

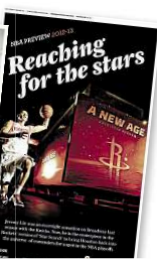
Sports

» Rockets: Thunder star guard James Harden is coming to Houston in a trade for Kevin Martin, Jeremy Lamb and three draft picks. C5

» World Series: San Francisco keeps rolling, winning Game 3, 2-0, and now looks to sweep. C5

Special sections are on the ball

NBA Preview scouts the Rockets, while Health Zone has news on medicine and more.



Get your Texans Extra

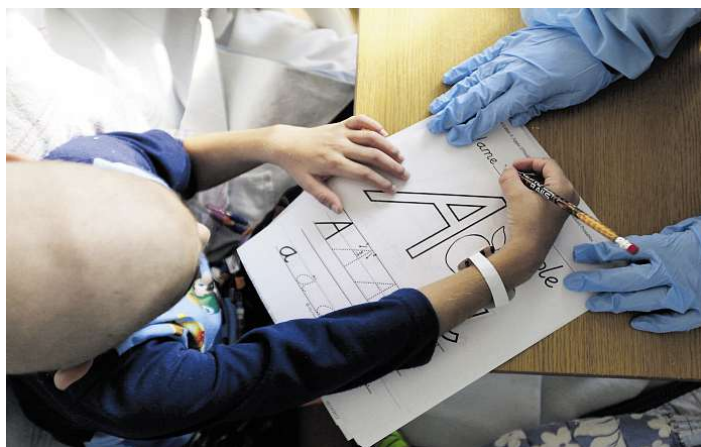
The eighth of the Chronicle's special keepsakes features defensive end Antonio Smith.



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TEXAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



Nolan Naranjo, a bone marrow transplant patient at Texas Children's Hospital, learns how to write the letter "A." Nolan, 5, learns the same lessons as many kindergartners, except his lessons are scheduled around his treatment.

Teaching ill children has its trying lessons, and its miracles

L is for life, love — and loss



Texas Children's Hospital Child Life Department HISD teacher Donna Shanklin-Henderson works with Nolan.

By Monica Rhor

In the morning, Donna Shanklin-Henderson settles her soul and girds her spirit with prayer and meditation. She banishes the tiniest pebbles of pessimism and fixes her mind on one abiding thought.

All of my students will go home, she tells herself, inscribing the belief deep in her core. They will live happy, healthy lives.

Then Shanklin-Henderson heads to Texas Children's Hospital and boards an elevator to the 16th floor, rising past floors awash in shades of teal blue, mint green and sunshine yellow, past rooms where children battle cancer and brain tumors, leukemia and lupus, diabetes and other diseases with names too tongue-twisting to

Teachers continues on A18

'Motor voters' missing on rolls

Many complain of trying to sign up at DPS but not getting registration cards

By Lise Olsen

Volunteer Nan Toole set up shop in the sun-dappled lobby at the Houston Community College's central campus this year, signing up new young voters and listening to a string of nearly identical gripes: Many claimed they'd tried to register to vote via a Texas driver's license office but never received a registration card.

The common campus complaints may reflect vexing flaws in a well-intentioned law meant to improve voter participation nationwide.

There are unexplained dips in so-called "motor voter" registrations, and the rates of voters who successfully registered via driver's license offices in fast-growing Harris and Fort Bend counties consistently lagged behind state averages from 2008-2012, according to a Houston Chronicle analysis of new voter registration data kept by the Texas secretary of state.

On Thursday, the Secretary of State's Office emailed an alert to all county voter registrars warning of interruptions in its system to electronically transfer registrations it gets daily from

Voter continues on A21

More election coverage

» Presidential race: Find out what 10 factors could decide who wins. At the top of the list: Flohiva, the three states Mitt Romney must win to take the White House from Barack Obama. A29

Who will succeed Ron Paul?

» District 14: Although Republican state Rep. Randy Weber is a slight favorite to take the GOP-leaning congressional district seat, Democrat Nick Lampson is proving to be competitive. B1

ENVIRONMENT

Trees cut, opinions divided by East Texas pipeline work

By Zain Shaikh

WINNSBORO — Sitting in trees more than 40 feet above pipeline construction crews, two men have come up with an ultimatum.

"Until TransCanada can give me a legally binding document that they're not going to cut any of these trees down, I'm not coming down from here," said one of the men.

The problem, local residents say, is that the men

are sitting in someone else's trees.

For more than a month, a group calling itself Tar Sands Blockade has embarked on the most aggressive effort yet to stop work on the southern portion of TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline.

Protesters have locked themselves to heavy machinery, stood in front of working equipment and taken to the trees in a network of platforms, tarp and rope, hoping to

prevent work on the \$2.3 billion Oklahoma-Texas leg of a line eventually planned to link Canada with the Gulf Coast.

The Canadian pipeline company calls the protests "eco-terrorism," but the situation has divided opinion enough among residents of this part of East Texas that even neighbors are wary of saying too much.

As truckloads of Pipeline continues on A21



"Chickadee," who says he's from the East Coast and won't give out his name, protests TransCanada's Keystone XL project from his leafy perch in Winnsboro.



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Weather Clear, High 69, Low 40 Keep up with the latest weather updates: blog.chron.com/sciguy.



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