For the second year in a row, more than 150,000 K-8 students participated in this year’s Houston Public Media Spelling Bee. 914 schools and 37 counties contributed, making it the third-largest spelling bee program in the country. Our Co-champions Ishika Varipilli and Kirstin Santos advanced to the 2022 Scripps National Spelling Bee where they faced 234 spellers from across the globe for the national championship. Ishika, a 6th grader from Houston Creekside Park Junior High School tied for 23rd; and Kirstin Santos, a 6th grader at the International Leadership of Texas-Katy Middle School, triumphantly tied for 4th Place. HPM is so very proud of both of our Houston superstars, Ishika and Kirsten! Participation in programs like the 2022 Scripps National Spelling Bee is a life changing experience and it is all powered by you.
WEATHER
Sweltering Texas heat this weekend is a danger to outdoor workers

The city of Houston said it will activate its public health emergency plan in June. Heat deaths have doubled over the last decade: an investigation last year from the Texas Newsroom and Columbia Journalism Investigations found at least 53 people died working in the Texas heat since 2010. Beginning this month, people without access to air conditioning will be able to seek shelter at any of the city’s designated cooling centers located at all Houston Public Library locations and Parks and Recreation community centers.

EDUCATION
Afghan refugee students in Houston experienced culture shock. Now many are thriving

While struggling to start anew in America, many refugee students experienced bullying because of their culture and ethnicity. Despite facing obstacles before their first day of school these Afghan families were welcomed by the efforts of HISD, community donations and many volunteers. A Houston ISD official confirmed there is a shortage of English as a second language (ESL) teachers, but said the district was working to ensure the students have an ESL-certified teacher for all their English classes.

ENVIRONMENT
Is air pollution making thunderstorms more severe? Scientists in Houston want to find out

Heath Powers, with the Department of Energy’s Atmospheric Radiation Measurement team, is one of dozens of researchers from around the country who will be in Houston this summer to see whether aerosols—tiny specks of soot, dust, smoke and other particles—are impacting the severity of thunderstorms. Understanding the connection between pollution and severe storms could ultimately help improve weather forecasting and help cities better prepare for extreme weather and flash floods, according to the researchers. Several scientific studies have suggested that by changing the makeup of cloud and precipitation particles, aerosols can make storms stronger, larger, and bring more rainfall.
A CONNECTED AND INSPIRED COMMUNITY

HERITAGE APPRECIATION MONTH
Houston Public Media Celebrates Juneteenth

In 1865, African Americans were officially declared free from slavery on June 19. Houston Public Media proudly takes this time to reflect on a celebration of this freedom, while learning the history and the deeper meaning of the Juneteenth holiday itself. In Galveston and around the world, Juneteenth is observed with speeches and song, picnics, parades, and exhibits of African American history and art.

ARTS & CULTURE
Houston Public Media Celebrates Pride Month

Pride Month is celebrated each year in June to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan and works to achieve equal justice and equal opportunity for LGBTQI2P2SAA Americans. In June of 1969, patrons of the Stonewall Inn in NYC staged an uprising to resist police harassment and persecution. The uprising marked the beginning of a movement to condemn discriminatory laws and practices against LGBTQ Americans. Houston Public Media proudly celebrates and recognizes the contributions and impact of our LGBTQI2P2SAA community. We are better together when we embrace all.

A SAFER COMMUNITY

2022 hurricane season has started. Here’s what you should know

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has predicted up to six of the 21 named storms to be major, ranging anywhere from Category 3 to Category 5 hurricanes, in which winds reach speeds of 111 miles per hour or greater. The height of the Atlantic hurricane season will occur between August and October, peaking on September 10, however Houston-area officials are urging residents to prepare and be ready if the worst happens based on these predictions now.
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 HPM!”
Wayne L. Dorris, Ph.D., Always Member

I have learned so much by listening to you (Ernie Manouse) and not necessarily from your guests...you are a real model of grace and courtesy. You treat every caller with dignity even when they are going off the rails. You help them reframe their questions with truth and kindness. You scaffold the information that you have been learning and make the listener understand that the world is not binary but is ever evolving.”
Patty Sobelman, Town Square with Ernie Manouse Listener and Always Member
Your Career Frontier program is stellar! I listened intently and took rigorous notes on each session and look forward to going to the website to listen to more programs. Thank you, kindly, for doing such a good job addressing community needs and concerns.”

Chelby King, Career Frontier Participant