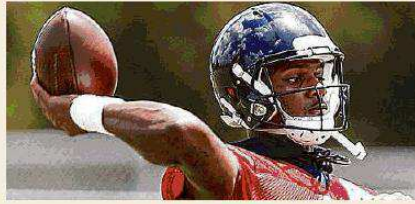


TEXANS
Going
camping

Deshaun Watson and the Texans optimistic ahead of training camp in West Virginia.
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HEROES
OF
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Mom, daughter share laundry duties for neighbors. PAGE A14



WEEK IN REVIEW

Helsinki
summit

President Trump takes heat from all sides after his summit with Russia's Vladimir Putin.
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HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Sunday, July 22, 2018 | HoustonChronicle.com and Cbron.com | Vol. 117, No. 282 | \$4.00 ★★

Partly cloudy: High 102, Low 78

Texas Medicaid limits costly hepatitis C drugs

Strict requirements keep sick patients from receiving cure

By Allie Morris
AUSTIN BUREAU

AUSTIN — When Peyton Howell learned a medicine could cure the hepatitis C that has ravaged his liver since birth, he thought it was too good to be true.

Sitting beside his mom last fall at a doctor's office in Austin,

the 17-year-old had just learned his condition was urgent. Peyton's liver is on the brink of cirrhosis, and getting the drug is his best chance to reverse the damage that can lead to cancer, liver failure and even death.

He left the office with a prescription, but it turns out that Peyton was right to be skeptical.

Texas Medicaid refused to pay for it, then rejected Peyton again when he appealed. The state won't cover the \$75,000 drug until Peyton turns 18 in March, a milestone that also

marks the end of his Medicaid benefits.

States concerned with cost have limited which Medicaid patients are eligible for the pricey drugs that cure hepatitis C — the most deadly infectious disease in the U.S. — only to roll back some of those restrictions after being sued by patients and shamed by doctors.

Texas remains among the most strict, denying the medicine to all but the sickest patients who already have significant liver damage.
Hepatitis continues on A20



Theresa Howell reassures her son Peyton, 17, who suffers from hepatitis C, a chronic liver infection he contracted in utero from his birth mother.

Andrew B. Church

Dems brace as far left rises up

Progressives grow as disruptive force in party, primaries

By Alexander Burns
NEW YORK TIMES

DETROIT — For Rachel Conner, the 2018 election season has been a moment of revelation.

A 27-year-old social worker, Conner voted for Hillary Clinton in the 2016 primaries, spurning the more liberal Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., whom many of her peers backed. But Conner changed course in this year's campaign for governor, after concluding that Democrats could win only with more daring messages on issues such as public health and immigration.

And so on a recent Wednesday, she enlisted two other young women to volunteer for Abdul El-Sayed, a 33-year-old advocate of single-payer health care running an uphill race in Michigan to become the country's first Muslim governor.

"They need to make us

They have big ideas on how to fight flooding



Melissa Phillip / Houston Chronicle

County finds support for bond plan

Flood-weary Harris County residents have packed auditoriums and community centers to offer their thoughts, desires and frustrations to flood control engineers and county officials. They also have brought ideas for the proposed \$2.5 billion bond proposal.

\$2.5 billion

Proposed bond

16 projects

What the bond would pay for

Aug. 25

Date the bond goes to Harris County voters

Residents attend a Harris County Flood Control District bond program community meeting at Kingwood Park High School earlier this month. An event has been or will be held for each of the 24 watersheds.

Soldiers served, but now face being deported

As program ends, Army kicking out noncitizen recruits

By Sig Christenson
STAFF WRITER

Army Pfc. Alina Kaliuzhna didn't waste a minute in her quest to become an American.

She majored in U.S. history and government. By the time her bachelor's degree from Quincy College in Massachusetts arrived in the mail, she was in combat medic training as a soldier at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Now, three years into her military career, her command has told her to expect a discharge. If that happens and she gets deported, she'll be a soldier without a country — in swearing an oath to defend the U.S. Constitution, she gave up her Ukrainian citizenship.

"You volunteered to give up your life," Kaliuzhna, 30, said through tears in an interview recently. "The net

They need to wake up and pay attention to what people actually want," *Dems continues on A11*

» Read stories covering Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath: HoustonChronicle.com/harvey/

interview recently. I'm not saying I was standing in front of a gun, but what I am saying is, you were willing to give up your freedom and your choices, and to be willing to risk your life, go get deployed and be in harm's way. And if that's not enough, then I don't know what is."

Kaliuzhna's life has been tripped up by security clearance reviews that have similarly stymied hundreds of active-duty soldiers and Army Reserve recruits who entered the military under a now-defunct program called Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest, or MAVNI.

For years, the program recruited noncitizens with critically needed language *Lawyer continues on A30*

Prairie View cricket complex is man's field of dreams

Pakistani migrant hopes to build local enthusiasm

By Mark Collette
STAFF WRITER

Growing up, Tanweer Ahmed's mother, Kalsoom, always discouraged him from playing cricket. They were a poor family. His mother sold vegetables and milk from the few cows they had in his hometown of Sialkot in Punjab, Paki-

stan. "Cricket doesn't cost that much, but every penny matters when you don't have anything," Ahmed said.

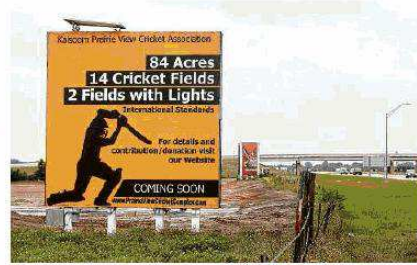


Ahmed

Kalsoom put those pennies toward getting him and four siblings through the best school in the city. He had one school uniform, one pair of shoes and one pair of clothes to wear

at home. "That's all we could afford," he said.

Today, Ahmed is owner of more than 150 franchise restaurants in four states, plus an energy company and half of a medical research venture. And he is busy pouring millions of his own dollars into building one of the nation's largest cricket complexes. It will serve children and adults when it opens in early September, and later it *Cricket continues on A11*



Melissa Phillip / Houston Chronicle

Prairie View Cricket Complex, along U.S. 290 near Liendo Parkway, will open in September.

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