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Facebook providing scholarships for Houstonians to attend coding boot camp

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Make Today Different

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Americans reflect on Martin Luther King Jr's legacy 50 years on



Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy meets with civil rights leaders, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., in the Rose Garden of the White House, Washington, D.C., June 22, 1963. Abbie Rowe, National Parks Service/JFK Presidential Library and Museum/Handout via

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (Reuters) - A half century after Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s death, visitors still flock to the Memphis, Tennessee, site where the civil rights leader was assassinated and say that while there has been progress in racial equality, more strides need to be made. "We still look like there is a shadow over

us, still seems like something is holding us back," Charles Wilson, a black man from Mississippi, said during a recent visit to the site.

On April 4, 1968, King, 39, was shot on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. The motel is now part of the National Civil Rights Museum, which

includes Room 306, preserved as it was when King stayed there, and vintage cars parked out front. A Baptist pastor and civil rights activist, King worked to end legal segregation of blacks in the United States. He gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech at the August 1963 March on Washington, and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 at age 35 - the youngest man to have received the award. Despite King's advocacy of nonviolent resistance, the days immediately following his death were marked by rioting in several American cities. Thousands of National Guard troops were deployed.

Wilson, the recent National Civil Rights Museum visitor, and his son Charles Jr. were among those who contemplated King's legacy and the status of civil rights in the United States. "I think that the changes that people fought for as far as voting and et cetera, a lot of people don't take advantage of it, and a lot of people gave their lives for that right, they fought for it and people now don't appreciate it," Wilson Jr said. Nancy Langfield, a white woman visiting from Missouri, said politicians in Washing-

ton do not reflect the racial makeup of the United States. She deplored what she called the rhetoric coming out of Washington, calling it hateful and mean. "I look at the government and it looks very white to me, and then I think about the country and it doesn't seem over-



A statue of Rosa Parks sits at the front of a bus in the National Civil Rights Museum, on the site of the Lorraine Motel where Martin Luther King Jr. was shot and killed in 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee, U.S., March 26, 2018.

ly white to me," Langfield said. For Hyungu Lee, of Tennessee, who visited the museum with his family, King's legacy is still alive. "Even though he is not here, I feel that his spirit is with us now, and because of him, our human rights is getting better and better, so I feel really thankful," Lee said.

Trump says he will use military to protect U.S. border with Mexico

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Donald Trump said on Tuesday he would use U.S. military forces to protect the border with Mexico until a long-promised wall is completed and "proper security" is in place. Trump, who earlier threatened to halt U.S. foreign aid to Honduras and other countries unless they stopped a "caravan" of Central American migrants headed to the United States, called use of the military at the southern border "a big step." Trump has railed against more than 1,200 Central American migrants on a 2,000-mile (3,200-km) journey from the Mexico-Guatemalan border, and reiterated threats to derail the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) if they are not stopped. "We will be doing things with Mexico, and they have to do it, otherwise I'm not going to do with the NAFTA deal," Trump told reporters at the

White House. He said if the "caravan" reaches the U.S. border "our laws are so weak and so pathetic ... it's like we have no border." Mexican officials stepped up efforts on Tuesday to process the dwindling group and determine whether they had the right to stay in Mexico or be returned to their countries of origin. Mexico has said such "caravans" of mostly Central Americans, including many escaping violence in Honduras, have occurred since 2010. "Until we can have a wall and proper security we're going to be guarding our border with the military," Trump said. He said he would be meeting soon with U.S. Defense Secretary Mattis and others to discuss the idea. In a post on Twitter earlier on Tuesday, Trump said the caravan "heading to our 'Weak Laws' Border, had better be stopped before it gets there. Cash cow NAFTA is in play, as is foreign aid to Honduras and

the countries that allow this to happen. Congress MUST ACT NOW!" Some members of Congress said they were uncomfortable with the idea of using the military at the border. Democratic Senator Brian Schatz said Trump should have to ask for approval from Congress. "I think we should put that new law to a vote in the Senate as soon as possible," he said on Twitter. "I predict fewer than 20 votes." Republican Representative Francis Rooney, a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, said there was a risk of increased violence. "These people should be stopped at the border and vetted out, just the normal process, and we should have plenty of agents down there to do that," Rooney told CNN.



U.S. President Trump participates in a tour of U.S.-Mexico border wall prototypes near Otay Mesa Port of Entry in San Diego, California

Facebook providing scholarships for Houstonians to attend coding boot camp

By Andrea Rumbaugh

Facebook is providing scholarships for 25 Houstonians to attend a 15-week coding boot camp, part of the technology giant's efforts to help job seekers, business owners and others learn the digital skills crucial in today's workforce.

Flatiron School is opening a Houston location, and the Facebook cohort will be the first class of students to learn software engineering, mostly Web development. And it's partnering with the Houston Area Urban League to ensure a diverse class of students.

"We have so many industries here in Harris County that are going to need this skill set," said Eric Goodie, director of programs including workforce development and occupational skills training at the Houston Area Urban League.

Boot camp-style workouts have been around for decades. But now they come in many shapes and flavors—from bridal boot camps designed to tone people up for their nuptials to "prison-style workouts" taught by people who were formerly incarcerated.

He said the number of jobs requiring coding skills has increased within the past three years. It's part of a larger trend where technology is infiltrating a host of industries.

Around eight or 10 years ago, for instance, he said con-

struction-related jobs began requesting people with technical aptitude, such as using laser surveying instruments. Electricians needed to learn about fiber-optic cables, and so on. He said a host of Houston-area industries will have a need for coding: petrochemical, transportation, warehousing, logistics, aerospace and health care, to name a few.

"The reality is that every company is becoming a tech company," said Adam Enbar, co-founder and CEO of Flatiron School. "Every industry has tech a part of it."

Flatiron School was acquired by WeWork in October. Its coding boot camp in Houston will be in the downtown WeWork location.

This coding boot camp announcement comes as Facebook Community Boost launched its Houston program. It's offering a host of coursework Tuesday through Friday at the Julia Ideson Building of the Houston Public Library, located at 550 McKinney St.

For small business owners, Houston's schedule includes Getting Started with Facebook for basics on creating business pages, Finding New Customers with Facebook as an intro to Facebook advertising and Getting Business Done with Instagram to learn about the photo-sharing social media platform. For nonprofit leaders, the Growing Your Non-Profit with Facebook course will focus on using the social media platform to find new supporters and raise money. Community Boost will also offer non-Facebook courses. These topics will include global trade, understanding key financial metrics and hiring.



Judge claims Katy ISD superintendent was a 'vicious bully' in school

A judge in Alabama has waded into the drama surrounding Katy ISD Superintendent Lance Hindt, claiming the embattled school administrator was a "vicious bully" when the two were in school together.

Circuit Judge David Carpenter of Alabama's 10th district recalled attending Taylor High School with Hindt in 1982.

"He was physically threatening some of my teammates, just menacing them, standing over them and eventually started throwing weight plates

at them, 25-pound weight plates at them," Carpenter told Fox 26. "He liked to brag about beating up other people and at one point he even bragged about beating up a police officer."

Hindt has drawn national scorn after Greg Barrett, a Katy-area businessman, accused him of bullying when the two were classmates roughly 30 years ago. The claim was made during a public school board meeting March 19. Barrett claims Hindt beat him up in the restroom at school. Hindt has since issued a statement saying he didn't

remember Barrett and that the claim of bullying "simply isn't true."

A request for comment has been placed with Hindt and Carpenter.

Hindt sent a letter a letter to all Katy ISD employees Monday, which was obtained by Covering Katy. In it, Hindt apologized to the district for all the attention these accusations have created.

"It is unfortunate that half-truths, viral videos, edited tape, false statements, and gotcha moments are a part of our modern mainstream news and social media culture," Hindt wrote. "Although

I do not believe the attacks on our great school district, our school board or me are over, I remain steadfast in my commitment to Katy ISD."

Former Katy ISD student Nitant Patel, 19, has since started a Change.org petition calling for Hindt's firing. The petition, which also references a now-dismissed 1983 lawsuit claiming an 18-year-old Hindt severely beat another man, has collected more than 3,100 signatures as of Monday morning. A competing petition with the title "We, the community within

Katy ISD, support our Superintendent Dr. Lance Hindt" has also been started on Change.org.

The purpose of that petition it to show "the school board and employees of Katy ISD that we strongly support Dr. Hindt and we know that he is the person that needs to sit in his current position of Superintendent," it states. So far it has collected 1,700 signatures as of Monday morning. employee benefits, pensions and bonuses for executives. That review ultimately led CenterPoint to cut its rate request almost in half.

A Snapshot of Anime Matsuri in Houston

Anime Matsuri 2018. Featuring Evangelion George R. Brown Convention Center



Anime Matsuri is a multi National event highlighting world class gaming using computer animation guided by the creativity of its creator mere Humans

Creatures from another Planet, rather from another video game, League of Legend

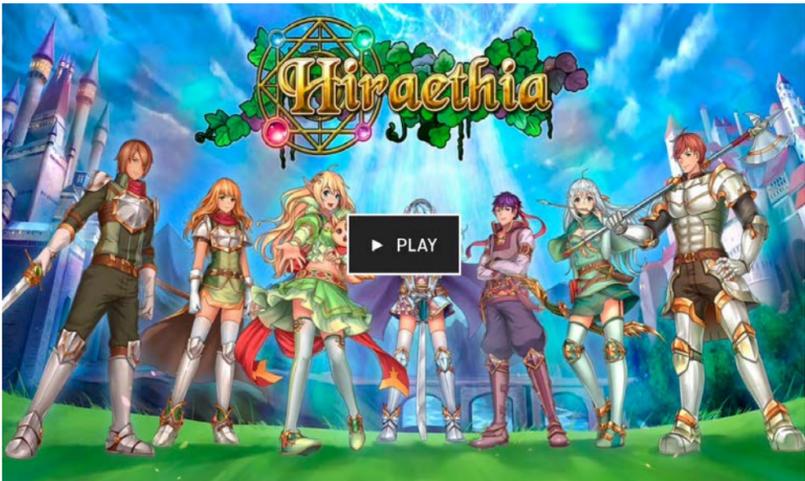


25,000 attend the event held at the magnificent Houston George R Brown Convention Center



Another universe of some far out characters waiting to be deployed into a video game. How long will they have to wait in stasis depends on many factors including funding of the project just like NASA needs funding so does the universe of video games.

Take me to your leader, I don't bite



Hiraethia, one of many show exhibitors displaying their creations. Check them out at facebook.com/hiraethia



The Astrodome To Receive Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Marker

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



The Astrodome will be designated a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark. The iconic Astrodome is now in line for a dramatic \$105 million transformation.

The Astrodome will be designated as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark — the highest honor the state can bestow on a historic structure.

The marker will finally and officially tell the story of the “Eighth Wonder of the World” and, officials hope, create a snapshot destination.

“The Dome has never had an actual historical marker,” said Mike Vance, a member of the Harris County Historical Commission, which is the local arm of the Texas Historical Commission.

The state agency approved the stadium’s designation in January among 172 new historical markers across Texas for 2018.

The Astrodome’s Colorful Past



1) October 1963: Harris County commissioners check out stadium seats for the to-be-completed domed stadium (Astrodome). commissioner Philip Sayers, County Judge Bill Elliott, commissioners W. Kyle Chapman, E.A. (Squatty) Lyons and V.V. (Red) Ramsey. 2) Start of construction on Astrodome, March 27, 1963. Concrete was poured for a foundation footing Wednesday morning at a ceremony formally starting construction of the domed stadium. About 20 members of the Houston consular corps were guests at the ceremony. They put mementos from their countries into a capsule embedded in the concrete. Officials from the city of Houston, Harris County, Chamber of Commerce, and Houston Sports Association (HSA) were also at the cornerstone ceremony.



1) Excavation work for the Harris County

Domed Stadium, May 30, 1963. 2) Astrodome construction, circa late 1964.



A crowd of spellbound onlookers peers 212 feet upward to the top of the steel framework of Harris County’s domed stadium (Astrodome). The steel work was “topped out” Friday, Nov 1, 1963, by contractors, H.A. Lott, Inc., and Johnson, Drake & Piper, Inc. The next step, say the contractors, is putting the plastic covering on the dome. The aluminum skin will be added to the sides in a later stage of construction.



March 1964: Former County Judge Roy Hofheinz, National League President Warren Giles, and astronaut Alan Shepard join news media to view the now open interior of the Harris County Domed Stadium (Astrodome) free of the support towers which held the dome up until the structural steel framing was in place. Removal of the 37 four-ton steel towers started Feb. 4 at the rate of two a day when weather permitted.



The Dome in 1964: Downtown Houston in the distance.

At its opening, the Astrodome embodied the height of innovation. The building was the world’s largest domed structure and the biggest air-conditioned stadium as well as the first ballpark with artificial turf, luxury suites and an animated scoreboard.

“The Astrodome is the most important building we’ve ever had in our city’s history,” said Vance, a professional historian and program director for The Heritage Society at Sam Houston Park. “It’s the most recognized and the most influential building that we’ve ever had. ... It absolutely changed architecture and engineering around the world.”

The stadium opened on April 9, 1965, to a sold-out crowd of more than 47,000 for an exhibition baseball game between the Astros and the New York Yankees. The historical marker dedication, which will be scheduled soon, comes near the Dome’s 53rd birthday.

The Astrodome received its strongest protection with a 2017 state antiquities landmark designation, giving the stadium special safeguards against demolition and requiring clearance from the Texas Historical Commission for any alterations.

Becoming a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark adds another measure of protection.

This week 55 years ago construction started on the Astrodome



The new Astrodome hosted all levels of sports and entertainment events.

“It’s a higher standard you have to reach to qualify for that kind of marker,” Vance said. “That means that it’s a building and it has to be intact in the judgment of the Texas Historical Commission — and the Dome, thankfully, is.”

In addition, the sign’s unveiling will be “something tangible and visible,” unlike the antiquities designation, Vance said.

Preservation and renovation of the Astrodome has been a long-held priority for Harris County Judge Ed Emmett. The county is spending \$105 million to renovate the stadium. Construction is expected to begin in October.

“Judge Emmett has been supportive of the Astros and the county historical society’s efforts in putting a marker at the Astrodome from the very beginning,” said Joe Stinebaker, a spokesman for the county executive. “He has said repeatedly that The Alamo and the Astrodome are probably the two most recognizably historic buildings in the state of Texas — and if the Astrodome doesn’t deserve a historical marker, what does?”

The Astros organization, whose history is intertwined with the Astrodome, is paying the state about \$2,000 for the marker.



The Astrodome Conservancy also is planning a public event at the stadium. Previously, the organization announced a bash for April 9, but details are expected to be released next week.

“We are hoping to create a real party atmosphere to celebrate the history of the Astrodome and look forward to a bright future,” said Beth Wiedower Jackson, the conservancy’s executive director.

The Dome has not housed a professional sports team since the Astros moved to Minute Maid Park in 2000. NRG Stadium opened in the Dome complex two years later to serve as the home of the National Football League’s Houston Texans.

The Houston fire marshal’s office declared the massive building unfit for occupancy in 2009.

The county spends about \$170,000 a year to maintain the Dome in NRG Park, located on South Loop 610 between Kirby and Fannin — largely for electricity bills and flood insurance. The renovation costs will be paid from the county’s general fund, largely made up of property tax revenue, hotel occupancy taxes and parking revenue, county officials have said. (Courtesy chron.com)

Amazon is in the final stages of figuring out its strategy to get into the multibillion-dollar prescription drug market.

The company will decide before Thanksgiving whether to move into selling prescription drugs online, according to an email from Amazon viewed by CNBC and a source familiar with the situation. If it decides to make that move, it will start expanding its senior team with drug supply chain experts.

Amazon typically spends years researching opportunities before it telegraphs its intentions. The opportunity to sell drugs online is alluring given its market size -- analysts have estimated the U.S. prescription drug market at \$560 billion per year. Amazon is well aware of the complexities, say sources familiar with the company's thinking.

Amazon declined to comment.

In the past year, Amazon has ramped up its hiring and consulted with dozens of people about a potential move into the pharmacy market. The consumables team, which includes groceries, kicked off the research, with the division's vice president, Eric French, taking the lead.

It brought on Mark Lyons from Premera Blue Cross to build an internal pharmacy benefits manager for its own employees, say multiple people familiar. According to one of the people, it's possible that the push into the broader drug supply chain hinges on its success with this effort.

In May, the company kicked off its search for a general manager to lead its pharmacy push, externally dubbed "healthcare."

Analyst firm Leerink has separately reported that Amazon will get into the pharmacy management space and expects an announcement within the next year or two. Goldman Sachs published a report on the topic in August of this year, speculating that Amazon will ultimately look to im-



Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos

Amazon's Push Into Pharmacy Still Very Much An "If" And Not A "When" Amazon Close To Decision For Move To Online Drug Sales

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



prove price transparency for consumers and reduce out-of-pocket costs.

Amazon already has a business selling medical supplies online, such as gauze and thermometers. It also has a health team called 1492, which is focused on both hardware and software projects, like developing health applications for the Echo and Dash Wand. Its cloud service, Amazon Web Services, continues to dominate the health and life sciences market. (Courtesy <https://www.cnbc.com/>)

Related

This doctor has been

emailing Jeff Bezos for years begging Amazon to get into health

Josh Umbehrr is on a mission to bring down the price of prescription drugs. So he turned to the one man he believes that can do it: Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos.



Josh Umbehrr (Courtesy Atlas MD)

Josh Umbehrr, a Kansas-based family physician and entrepreneur, is on a mission to bring down the price of health care, starting with prescription drugs.

So for years, he's been regularly emailing the one person that he believes can make a difference.

And that's Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos. "Amazon could work with small pharmacies across the country to provide a huge value to Prime customers, on a regular basis (with) short delivery times, not to mention the effect it would have on competition that over charges immensely," one of Umbehrr's emails to Bezos suggests.

Umbehrr says he has contacted Bezos about every other week for several

years, and forwarded about half-a-dozen of these emails on request.

"I love Jeff," he said.

While Bezos has never personally responded, Umbehrr's hopes soared when an Amazon employee got back to him encouraging him to submit a business proposal.

Amazon also wrote that he would hear from the company if his ideas "contributed to Amazon's business goals."

But in January 2017, Umbehrr received his most detailed response informing him that his email had been forwarded along to Amazon's business development team. "Jeff has empowered talented people on this team to work closely with and make strategic decisions about these issues," the email reads.

Amazon's push into the drug supply chain

CNBC reported in May that Amazon was looking to hire a general manager to lead its potential push into pharmacy, a multi-billion market. It also has brought on dozens of health and medical workers for a variety of health-related business units.

Some experts have speculated that Amazon could step into the space by focusing on those who opt to pay cash, rather than to use insurance. One such insider is Adam Fein, president of Pembroke Consulting, who has previously suggested that Amazon could support the growing number of people who are willing to pay out-of-pocket for cheap generic drugs.

For Umbehrr, this strategy makes sense as the drug supply chain offers very little transparency into the actual cost of medicines.

When he's not emailing Amazon, Umbehrr dedicates his time to his direct primary care practice, Atlas MD, which provides cash-only medical services like discounted drugs. He started the group in 2010, and has grown in to 3,000 patients who are willing to pay between \$10 and \$100 a month for unlimited work visits, home visits and procedures.

Amazon would potentially compete with businesses like his, but Umbehrr said he wouldn't mind.

"I welcome the direct competition," he said. "We need a national health care solution to this problem." (Courtesy <https://www.cnbc.com/2>)