NORTH CHANNEL & STAR

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FOOTBALL SEASON for the NFL and some colleges have started. Sunday Houston plays Baltimore in the Home Opener. See our Preview Column by Mike Keeney on Page 3

Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month September 15 -October 15

By Allan Jamail

Today, September 15, 2020 marks the beginning of a month long celebration recognizing the contributions Hispanics have contributed to the United States. National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15.

Channel Star writer said, "I write this article to honor Puerto Rican civil rights pioneer Felicitas Mendez." She is a Puerto Rican immigrant and her husband Gonzalo took on California school segregation laws after their three children were denied entry at a local elementary school because of their skin $color\ in\ 1944.$

The success of the Men dez v. Westminster case made California the first state in the nation to end segregation in school. This paved the way for the better-known Brown v Board of Education when Blacks



Felicitas Gómez Martínez de Mendez with her husband Gonzalo Méndez. In 1946, Mendez and her husband Gonzalo led an educational civil rights battle that set an important legal precedent for ending segregation

were also denied an education in a segregated White school. It was this case which would bring an end to school segregation in the entire country.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed $\underline{\mathbf{a}}$ <u>proclamation</u> to establish Hispanic Heritage Week. In the proclamation, the 36th president wrote, "The people of Hispanic descent are the heirs of missionaries, captains, soldiers, and farmers who were motivated by a young spirit of adventure, and a desire to

See HISPANIC HERITAGE,

COVID-19

Cases as of September 15, 2020

HOUSTON AREA

184,405 POSITIVE 2,520 DEATHS 155.301 RECOVERED

TEXAS

686,895 POSITIVE 14,458 DEATHS 581,204 RECOVERED

UNITED STATES

6.590.827 POSITIVE 195.414 DEATHS 2.477.942 RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

29,398,712 POSITIVE 930.910 DEATHS 19.948.785 RECOVERED

Lake Houston Trump rally displays fervor

HUFFMAN – The day national polls talked about a lack of enthusiasm by Lat-inos and a five point slip in the polls for the Democratic Presidential Candidate since the selection of a Vice Presidential running mate, Kamala Harris, locally, the zeal of the Republican ticket was abundant on Lake Houston.
The Lake Houston Mari-

na and the Lake Houston Brewery east on both sides of the McKay Bridge were stages for Lake Houston Party Boaters, a group of about 458 members, to launch close to 800 water craft for the Big T 2020 Parade at 2:00 p.m. last Sat-

urday.
That was a follow up from the Lake Houston Fun Run where participants donated \$10 to benefit Texas



Out of Atascocita, eastbound the south end of the McKay Bridge is lined with cars, rescue vehicles, and cheering President Donald R. Trump supporters. Boats and ehicles were on both sides of the bridge and in the

were presented after the event at Lake Houston Brewery. The held a captains meeting at 1:00p.m. to

advise of safety precautions Voters for Trump sporting

and distincing. about 383 members that describe themselves as "A about 383 members that group of people to support

Trump, like to keep their own money and have fun. They simultaniously launched Trump 2020 -Lake Houston Boat Parade

Both featured red whiet and blue streamers, flags, MAGA banners in keeping with like events nation wide based upon the success of the San Francisco Boat Parade. Unlike an event near Austin there were no boats reported sunken or dis-tressed. Hundreds of vehicles lined FM 1960 and = packed the marina and brewery to support the boaters. Shouts and actual waving flags was active throughout the area.

Huffman Fire and Ambulances were on hand but no emergency was presented.

The event grew based solely upn Facebook posts and the two groups joning

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Census Parade emphasizes the need to Be Counted

Sylvia Garcia, County and City leaders join in effort



Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia speaks about the need for everyone to register in the Census which is soon drawing to a conclusion. Garcia was talking at the BakerRipley center in East Aldine, along with others including East Aldine's Richard Cantu, Sheriff Ed Gonzalez, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, Pct. 2 Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia, Pct. 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis, State Representative Armando Walle, and BakerRipley president Claudia Aguirre.

HARRIS COUNTY -U.S. Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia has organized an intense public effort to count as many residents of the area as possible, stating that federal dollars that are sent to the state, county, and city are dependent upon the number of people counted and living in the

To draw attention to the need to sign up in the Census, Garcia and other community leaders have organized "Census Caravans" that drive through neighborhoods and urge residents to complete their

census forms. Garcia says it only takes 5 minutes to complete the question-naire, and can be done in several different ways.

Last Saturday the Census Caravan drove through the streets of East Aldine. Authorities have noted that this is one of the areas where only a small percentage of the residents have registered.

Prior to the Caravan leaving on its neighborhood tour, community leaders spoke on the importance of a complete census count.

Mayor Turner noted in his remarks that only 40%

of the eligible residents in the city have been counted so far. Only a few weeks remain until September 30, when the Census Bureau stops its field activities of counting. This includes door-knocking, online responses, over the phone, and by mail. After that the bureau will make adjustments and assump tions, and deliver a final count by December 31.

Sylvia Garcia had this

to say in her remarks: The Census will determine how billions of federal dollars will be allocated

See CENSUS, page 6

COMMUNITY ✮ NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS To Tom Seiter and Great Grandson Rhett, who won Free Tickets to the Texas Renaissance Festival. You can win too. Just send us a photo reading this newspaper. See information on Page 7, and enter the Drawing.



Harris County Approves Historic Investment to Improve Access to Voting

COUNTY TALK

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo

The upcoming election will be one of the most important in the history of the United States and it is up to every eligible resident to take part in deciding our nation's future. In late August, Harris County Commissioners Court approved a historic \$17 million investment to expand access to the ballot box for our residents to ensure everyone has the chance to make their voice heard, despite the challenges presented by COVID-19. The court approved:
-- tripling the number of Early Vote locations;

- -- extending early voting hours until 10pm for 3 days, and 24 hour voting for one;
- -- drive-thru voting:
- and mail-in ballot applications mailed to all registered voters.

No excuses — regardless of who you decide to support, the most important thing you can do is VOTE! For more information on voting in Harris County and to apply for a mail-in ballot,

New Harris County test sites

tions Offering Free COVID-19 Testing September 14-

Test Results Come Back in 1-3 Days

Houston - Starting Monday, September 14, there will be 6 new mobile testing locations and 2 stationary sites offering FREE COVID-19 testing. Getting test results back is much quicker now, 1-3

Some children have returned to in-person classes and some people gathered for Labor Day without taking precautions. Since 40% of people infected with COVID-19 don't have any symptoms, you could have it without knowing it and be spreading it to family and friends. It can be deadly for older people, those with underlying health conditions or compromised immune systems. So don't guess...take the test..

Hours at the mobile sites are 7-2 and children can be tested at these sites. Register at www.hcphtx.org or call 832-927-7575. Keep your authorization code to

be tested. Mobile locations for September 14-19, are Monday-Saturday and closed

Hosana Lutheran Church, 16526 Ella Blvd, Houston, TX 77090

Closed Tuesday, September15 • Our Lady of Guada-

lupe Church, 1124 Beech St, Baytown, TX 77520 Closed Wednesday, Sep-

• St. Peter's United Methodist, 20775 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX 77450

Closed Thursday, Sep-

tember 17 • Champion Forest Baptist Church, 15555 Stuebner Airline Rd, Houston, TX

Closed Wednesday, Sep-

tember 16 UH-Clear Lake, Delta Bldg - Lot 3, 2700 Bay Area

Blvd, Houston, TX 77058 Closed Monday, September14

• San Juan Diego Church, 3301 Pasadena Blvd, Pasadena, TX 77503 Closed Saturday, Sep-

tember 19

832-927-7575.

There is a stationary site at the M.O. Campbell Education Center in Aldine. Children can be also be tested at this site. Hours this week are 7am-2pm. Register www.hcphtx.org or call

The Pasadena stationary site is still offering Surge Testing at San Jacinto College Central Campus. People must be 13 or older to be tested at this site. Hours this week are 7am-2pm, with expanded hours on Tuesdays and

Thursdays, 4pm-8pm. Register for the Pasadena site at www.doineed acovid19test.com or call 832-927-7575.

Digital Access Program provides Computer Devices and Hotspots

Keeping our children home from school is a smart move to protect them from COVID-19, but many Harris County families don't have the means to get their kids connected virtually and learning online. In Texas, one in four students do not have devices at home for virtual learning, and 34% of these students lack adequate access to the internet. 66% of these students are African-American, Hispanic, or Native

To begin to address these substantial inequalities, Harris County Commissioners Court approved the creation of the Digital Access Program in early August. The program designates \$32 million in Federal Cares Act dollars to provide 82,000 WiFi hotspots and 211,000 devices to families in need. Harris County will partner with Texas Education Agency's "Operation Connectivity" and T-Mobile's "Project 10 Million" for distribution of the devices and hotspots, respectively.

COVID-19 Relief Fund Distributes Funds to Over 20k Households

The Harris County COVID-19 Relief Fund is in the process of distributing its final grants and is close to completion. The \$30 million fund opened its application in late June for the most vulnerable residents of Harris County suffering the financial effects of COVID-19. Over the span of two days, the fund hosted 1,898,555 sessions on its website (including visitors who visited the website multiple times), and assisted 24,136 people over the phone. All \$30 million has been released to intermediary organizations to distribute to families, and 20,618 households have been served by the fund to date. An estimated 400 to 450 additional families will receive re-granted funds that could not be distributed. A final count of all families served, as well as an evaluation and assessment of the program will be available in October.

Families looking for COVID-19 related assistance are encouraged to call the 211 Texas/United Way helpline to find an organization in their geographic region. Individuals can also visit ReadyHarris.org and www.harriscountyrelief.org/resources for more information and other options for available aid.

The World Around Us Keeps Changing





2020 has thrown us all some curveballs. One thing we know for certain is that none of us can afford to wait for things to get back to the way they were before. The new business normal is now and there are many ways we are already equipped to handle the changes and grow our business in the new workplace of today.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX **INCREASE**

A tax rate of 0.050000 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of Harris County Emergency Services District 50.

PROPOSED TAX RATE \$0.050000 per \$100 NO-NEW REVENUE TAX RATE VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE DE MINIMIS RATE \$0.052893 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2020 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Harris County Emergency Services District 50 from the same properties in both the 2019 tax year and the 2020 tax year.

The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that Harris County Emergency Services District 50 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for Harris County Emergency Services District 50 exceeds the voter-approval tax rate for Harris County Emergency Services District 50.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for Harris County Emergency Services District 50, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for Harris County Emergency Services District 50.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Harris County Emergency Services District 50 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2020 tax year.

A public hearing on the proposed tax rate will be held on October 05, 2020 at 6:00 PM at 1210 Dell Dale Avenue, Channelview, Harris

The proposed tax rate is greater than the voter-approval tax rate, but not greater than the de minimis rate. However, the proposed tax rate exceeds the rate that allows voters to petition for an election under Section 26.075, Tax Code. If Harris County Emergency Services District 50 adopts the proposed tax rate, the qualified voters of the Harris County Emergency Services District 50 may petition the Harris County Emergency Services District 50 to require an election to be held to determine whether to reduce the proposed tax rate. If a majority of the voters reject the proposed tax rate, the tax rate of the Harris County Emergency Services District 50 will be to -approval tax rate of the Harris County Emergency Services District 50.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE ABOVE RATES CAN BE CALCULATED AS

FOLLOWS:

property tax amount=(tax rate) X (taxable value of your property)/100 The members of the governing body voted on the proposed tax increase as follows:

B. Biggers M. Burr

AGAINST:

PRESENT and not voting:

ABSENT:

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District 50 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency

| | 2019 | 2020 | Change | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------|
| Total Tax Rate (per \$100 of value) | \$0.050000 | \$0.050000 | decrease of | \$0.000000 OR | |
| Average homestead taxable value | \$112,626 | \$123,715 | increase of | 9.84% | |
| Tax on average homestead | \$56 | \$62 | increase of | \$6 OR | 9.85% |
| Total tax levy on all properties | \$2,805,366 | \$3,257,527 | increase of | \$452,161 OR | 16.12% |

nce with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for Harris County Emergency Services District 50 at 713-274-8000 or tax.office.hctx.net, or visit www.hctax.net for more information.

SPORTS NEWS

Texans host Ravens in Home Opener; Cowboys host Falcons in their first home game

The Texans and their new multi-million dollar quarterback host the Baltimore Ravens in their first home game of the season at what will be a fan-less NRG Stadium. Up 1-45, the Dallas Cowboys will play their home opener at AT&T Stadium in what owner Jerry Jones hopes will host close to 50,000 fans.

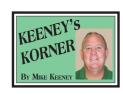
There isn't much to choose from on the college schedule for the second straight week, but things should pick up the weekend of Sept. 26 when the Big 12 and SEC kickoff their seasons. We will definitely take a look at a number of key college games next week and hopefully the weeks to come.

This week's column will once again take a look at NFL games only. The State of Texas has two interesting games on the docket on Sunday as the Ravens and reigning MVP Lamar Jackson visit Watson and the Texans, while the highflying Atlanta Falcons will pay visit Arlington to take on Dak Prescott and the Cowboys.

Other interesting games on tap this weekend feature the Rams at Philadelphia, the 49ers also head east to take on the Jets, while Minnesota visits Indianapolis. The defending Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs hit the road for the first time to face the Los Angeles Chargers in their new home, Sofi Stadium in an AFC West matchup, while New England also heads west to face Seattle on Sunday Night Football.

Week 2 concludes with New Orleans facing the Las Vegas Raiders in their first game in Sin City and their new billion-dollar stadium. So, without further ado, let's take a closer look at Week 2 in the NFI.

Los Angeles Rams at Philadelphia: The Eagles host the Rams in their home opener looking to go to 2-0 on the season. The Eagles are hoping quarterback Carson Wentz (4,039 passing yards, 27 TDs) can stay healthy for an entire season. He's had a history of injury troubles in his first four years in the league. Philly fans are expecting a breakout season for second-vear running back Mile Sanders (818 rushing yards, 3 TDs/50 receptions, 509 yards, 3 TDs), and if



the second-year man from Penn State is as good as advertised, that will be a huge bonus for Wentz and the offense. Teams will have to deal with the running game first, which should open up the play action in the passing game. The Rams are hoping for a bounce back season from Jared Goff (4,638 yards, 22 TDs), but he will be without running back Todd Gurley who left LA for Atlanta in the offseason. Look for the Eagles to move to 2-0 with a win over the Rams on Sunday, My pick, Philadelphia 26, Los Angeles Rams

San Francisco at New

York Jets: The defending NFC champions make the long trip east to New Jersey to face a Jets team that should be improved from last year's 7-9 record. This could be a breakout. year for third-year quarterback Sam Darnold (3,024 passing yards, 19 TDs in 13 games) and it would help if running back Le'Von Bell (789 yards, 3 TDs) returned to the form he had when he was putting up eye-opening rushing and receiving numbers for the Steelers. The 49ers will once again rely on the right arm of quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo (3,978 yards, 27 TDs) and the pass catching ability of tight end George Kittle (85 receptions, 1,053vards, 5 TDs). Something tells me the Jets show up and pull off the upset in their home opener on Sunday. My pick, New York Jets 24, San Francisco 20

Denver at Pittsburgh: The Steelers open host the Broncos in their home opener in what should be a competitive game Both teams are coming off subpar years, but both could contend for a Wild Card spot this year as both teams improved in the offseason The Broncos could be sneaky good on defense with the return of defensive end Bradley Chubb and the signing of former Tennessee Titan defensive tackle Jurrell Casey. The key to Denver's success or failure this year will be how well quarterback



Drew Locke (1.020 yards, 7 TDs in five starts) plays in his second year in the league. He showed flashes as a rookie and has two solid running backs to help him out in speedy Phillip Lindsey and the productive Melvin Gordon. Steeler fans are hyped about the return to health of quarter-back Ben Rotlisberger, who passed for more than 5,000 yards and 34 touchdowns in 2018. His 2019 season was cut short in the second game when he sustained an elbow injury. While the offense struggled without him, the defense played well and could be one of the best units in the league in 2020. Look for the Steelers to treat their fans, if any are allowed to attend the game, to a happy home opener on Sunday. My pick, Pittsburgh 23,

Minnesota at India-

napolis: This should be an

interesting game as the

Vikings visit the Colts in

Indy's home opener. This

will be a good test for new Colts QB Phillip Rivers (4,615 yards, 23 TDs), who left the Los Angeles Chargers for the Midwest and a chance to return to the playoffs after a twolot of talent to spread the ball around to led by running back Marlon Mack and rookie Johnathan Taylor (who gained more than 6,000 yards in three years at Wisconsin) and a plethora of talented wide receivers led by the speedy T.Y. Hilton. The Vikings have a top 10 defense and will provide a stern test for Rivers and Co. on Sunday. Minnesota quarterback Kirk Cousins (3,603 yards, 26 TDs) and running back Dalvin Cook (1,135 yards, 13 TD/53 receptions, 569yards) will give the Indy defense a real test on Sunday. Look for Rivers to make the plays down the stretch to get his first home win as a Colt. My pick, Indianapolis 26, Minnesota 20

Buffalo at Miami:

Many so-called experts have picked the Bills to win the AFC East and end New England domination of the division. If they are to do so, they will need to win on the road. This will be a good test for Buffalo as they will face an improved Miami team in what could be a steamy day in South Florida on Sunday. Buffalo fans are hoping quarterback Josh Allen (3,089 yards, 20 TDs) continues to improve and he has a new toy to throw to in former Minnesota wide receiver Stefon Diggs (1,130 yards, 6 TDs). Diggs should open up the vertical passing game for Allen and if second-year running back Devin Singletary (775 vards, 2 TDs) has a breakout season that many are expecting, the Bills could very well be the team to beat in the AFC East this year. Look for the Dolphins to play hard, but the difference maker in this game will be Buffalo's defense, a top 10 unit in the entire league My pick, Buffalo 27, Miami

Atlanta at Dallas: The more 20 Falcons bring their highflying offense into AT&T Stadium to take on the Cowboys in their home opener. A year ago, Atlanta got off to a rough start, but won six of its last eight games to head into the offseason with a ton of momentum. Atlanta is led by quarterback Matt Ryan (4,466 yards, 26 TDs) and wide receiver Julio Jones (99 receptions, 1,394 yards, 6 TDs). They also added running back Todd Gurley in the offseason. hoping he reverts to his 2017, 2018 self and not the subpar runner he was in 2019. The Cowbovs are pretty good on offense as well led by quarterback Dak Prescott (4,902 yards 30 TDs), running back Ezekiel Elliott (1.394 yards, 12 TDs) and three talented wide receivers in Amari Cooper, Michael Gallup and rookie CeeDee Lamb. This should be a fun, high-scoring

game to watch with Prescott being difference maker in this one. My pick, Dallas 34, Atlanta 31

Baltimore at Houston: The Ravens and Teans meet at 3:25 in a nationally televised game on CBS, which will probably attract Jim Nantz and Tony Romo to call the game. The Houston defense will have its hands full trying to contain Ravens QB Lamar Jackson (3,127 passing yards, 36 TDs/1,206 rushing yards, 7 TDs), running back Mark Ingram (1,018 yards, 10 TDs) and tight end Mark Andrews (64 receptions, 852 yards, 10 TDs) and speedy wideout Marquis Brown The Ravens defense will also have its hands full trying to corral Watson (3,852 yards, 26 TDs/413 rushing yards, 7 TDs) and his new weapons on offense in running back David Johnson and wide receiver Brandin Cooks. The Texans must be able to run the ball against the stout Baltimore front seven if they hope to pull off the upset. Look for head coach Bill O'Brien to use Johnson and fellow running back Duke Johnson as receivers out of the backfield to get one-on-one coverage with

Ravens linebackers. The Texans are usually good for one or two upset during the year and this would be as good a time as any for O'Brien's team to pull off a shocker on Sunday in front of an empty stadium. My pick, Houston 23, Balti-

Kansas City at Los Angeles Chargers: Patrick Mahomes (4,031 yards, 26 TDs) and the Chiefs travel West to face the Chargers in their home opener in their fancy new Sofi Stadium. The Chiefs are definitely the better team, but this is a division game and the Chargers will want to make a good first impression in their new home. The LA defense is underrated led by defensive end Joey Bosa and linebacker Melvin Ingram. If Bosa can get to Mahomes early, that might slow down the Super Bowl MVP for a bit, but look for Mahomes to make plays to speed wide receiver Tyreek Hill (58 receptions, 860 vards, 5 TDs in 12 games) and bigplay tight end Travis Kelce (97 receptions, 1,229 yards, 5 TDs). The Chargers have a new quarterback in Tyrod Taylor, but he still

has a productive running back in Austin Eckeler (557 rushing yards, 3 TDs/ 92 receptions, 993 yards, 2 TDs) and the steady Keenan Allen (104 receptions, 1,199 yards, 6 TDs). I think this will be a competitive game, but look for Mahomes to be the difference maker in the fourth quarter. My pick, Kansas City 33, Los Angeles 30

New England at Seattle: This should be a good one for Al and Cris and the Sunday Night Football crew as Bill Belichick's Patriots head West to face Russell Wilson (4,110 yards, 31 TDs) and the Seahawks. The New England defense will get a real test on Sunday night as it faces a Seattle offense that can get it done in the air with Wilson and wide receiver Tyler Lockett (82 receptions, 1,057 yards, 8 TDs) and on the ground with running back Chris Carson (1.230 yards, 7 TDs). Look for Belichick to feature his team's running game to chew up clock and keep

Wilson off the field. That might work for a bit, but look for Wilson to make some big plays down the stretch to lead his team to the victory. My pick, Seattle 27, New England 20

New Orleans at Las Vegas: The Las Vegas Raiders make their home debut when they host the New Orleans Saints on Monday Night Football. It does not appear Raiders ownership will allow fans to attend the opener in their swanky new stadium, which is a shame for a team that moved from Oakland to Vegas during the offseason. The Saints will once again by led by (2,979 yards, 27 TDs), running back Alvin Kamara and wide receiver Michael Thomas (149 receptions, 1,725 yard, 9 TDs). The Raiders and head coach Jon Gruden are hoping quarterback Derek Carr (4,054 yards, 21 TDs) is ready for a breakout season, if not, the Raiders might be looking for a new QB in 2021. The Raiders have a rising star in second-year running back Josh Jacobs (1,150 yards, 7 TDs). If fans were allowed to attend this game, I would go with the Raiders but I'm going with the more experienced team, which is the Saints. My pick, New Orleans 31, Las





PAGE OPINION

GP School Board honors two journalists

Galena Park I.S.D. Board of Trustees **Business Recognition**

Earlier this year, Mr. Gil Hoffman and Mr. Allan Jamail were named to the Texas Education School Board (TASB) 2020 Media Honor Roll nominated by Galena Park I.S.D.

On Monday evening, September 14, 2020, Galena Park I.S.D. recognized Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Jamail during the Board of Trustees meeting.

Due to Harris County Public Health Department (HCPH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, the meeting was virtual.





Allan Jamail wrote the following in response to the honor bestowed by the Galena Park trustees:

I want to thank the GPISD Trustee's and whomever else for having nominated me to the Texas Education School Board (TASB) 2020 Media Honor Roll.

Years ago I began donating my photojournalism services to both the GPISD and the North Channel Star Newspaper, Having begun my kindergarten in 1950 in the small wooden building on 7th street, then the elementary school, junior high school and high school all in Galena Park. I wanted to make sure the students, faculty and citizens got recognition for their outstanding performance. And to also help the newspaper with its goal of providing community news to the North Channel area citizenry.



I've never been, nor do I want to be compensated or reimbursed for my time, travel expenses by the district or the newspaper, my reward comes from just knowing I'm helping to provide recognition to those I'm donating my services to.

My Galena Park education has enabled me to become a public service servant. After high school in 1962 I moved to neighboring Jacinto City where I served several terms as a city councilman, mayor, chief of police and emergency management director. At age 76 I'm proud to be a lifelong resident of GPISD, if it's God's will I'll continue to have good health where I can continue with my services to the District.

Allan





STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS **By Chris Cobler**

Pandemic messes with Texas, prompts new message

Pandemic messes with Texas, prompts new message

Even during a pandemic, it's best to not mess with Texas.

Texas Department of Transportation officials noticed more personal protective equipment face masks, wipes and gloves — on the side of roads and highways, so they called in the big guns for a new round of 'Don't mess with Texas commercials. The celebrities featured include George Strait, Matthew McConaughey and Eva Longoria. "Find a trash can, or keep a litter bag in your car, and wait to toss it until you get home," Longoria said via her Instagram page. "#DontMessWithTexas actually

means don't litter!" "Capital Highlights" reader Anna Blythe, who reads the column in the Weimar Mercury, wrote recently that she thinks the "Don't mess with Texas" campaign needs a reboot. She said she's seen much more litter in recent years along Interstate 10 from Baytown to Flatonia. "I hate to see all the trash on our roadways in our great state of Texas," Blythe said.About 362 million pieces of litter accumulate on Texas roads every year with items discarded from vehicles accounting for half the mess, TxDOT officials report. Those caught littering can face a fine of \$500. If the tossed litter weighs more than five pounds, the fine can increase up to \$2,000.For alert readers also wanting to appear in this column, which celebrity appeared in the first "Don't mess with Texas"

HIGHLANDS



commercial in 1986? Email the answer, along with your name and the newspaper in which you read the column, to ccobler@texaspress.com.

mium fibers in the world. That's what we've lived off of for many years in the U.S. and we can't let. this plastic wrap issue become our Achilles heel."

Ag land values remain strong Despite the recession,

the value of Texas agricultural land has increased, according to a new U.S. Department of Agriculture report. The average value of the state's agricultural land, including buildings, is up 2.4 percent this year at \$2,170 an acre in the USDA's 2020 Land Values Report.Across the country, average ag land values are either lower or unchanged from 2019's record highs, according to Morning Ag Clips. The amount of farmable land has decreased because of urban sprawl. Because of this, farmland is appreciating in value, which is good for investors but can be a mixed bag for farmers. In Texas, 236,000 farmers and ranchers paid \$698 million in property taxes, or about \$3,000 each, according to an article by Pew Charitable Trusts. Ag land can qualifv for certain tax exemp-

Some news is hard to digest

Those with a hankering for Luby's square fish or a LuAnn plate may have to seek comfort food elsewhere for the first time in almost a century.Bob Luby opened his first restaurant in San Antonio in 1947. Seventy-three years later, Luby's homestyle cooking may be no more.Luby's Inc., now a Houston-based restaurant company, is liquidating its assets, its board of directors announced. The decision also could mean the end for the company's other restaurant, Fuddruckers. Stockholders have yet to approve the liquidation plan, and it's possible a buyer could keep the restaurants open. Cafeteria-style restaurants have been buffeted by the pandemic, as some of the 80 Luby's and Fuddruckers locations were closed soon after the COVID-19 out-

Chris Cobler is a board member and past president of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. He welcomes ccobler@texas press.com.



Being Blue

Blue had been through a rough patch.

He was adopted from the shelter and then returned for unspecified reasons. That's when Bill met him.

Blue is an Italian mastiff which means he is massive, just not quite as massive as an ordinary mastiff. I don't know exactly what attracted Bill to Blue, but it's not hard to understand. Blue is a very sweet boy. But he'd been through a lot.

Bill is still working from home most days, but he's been going in on Wednesdays and that's what Bill did the Wednesday before last, the first Wednesday after he adopted Blue.

That's when Blue ate the door frame.

"Well, it stands to reason, I told my husband, Peter. "A small dog chews up your socks when he's anxious. A big dog eats the door frame."

Bill asked if we could babysit Blue the next Wednesday and I was delighted. He brought Blue over and Blue watched Bill's car drive off. That's when Blue got a little anxious

"It's okay, Blue," I said "Bill is coming back."

Peter distracted Blue by tossing goldfish crackers to him. Blue was a terrible catch Every goldfish hit the ground but Blue was happy to eat them once they did. He kept looking for Bill's car.

"Let's go inside, Blue!" I said, and Blue came upstairs to my writing room while Peter got ready for his hike Blue nervously watched me and then Peter and then me

When Peter went on his walk, Blue began to cry. Peter was back a few minutes later because he forgot his phone. Blue greeted him like he'd been gone a month. After Peter left the second time Blue relaxed a little. It appeared that people left this place and then they came back. It was worrisome, but maybe it would be okay

Blue lay down on his bed, and he spent most of the morning watching me, making sure I didn't go anywhere.

Every so often, I'd reach down and pet his worried forehead. "It's okay, Blue," I said. "Peter is coming back and then Bill is coming back and everything is going to be

But I wasn't sure if I was the best person to be reassuring him—because I've been

I've been anxious and worried and told myself that everything is going to be okay Then I've replied, "That's what you say. But how do I know for sure?"

When I think back on times I've been anxious, it's hard to remember exactly what I was worried about because that is never the point. I'm just worried. Things don't seem right. Things might not work out. I might have done people will be unhappy with me. I know exactly what it feels like to be Blue.

But the next time I feel anxious, I have a new trick I'm going to try. I'm going to picture that big worried dogwho has reason to worry, who has been through some worrisome things-and say, "It's okay this time. This time you are going to be fine.

When Bill returned, Blue ran over to him and leaned his big head against him and wagged his tail.

"You see, Blue?" I said, "I told you everything was going to be fine."

Then Blue did something I didn't expect. He came over to me and leaned his head against me for a long moment He wagged his tail. Then he returned to Bill.

You can think whatever you like. I'm going to believe that's how Blue says, "Thank you.'

Till next time,

Carrie Classon's memoir is called, "Blue Yarn." Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.



classing office in the country. When small pieces of plastic tear from the wear and embed themselves in the cotton lint, that lowers the crop's quality and price. Roadside litter can contribute to the problem. Plains Cotton Growers CEO Steve Verett says the industry is working to fix the problem: "We have to recognize we can't risk the reputation of being one of the pre-

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and the



Dorothy Faye O'Neal Cassman

Dorothy Faye O'Neal Cassman, 93, of Crosby, Texas, passed away on Wednesday, September 9, 2020. She was born in Dallas. Texas, on October 10. 1926, to parents Wilbert Scott Terry and Faye Richmond. Dorothy worked as a secretary to the superintendent in Dayton ISD and Houston ISD. Upon retirement, she remained active in several organizations such as the Order of Eastern Stars, Lake Houston Property Association, Lake Houston Garden Club, and Lake Houston Methodist Church

Dorothy never missed a chance to support and enjoy her community and friendships.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her first husband, J.B. O'Neal. She is survived by her husband, Roger Cassman; sons Eddie O'Neal and wife Lynda of Pearland and Robert O'Neal and wife Karen of Willow City. Dorothy is also survived by her five deeply loved grandchildren John Meador, Heather O'Neal, Kelly Raderchak, Haley Schoolfield and Evan O'Neal.

Grandmommy or Ginny as she was known by her grandkids was a quintessential grandmother. She kept the refrigerator stocked with Blue Bell Ice Cream and A&W Cream Soda, took unlimited trips to the neighborhood swimming pool, and planned an array of trips to create treasured memories.

A private graveside service will be held at Magnolia Cemetery in Dayton, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Dorothy's honor are suggested to Lake Houston Methodist Church.

Jason Anthony Godoy

Jason Anthony Godoy, 33, entered into heaven on August 30, 2020 in Houston, Texas. Jason was born in Houston on September 23, 1986. He played little league baseball and was also on the swim team as a youth. After graduating high school from Adaptive Learning Systems, Jason was a dedicated employee at Fudruckers and Papasitos. He loved horses from a child and also got to ride in the Houston Rodeo. He enjoyed agricultural livestock. and took pride in raising chickens. Jason was also a 2nd Degree Brown Belt in Taekwondo and Aikido. Most importantly, Jason was an honest, kind hearted, and giving person. He truly enjoying helping others, and showing his

generosity in always

taking friends out to

eat. Jason will remain



in the hearts of those who knew him.

He is preceded in death, in a joyful reunion in heaven, with his maternal grandmother, Betty Street; and paternal grandparents, Leonard and Mary Godoy. Jason is lovingly survived by his mother, Elizabeth Langhoff; father and step-mother, Leonard and Theresa Godoy; grandfather, Leon Street; siblings, Jeremy Godoy, Robby Crook, Nicole Kitts and husband Jay, Leah

Steele; as well as numerous aunts, uncles, extended family members and friends.

Friends are welcome to join his family for visitation at 10:30 AM Tuesday, September 8, 2020, followed by funeral services. officiated by Rev. Bobby Miller, which will begin at 11:30 AM in the chapel of Carter-Conley Funeral Home. Graveside services will follow at 1:00 PM where he will be laid to rest at San Jacinto Memorial Park under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.



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Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

Harris County Fresh Water Supply District No. 47 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on October 08, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. at 210 Brookview Street, Channelview, Texas. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

| FOR the proposal: | DENNIS HAMALA, JACK DAUZAT, ALAN WOLCIK, NICKY SHANKLE |
|-------------------------|--|
| AGAINST the proposal: | |
| PRESENT and not voting: | *1 |
| ABSENT: | |

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

| the average residence homestead this year. | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------------|-----------|------------|--------|---------------|--------|--|
| | Last Year | | This Year | | | | | |
| Total tax rate (per \$100 of value) | A | 0.918 dopted | /\$100 | | Pro | 0.86 posed | /\$100 | |
| Difference in rates per \$100 of value | | | | (\$ 0.058) | /\$100 | | | |
| Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-) | | | | -6.31% | | | | |
| Average appraised residence homestead value | \$10 | 3,944.00 |) | | \$ | 114,54 | 9.00 | |
| General homestead exemptions available | | | | | | | | |
| (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions) | \$ 1 | 0,394.00 | | | \$ | 11,45 | 5.00 | |
| Average residence homestead taxable value | \$ 93 | 3,550.00 | | | \$ | 103,09 | 4.00 | |
| Tax on average residence homestead | \$ | 858.79 | | | \$ | 88 | 6.61 | |
| Annual increase/decrease in taxes if | | | | | | | | |
| proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) | \$ | 27.8 | 2 | | | | | |
| and percentage of increase (+/-) | | 3.23 | % | | | | | |

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.



ASK THE EXPERT

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim:□"Is Silver a good



more than four thousand years, silver has been regarded as a form of money and store of value However, since the end of the silver standard, silver has lost its role as a legal tender in all developed countries, although some countries

mint bullion and collector coins like the American Silver Eagle with nominal face values. In 2009, the main demand for silver was for industrial applications (40%), jewelry, bullion coins and exchange-trad ed products. In 2011, the global silver reserves amounted to 530,000

tonnes (tons). Millions of Canadian Silver Maple Leaf coins and American Silver Eagle coins are purchased as investments each year The Silver Maple Leaf is legal tender at \$5 per ounce and there are many other silver coins with higher legal tender values, including \$20 Canadian silver coins. Silver is legal tender in the U.S. state of Utah, and can be

used to pay all debts. PRICE

Like most commodities, the price of silver is driven by speculation and supply and demand. Compared to gold, the silver price is norotiously volatile. This is because of lower market liquidity, and demand fluctuations between industrial and store of value uses. At times this can cause wide ranging valuations in the market, creating volatili-

Physical bullion, in coins or bars, purchased from a dealer, may have a premium of 20 percent or more. For much of 2016 and 2017, physical silver bullion bars have been available for purchase at a premium of less than 7% over the Comex spot price. The paper or computer prices are not the prices for buying actual silver, in your hands. There will always be a major difference between computer traded pricing, and the real, in your hands buying and selling of silver

BARS

The flat, rectangular shape of silver bars makes them ideal for

storage in a home safe, a safe deposit box at a bank, or placed in allocated (also known as nonfungible) or unallocated (fungible or pooled) storage with a bank or dealer. Silver is traded in the spot market with the code "XAG". When settled in United States Dollars, the code is "XA-GUSD".

COINS AND

 ${\bf ROUNDS}$ American Silver



Eagle bullion proof coin

Silver coins include the

one ounce 99.99% pure Canadian Silver Maple Leaf and the one ounce 99.93% pure American Silver Eagle. Coins may be minted as either *fine* silver or junk silver, the latter being older coins made of 90% silver. U.S coins 1964 and older (half dollars, dimes, and quarters) are generally accepted to weigh 24.71 grams of silver per dollar of face value, which at their nominal silver content of 90%, translates to 22.239 g of silver per dollar, All U.S. dimes. quarters, halves and 1 dollar pieces contained 90% silver since their introduction up until 1964 when they were discontinued.

The types of silver described here can be a good investment. The choice is

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Hispanic Heritage Month,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This heritage is ours."

The proclamation recognizes the fact that five September

ignating the week of Sep-

In 1988, Congress passed legislation to amend the original resolution and establish an entire month in honor of Hispanic heritage, lead-

The term Hispanic or Latino (or the more recent term Latinx) refers to a person's culture or originregardless of race. On the 2020 Census form, people were counted as Hispanic or Latino or Spanish if they could identify as having Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano, Puer-to Rican, Cuban, or "another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin.

themes the Hispanic Community is using to celebrate their heritage are: HISPANICS, be proud of your past, embrace the future... another is, "Hispanic Americans: A History of Serving Our Nation.3

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Census Caravan,



Vehicles line up in the Lone Star College parking lot on Aldine Mail Route, prior to leaving on their neighborhood

to communities like the Houston region and all across the country for education, school meals, healthcare, transportation, senior services, community centers, and much more.

YOU CAN HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE in our community by filling out the 2020 Census today! Remember to count every person in your household If you are a parent, make sure to count your child. And if you have a roommate, please make sure to count him or her too.

You have three ways to fill out the Census:

-- You can go to my2020census.gov to fill out the Census online;

- You can call 844-330-2020 (English) or 844-468-2020 (Spanish) to complete by phone; or

-- You can mail in your completed Census.

Have you and your family already completed the 2020 Census?

Do your part today and get counted in the 2020 Census! It will make a big difference for everyone in the Houston region. If you have any questions, feel free to call my office at 832-

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(taqueria).

These themes invite us to

reflect on Hispanic Ameri-

can's service and contribu-

tions to the history of our

month long celebration

and to support Hispanic

businesses order some de-

licious takeout food from a

local Mexican restaurant

Mendez family's struggle

to ensure all children could

get an equal education vis-

it: https://en.wikipedia.org/

wiki/Felicitas_Mendez

To learn more about the

To participate in this

settle freely in a free land.

Central American countries — Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua celebrate their respective Independence Days on while Mexico celebrates it on September 16. As a result, Congress requested that the President issue an annual proclamation des-

tember 15 and 16 as National Hispanic Heritage Week.

ers, and culture.

A couple of the many

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tate of CLAY LYNN WEST De-

ceased; In Pro-bate Court No. 1

of Harris County

Texas, Deceased,

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Carr Biggerstaff

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ceased; In Pro-bate Court No. 2

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Judith Lynn Taylor The residence ad-

were issued on September 4,

c/o Weston c/o Westor Cotten 1500 Wallisville Rd Highlands, TX

All persons having All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required required present present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this Septem



dress of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mail

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

> Cotten 1500 Wallisville Highlands, TX 77562

claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are them . within the time and in the manner prescribed by law Dated this September 15, 2020



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c/o Weston Cotten 1500 Wallisville Rd Highlands, TX

77562

All persons having claims against this Estate which is **CROSBY** currently being administered are COURIER, required present them AND THE within the time and in the manne **NORTH** prescribed by law. Dated this Septem-**CHANNEL** ber 14, 2020



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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code that CROSBY BOAT, RV & MINI STORAGE, located at 15118 FM 2100, Crosby, Texas 77532, will hold an online sale from September 30, 2020 to October 3, 2020 until 10:00 o'clock a.m., at the following link: http://wbauctioncrosby.hibid.com/auction/current to sell for cash only the contents of Stall E-1, Patricia O'Connor and Unit J-13, Miranda Hernandez, in order to satisfy a Landlord's Lien. The property to be sold is house hold items and etc...

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