gled in.

Trafficked children can be lured to the U.S. through the promise of school or work and promised the opportunity to send money back to their families. Children are also vulnerable to kidnappers, pimps, and professional brokers. Some children are even sold to traffickers by their families, who may or may not have an understanding of what will happen to the child. U.S. born children are also trafficked within the U.S., coming from any racial group, socio-economic background, and come from or trafficked within both city and rural areas.

In 2012 the (UNODC) United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime reports the percentage of child victims had risen in a 3 year span from 20 per cent to 27 per cent. Of every three child victims, two are girls and one is a boy.

Gender and age profile of victims detected globallv: 59% Women - 14% Men - 17% Girls and 10% were Boys. 600,000 to 800,000 women, children and men bought and sold across international borders every year and exploited for forced labor or commercial sex (U.S. Government).

To report suspected human trafficking, call 1-866-347-2423

Para reportar un posible caso de trata de personas: 1-866-347-2423. To get help from the National Human Trafficking Hotline, call 1-888-373-7888, or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733) Obtenga ayuda de la Línea Directa Nacional de Trata de Personas: 1-888-373-7888,0 enviando un mensaje de texto con HELP o INFO a BeFree (233733)

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Whoopi Goldberg has said for some time that she'd never do another "Sister Act" because so many of the original actresses who played nuns have passed away. In 2013, she explained, "It just wouldn't feel right for me. I'm kind of old for it now ... that's not to say I wouldn't do it, but it feels like there's a new generation for 'Sister Act' and so maybe I can be a nun now." But, thanks to Tyler Perry, who'll produce and direct the next film, "Sister Act" will live again with Goldberg starring. Maybe his most famous character, Madea, can get into the sister act!

Forget about James Bond ... talks are afoot for Eddie Murphy to take on Peter Sellers' classic Inspector Clouseau in a reboot of "The Pink Panther," to be directed by "Sonic the Hedgehog" filmmaker Jeff Fowler.

Nov. 22, 1963 is a day many of us remember because of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Many films have been made about that day "Executive Action" (1973), "JFK" (1991), "The Secret KGB JFK Assassination Files" (1999), "Killing Kennedy" (2013), "Parkland" (2013) and "I Killed JFK" (2014), to name a few. In 2021, Oliver Stone's documentary, "JFK Revisited: Through the Looking Glass," disputed the Warren Commission's finding that Lee Harvey Oswald was the sole shooter. Now, get ready for the latest take on it.

It's a thriller called "Assassination," starring Al Pacino, Viggo Mortensen, John Travolta, Shia LaBeouf and Courtney Love. The film's being directed by Pulitzer-Prize-winning playwright David Mamet from a script he co-wrote with Nicholas Celozzi. But here's the twist — the film's being told from the point of view of the mob, re-

Cave flier

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24 Of the Arctic 28 Annual celebration for a

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8



Whoopi Goldberg in "Sister Act" (1992)

imagining JFK's death as a hit ordered by Chicago mob boss Sam Giancana as payback for JFK's attempt to undermine the mob after they helped get him elected. It starts shooting in Vancouver in September.

It'll take all the tricks in Mamet's literary bag to pull this off, since the most popular theory is that JFK thought Marilyn Monroe had been murdered by the CIA as their way of putting a lid on their affair. To keep JFK from cutting their funding, they set up Oswald (who was a secret agent for them) to take the fall. In the book "Marilyn Monroe: A Case for Murder" by Jay Margolis, he had documentation that showed a CIA agent in the car behind JFK hearing the shot and drawing his gun; the car then jerked, and his gun fired. He was a second shooter, but it wasn't revealed until after his death 50 years later (how convenient). All witnesses, over 100 of them, died within a year of JFK's death. But, now, we will get to see how the mob might have handled the "hit."

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June 5, 2023 Posting Date



ENTERTAINMENT

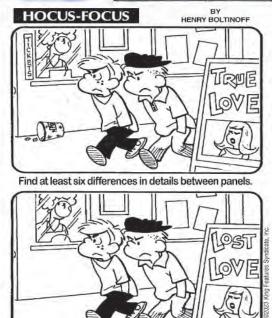
Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps FOR HISTORY WE ARE SUPPOSED TO WRITE NEED ME TO PRINT SOME HEY, DAD, CAN YOU NOPE, JUST TELL ME NEED ME TO PRINT SOME WHAT IT WAS LIKE ABOUT THE DARK AGES. by BUD BLAKE IGED IS MY POLLHOUSE. YOU'RE WON'T PRETEND / MEAN AN by Jeff Pickering The Spats DON'T YOU MEAN,... THROWING "IN" THE TOWELP YOU HAVEN'T SEEN MY TOWEL! SOMETIMES I FEEL OUT THE TOWEL.

Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle 8 3 4 8 9 5 6 3 7 5 6 2 1 3 6 4 1 8 1 3 4 5 7 2 8 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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Sign is missing. 2. Window opening differs. 3. Container sileeve is shorter. 5. Buttons are missing. 6. Title differs.

Solution time: 24 mins

SISWEIS

King Crossword –



56 Garfield's pal 32 Forbidden act 57 North Sea feeder

33 Freedom, for "This tastes awful!

59 Engrossed 36 Pol. party org. 60 Conked out Raw materials 61 Uncle (Sp.)

DOWN

Gridlock sound Latin love Singer

Braxton Companions

Zing Easy targets 8 Actor Kutcher 35 Promised 9 Corp. boss 38 Twilight time 10 Vichy water 40 Scale amts.

58

42 Favorite

role

49 Repeat

45 Turned blue?

Border on

48 Leslie Caron

50 Supporting

53 Peyton's

brother

54 Actor Vigoda

51 Lupino of film 52 Wardrobe

malfunction

11 Old map letters 17 Chatter

19 Rx writers 22 Tennis score 23 Tyler Perry

persona Mine find 26 Diarist Frank 27 Boulder

28 Promote aggressively 29 Hibernia Oklahoma city 30 Help a hood

31 Evergreen trees © 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

Rodriguez

1. MOVIES: Which actor voiced the character of Darth Vader in the first three "Star Wars" movies released?

2. TELEVISION: Which was the first TV show

to react to the 9/11 attack on the United States? 3. LITERATURE: Who is the youngest person to win the Nobel Prize for literature?

4. HISTORY: Which city did Anne Frank and her family live in hiding before they were discov-5. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the tallest

breed of dog? 6. FOOD & DRINK: What is considered the

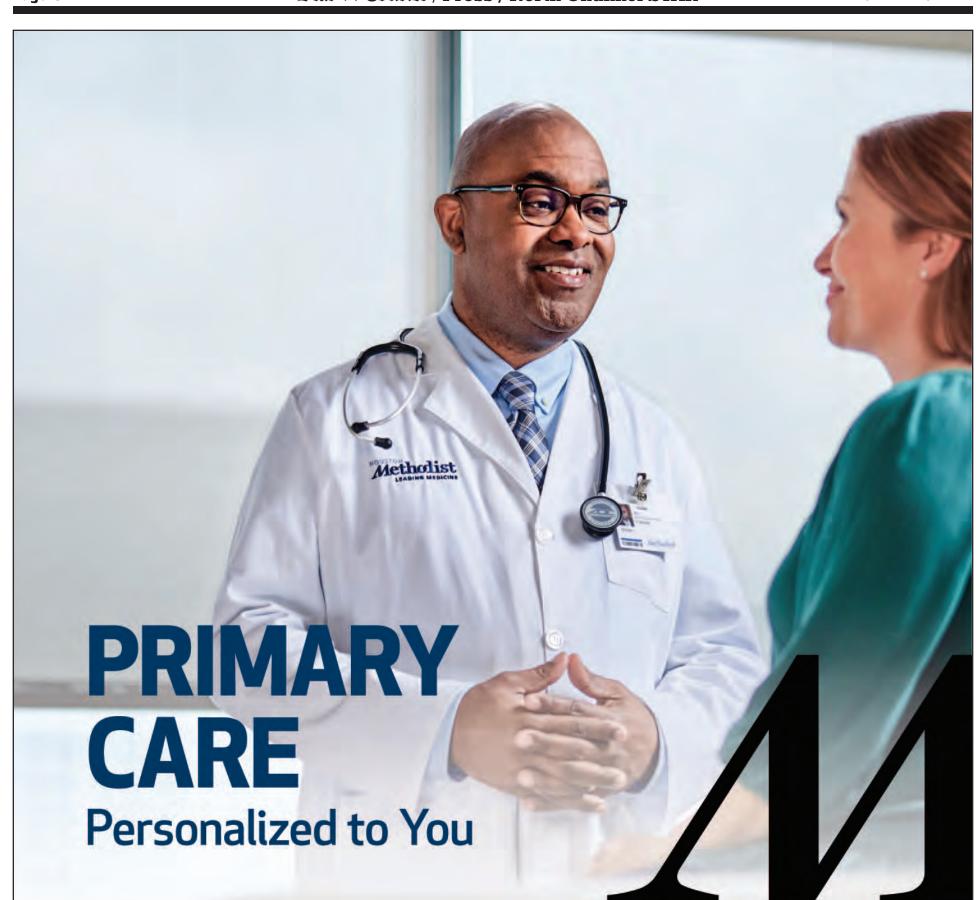
national dish of Spain? 7. GEOGRAPHY: Which is the only city that

also is the smallest country in the world? 8. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which holiday is considered the Jewish New Year?

ANATOMY: What are the bones in the fingers called? 10. ASTRONOMY: How many primary phases of the moon exist?

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Great Dane.; 6. Paella.; 7. Vatican City.; 8. Rosh Hashanah.; 9. Phalanges.; 10. Four. 1. James Earl Jones.; 2. "The West Wing."; 3. Rudyard Kipling.; 4. Amsterdam.; 5. Trivia Test Answerst



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