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CHANNEL CURRENTS

OCT. 25, TUES. San Jacinto River Coalition meeting on Waste Pits

THEA COMMUNITY MEETING PLANNED
THEA staff has been carefully reviewing the 100,000 plus-page cleanup proposal that was submitted this summer and have a number of concerns. We will meet with our [San Jacinto River Coalition](#) and other members of the public on:
October 25 at 6:30p.m. San Jacinto Community Center
604 Highland Woods Dr, Highlands, TX
At the meeting, THEA will update residents and other concerned citizens on the plan and get their feedback to share with the EPA.

THEA to update community on Waste Pits

HIGHLANDS – The EPA is holding its ground against further delays in cleaning up the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site. The responsible parties who seem to continuously look for ways to drag out the government-ordered clean up.
It only took a few years to fill the pits with dioxin-laden paper mill waste back in the 1960s. Nearly 60 years later, the companies found responsible for the contamination, International Paper and Waste Management, Inc., are still asking for more time to figure out how to fix the problem. [A new letter from the EPA indicates the agency isn't buying it.](#)
The companies submitted a remediation plan for the northern waste pit earlier this summer. The EPA said it was incomplete and gave them until next month to come up with the full plan. The companies asked to push that deadline until February of next year, almost guaranteeing another delay in starting the cleanup.
[Now the EPA has sent them a clear message.](#) The agency writes that it has already allowed the companies to delay finalizing a plan for 725 days and is ordering them to submit the plan by November 8, 2022. It's worth remembering that the Superfund law allows the EPA to charge three times the cost of the damages if the responsible parties won't cooperate.

CONTINUED. SEE THEA
UPDATE ON WASTE PITS,
PAGE 3

Final Weeks of Campaign:

BETO, ABBOTT stump Houston for Votes

By Gilbert Hoffman

HARRIS COUNTY – Voters face a momentous and important task on Election Day, November 8, when they must select candidate and propositions on the longest ballot in Texas and the longest in recent memory. In addition, they must navigate the new voting machines which have a combination of electronic ballot casting, and a paper record to be scanned and archived.
Candidates have been ferociously campaigning, with personal appearances, social media, email campaigns, and ads on TV and newspapers.
Most political observers feel this is one of the most important elections in many years, with the Supreme Court overturning



Beto O'Rourke made one of many campaign appearances last Sunday in a community center gym in North Forest. Also speaking were Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, left, and County Commissioner Rodney Ellis.

longstanding judgements, and an evenly split Congress deadlocked on many life-altering issues.
Important races on the ballot include Texas Gov-

ernor and other state offices, Harris County Judge and commissioner, and many candidates for U.S. House and State Legislature.



Governor Greg Abbott also appeared last week in Houston, choosing to speak to a small crowd of businessmen and officials at the Port of Houston conference room.

In addition, there are bond propositions for massive amounts of money, and school districts wanting to fund expansion.
Dozens of judges will be

elected, both family, district, civil and criminal
Continued. See Election Campaigns, Page 7

North Shore stampedes Beaumont Westbrook

Mustangs 56 – Bruins 7



#28 D'Andre Hardeman running back runs 23 yds for a NS TD.
Photo by Allan Jamail

By Allan Jamail

GPISD Stadium, October 14, 2022 – North Shore Mustang's Head Coach Jon Kay's Eastside Boys wasted no time in demolishing their visiting opponent, the Beaumont Westbrook Bruins.
Quarterback David Amador filling in for the injured starting quarterback Kaleb Bailey looked as if he was capable of leading the team to another state championship to keep the Mustang's dynasty alive.

Kay had to make quick adjustments for his offensive unit when Bailey went out early in the season with a season ending leg injury. Amador who had been the team's leading pass receiver switched from catching passes to throwing them. He's done quite well in the games he has taken over as quarterback. He likes to run but I'm sure Kay will not let him in order to avoid an injury, except maybe in a crucial situation in a playoff deciding game. Bailey's excessive running in a "no contest" game cost him his season.
NS made a total of eight TD's both on the ground and in the air. One came from defensive back "King" Jayven Anderson.

CONTINUED. SEE MUSTANGS DEFEAT BRUINS,
PAGE 7

North Shore High School 2022 Homecoming King & Queen



L to R: Principal Dr. Joe Coleman, Queen, Ja'Kya Bass, King, Jayven Anderson and Dep. Principal Jillian Howard Photo by Linda Jamail

Yellowjackets 21 ~ Indians 33

By Allan Jamail



6 Quarterback Giovanni Valdez scampers across goal for a TD.

GPISD Stadium, Friday, October 13, 2022, on Senior Night the Galena Park Yellowjackets suffered a loss when the visiting Santa Fe Indians took their sting away. Head Coach Spiro Amarantos was hard pressed to field a good threat with 3 of his offensive starters benched with injuries.
The Jackets normal aggressive running game was noticeably below par due to the injuries. This kept their defense on the field much longer than normal which
CONTINUED. SEE YELLOJACKETS LOSE TO INDIANS, PAGE 3

School van kills 9-year-old Jacinto City Elementary Student

JACINTO CITY – The Family and whole community are mourning the tragic accident that took the life of a 9-year-old Jacinto City Elementary student. Authorities are investigating after the boy was struck and killed by the driver of a van who had just dropped him off at home, according to Jacinto City police.
The tragic accident happened around 3 p.m. in the 10500 block of Pillot Street last Wednesday, October 12.
According to Police Chief Joe Ayala, the 9-



White School Van (behind ambulance) dropped off student, who crossed in front of van toward his house on left. Driver did not see the student, and ran over him, fatally injuring him.

year-old and several other children were on a private van that was transporting them home after school. When the boy arrived at his destination, he exited and crossed in front of the van. The driver did not see the child and struck him. Chief Ayala suggested there might have been some type of distraction for the driver or the boy that contributed to the tragedy.
The boy sustained head trauma and died from his injuries. He was just one house away from his residence.
"We ran inside to go get a blanket, put it over, that way the kids wouldn't see what happened," witness Daniel Chairez said. "The little kids were crying and the bus driver, she just had her hands on her head freaking out."

CONTINUED. SEE JACINTO CITY DIES IN ACCIDENT,
PAGE 3

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Sheldon ISD Recognizes Three Employees for Superior Customer Service

On Tuesday, October 11, district administration surprised three employees in Sheldon ISD with the CARE Award. CARE stands for Caught Acting and Responding with Excellence and is awarded to employees, nominated by their peers or families, for exceptional service to others. The award is presented quarterly to Sheldon ISD employees. Below are the first quarter winners:

CARE award nominations will open again in November. Please go to www.sheldonisd.com/care to nominate a Sheldon ISD employee.



Ashley Barkley is the After School Program Director at Garrett Elementary School. A former graduate from King High School, she is described as punctual, loved by all students and families, professional, excellent communicator and always willing to help others.



Chrystal Williams works in the transportation department as a bus driver. She is always putting students first to make sure they are safe, teaches them to be respectful and even provides fun treats on Fridays to those on her bus route. Parents say she sets the tone for the day for her students and makes sure each child is prepared for a happy school day.



Diana Henao is the special education aide at Sheldon Lake Elementary. She was nominated for her positivity and hard-working attitude. She prioritizes making her students feel safe and happy and sees the good in all situations.

Sheldon ISD Enrolls 11,000th Student

On October 14, Sheldon ISD recognized the 11,000th student to enroll in the district. This milestone brings nearly 600 more students to the district than October 2021. As a fast-growth school district, Sheldon ISD increases in student enrollment by 4% annually. By 2026, the district is expected to have approximately 13,000 students. The School Board called for a bond election in August to address student enrollment growth. Learn more about it at www.sheldonisd.com/bond2022.



Sheldon Students Participate in College Week

The week of October 10-14 Sheldon ISD students at all grade levels have participated in College Week with a series of dress up days and discussions about preparing for the future. College Week aligns with Sheldon ISD's mission to provide a personalized learning environment where students graduate ready for their future,

college and career. The week closed with a College Fair at King High School. Juniors and seniors had the opportunity to browse tables with representatives from approximately 80 universities, colleges, trade schools and military for more information about planning for their next steps.



CTE Programs to Host Community Tailgate

On Friday, October 21, the Sheldon community has an opportunity to learn more about the career and technical education programs offered in Sheldon ISD at a tailgate during pregame in the parking lot near the gym at King High School. The tailgate will begin at 5 p.m. and participants will have an opportunity to register to participate in a pregame 50 yard field goal kicking contest. The game kicks off Friday, October 21 at Panther Stadium at 7 p.m. against Atascocita High School.

GALENA PARK ISD NEWS

GPISD 2022 Media Award Recipients



L – R: Allan Jamail & Gilbert Hoffman with GPISD Media Awards (Photo By Isaiah Jamail)

By Isaiah Jamail

October 10, 2022 at the Galena Park administration building the Board of Trustees and Superintendent Dr. John Moore, congratulated Gilbert Hoffman (Publisher) and Allan Jamail (Freelance Photojournalist) on being named to the Texas Association of School Boards' (TASB) 2022 Media Honor Roll.

Hoffman and Jamail received a letter from Sherronda Hunter, GPISD's Executive Director for School and Community Relations asking for their presence at the Board of Trustees meeting October 10, 2022 to receive an award and certificate of recognition.

Their award plaque and certificate stated they were recognized for their fair and balanced reporting, providing valuable information to the community about public schools, their students, parents and patrons. They were named to the TASB 2022 Media Honor Roll by GPISD.

Jamail said, "It's truly an honor to get the recognition, especially from the school district in which my sister, brother, my daughter and son received our education from. At 78 if it's God's will I'll continue to donate my services to GPISD and the North Channel Star so that citizens will be informed of news in their communities. I owe a lot to my wife Linda for her valuable support in this goal."

Sheldon ISD

Community Fall Festival

Saturday, Oct 29

9 am - 12 pm

Crenshaw Memorial Stadium

8540 C. E. King Parkway, Houston, TX 77044

Trunk-or-Treat

Hay Rides

Face Painting

Food, Shaved Ice, Snacks

Hair Painting

Lucky Duck Pond

Early Voting

Refreshment Concessions

Flu Shots

Carnival Games

Tickets for 25¢

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Every Child, Every Day

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CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Community Needs

Every community has needs. Many of these needs are unique. Many of the needs are similar. Communities have certain characteristics that have been shaped over the years. If you have spent any time in unincorporated east Harris County, you have seen that there are times when community members must take things into their own hands and organize for projects such as the Uvalde Road Revitalization or the Sheldon Road Monthly Cleanups.

When there has been a natural disaster such as any of the floods, hurricanes, or the freeze of 2021, it has often been community members who pulled together to move mountains and make things happen. Often if there has been a fire or an accident, the neighbors are pulling together and organizing food drives, clothing drives, and gathering to organize a food sale. These are the things that happen when there is a need. When we learn about a need, it is almost natural to break out a notebook and start making lists of the needs as well as those who can make phone calls and round up the resources.

Imagine if we could pull together the resources and many databases before there was a need. We could move so much quicker. Too often valuable times is spent compiling the lists. What if we had one central calendar which listed all upcoming meetings as well as information on how others could get involved? Instead of having five or eight groups that worked on one issue, what if they joined together and could itemize their resources and make better use of them? Instead of having multiple ineffective groups, we could become much more organized and make the best use of what we have.

People agree that when things are organized, the operations run smoother. There are fewer conflicts and together we all achieve more.

For the past few years, it seems as though we read and hear many complaints, yet I am a firm believer that East Harris County has many more positive people and happenings than we have negative. We must work together to promote our community. When we find something that makes us happy or makes us proud, we need to share that with at least ten people. When we learn about something positive that is happening, WE must share that. We need to stop others when they are being negative. One of the things that irritates me more than anything is when someone starts saying things such as “what do you expect, it’s the east-side” or “nobody cares about us.” I expect each of us to promote positivity. When someone wants to talk about the drugs, thefts, or unemployment, it is up to us to let them know that the eastside is home to many hard-working individuals. We must stand up and let them know of the many people who have poured life into the area. We must become the cheerleaders, the teachers, the mentors, and the ones to make a difference. If you are ready to get involved, reach out, let me hear from you.

GP Yellowjackets lose to Indians,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



84 Roger Barquera hauls in a Giovanni Valdez 15 yd pass for a TD. Photo by Allan Jamail

led to player fatigue. Santa Fe had no mercy and took advantage of it chalking up 33 points to GPs’s 21. Statistician Linda Jamail

The Yellowjackets travel to Nederland to play the Bulldogs Friday, @ 7pm October 21, 2022.

THEA update on Waste Pits,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THEA COMMUNITY MEETING PLANNED
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At the meeting, THEA will update residents and other concerned citizens on the plan and get their feedback to share with the EPA.

THEA IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY
In the meantime, THEA continues to inform the community of the risk that the Superfund Site presents until it is fully removed. Last week the THEA team was at the Highlands Jamboree, an annual celebration of the founding of Highlands.
Several people we talked to at the Jamboree didn’t know there were Superfund sites or fish consumption advisories along the San Jacinto River, once again driving home the need for ongoing communications with people impacted by toxins in and around the river.

Jacinto City child dies in accident,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



JACINTO CITY POLICE CHIEF AYALA ANSWERS QUESTIONS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE SCENE.

Police were seen going door-to-door looking for surveillance video on Wednesday evening.
Several children were inside the van when the accident occurred. They all attended Jacinto City Elementary School.
“This news is understandably devastating, and this tragedy will deeply affect the Jacinto City and Galena Park ISD communities as the student will be missed by all. Together, we will support each other,” Jacinto City Elementary school principal Rebecca Gardea wrote in a letter to families. “We encourage you to talk with

your child as it is important for students to express their feelings. Traumatic events, like the loss of a friend or peer, can trigger emotional responses that may require counseling support.”
Galena Park ISD said their Crisis Response Team and the school’s counselor are available to students and staff if needed.
The driver was questioned at the scene. It’s not clear yet if any charges will be filed. Authorities are also concerned that private buses may need more regulation and training to avoid future accidents.



The Private white van at left struck and killed a 9-year-old San Jacinto Elementary School student who had exited the van, and crossed in front of it to reach his home at the bottom of this photo. Responding to the accident scene were Jacinto City ambulances and medical personnel but the injury was fatal.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: “What are Gems?”

Gems are Beautiful, Rare, and Durable

Almost all gems are minerals but, very few minerals are gems. To be a gem, a mineral must be beautiful, rare, and durable. When a gem is rare, it’s hard to find and some gems are much harder to find than others.

Rough

Most rough gems are crystals and their shapes depend on their chemical structures. Aquamarine and emeralds come in hexagonal (six-sided) shapes, while diamonds and spinel are often octahedrons, for example. Not all rough gems are crystals – lapis lazuli is rock and amber is fossilized resin.

Cut and Polished

Gem crystals can be cut and polished into shiny gems. When a gem is cut, it is referred to as a fashioned gem. Skillful fashioning can show off a gem’s luster or color.

A Few More Interesting “Gem” Facts

Gems are found in several places around the world. Brazil, India, Australia, and Madagascar are good sources of gems. Even the USA produces certain gems.

The state of Florida took on the Moonstone Gem as their state gem to tie in with their role in the lunar program which allowed men to walk on the moon.

The Thunderegg is Oregon’s State Rock. This gem was said to have been made by the Thunder Spirits who lived in the craters where this gem is formed. The Sunstone is Oregon’s official gemstone

In 1991 a single Garnet was discovered in Virginia weighing more than 2,800 carats. It was named the Rutherford Lady.

The largest Diamond discovered in the USA is the Uncle Sam Diamond. It originally weighed more than 40.23 carats. It was found at the Crater of Diamonds State Park in Arkansas.

The Dom Pedro which is the world’s largest cut and polished Aquamarine stone weighs in at a little more than 10,000 carats and is a part of the Smithsonian’s National Gem and Mineral Collection.

(credit to the Gemological Institute of America for some of the content in this column)

Thank you for reading the “Ask Diamond Jim” column and for supporting the North Channel Star Newspaper!
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OPINION PAGE

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OPINION

Harris County Judge
Lina Hidalgo



Judge Hidalgo comments on Budget stand-off

October 14 2022

On September 13th, two Harris County Commissioners declined to show up to a vital Commissioners Court meeting to approve the budget and funding for the next fiscal year for all departments and services across Harris County. Due to the Commissioners’ intentional absence, Court did not reach quorum, or the required four commissioners present. The result is that the Harris County budget will revert to over \$200 million less than what had been meticulously planned for by our departments. When the Commissioners had more chances to appear in Court and finally approve the budget on September 27th and October 11th, they again declined to attend.

My colleagues’ absence would force Harris Health System to operate with a deficit of roughly \$45 million this year. Patients at Harris Health hospitals and clinics would have to be turned away, and private hospitals would have to absorb the demand for care, meaning emergency room wait times would get even longer at private hospitals across the County. The deficit would lead to delays to the expansion of operations at the Quentin Mease facility, impeding nearly 100 colonoscopies (cancer screenings) per day from happening. We currently have a 3,000 person backlog for these cancer screenings.

The shortfall of funds would affect our law enforcement — the loss of funding for the Sheriff’s patrol is the equivalent of 175 entry-level deputies. An entire cadet class of 60 new police officers may have to cancel their start date next month. And 35 additional investigators that were budgeted for would not be added to the Sheriff’s team. All frontline law enforcement officers will only receive a portion of the substantial raises that had been promised them and budgeted for them. The District Attorney would have a \$5.4 million reduction, which is equivalent to not having at least 39 frontline prosecutor positions.

Our Veteran’s Services Department will have to eliminate \$300,000 of their services budget. The Children’s Assessment Center, a facility that provides services to the most vulnerable among us – sexually abused children – would see a reduction of nearly half a million dollars in funding that could go towards outreach and reaching children in need. Our public health system could stand to lose up to \$150 million in grants that require matching funds for food safety, water quality, and virus-fighting programs.


In short, the results would be devastating to Harris County. The consequences would be felt by vulnerable children and adults, frontline employees and institutions doing the hard work of providing quality services on tight budgets. The Commissioners will have another opportunity this coming Tuesday, October 18 to show up to the hearing, debate the options, and participate in a vote. I urge my colleagues to attend and fully fund these vital and necessary services for our residents. The funding also amounts to a 1% tax rate cut, the lowest tax rate in years.

Lives, jobs, and services our residents depend on for their health and safety are on the line. Let’s pass this budget.

Sincerely,
Lina Hidalgo
Harris County Judge

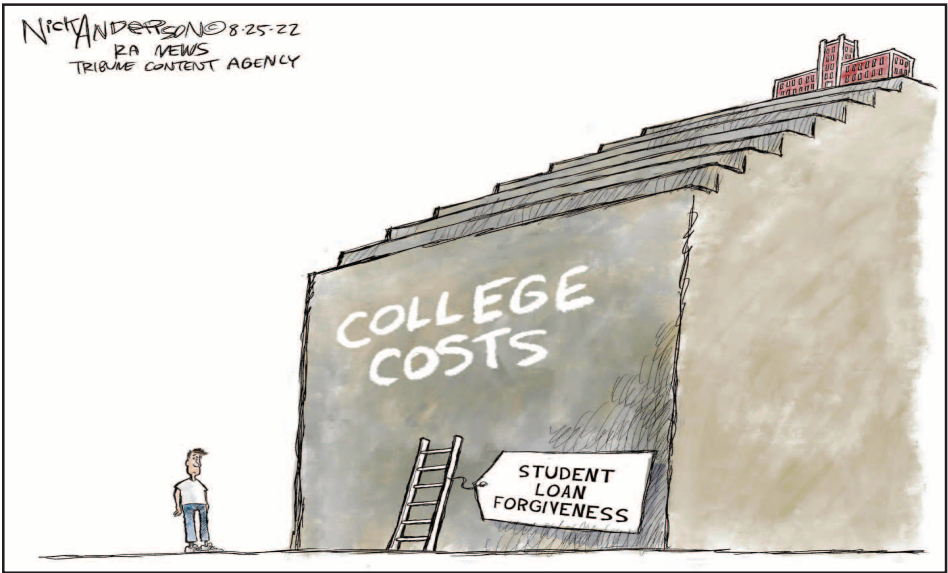
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Americanisms



“Death and taxes and child-birth! There’s never any convenient time for any of them!”
— Margaret Mitchell

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Texans Urged to Get Flu Shot

Flu season is under-way, and health officials are urging Texans to get their vaccinations as soon as possible, since it takes about two weeks for the shot to take effect.

“Because influenza can be a very serious disease, we recommend that all individuals aged 6 months and older get their flu vaccine every year,” said Dr. Jennifer Shuford, interim commissioner for the Texas Department of State Health Services.

“The flu vaccines for the 2022-2023 flu season have undergone substantial changes since last season, which will allow them to better protect against the flu viruses that are currently circulating,” she said. “So it is important to go get this season’s flu vaccine before flu activity increases even more in Texas.”

People over the age of 65 have a choice of three recommended higher-dose flu vaccines, which are considered more effective for this age group. People can also safely get a COVID-19 vaccine or booster at the same time they get the influenza vaccine, Shuford said.

Flu shots are widely available. To find out where, go to [Vaccines.gov](#).

COLORFUL FALL FOLIAGE LOOKS UNLIKELY

With much of the state still abnormally dry, or in some stage of drought, trees across the state are struggling with the effects of high temperatures and little rain. That means it is likely this year’s fall foliage won’t be as vivid as usual, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service.

“Many trees put on fewer, smaller leaves this spring or started to change color or prematurely drop their leaves in the summer,” said Karl Flocke, with the forest



service. “All of this will most likely lead to fall colors that are less impressive than in years past.” Deciduous trees drop their leaves in the autumn to conserve energy. However, due to the drought, some trees are already dropping their leaves before the green chlorophyll begins breaking down, which is what results in fall colors. Other trees still have their leaves, but they have already turned dead and brown.

There are other long-term effects from drought besides a lack of pretty colors, including a higher vulnerability to wood-boring insects. It could take months to determine the ultimate toll from the drought on the state’s trees.

EMERGENCY FOOD BENEFITS AGAIN EXTENDED

More than \$329 million in emergency food benefits are being extended by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for October, marking 30 straight months of additional benefits.

All SNAP households will receive a minimum of \$95 in emergency allotments, in addition to their regular benefits. About 1.6 million Texas households benefit from the allotments. More than \$8.2 billion in emer-

gency benefits have been provided by USA to Texans since April 2020.

“HHSC is proud to continue helping Texans who need a helping hand to put food on their table,” said Wayne Salter if the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, which administers the program.

SCHOOL SAFETY CHIEF APPOINTED

A new position of state chief of school safety and security has been created following the mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde. Former Secret Service agent John P. Scott is filling that post.

“Protecting Texas children and making our schools safer for all are top priorities, and John Scott is uniquely qualified to help lead our efforts ensuring their safety and security in Texas schools,” Gov. Greg Abbott said. “Chief Scott’s wealth of experience in security and intelligence and exemplary service to our nation make him the perfect fit as the new Chief of School Safety and Security.”

Scott served in a number of positions in the Secret Service. He will report directly to Mike Morath, Texas commissioner of education.

UVALDE SCHOOL DISTRICT SUSPENDS ENTIRE FORCE

The Uvalde school district has suspended its entire police force and placed two administrators on leave, following withering criticism to law enforcement response to the late May shooting, when an 18-year-old gunman killed 19 students and two teachers.

The Texas Standard reported the action came after investigations revealed that officers waited more than an hour before engaging the shooter, as students and teachers pleaded with 911 dispatchers to send help. The shooter ultimately was killed by law enforcement officers.

Family members of the victims camped out at district headquarters for 10 days demanding action, the report said.

COVID-19 CASES CONTINUE TO DROP

The Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University reported new cases of COVID-19 in Texas during the past week dropped once again to 14,225, with 104 new deaths. The Texas Department of State Health Services reported 1,359 lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations across the state, down slightly from the previous week.

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THE POSTSCRIPT

By
Carrie Classon

Shelley’s Hats

This past week we attended the memorial for my husband Peter’s oldest sister, Shelley.

Shelley went through a long battle with cancer, and Peter lost his second sister in two years. The pandemic had just started, her husband had just died, and Shelley moved 900 miles across the country to live near her kids. Then, almost immediately, she discovered she was gravely ill. She moved in with her son, Joel, and daughter-in-law, Dani, and never left.

Shelley had several operations that did not go well, then chemo, which did not make her feel better, and finally she died peacefully, surrounded by the family who loved her so much. Meanwhile, all the things she packed up in the moving van remained in a storage unit.

Shelley was a woman of style. She was a striking beauty all her life. She dressed in bright colors and coordinated every outfit with care and, whenever the occasion called for it, she wore a hat. So I thought I’d wear a hat to Shelley’s memorial.

I am not generally a hat-wearing person. But I like to dress up, and a day dedicated to remembering Shelley seemed like an occasion that called for it. So I ordered a fancy black hat. Peter liked the idea, and emailed Dani.

“Did Shelley have some other hats you could bring to the service that people could wear if they wanted?” he wrote.

He got no response. This was unlike Dani. Dani has the biggest heart of anyone I know. When Shelley was in the nursing home for several months, Dani organized it so that Shelley had a visitor every single day she was there. Dani planned parties for Shelley’s birthday, took her to all of her doctor appointments and cooked for her every day.

“I screwed up,” Peter said. “I didn’t mean to make more work for Dani!”

I decided to wear my hat, regardless. I knew Peter’s ex-wife planned to attend, which caused me a twinge of concern. She is a reserved and sensible person, two adjectives rarely applied to me, and was unlikely to show up in headgear the size of a hula hoop. No matter, I thought. Shelley would have liked it.

On the day of the memorial, we walked into the funeral home and saw Dani, wearing a hat. Next to her was her daughter, also in a hat. As I entered the lobby, I saw hats on the back of the chairs, over the lamps, sitting on the tables. They were everywhere, and they were all Shelley’s hats.

“I wasn’t sure I was going to do it,” Dani confessed. “That’s why I didn’t answer you. They were all in storage. But one day, I had a couple of hours, and I said, ‘what the heck!’ I had to empty about a third of the storage unit until I got to this huge washing-machine box. It was filled with hats and hatboxes. I started to empty it, but I couldn’t reach the bottom. So I climbed in and kept emptying it. Then I couldn’t get out!”

Dani didn’t tell us how she eventually got out of the washer box. It was apparently not dignified.

But the result was magnificent. Every woman wore a hat. Everyone took their hat home as a memory of Shelley, and I can only imagine how delighted she would have been.

Funerals tend to end up looking alike, and we all go to too many of them. But no one will ever forget the sea of colorful hats, a little bit of Shelley in every one.

Till next time,
Carrie
[CarrieClasson.com](#).

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

Star★Courier

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District III’s “Top Cop,”

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

has 16 less officers than two years ago, he still is able to have 4 to 5 patrol cars each day on the east side of the San Jacinto River, he noted. He also indicated that the Highlands area is not what his office considers a “hot zone” of crime, but that Channel-view is.

Douglas talks about the general attitude people have toward policing and crime, and how it has changed in the 31 years he has been an officer. In the past, there was more respect for officers, and minor laws could be enforced.

Today with a “bad” bail bond program, too many criminals are released back to the streets, and many crimes such as shootings and burglaries continue because of this.

He noted that our jails are full, with Harris County jail holding 10,000 now, when it was at capacity of 8000 just a few years ago.

Douglas said that policing is more difficult today also because the public attitude is more critical and demanding, and often his officers are criticized for just making normal arrests.

In a Q&A session that followed, he was asked why they didn’t write more tickets for speeding, drag racing, and passing school buses on local streets. Douglas lamented that when taken to court, there is often no enforcement or judgement. He indicated this has made his job harder and encouraged more crime.

Nevertheless, Captain Douglas said he likes to meet citizens in his district, and loves his job and finds it rewarding to help keep the peace and help residents.

OBITUARIES

RANDY LOUIS CHASTAIN

The Chastain family invites you to join them for a Celebration of Life service for Randy on Saturday, October 22, 2022 from 10:00 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. at Memorial Forest Club - 12122 Memorial Drive, Houston, Texas 77024.

Randy Louis Chastain, 64, passed from this life on September 29, 2022 at his residence in Houston, Texas. He was born on January 9, 1958 to his parents Mary Katherine (Norris) and Billy Eugene Chastain in Houston, Texas.

Randy proudly served his country in the United States Airforce. After his time in the service, Randy decided to serve his local community by becoming a police officer. He was sta-



tioned in Jacinto City for 17 and a half years, then dedicated another 18 and a half years within the Memorial area.

In Randy’s spare time he enjoyed being outdoors hunting, fishing, and riding his motorcycle. His memory will forever live on in his community and the hearts of all who knew him.

Randy is preceded in death by both of his parents. He is lovingly

survived by his wife of 33 years, Daura Chastain; children, Michael Chastain and wife Theresa, Sherri Istre; step-son, Joshua Nagle and Jessica; siblings, Gary Chastain and wife Ada, Richard Chastain, Joanne Brooks, and Billy Chastain and wife Peggy; grandchildren, Michael, Karissa and Randi Chastain, Skie Istre, and Jaxen Nagle; in addition to other extended family members and friends.



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FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 8: Texas hopes good times continue against Oklahoma State: Texans look for second straight win when they visit Las Vegas

Things are starting to heat up in the Big 12 and Texas fans are starting to believe their team might just be back after their 49-0 pasting of arch rival Oklahoma two weeks ago in the Cotton Bowl.

UT fans will learn a lot more about Steve Sarkisian’s team this weekend when the No. 22-ranked Longhorns travel to Stillwater to face No. 8-ranked Oklahoma State.

Sure, the ‘Horns decimated a struggling OU team, but this week they face the best team in the state as Mike Gundy’s team won its first five games of the season before their showdown at TCU last Saturday.

Speaking of TCU, the No. 13-ranked Horned Frogs take on No. 17-ranked Kansas State in another key Big 12 contest on Saturday. And just for good measure, No. 19-ranked Kansas heads to Waco to face defending Big 12 champ Baylor in a key game for both teams. Two weeks ago, Kansas suffered its first loss of the season at home against TCU (38-31) and also lost starting QB Jalon Daniels (1,072 passing yards, 11 TDs/ 335 rushing yards, 5 TDs). Daniels sustained a shoulder injury against the Frogs and his availability for the Baylor game is unknown at this time. If he can’t go, backup QB Jason Bean (286 yards, 4 TDs) will be called on to lead the offense.

This year’s league race is shaping up as a real dogfight and it’s very likely that the two teams who reach the Big 12 title game on Dec. 3 in Arlington could have two losses. The league is that competitive and deep this year.

While a lot of attention will be focused on those two games, there’s a good one on tap in the Pac 12 as No. 11-ranked UCLA, one of the surprise teams thus far this season, travels to Eugene to take on No. 12-ranked Oregon in a key conference game. UCLA, under the direction of head coach Chip Kelly, won its first six games of the season after finishing 8-4 a year ago. It appears Kelly has turned the program around. The trip to Eugene will let Bruins fans know just how much the program has improved. After losing their opener against Georgia, the Ducks have run off five straight wins and look like the class of the Pac 12 North.

In the NFL, the Texans travel to Sin City to face the Raiders. Two weeks ago, Lovie Smith’s team picked up its first win of the year with a 13-6 victory at Jacksonville. They had last week off to prepare for the Vegas game and to rest up for the remainder of the season.

The Cowboys host a hapless Detroit team on Sunday in Arlington. Two weeks ago, Mike McCarthy’s team won its fourth straight game with Cooper Rush at QB with a 22-10 dismantling of the Los Angeles Rams, the Super Bowl champs . Once again, the defense was dominant coming up with five more sacks (20 for the season) as Micah Parsons led the way with two more sacks while teammate DeMarcus Lawrence returned a Matthew Stafford fumble for the first score of the game to get the Cowboys going.

Starting quarterback Dak Prescott should return for this game, which should open things up for the offense. Rush has done an admirable job while Prescott nursed a fractured thumb and if Prescott struggles, I would not be surprised if McCarthy goes back to him at some point this season.

In other games of interest, the Colts visit the Titans in a key AFC South contest for both teams, while the Chiefs visit San Francisco in a rematch of Super Bowl LIV.

Before we take a look at this week’s game, let’s review last week’s record. Another 6-6 week brought the season record to just 39-33 (54%)

Now, onto this weekend games.

NCAA

Texas at Oklahoma State - No. 22-ranked Texas hits the road to take on No. 8-ranked Oklahoma State in a key Big 12 contest for both teams. Two



KEENEY’S KORNER

By
MIKE KEENEY

weeks ago, Steve Sarkisian’s team blew out Oklahoma, 49-0, while OSU came back to defeat Texas Tech, 41-31. Both teams have potent offenses, which means this could turn into a shootout. The Texas offense got a huge boost with the return of QB Quinn Ewers (648 yards 6 TDs) after he missed the ‘Horns’ last three games recovering from a shoulder injury he sustained in Week 2 against Alabama. While Ewers return has been welcomed, the UT offense is led by running back Bijan Robinson (645 yards, 11 total TDs). Robinson should have success against a spotty OSU defense. Look for UT to establish Robinson early, which should open up Ewers to make plays downfield to wideouts Xavier Worthy (24 receptions, 360 yards, 4 TDs) and Jordan Whittington (26 receptions, 354 yards). The Cowboys have the league’s most experienced QB in Spencer Sanders (1,394 passing yards, 12 TDs/ 241 rushing yards, 6 TDs). OSU has a solid running back in Dominic Richardson (355 yards, 4 TDs) and a big-play wide receiver in Braylon Johnson (17 receptions, 3 TDs). If Texas is going to be serious about being in the Big 12 title hunt, they need a marquee road win and I think they get it this Saturday in Stillwater. My pick, Texas 36, Oklahoma State 33

Kansas at Baylor: No. 19-ranked Kansas hits the road and heads to Waco to take on the defending Big 12 champs, the Baylor Bears, in another key conference tilt. Kansas has been one of the best stories of the 2022 season. The Jayhawks won their first five games of the season before losing at home two weeks ago to TCU, 38-31. KU not only lost the game, but also starting QB Jalon Daniels (1,072 passing yards, 11 TDs/335 rushing yards, 5 TDs) to a shoulder injury. If he’s unable to go, backup QB Jason Bean will get the start. Bean has thrown for 286 yards and 4 TDs and if he starts, he will rely on running back Devin Daniels (421 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receiver Luke Grimm (29 receptions, 281 yards, 3 TDs). Baylor will rely on QB Blake Shappen (11,118 yards, 9 TDs) and wide receiver Monray Baldwin (12 receptions, 261 yards, 3 TDs) to make plays for the Bears. If Baylor is going to defend its Big 12 title, they can’t afford another loss after losing their conference opener to Oklahoma State. My pick, Baylor 24, Kansas 21

NFL

Detroit at Dallas: The Lions have been one of the highest scoring teams thus far this season, but two weeks ago, the offense was stymied during its 29-0 loss at New England. Things won’t get any easier for Jared Goff (1,355 yards, 11 TDs) and the rest of the Lions offense when they take on one of the league’s best defenses. In their first five games (four wins), the Dallas defense has recorded 20 sacks (second best to SF’s 21) as second-year linebacker Micah Parsons (6 sacks) is becoming one of, if not the best, defensive players of the entire NFL. Two weeks ago in their 22-10 win over the Rams in LA, the Dallas ‘D’ recorded another five sacks and defensive end DeMarcus Lawrence returned a Matthew Stafford fumble for a touchdown. The Dallas offense has been doing just enough to win with backup QB Cooper Rush (839 yards, 4 TDs). The running game of Ezekiel Elliott (305 yards, 1 TD) and Tony Pollard (248 yards, 2 TDs) has been efficient. Starting QB Dak Prescott should return for this game, so look for him to carve up a porous Detroit defense with big downfield plays to CeeDee Lamb (25 receptions, 341 yards, 2 TDs) and the rest of the Dal-

las receivers. My pick, Dallas 33, Detroit 12

Indianapolis at Tennessee: A key AFC South contest pits the Colts against the Titans in Nashville. Two weeks ago, Indy won an ugly 12-9 game at Denver as QB Matt Ryan (1,376 yards, 4 TDs/5 interceptions) continued to struggle as the Colts new quarterback. Ryan must improve his play and do a better job of protecting the football. It would help if running back Jonathan Taylor (38 yards, 1 TD) would get untracked. The Titans won three straight heading into their bye week and it appears running back Derrick Henry (408 yards, 5 TDs) is looking like his old self after missing the last eight games a year ago with a broken foot. Henry’s success running the ball makes QB Ryan Tannehill (965 yards, 6 TDs) a more efficient passer, especially on play-action passes. Look for the Titans defense to make things difficult for Ryan as the Titans begin to emerge as the favorites in the AFC South. My pick, Tennessee 30, Indianapolis 23

Houston at Las Vegas: The Texans return from their bye week and head to Las Vegas looking for their second straight win after their 13-6 road win at Jacksonville on Oct. 9. The Texans appear to have one of the best rookie running backs in the league in Dameon Pierce (412 yards, 2 TDs). Pierce is a powerful runner with a nice burst. He rushed for 99 yards and scored the game-winning TD against the Jags. If Pierce can continue to produce on the ground, that should help QB Davis Mills (1,048 yards, 5 TDs) make plays in the passing game to Nico Collins (15 receptions, 272 yards) and Brandin Cooks. The Raiders have the better offense, but lost four of their first five games. They dropped a tough one two weeks ago on Monday Night Football at KC. Look for QB Derek Carr (1,279 yards, 8 TDs), running back Josh Jacobs (490 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver DaVante Adams (29 receptions, 414 yards, 5 TDs) to light up the Houston defense as the Raiders serve as inhospitable hosts in Sin City. My pick, Las Vegas 34, Houston 18

New Orleans at Arizona: Week 7 of the NFL season kicks off with Thursday Night Football when the Saints visit the Cardinals in an important game for both teams fledgling playoff chances. The winner of this one remains in the hunt in the NFL Wild Card hunt, while the loser will probably be on the inside looking out as far as the postseason goes. The Saints dropped three of their first five games, but got back on track two weeks ago with a wild win over Seattle. Starting QB Jameis Winston (858 yards, 4 TDs/5 interceptions) could be back for this game, but if he’s still out, backup Andy Dalton (423 yards, 2 TDs) will get the call. Either QB will look to make plays to rookie wide receiver Chris Olave (25 receptions, 389 yards, 2 TDs). It appears running back Alvin Kamara is back after missing three weeks with an injury. His return is big for the NO offense. The Cardinals also lost two of their first five games, but have been in all of their contests. The Arizona offense will get a big lift with the return of wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins, who missed the team’s first six games for violating the NFL’s substance abuse policy. Hopkins’ return should be a big boost to QB Kyler Murray (1,241 passing yards, 6 TDs/133 rushing yards, 2 TDs). Hopkins will pair with speedy wideout Marquise Brown (38 receptions, 417 yards, 3 TDs) to give the NO defense fits come Thursday night. My pick, Arizona 26, New Orleans 23

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THE BOARD WILL HEAR THE PETITION ON OCTOBER 25TH, 2022 STARTING AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE CITY HALL ANNEX, 10301 MARKET STREET. ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY ATTEND.

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North Shore Stampedes Beaumont Westbrook

Mustangs 56 – Bruins 7

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“King” Anderson’s 3rd quarter interception came moments after he was named Homecoming King. It looked like the Bruins quarterback Roy Jenkins gave the Homecoming King a gift, because his pass hit Jayven right in his awaiting arms.

Extra points were made by Carlos Dominguez & Jonathan Soto.

Mustang’s travel to Humble in a district game to play the Wildcats October 21 @ 7 pm @ Turner Stadium. Mustangs undefeated, Wildcats 3 wins - 4 losses. Linda Jamail, Statistician



2 Receiver Christopher Barnes outruns a defender for a NS TD on a 59 YD David Amador pass. by Allan Jamail



34 Rashaad Johnson NS running back scampers 34 yds for a TD. Photo by Allan Jamail



Mustangs Team Captains; L to R: #8-David Amador, #95-Cortney Brooks, #64-Zach Chavanne and #10-Jarvon Coles (Photo by Linda Jamail)

Intense Election Campaigning in Houston,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

judges fill several pages of the ballot.

At a more local level, school board trustees will be voted on in Channelview, Crosby, Huffman, Sheldon, and Lone Star College.

Bond issues for MUD districts are slated in Newport and Crosby.

Bond Issues include Harris County Propositions that would raise \$1.2 billion for Public Safety, Roads and Drainage, and Parks, a City of Houston Proposition that would raise over \$478 for a multitude of improvements, and Sheldon School District Bond proposals totaling over \$247 million for facility expansion.

Some well-known office holders that are being challenged this election cycle include Congress persons Dan Crenshaw, Lizzie Fletcher, Sheila Jackson Lee, Troy Nehls, Sylvia Garcia, and Brian Babin.

Also challenged are Governor Greg Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Dan

Patrick, and the Attorney General Ken Paxton.

State Senators facing a challenge include Brandon Creighton, John Whitmire, and Joan Huffman. State Representatives challenged include Briscoe Cain.

Harris County office holders that are challenged include District Clerk Marilyn Burgess, County Clerk Teneshia Hudspeth, County Commissioners Pct. 2 Adrian Garcia, Pct. 4 Jack Cagle, and Justice of the Peace Pct. 3 Place 2 Lucia Bates.

CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR CAMPAIGN IN HOUSTON

Both Governor candidates made personal appearance in the Houston area in the last week, attempting to garner more votes in this urban area.

Beto O’Rourke appeared at a rally in a community center gym in the North Forest area on Saturday, October 8th, and then again in Bellaire Chinatown area on Saturday,

October 15th. His campaign message was extremely personal, and at North Forest he related stories that were aimed at persons in the audience that he seemed to know quite a bit about.

Beto talked about creating great jobs that pay a living wage, investing in world-class public schools, expanding health care so that more people can afford to access a doctor, restoring a woman’s choice of reproductive care, and lowering living costs within the state.

Beto said “Texans will overcome Abbott’s extremism -- from the total ban on abortion with no exceptions for rape or incest, to defunding public schools, driving up inflation, and blocking commonsense measures to keep kids and communities safe from gun violence.”

The rally or town hall in North Forest was attended by several hundred people, and the press and other politicians and Super Neighborhood officials.

Texas High School Football Referees



Football Referees at the North Shore Mustangs & Beaumont Westbrook Bruins game, October 14, 2022.
L – R: Lance Davis - Back Judge, Dwayne Cooper - Line Judge, Lance Johnson - Head Line Judge, Rebert Mack - Umpire, Rodney Smith - Referee, Trent Soltes - Field Judge, Chris Robinson - Side Judge, Quentin Gonzales - 8th Man/Box Man, Ron Wilson - Chain Crew. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

By Allan Jamail

October 14, 2022 – As a writer of the North Channel Star I decided to research high school referees and how they operate. I found out they’re highly dedicated professionals sacrificing a portion of their lives so student athletes can pursue their sport goals. Referees in Texas must be certified by the Texas Association of Sports Officials (TASO) before they can officiate in a game. Certification requires annual on-the-field-training, classroom educational courses and passing an exam.

Before the start of the season the home field head coach selects which group they want

to officiate their games, the visiting opposing team coach must agree with the choice.

A referee’s pay varies from game to game because they get a percentage of the gate attendance. Usually after within 3 or 4 weeks the school district where a game is played will deposit the group’s share of the gate that will be divided up equally among the group’s members.

TASO schedules referees before the season starts and assigns them to a specific named group. A named group of eight members stay together as a unit traveling to game locations assigned by TASO. Normally the group will be assigned games within their

City’s Chapter.

At the recent North Shore Mustangs game I met with the referee group members of a Houston TASO Chapter. Mr. Lance Davis the game’s Back Judge assisted me with information for this article. Mr. Davis has been refereeing games for 30 years and his dad before him refereed 42 years. Davis as a high school student use to play sports. So as a sports enthusiast and at the urging of his dad he entered into officiating field. He said the pay by itself isn’t enough to provide a meaningful living. “Most referees do it because they love the game and want to help school sport athletes,” Davis said.

Zach Chavanne, North Shore’s Scholar Athlete

By Allan Jamail

Dave Campbell’s Texas Football and Peps Boys selected North Shore’s Zach Chavanne as one of the ten finalists in the state for the Most Driven Team Award for his leadership in the classroom. Zach received a \$1,000 scholarship tuition assistance to the University of his Choice for his outstanding performance.

At the end of the regular season Mustang fans can vote for the Most Driven Team of the Year Award by going to TexasFootball.com. The community who rallies the most votes will receive a \$10,000 donation back to their school. The winner will be recognized on the field at the 2022 UIL Football State Championship in December. For more details visit: www.texasfootball.com/MostDrivenTeam.



L - R: Tim Chavanne (dad), Zach Chavanne and Kelli Chavanne (mom) Photo By Linda Jamail

Texas Comptroller returns \$309 million in Unclaimed Property

(AUSTIN) — The Texas Comptroller’s office approved and paid out a record \$309 million in unclaimed property during the past fiscal year, Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced today.

This is the third time the Comptroller’s office has returned \$300 million or more in unclaimed property in a fiscal year. In fiscal 2019, the Comptroller’s office returned a then-record \$308 million to its rightful property owners; in fiscal 2020, the Comptroller’s office returned \$300 million in unclaimed property.

“The \$309 million represents more than 160,000 claims paid to their rightful owners, and the fact that my office has returned \$2.1 billion to Texans since I became Comptroller is a testament to the hard-working folks in our Unclaimed Property Division,” Hegar said. “I encourage everyone to visit ClaimItTexas.org to see if the state is holding some of their unclaimed property.”

In addition, the Comptroller’s office will be implementing a new way to quickly return unclaimed property to owners this year — sending a check to the owner without requiring them to file a claim. This process was authorized by Texas House Bill 1514 in 2021 and will be limited

to unclaimed properties under \$5,000 that the agency reasonably believes it can link to the correct owner.

The Comptroller’s office has returned more than \$4 billion in unclaimed property to its owners since Texas’ unclaimed property program began in 1962. The state is currently holding more than \$7 billion in cash and other valuables through the program.

The \$309 million in unclaimed property returned in fiscal 2022 includes forgotten utility deposits or other refunds, insurance proceeds, payroll checks, cashier’s checks, dividends, mineral royalties, dormant bank accounts and abandoned safe-deposit box contents. Businesses generally turn property over to the unclaimed property program after it has been considered dormant for one to five years.

There is generally no statute of limitations for unclaimed property the state holds, which means there’s no time limit for owners to file a claim — they can do so at any time.

For more information about the unclaimed property program, or to search for unclaimed property and begin the claims process, visit the Comptroller’s unclaimed property website, ClaimItTexas.org, or call 800-321-2274 (CASH).

HARRIS COUNTY \$1.2B BOND

County schedules hearings on November Bond vote

2022 OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE
Dates and locations are subject to change.

WEEK OF OCTOBER 16	
Oct 17 6pm - BakerRipley Pasadena Campus 720 Fairmont Pkwy, Pasadena, TX 77504 Precinct 2	Oct 19 12pm - Virtual Meeting 6pm - Virtual Meeting
Oct 18 12pm - Virtual Meeting 6pm - Virtual Meeting	Oct 20 12pm - Virtual Meeting 6pm - Virtual Meeting



Convenient, customized care — close to work or home.

Our Houston Methodist primary care doctors in Baytown and Mont Belvieu provide personalized care for you and your family, including physicals, immunizations and preventive health services.

Many of our practices:

- Provide in-person and virtual visits with online scheduling
- Offer same-day sick visits
- Are conveniently located close to work or home
- Accept most major insurance plans

Your health and safety are our priority. We are taking every necessary precaution to keep you safe.

