Ford pickups pinched most

Nearly 65,000 Texas vehicles stolen in one year

Austin, Texas – Almost half of the vehicles stolen in Texas each year are easy targets because the keys are left inside the vehicles. With auto crime spiking each year in July, the Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA) is kicking off Watch Your Car Month to remind drivers to make smart choices that can prevent auto crime.

“We’re asking drivers to take responsibility for their vehicles and what’s inside them,” said ABTPA Board Chair Carlos Garcia, who is also police chief for the Port of Brownsville.

“Taking simple steps, like hiding personal belongings, can significantly decrease the chances of becoming a victim.”

ABTPA adds that the people committing auto crimes are not kids out for a joy ride. They are thieves who are likely to move on to home burglary, drug trafficking and other serious offenses.

While the overall number of statewide auto thefts has

(Continued on Page 4)

KidsFest 2014

Skin cancer facts you really need to know

Skin cancer is by far the most common type of cancer occurring in the United States. It is also the most rapidly increasing cancer.

For the past 30 years, skin cancers have been increasing by about three percent each year. One out of every five people in the U.S. will develop skin cancer sometime during his or her life. It is estimated that about 50 percent of all people who live to age 65 will develop at least one form of skin cancer.

“The good news is that skin cancer can be prevented, or if caught early, is highly curable,” said T. Minsue Chen, M.D., a dermatologist affiliated with Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital. “In fact, if detected early, skin cancer is almost 100 percent curable.”

Skin cancer can be divided into two major types: non-melanoma and melanoma skin cancer. Malignant melanoma is the more deadly of the two.

The American Cancer Society estimates that there will be more than three million people diagnosed with non-melanoma skin cancers in 2014. Approximately 76,100 people will be diagnosed with malignant melanoma.

Even though malignant melanoma is diagnosed far less often, malignant melanoma takes more lives than any other type of skin cancer, causing about 9,710 deaths per year. That represents about one malignant melanoma death every hour.

(Continued on Page 5)

Time Travel

If only we could make a few small changes in history

By John Toth
Editor and Publisher

I was watching the movie “About Time” recently about a young man who can travel back in time and fix his blunders. What a great way to go through life – just squeeze your fists in a dark place and get a redo.

That would be an incredible tool to have, not only to fix blunders in a relationship, like in the movie, but other things to avoid a few blunders important people have made throughout history.

But first, I would go back in time and buy a lotto ticket with the winning number to relieve some of the financial pressures. It always helps to know the number when it comes to hitting the Mega Million jackpot.

That’s enough selfish behavior. Let’s go to saving the world.

I’d travel back to June 28, 1914, to Sarajevo, Bosnia, to a hospital that was treating Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand after a failed assassination attempt there. I would track down his chauffeur and give him a map from the hospital to where the archduke was staying.

I would also make sure that he memorized the route, so he wouldn’t make that fatal wrong turn that started World War I.

That turn put the coach right in front of the assassin, who killed both Ferdinand and his wife. Pure
Robert Downey Jr. open to returning for ‘Iron Man 4’

By Oliver Gettell
Los Angeles Times (MCT)

Robert Downey Jr. may not be hanging up his Iron Man suit anytime soon.

The A-list star recently told Entertainment Weekly that he would consider making a fourth “Iron Man” movie, depending on what Marvel Studios and Walt Disney Pictures can come up with.

“It’s down to Kevin (Feige, Marvel Studios president) and Ike (Perlmutter, CEO of Marvel Entertainment) and Disney to come to us with what the proposal is, and that’s on us to agree or disagree,” Downey said. “When things are going great, there’s a lot of agreement.”

Downey helped kick-start the Marvel Cinematic Universe with the first “Iron Man” movie back in 2008 and followed it up with two direct sequels and the superhero team-up “The Avengers.” Those four movies have grossed an eye-popping $3.9 billion and made Downey the highest-paid actor in Hollywood.

While Downey is set to don the hero’s armor again in “Avengers: Age of Ultron” and a third “Avengers” film, he has yet to commit to anything beyond that.

According to the EW interview, though, Downey likes being box-office champ. “It’s that thing of: Why give up the belt when it feels like you can barely get jabbed?” he said, adding the caveat, “Most people are saying that right when they get knocked out.”

Feige, meanwhile, was recently asked about the prospect of Downey suiting up for “Iron Man 4.” He told Collider, “Anything’s a possibility. Who the heck knows? We have a lot of work to go to finish ‘Avengers 2.’ We have a lot of work for whatever ‘Avengers 3’ is, that’s all folks need to know. Who knows what happens after that.”
**Strange but True**

**Caged animals’ human features**

Q. How would you feel if you discovered a couple of Homo sapiens featured in one of the cages at your local zoo?

A. That’s a bit how the editors of “Scientific American” magazine felt when they observed the engagement of so many species with humanlike traits, such as chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans, dolphins and porpoises, as expressed in “Free Willy and All His Pals: Orcas and Elephants Are Smart, Social and Way Too Large for Captivity.” For example, orcas and elephants recognize themselves in mirrors, suggesting they too possess a “concept of self.” In addition, they are as dependent on companionship as we are, sometimes following descendents through life for as many as four generations. “When a clan member dies, elephants mourn — there is no other word for it.” In Kenya, elephants from various families tended to a single ailing matriarch, and even after her death, they repeatedly caressed her body. Other elephants were observed sprinkling their dead with soil or covering them with leaves.

Captivity takes a heavy toll on such smart and sensitive animals. “Zoo elephants die young, often after becoming obese and infertile. They frequently develop psychological tics such as swaying and head bobbing... Captive orcas become unusually aggressive, biting and ramming one another as well as trainers,” perhaps over-stressed to the point of becoming psychotic. Yet wild orcas have never killed anyone.

Conclude the editors: Though some confined individuals may not survive if released, “the ones that can be, should be, and captive breeding programs should be terminated.”

**Fancy hockey glasses**

Q. What’s possibly the latest in eyewear technology to help train hockey players to see the puck amid all the Muscled bodies and the pandemonium of an excited crowd?

A. Players can follow the tiny, wily puck by using the Nike SPARQ Vapor Strobe, whose lenses quickly switch between transparency and opaqueness, producing stroboscopic visual conditions that allow the wearer to see only snippets of action, says Sarina Tracy in “Photronics Spectra” magazine. When neuroscientist Stephen Mitroff of Duke University tested the device on the National Hockey League’s Carolina Hurricanes, he divided them into two groups: the control group showed no change, but those who wore the eyewear had “improved vision, visual attention and the ability to anticipate the timing of moving items,” bettering on-ice skills by a huge 18%!

As Mitroff explains, “Training the eye to operate effectively in these choppy conditions, the eyewear strengthens the vision and concentration of the wearer through a visual workout... And it’s not just athletes that can reap these benefits: potential also exists for medical, military and physical rehabilitation applications.”

**Turn out the lights...**

Q. Time for a most fitting final question: How will the universe end?

A. The prevailing theory is that everything got started 13.75 billion years ago in a gigantic explosion known as the Big Bang,” says astronomer Jim Bell in “The Space Book.” The expansion of the universe is evident as all the galaxies recede from each other. Maybe this will continue forever, or until what astronomers call the “heat death” of the cosmos perhaps 10-to-the-100th-power years from now. Or there may be a more violent future in store for the universe, with the gravitational attraction between clusters of galaxies pulling everything back together again to become one tiny massive black hole “singularity.”

“What happens then?” Bell poses. “Another Big Bang? Or perhaps a Big Bounce? New observations and computer models may help figure out — to borrow a line from the modern poet T.S. Eliot — whether the universe will end ‘not with a bang but a whimper.’”

(Send STRANGE questions to brothers Bill and Rich at strangetrue@cs.com)
Ten Commandments still relevant

By Billy Graham
Tribune Media Services

Q: I don’t agree with people who say some things are always right and other things are always wrong. Why should I? We need to make our own decisions about what’s right or wrong, and not worry about an outdated moral code like the Ten Commandments. - J.H.

A: Whenever people say they don’t think the Ten Commandments are of any use today, I often wonder if they’ve ever actually read them, because if they did, they might change their minds. (You can read them in Exodus 20 or Deuteronomy 5.)

Let me explain. The Ten Commandments is divided into two parts. The first commandments deal with our responsibilities toward God, while the second group deals with our responsibilities toward others. But even if you ignored the first group (which I certainly don’t advise you to do!), which of the second group would you dismiss? The one forbidding murder, or stealing, or lying, or greed (covetousness), or treating others with respect (especially parents)? No, all those are important, and without them society falls apart.

I omitted one, however, and from what you say elsewhere in your letter I suspect it’s your real problem. It’s the commandment dealing with sexual purity, and you admit you don’t want to follow it. But God knew what He was doing when He included it, because we ignore it at our peril. It gives stability to our lives and our families, and society.

The real issue, however, is this: What place should God have in your life? God made you, and He loves you and knows what is best for you. Jesus’ warning is true: “Wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction” (Matthew 7:13). Don’t go down that road, tempting as it is, but commit your life to Christ and build your life on Him.

(Send your queries to “My Answer,” c/o Billy Graham, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, 1 Billy Graham Parkway, Charlotte, N.C., 28201; call 1-(877) 2-GRAHAM, or visit the Web site for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association: www.billygraham.org.)
The primary cause of all types of skin cancer is exposure to ultraviolet radiation (UV)—the sun. It is easy to get a sunburn in Texas because of the state’s geographic location, mild climate, and the many opportunities to work and play out of doors.

Reflections of the sun’s rays off water or sand can double your ultraviolet radiation exposure.

Clouds don’t block out UV rays. When the weather is cloudy, cool, and breezy, we may not become hot or realize the amount of UV exposure until after we have developed a sunburn.

Studies suggest that heavy sunlight exposure in the first few decades of life may be of the greatest importance in determining a person’s risk for skin cancer. A blistering sunburn in childhood or adolescence doubles the risk of developing a skin cancer.

It is estimated that by the time someone reaches the age of 18 they have already obtained 80 percent of their lifetime UV light exposure.

Besides avoiding the sun, early diagnosis and treatment are the next best prevention options, says Dr. Chen, who is Board Certified by the American Board of Dermatology.

Make it a habit to check your skin for abnormalities and changes. Look at each of your moles and evaluate them using the following ABCD test recommended by the American Melanoma Foundation:

- Malignant melanoma can develop anywhere on your skin, so wear appropriate protective attire including long sleeves and hats, avoid working in the sun if possible, use sunscreens, and do regular self-examinations. Protect your eyes from the harmful ultraviolet rays by using gray or brown lenses that offer both UVA and UVB protection.

Dr. Chen recommends everyone between 20 to 40 years old get a cancer-related checkup including skin exam every three years, and every year for people 40 or older.

Take charge of your skin. Get regular checkups and take precautions when you are out in the sun. As the slogan from the Cancer Council Victoria in Australia says, remember to “Slip, Slap, and Slop.”

- Slip on a long-sleeve shirt.
- Slap on a hat
- Slop on some sunscreen to protect your skin from the sun’s damaging rays.

Some skin cancer facts you really need to know

(Continued from Page 1)
If only we could go back in time and make a few small changes in history

(Continued from Page 1)

coincidence. One turn changed world history.

If the driver still made a wrong turn and the assassinations still took place, there would have been reasons to start WWI, that would have saved a lot of the world’s problems. They may have found another reason to start the Black Hole, that doesn’t happen, either, because that was a direct result of WWI. That one correct turn could have saved millions of lives and Europe from destruction – twice.

It looks like the more things change, the more they stay the same. Small changes could be preventing violence today.

I would squeeze those fists and travel back July 17, to eastern Ukraine, by the Russian border, and look for a big vehicle with lots of rockets on them.

“Hey, idiots, don’t fire that thing. You’re shooting at an airliner, not a Ukrainian cargo plane,” I would say it in a more diplomatic manner. I wouldn’t want to be shot while delivering this important message.

We could apply this to just about every major violent incident throughout humanity. Just changing one little thing would alter a lot of history.

I really liked “About Time.” I’m a sucker for romantic movies with happy endings.

But life is not a movie. You get one shot at it.

After stirring up a lot of hatred, the Austrian-Hungarian government in July 1914 delivered 10 demands to Serbia to avoid being attacked. Serbia agreed to eight.

I would be squeezing my fists again and traveling back. “Come on. You’re two demands away from not having to destroy Europe and kill 14 million people. Can you just come to an agreement on the remaining two? Let’s keep talking.”

On July 28, 2014, war was declared between these two empires.

There was still hope, though. More fist squeezing.

“Hey, old guys who make important decisions. Let them duke it out. Who cares? Don’t worry about those complicated treaties. Nobody understands them, anyway. Let the Austrian-Hungarians and Serbia have their war, and be done with it.”

I can solve all the world’s problems. All I need is a time machine or the ability somehow to go back and redo.

“Hey, Adolf. You’re a great painter. The art school that rejected you earlier is now letting you in to attend. Keep painting.”

I can think of many more little twists and turns at the right place and time, but it’s time to watch another movie, this one about how the world is being sucked into a black hole.

No solutions here. Time travel is over, along with everything else.
How to fight unhealthy air pollution? Eat your broccoli

By David Templeton
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (MCT)

If you live in a region with lots of air pollution, you might not always breathe easy. So it might help to sit back, relax and enjoy a helping or two of broccoli.

Better yet, have a stiff cup of broccoli-sprout tea.

It might not be the advice you expect to protect yourself from pollution.

But a study that Thomas Kensler and his team began at Johns Hopkins University and completed at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine found that a molecule generated during broccoli consumption, and with higher concentrations found in broccoli-sprout tea, helps purge the body of air-pollution toxins, including carcinogenic benzene. The molecule works rapidly and with staying power.

And neither a broccoli-laden diet nor a gallon of tea is necessary. A daily cup of the sprout tea or two small helpings totaling 150 grams of broccoli can help rid toxic pollutants from the body, the study found. The vegetable from the cabbage family, often described as a superfood, provides fiber, vitamins K and C and other nutrients, such as the one that eliminates toxins from the body. That's what makes it a widely recommended addition to any diet.

Benzene is a known human carcinogen and lung irritant, according to the study published online recently in the journal Cancer Prevention Research. "Thus, intervention with broccoli sprouts enhances (detoxification) of some airborne pollutants," with expected reductions in health risks from pollution that raises the risk of lung cancer and cardiopulmonary diseases.

The study focuses on the molecule glucoraphanin in broccoli that, when chewed or crushed, produces sulforaphane, which is known to help prevent cancer. Glucoraphanin levels are significantly higher in broccoli stems and seeds than in the mature vegetable itself.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer recently classified air pollution and particulate matter from air pollution as carcinogenic to humans, with outdoor air-pollution levels in China among the world’s highest.

The research team led by Kensler, who holds a Ph.D. in toxicology and serves as assistant professor at Pitt's medical school, recruited 291 people from a rural area of Qidong in the Yangtze River delta region, 50 miles north of Shanghai, to participate in the study.
Coastal winds intensifying with climate change may increase fish population, study says

By Tony Barboza
Los Angeles Times (MCT)

Summer winds are intensifying along the west coasts of North and South America and southern Africa, and climate change is a likely cause, a new study says.

The winds, which blow parallel to the shore and draw cold, nutrient-rich water from the deep ocean to the surface in a process known as coastal upwelling, have increased over the last 60 years in three out of five regions of the world, according to an analysis published in the journal Science.

Stronger winds have the potential to benefit coastal areas by bringing a surge of nutrients and boosting populations of plankton, fish and other species. But they could also harm marine life by causing turbulence in surface waters, disrupting feeding, worsening ocean acidification and lowering oxygen levels, the study says.

The shift could already be having serious effects on some of the world’s most productive marine fisheries and ecosystems off California, Peru and South Africa.

At this point “we don’t know what the implications are,” said William Sydeman, president of the Farallon Institute for Advanced Ecosystem Research in Petaluma, Calif., who led the study by seven scientists in the U.S. and Australia. “On the one hand it could be good. On the other hand, it could be really bad.”

The windier conditions are occurring in important currents along the eastern edges of the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. In those areas, the influx of nutrients from coastal upwelling fuels higher production of phytoplankton, tiny plant-like organisms that are eaten by fish, which in turn feed populations of seabirds, whales and other marine life.

Scientists said their results lend support to a hypothesis made more than two decades ago by oceanographer Andrew Bakun. He suggested that rising temperatures from the human-caused buildup of greenhouse gases, by causing steeper atmospheric pressure gradients between oceans and continents, would produce stronger winds during summer and drive more coastal upwelling.

To test that claim, researchers reviewed and analyzed 22 published studies that tracked winds in the world’s five major coastal upwelling regions using data from the 1940s to the mid-2000s.

Scientists found a trend of windier conditions in the California Current along the west coast of North America, the Humboldt Current off Peru and Chile and the Benguela Current off the west coast of southern Africa.

Summer ‘polar vortex’ cooling off parts of US while the West bakes

By Christine Mai-Duc
Los Angeles Times (MCT)

LOS ANGELES — Put away those shorts and tank tops, Chicago, and get ready for another “polar vortex.”

That’s what some people are calling the unseasonably cold temperatures expected to come to the Northern and Eastern United States next week, as a patch of cold air flows from northern Canada to the Great Lakes area and slips eastward toward the coast.

The temperature in some areas will slide as low as 15 to 20 degrees below normal, and some states are likely to see cold rain and thunderstorms as the air mass moves in, according to the National Weather Service.

The temperature in some areas will slide as low as 15 to 20 degrees below normal, and some states are likely to see cold rain and thunderstorms as the air mass moves in, according to the National Weather Service.

The upper Midwest could see some of the coldest weather, with highs in the low-to mid-60s, and parts of the Chicago area could even see lows overnight dip into the 40s, forecasters say.

Residents as far south as Nashville could feel a 10-degree drop.

The cool air isn’t expected to be anything like the polar vortex of this January, which brought record-breaking subzero temperatures, school closures and wreaked havoc on air travel for weeks.

“I wouldn’t call it a polar vortex,” Mike Gillispie, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Sioux Falls, S.D., said of the latest temperature shift.

Still, some areas could flirt with record-low temperatures for July, said Andy Foster, meteorologist for the National Weather Service’s Central region.
A group of Brazosport College students not only took on a condensed summer-session Biology course, they also excelled in the class in a manner that is rarely seen.

Dr. Isaiah Schauer’s Biology I class, which consisted of 24 students, recently completed the course with a 90.4 average. Although it’s not unusual for individuals to earn high grades in college courses, it’s not a common occurrence for an entire class to average an ‘A’ grade.

Even more impressive, Schauer’s class excelled during a 5-week summer session class, which often moves at a faster pace and has a more intensive workload. Despite the class lasting only five weeks, it is the equivalent of a 16-week course.

“These students have displayed a lot of focus and determination,” Schauer said. “They have bright and brainy academic futures ahead, and we couldn’t be more proud of them.”

Not only does Schauer attribute the class’s success to hard work, he also credits the inclusion of Brazosport College’s Supplemental Instruction (SI) program. Schauer made it a requirement that his students participate in the SI program, which was led by SI Leader Logan Dubose.

The SI Program is an academic assistance program that utilizes peer-assisted study sessions, in which students compare notes, develop organizational tools, assemble essay questions and predict test items. Students learn how to integrate course content and study skills while working together. The sessions are facilitated by “SI Leaders,” students who have previously done well in the course and who attend both weekly class lectures alongside the current students, take notes, act as model students, and counsel with instructors weekly on what to target in the SI Sessions.


For more information about Brazosport College’s SI Program, contact SI Coordinator Pat Jeffreys at (979) 230-3322. To register for classes at Brazosport College, visit www.brazosport.edu/register.

Not your ordinary summer school: BC biology class excels during session
Join the Small Watercraft club, see the county from a different perspective

Nothing matches the self-reliant independence of paddling a canoe or kayak along a quiet waterway. The Small Watercraft Club, an informal group organized through the county parks department, provides opportunities for experiencing local waterways in a group setting.

Recent outings include excursions on Chocolate Bayou and the San Bernard River. Another outing, geared for those just starting out, took place on the ponds at Resolf County Park.

The main focus of the group is personal safety on the water. All necessary safety equipment is required on outings, with careful attention to the proper fit of personal flotation devices and working as a group for the safety of everyone. Kayaks and canoes are the predominant small watercraft employed, with an occasional stand-up paddleboard making an appearance within the group.

The waterways of Brazoria County are a fantastic resource. While much of our watery habitat is accessible to motorboats, small streams are often accessible by smaller, human-powered boats. The variety of wildlife and waterside plants are truly amazing.

The Small Watercraft Club is open to everyone. For those without a boat of their own, the department maintains a small livery of kayaks, which may be reserved for specific club outings. The only cost is in the time you make for outings and the effort you spend in paddling.

For questions, or to get involved, send an e-mail to jamesg@brazoria-county.com. Outings are not advertised; group sizes are limited to ensure a positive safety margin.
County’s KidsFest has fun, games, school supplies

Bring out the kids for free school supplies and games at KidsFest. The 26th annual KidsFest will be from 9 a.m. until noon on Saturday, Aug. 2, at Bates Park in Angleton. The event is geared for ages three through 11.

KidsFest is a program designed to help families gather some of the supplies needed for the rapidly approaching school year. We’ve concentrated on stocking items on almost every local school’s supply list, particularly those items which tend to be in short supply at the last minute. While we won’t have everything every child will need to start the school year, we do try to help ease the financial burden for sending them back to school.

While parents are drawn to KidsFest by the prospect of free school supplies, local school-age children flock to the event for the free games. They see it as an end-of-summer play day.

Here’s the way it works: The kids play games. For games requiring effort, the kids receive park bucks - money which is only redeemable at KidsFest. Children and their parents also receive park bucks for visiting the information booths. For games that are purely for entertainment, the kids have to pay in park bucks. No actual money changes hands, and there is nothing on site to buy.

Because we have set quantities of supplies available, there will be a per-trip limit on each item. This means that only a specified number of each item may be requested on each trip through the line at the school supply store. By setting limits, we help ensure that all the supplies will not be taken before everyone has a reasonable chance at them. We do not limit the number of times anyone goes through the line.

Preparing for school involves more than just pens and pencils. Several organizations will be on hand to present useful information for the transition.

Agents and volunteers from the Agri-Life Extension Service provide healthy refreshments along with nutritional information that is sure to prove its worth in helping with cost-cutting lunches and snacks during the school year. Theirs is always a popular booth!

The Brazoria County Health Department brings out specific information on the county’s clinic and their immunization program.

The county library system, a KidsFest mainstay, will return this year with a hands-on project for the kids.

The snow cone booth is a recent KidsFest feature. This booth has all the kids lining up! As with everything else at KidsFest, no real money is needed for snow cones, but the children will have to earn park bucks to buy them.

KidsFest is scheduled early in the day to help with the August heat. Bates Park has a fine amount of shade, which also helps. But what really beats the heat and what the children all line up for are the snow cones. As with everything else at KidsFest, no real money is needed for snow cones, but the children will have to earn park bucks to buy them.

KidsFest has been a standard event for the county parks department for a quarter of a century. The event has always been held near the county’s geographic center close to Angleton, in hopes of providing convenient access to more county residents. The constants of KidsFest are free games and free school supplies - all funded by our sponsors.

Sponsors include: Freeport LNG; Town of Quintana; Dow Chemical Company, BASF Corporation; Warehouse Associates (Pirates Alley Café, Ocean Village Hotel, and Beach House Associates); Meyerland Custom Home Renovation LLC; DM Petroleum Operations and DSM Nutritional Products Inc. Special thanks to Angleton Parks and Recreation for allowing use of Bates Park for this program.

An excellent band of relentless volunteers, braving the heat and sacrificing a Saturday to benefit local children, are indispensable in putting on this event. We always need volunteers, especially with Kids Fest. If you are interested in lending a hand, please contact us at the number below.

KidsFest is 9 a.m. until noon on Saturday, August 2, at Bates Park in Angleton. KidsFest is for children ages 3-11.

For more information or to lend a hand, please contact the Brazoria County Parks Department at (979) 864-1541.
County crews battling seaweed invasion

This summer’s bumper crop of seaweed has been a nuisance to county crews, local businesses, and beach-goers alike. While it appears the offshore seaweed drift-mats are diminishing, we’re still not done for the year. For a stab at forecasting seaweed landfall on our beaches, we have found this website to be worthwhile: http://seas-forecast.com/pages/forecasts/seasforecast.html

“Life on earth is a delicate balance of interdependent creatures. None can be ignored, for the least appreciated sometimes turns out to be the most important.”

-- Merlin Tuttle

Paddlers with the Small Watercraft Club navigate the narrow streambed of Chocolate Bayou on a recent outing near Camp Mohawk County Park.
Appellate courts differ on Obamacare wording

WASHINGTON — Two appeals courts have split over the Affordable Care Act, reaching different conclusions about whether tax credits can help consumers buy coverage in the 36 states that use the federal health insurance marketplace.

The conflicting and nearly simultaneous rulings potentially tee up for the Supreme Court its next landmark health care case, and leave in limbo the Obama administration’s health care ambitions.

In a 2-1 ruling, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit concluded the Obama administration stretched the law too far in extending the subsidies through the HealthCare.gov website.

But while the D.C.-based court struck down the tax credit, the Richmond, Va.-based U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals reached a different conclusion about the same set of facts.

Help a child in need start off the school year right

Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital is partnering with the Vic Coppinger Family YMCA in Pearland to support Operation Backpack, an initiative to provide school supplies for children in need so they start school with the necessary tools to be successful.

School readiness reflects a child’s ability to succeed both academically and socially in a school environment. Being prepared with a new backpack and school supplies boosts a child’s self-esteem and helps him or her feel like a regular kid.

Last year, Operation Backpack generated more than 1,100 backpacks and 21,000 school supplies for the Pearland Independent School District. The supplies were used throughout the year by children in kindergarten through 12th grade.

You can be a part of making a difference in the life of a child by purchasing a new backpack and school supplies, and delivering it to a Memorial Hermann drop-off site. For backpack stuffing tips, visit www.ymcahouston.org/operation-backpack.

As the official healthcare provider for the Pearland Independent School District, both Memorial Hermann Southeast, located at 11800 Astoria Blvd., and the Memorial Hermann Convenient Care Center in Pearland at 16100 South Free-way serve as Operation Backpack drop-off sites. Donations are being collected now through Aug. 11.

In addition, each facility will hold a special ‘Stuff the Bus’ Day so community members can show their support and help fill a YMCA bus with school supplies.

The bus will be at Memorial Hermann Southeast on Thursday, July 24, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and the Convenient Care Center in Pearland on Wednesday, July 30, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

With an emphasis of providing more close-to-home career options for students, Brazosport College recently added a second baccalaureate degree.

Expanding on its successful Bachelor of Applied Technology program, Brazosport College has added a Health Services Management degree, which prepares graduates for entry to mid-level management positions in a health care or medical facility.

This degree is a perfect opportunity for employees with not only work experience in a health care setting, but who also have strong business and management skills.

As one of only three schools on the Texas Gulf Coast offering this degree, Brazosport College is an affordable option and is located within the greater Houston area.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average median wage for Health Services Management professionals in Texas is $43.30 an hour. “A bachelor degree in Health Services Management from Brazosport College effectively links clinical date and information technology to create successful middle-management employment outcomes,” said Dr. Alaisen Reed, faculty, Brazosport College Health Services Management baccalaureate program.

Successful graduates of this program will have expertise in a variety of health care service fields, including information systems, health care finance and reimbursement, risk management, legal issues and medical staff information.

To learn more about the Bachelor of Applied Technology Health Services Management degree program, please call (979) 230-3358 or e-mail alaisen.reed@brazosport.edu for more information.

BC to add Health Services Management baccalaureate program
Bulletin Crossword Puzzle of the Week

Across
1 Italian for “little ribbons”
11 Site of the Delicate Arch
15 High anxiety?
16 Cold caller’s reward
17 Irish folk song that was a Grammy-winning vehicle for Metallica
19 Montreal label
20 Anxious times for some
21 One of the halogens
22 Pressure source

1 Criticize
24 Make some concessions
26 Neurologist’s concern
28 “Get real!”
32 Problematic lighting?
33 See 11-Down
34 Cranky
36 Be a burden to
37 Come about
39 Cave-dwelling princess in Donald Duck comics

30 “Get real!”
32 Problematic lighting?
33 See 11-Down
34 Cranky
36 Be a burden to
37 Come about
39 Cave-dwelling princess in Donald Duck comics

Down
1 Play the sycophant to, with “over”
2 Agree by repeating
3 Barber shop request
4 Set-___: rows
5 Homeowner’s concern
6 Subcompact that debuted in 1975
7 Not as forthcoming
8 Winged University of Miami mascot
9 Writer who said “What I cannot love, I overlook”
10 Busy with courses
11 With 33-Across, Saturn or Mercury site
12 Asian aluminum exporter
13 Freed from radio music
14 Present
15 Shout of triumph
20 One-star write-up
21 Heineken distributor in Japan
24 Standard Oil offshoot
25 Late 1990s Nasdaq phenom- enon
26 Sharks whose teeth were used in Maori jewelry
27 Old tongue that gave us “rotten” and “egg”
28 Gaelic music star
29 Thick-soled shoe
31 Speak derisively
34 For now
35 Seemed to own the runway, say
38 Focus of an annual festival in New Mexico
40 Penpoint
42 Ones for the record book
44 Strongly motivated
46 “Cheers” role
47 48-Down, e.g.
48 M.’s counterpart
49 Clever
50 It gets flat over time
51 Steak-and-kidney-pudding ingredient
52 Abbey nook
54 Was taken in
55 Fly

Boggle Answers
CAMEL  OTTER  HORSE  TIGER  HYENA  MOOSE  MOUSE

Solutions

In memory of Greg Wilkinson

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**JUMBLE**

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

- USSOE
- NAISE
- PYTSHU
- POURRA

**JUMBLE ANSWERS**

Pourra: "What the counterfeit said when he was confronted by the reporter — STOP THE PRESSES"

**BULLETIN HOROSCOPE**

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): You'll never know how good you can be unless you reach for the stars. In the week to come, you can focus on achieving the dreams you once thought were impossible. Use your skills to climb the ladder of success.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): The week ahead offers you a chance to improve a situation that involves your home or family. Your judgment may be better than usual and you may be given an opportunity to make your dreams come true.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Love and relationships aren't always logical. Banish preconceived notions and follow the lead of your partners. If you need forgiveness for a wrong or transgression you will be able to ask for it this week.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Don't let money become an issue or give in to moments of irrational possessiveness during the upcoming week. Top off every day with blissful moments of togetherness with a congenial companion.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): The excitement of new places and faces can be exhilarating in the week to come. Escape from routines. Your imagination and inspiring ideas make you a welcome addition to any crowd and attractive to romantic partners.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put practical matters at the front of the line. You may prefer to be an impractical dreamer in the week ahead, but it is more important to put your ideas to work in viable ways.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't be content to play second fiddle. You might think you have to bow to someone else's opinion, but you may have a brilliant solution if you merely speak out.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can learn to give without feeling used and learn to love without feeling abused. In the week ahead, you may have an opportunity to move forward and leave your suspicions in the dust.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Pay attention to the inspirations that pop into your head this week. Pursue the latest fad or most popular entertainment. You're at your best with a congenial companion who shares your interest in exotic delights.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your ship might come in if you sent it in the right direction in the first place. Go ahead and flatter the boss or ask for a favor from a friend. Use every opportunity to achieve a worthy goal in the week to come.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): There's no such word as "impossible" in your dictionary. You can make your fondest dreams come true this week through good will or by following the guidance of others.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): You can play the part of the diplomat in the upcoming week. You may have quite a lot of work on your desk or a daunting schedule, but you'll have plenty of time to help straighten out someone's problems, too.
Country Legend

MICKEY GILLEY

Down Memory Lane
Friday - August 15

The Clarion
Brazosport College
500 College Dr.
Lake Jackson

6:00 pm - VIP Meet/Greet
7:00 pm - Showtime

$30 General Reserved

$50 VIP seating/meet and greet with Mickey (Limited number VIP available)

Box Office: (979) 230-3156 clarion.brazosport.edu