DID YOU KNOW WHAT ELSE IS POWERED BY YOU?

For many, the holidays aren’t “the most wonderful time of the year.” Millions of Americans experience seasonal depression and the holiday blues. *Town Square with Ernie Manouse* had a much-needed conversation with psychologist Dr. Jeff Temple, Vice Dean for Research and Scholarship at the School of Nursing and Director of the Center for Violence Prevention at UTMB Health. He offered his advice and answered questions from listeners on how to cope with the holiday blues and stress that can sometimes befall the holiday season. This along with other Houston Public Media local shows encourage mental health awareness in this community. Your support of these efforts during the holidays and throughout the year is essential in providing resources and advocacy and it is *powered by you*. 
TRANSPORTATION
Community petition to designate White Oak Bayou as park could thwart I-45 expansion in Houston

Community advocates are pushing to get the City of Houston to designate White Oak Bayou as a city park to protect the greenspace and potentially halt the controversial I-45 expansion project. At-Large Council Member Letitia Plummer first presented the idea to officially designate White Oak as a park to council members in December 2020, but it went nowhere. Now with over 1,900 signatures already in support of the designation with a total goal of 3,200 signatures, the area could be considered an agenda item for other council members to vote on.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT
EPA finds cleanup of the Jones Road Superfund in Northwest Harris County “not protective” of human health

The Superfund site is located in the Cypress Shopping Centre strip mall off Jones Road. A former dry cleaners failed to dispose of its chemicals properly, contaminating the groundwater and soil. In 2010, the EPA came up with a plan to clean up the Superfund site, in an area where residents have historically relied on private water wells and septic systems. But a recent follow-up report from the agency has now found these measures to be insufficient.

HEALTH & SCIENCE
Texas Children's Hospital announces plan to tackle mental health crisis

Texas Children's Hospital is launching a series of services to address the unprecedented spike in demand for pediatric mental health resources exacerbated by the pandemic. The hospital system raised $11 million to expand behavioral health training and access to care in community settings. Before the pandemic, the ERs usually treated 50 to 100 children every month for suicide attempts, ideation and self-harm. Now, the average is 400 to 450 patients a month.
A CONNECTED AND INSPIRED COMMUNITY

HOUSTON CULTURE

Houston rapper Megan Thee Stallion makes historic appearance on cover of Forbes

As the first Black woman to appear on the cover of Forbes magazine’s annual 30 Under 30 edition, Megan Thee Stallion, who graduated from Pearland High School, achieved stardom while coping with the 2019 deaths of her mother and grandmother. A Texas Southern University graduate, the Houston rapper’s professors say the drive and vision she has displayed in the entertainment industry were evident during her days as a student. She also ceremonially received a key to the City of Houston on May 2, 2022—the birthday of her mother and grandmother.

READ THE STORY HERE>>>

ARTS & CULTURE

How museums hold the secrets to our past and the future of our values

Museums are growing to adapt to visitor expectations, not just on what artifacts are displayed, but how museums obtain them. They take history, science and art concepts and bring them to life. They incite awe at the larger-than-life Triceratops skeleton, peer inside our cardiovascular system or reflect on the brightest and darkest moments in history. Town Square with Ernie Manouse reflects on the remarkable moments discovery plays in museum visits.

LISTEN TO THE INTERVIEW HERE>>>

A SAFER COMMUNITY

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Water utility in Harris County warns: potentially elevated levels of lead in water

Voters in Houston and Harris County overwhelmingly supported bond packages totaling nearly $1.7 billion, which will provide for improvements to a range of government services—from roads, parks and trails to public health and wellness to facilities upgrades for police officers, firefighters and court personnel. All three county bond proposals passed election Tuesday by at least 120,000 votes apiece, according to unofficial election results released Wednesday morning by the Harris County Elections Administrator’s Office.

READ THE STORY HERE>>>
**LOOKING AHEAD**  Master educators from Lamar High School in Houston collaborate with the Houston Public Media Education department to launch a campus wide “flipped model” for the upcoming semester! The flipped model is a popular educational technique where students do homework during class with teacher assistance and receive lecture/instruction at home depending on various media elements. Although there are several programs on the market to facilitate this concept at Lamar High School, the educational leaders fell in love with PBSLearningMedia and PBS.org to provide them what they need to take the flipped model to new heights!

"Houston Public Media is undoubtedly the ONLY objective source of news information! Where would we be as a country if we did not have public media, now more than ever. We will ALWAYS support Houston Public Media!"

Wayne L. Dorris, Ph.D., Always Member

"Houston Public Media programing has impacted my life greatly over the many years that I have watched. Learning so much through Nature, Nova, Ken Burns and so many other shows—I consider myself very lucky to have Houston Public Media in my home."

June, Always Member
IN CASE YOU MISSED IT
Houston Public Media announced beginning in January the expansion of local programming with the television debut of *Party Politics* on KUHT TV 8. The weekly podcast and radio show is hosted by Brandon Rottinghaus and Jeronimo Cortina, two University of Houston political science professors who deliver a friendly, humorous and non-partisan recap of the week’s biggest political stories. *Party Politics* airs every Friday at 8:00 pm on TV 8, and 7:30 pm on News 88.7. The series is also available on Houston Public Media’s YouTube channel, and you can subscribe to the audio version of the podcast wherever you get your podcasts.

This month’s impact report is made possible by our community of donors, foundations and partners.

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