# NORTH CHANNEL \*\*STAR

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# Chamber SALUTES Veterans & First Responders



Veterans both Active Duty and Retired were honored at the SALUTE, for their Service, as the North Shore Rotary Club distributed Gift Bags to each one. After the luncheon, a contingent of Rotarians and others travelled to the VA Hospital in the Medical Center, to greet the veterans there and distribute more gift bags. SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 7.

NORTH CHANNEL – In honor of Veteran's Day, the North Channel Chamber held their annual Salute to First Responders and Veterans at their monthly luncheon last Thursday, Nov. 3 at Armenta's Reception Hall in Channelview.

Over 100 veterans and first responders enjoyed a lunch, presentation of colors, and gift bags in honor of their service.

Bill Palko, NCA Foun-



On the stage were all the Service Club representatives, Emcee Bill Palko, and in front the presentation of the Service Flags - Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Merchane Marine. There was even mention of the new Space Force Academy.



A large crowd of veterans and service persons dined in the background, as State Representative Ana Hernandez and heer staff, and Judge Victor Trevino III joined in the luncheon and showed their support

dation chairman served as Master of Ceremonies. All the service clubs in the area, North Shore Rotary, Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary, and San Jacinto Pilot Club participated as if this were their meeting.

Palko recognized all the active duty military and veterans of various services, as well as police, fire, and EMT agencies. Presentation of flags and anthems were part of the program.

# North Shore Mustangs have Perfect Season - 10-0

NS Mustangs 56 - Kingwood Mustangs 7

By Allan Jamail

November 4, 2022-GPISD Stadium - Head Coach Jon Kay's Mustangs captured the District 21 – 6A – Div. 1 Region 3 title with an unblemished 10 - 0 record against Kingwood

Kay and his coaching staff after the season started have had some significant challenges.

Last year's state championship star quarterback (QB) Kaleb Bailey had a season-ending injury after 4 games this season. That forced Kay to switch his star receiver David Amador into playing quarterback. Amador heads into the 6 game state champi-

onship playoffs with only four starts at QB.

In this game backup QB Evan Jackson played most of the game allowing Amador to go back as a receiver. Giving Jackson a new backup QB experience is wise should your starting QB not be able to play, especially in the do-or-die playoff games.

Another challenge, last year's entire defensive line graduated, so this year's line began anew and now they're as equal as or better than last year's state championship group.

The Kingwood Mustangs provided an easy matchup allowing Evan Jackson to get some needed passing practice, get-

ting snaps and learning to play with his teammates. He had great pass protection completing 8 of 12 passes (67%) for 174 yards and three touchdowns.

The Eastside Boys offense made eight touchdowns (TD's). Wide receiver Christopher Barnes caught six passes, two for TD's. Rashaad Johnson carried 14 times averaging 7.5 yds per carry. D'Andrea Hardeman, Chris Thomas and Terrence Guillory had TD's. Carlos Dominguez kicked all 8 extra points.

NS's linebacker Jayven Anderson's 3rd consecutive game with "pick-6" interception for a Mustang TD. In last season's state



#7 NS linebacker Jayven Anderson's 3rd consecutive game with "pick-6" interception for a Mustang TD (Photo by Allan Jamail)



#3 NS Evan Jackson backup quarterback has blocking protection to complete 67% of his passes. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

CONTINUED. SEE MUSTANGS UNBEATEN SEASON, PAGE 3

# Galena Park Lady Volleyball District Champions

By Allan Jamail

October 25, 2022 - The Galena Park Lady Yellowjackets (GPLY) varsity volleyball team won the 5A district title against visiting HISD's girls Sharpstown Apollos. Head Coach Mary DeFiore's ladies ended their regular season with an impressive 94 percent district winning record (17 district wins and 1 loss).

After winning the district title they advanced into the 2022 UIL 5A Regions 3 & 4 Texas Volleyball Girls Varsity State Championship Contest.

On November 1, 2022 at Houston's ISD Barnett Sports Complex the GPLY's failed to advance further into the playoffs by losing after a tough

CONTINUED. SEE GP LADY VOLLEYBALL WON 5A TITLE, PAGE 5



Sophomore Emma Colon spikes the ball across the net for a Yellowjacket point. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

# Pct. 2 opens Mental Health Services POD



Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia announces the opening of a Mental Health Services POD, seen in back. Also at right is another health POD for medical services. Both are located at the Community Center on Bentley.

Access2Health Smart Pod is the third mobile clinic to open in Precinct 2

Harris County, TX — Monday, October 31, 2022 — Commissioner Garcia was joined by Baylor College of Medicine, Catholic Charities, and The Harris Center to celebrate the ribbon cutting for the third ACCESS2HEALTH Smart

Pod in Precinct 2. The Smart Pod will bring mental health services to the community regardless of ability to pay. The event took place at 2:30 p.m.

Officials at the Ribbon Cutting were Commissioner Adrian Garcia; Dr. Sharmila Anandasabapathy, Baylor College of Medicine; Cynthia Colbert, Catholic Charities; Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee; and Wayne Young, The Harris Center.

The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony took place Monday, October 31, 2022, 2:30 p.m. at the Northeast Community Center parking lot at 10918 Bentley, Houston, Tx 77093.

Continued. See Pct. 2 Health PODS, Page 7

## SHELDON ISD NEWS

## Fall Festival Proves Successful A Message From The Superintendent **For Sheldon Community**



Sheldon ISD greeted large crowds at the district's first Community Fall Festival on October 29. From the advanced academic programs, to CTE and STEM  $\,$ students to fine arts performers, students and staff provided entertainment

and opportunities for families to learn more about programs offered in Sheldon ISD. Additionally, there were many community partners in attendance providing services to families. The district plans to hold the fall festival annually.

# C. E. King High School **Celebrates the Class of** 2023 at Last Home Game



On Friday, October 28, Panther Stadium was packed with families of seniors celebrating their upcoming graduation. A pregame show was dedicated to recognizing senior students and their families involved in AFJROTC, drill team, cheerleading, and band.



## **King High School Students Featured at Salutes Luncheon**

The King High School AFJROTC presented the colors at the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce Salute event on November 3. This luncheon honors first responders and veterans.



# **Sheldon Closed for** Thanksgiving Break

Sheldon ISD campuses and offices will close for Thanksgiving break Monday, November 21 through Friday, November 25. Classes will resume Monday, November 28.

> Back Issues are available in PDF format on our websites: www.starcouriernews.com and www.northchannelstar.com

# **GALENA PARK ISD NEWS**

Galena Park ISD is a family of support, love, and respect, and we are always striving to build a stronger culture of deep, positive relationships with the entire school community. In this endeavor, we are especially thankful for our connection with all of our stakeholders- students, parents, employees, and community partners. This November, our schedule is full of opportunities for memorable moments and numerous activities that will bring us together as a school community.

We are fortunate to honor our veterans who served and sacrificed for this country. In recognition of their bravery and heroism and to show our appreciation, we will host our district's annual Veterans Day Luncheon on Friday, November 11, 2022. Honoring our veterans is a privilege, and I hope you will also find some time to show your gratitude for their service to our country.

November's character trait is fairness. Please help us demonstrate fairness by listening, taking turns, considering the needs of others, and sharing. This month, Galena Park ISD will share holiday blessings with hundreds of families through the Hope for the Holidays program.

As a district, we will observe the Thanksgiving holiday from Monday, November 21st, through Friday, November 25th. During the break, I hope everyone



John Moore, Ed.D. Superintendent

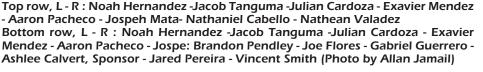
is able to relax and spend some quality time with family and friends.

Please join us this month in honoring our veterans and promoting fairness in everything we do as we continue to make Galena Park ISD...A Great Place to Be!

Sincerely, John Moore, Ed.D Superintendent of Schools

# 2022 North Shore High **School Pep Squad Rounder's**



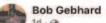


By Allan Jamail

 $2022\ North$ Shore High School Pep Squad Rounder's. These students keep the fans fired up when after a Mustang score they run the length of the field (100 yds.) each carrying a separate letter on a giant 4' X 4' flag on a handheld pole spelling M U S T A

# ROTARY CLUBS TO SERVE 8400 DINNERS FOR THANKSGIVING





Operation Turkey Houston along with Rotary Club of Greater Houston Area Veterans, we moved 7,000 lbs of food in preparation of feeding 8,400 thanksgiving day diners, people who are food challenged. WE smoke the turkeys, and every meal includes: turkey, dressing, beans, corn, yams, dressing, mashed potatoes and an awesome piece of pumpkin pie and a bottle of water. All the meals are delivered to you home or church. Some of our amazing sponsors include Goya Foods, Paul Kurt & Associate over 20 local Rotary Clubs, and the Houston Police Officers Union. We are preparing food at the following locations: Katy Elks Club Lodge, American Legion, Post 521, America Legion Post 654, and St Paul's Methodist Church in Houston. If you would like to volunteer go to Operationturkey.com, or to request a meal go to Operationturkey.com.Tim StroudBill PalkoHector R. GironMatthew Berg. https://soundcloud.com/ebcbroadcast/operationturkey-houston-radio-commercial-for-volunteers-and-meals

# CHARLOTTE'S WEB By Charlotte Jackson

## Loving Life

Like so many of you, I have experienced such a rush of emotions in the past few days. Watching the Astros play their hearts out and still lose in Philadelphia. Seeing a Houston icon being disrespected and then losing his cool to the point that he acted out of character. Unfortunately, that video clip of Jim McIngvale will be long remembered by people who do not live in Houston. Yet those of us in the Houston area know that for decades, Jim and his wife have given from the bottom of their hearts to those in need. I am proud of Mattress Mack for acknowledging that he acted out of frustration, yet he is mature enough to admit it and move on. He loves life. He loves people.

Even though some of us may have never purchased furniture at his store or stood in lines for any of the multiple gifts he has given away, we have felt his love. Life is way too short to have bitterness in our hearts. I know people who have been hurt by spouses who had affairs, by children who have broken the law, by employers who treated them unfairly. Yet, at the end of the day, they have a choice. Will they react to the situation and become bitter? Or will they learn from it and become better?

On Saturday morning, I joined over 700 others for an 8 a.m. video call with Dr John Maxwell. We were tuning in from all around the world and the excitement was so energizing. And just a few minutes later, we were told Dr Maxwell had an emergency and could not join us. Many of us have been following his teaching for years so it was by no surprise that instead of grumbling about being up at all hours on a Saturday morning, you immediately saw comments being posted that people were praying for John. We were told that it would be rescheduled, and we would be notified. And almost as soon as possible, one of the men who works for the John Maxwell Team, Chris Robinson stepped up and shared a message from his heart. The topic was your attitude and how do you react to failure.

At the end of his talk, I had to agree with the others that while we were in prayer that all was well with Dr Maxwell, we recognized that the message shared, was an on-time message for us.

With the elections happening on Tuesday, many in our nation and in our community are tense. While participating in early voting last week, I ran across someone who was frustrated by those campaigning and he proudly shared that he had an automatic gun in his truck, and he felt like he should "take care of them". Fortunately, the election workers were able to notify law enforcement and even though he had already left, the workers and voters felt secure. It saddens me that some of the candidates have been accused of lies as well as some of the candidates have shown their bitterness. Yet, we must stop and pray. We must learn to forgive others and to make a positive impact on the relationships we have.

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## Mustangs Unbeaten Season,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



NS Mustangs linebackers Jaylon Joseph & Jarvon Coles double-team tackling the runner for a loss of yards.

title game he shutdown Duncanville's last minute comeback attempt making an interception to let NS run out the clock.

Scoring by quarter:					
	1	2	3	4	Final
NS	21	28	0	7	56
K	0	7	0	0	7

The reigning, defending, undefeated Class 6A Division I Region 3 State Champion North Shore Mustangs (10-0) will host the Pasadena Dobie Longhorns (4-6) Thursday @ 7pm. @ GPISD Stadium in round one bidistrict playoff game. Linda Jamail, Statistician.



# 2 NS Christopher Barnes catches a 38 yd pass & runs for TD. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



# 2 8 - D'Andrea Hardeman stiff arms defender in order to cross goal for a NS TD. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



#8 David Amador fights off a tackler crossing the goal for a TD. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



## **ASK DIAMOND JIM**



# Diamond Jim: "What is a Clarity-Enhanced Diamond?"

A "clarity-enhanced" gemstone is any gemstone that has undergone artificial enhancement to increase its clarity. Clarity-enhanced diamonds undergo an intricate procedure to eliminate their natural "flaws" and increase their visual clarity. When a diamond is improved, its apparent imperfections are concealed, and its natural beauty is increased to make it look more alluring than many untreated natural diamonds.



#### HOW IS A DIAMOND'S CLARITY ENHANCED?

The two methods used to enhance the clarity of stones are:

#### 1. FRACTURE FILLING

Fracture filling involves the injection of a glass-like substance into the fissure to remove the empty spaces left after inclusion removal. With this, it is nearly impossible to distinguish the repair made on clarity-enhanced diamonds, since the material used has the same visual and deflection as mined diamonds.

#### 2. LASER DRILLING

This technique eliminates tiny flaws within diamond structures to increase their optical clarity. A narrow passage is drilled with a laser beam from its exterior to the internal inclusion. Acidic chemicals like sulfuric acid are later inserted through the narrow passage to dissolve and bleach their color.

## HOW TO TELL IF IT IS A CLARITY ENHANCED DIAMOND?

Viewing it under a gemological microscope shows a faint or strong neon shade left by the filling process. By checking the diamond's certificate footnote, you can know if it is an enhanced diamond. It exhibits a pink sparkle when you hold and expose it to light. A close look at the stone reveals the drill lines that don't match the diamond's original pattern.

## WHY SHOULD YOU CHOOSE A CLARITY ENHANCED DIAMOND?

Clarity-enhanced diamond is affordable. You will save 30% to 50% that you would use in buying a natural, untreated diamond with the same quality and carat weight. The diamond will reflect more shine after improved clarity, giving it more brilliance and fire than untreated diamonds.

Its carat weight is higher than untreated diamonds. However, treated clarity-enhanced diamonds are still very genuine and extracted from natural sources like other diamonds.

### CONCLUSION

If you are on the hunt for a clarity-enhanced diamond, look no further than Pineforest Jewelry. Our trained personnel are eager to assist you every step of the way and help you choose a beautiful stone that matches your personality. If you have any questions or need assistance deciding on the right kind of diamond to buy, don't hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for reading the "Ask Diamond Jim" column and for supporting the North Channel Star Newspaper!

Diamond Jim is a master jeweler, diamond dealer and precious metals broker. Pineforest Jewelry has been a proud member of the Independent Jewelers Organization (IJO) and the Retail Jewelers Organization (RJO) for many years. See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com.

If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email <u>jmills@pineforestjewelry.com</u>.





#### OPINION PAGE \*



## Gunther, Havlat, Knauss, and Veterans Day

By Joseph Reagan, Director of Military and Veterans Outreach for Wreaths Across America and Afghanistan Veteran.

COLUMBIA FALLS, ME. — October 28, 2022 — The 11th hour has become synonymous with Veterans Day, originally called Armistice day, in recognition of the document signed at the 11th hour, or the 11th day, of the 11th month. In reality, the Armistice ending the war to end all wars was signed around 5 am on November 11th. Over the course of the next 6 hours, nearly 3,000 men would lose their lives in the final hours of a war that had already claimed the lives of 20 million military personnel. The final death of WW1 came at 10:59 am one minute before the guns of war would fall silent.

Private Henry Gunther was a German-American drafted in the fall of 1917; most accounts state that his final actions were motivated by Gunther's need to demonstrate that he was "courageous and all-American." A chaplain from Gunther's unit recounted, "As 11 a.m. approached, Gunther



suddenly rose with his rifle and ran through thick fog. His men shouted for him to stop. So did the Germans. But Gunther kept running and firing. One machine gun blast later, he was dead. His death was recorded at 10:59 a.m.

In every conflict, inevitably a final service member pays the ultimate sacrifice. In World War II, Private Charlie Havlat, the son of Czech immigrants, in the closing days of the war, found himself liberating his  $parents' former \ homeland-word \ of \ the \ cease-fire$ reached his position minutes after he was killed. Officially, the U.S. has never declared a final casualty in the Korean War; since the armistice was signed, nearly 100 U.S. Soldiers have been killed in combat on the Korean peninsula. On April 29, 1975, Charles McMahon and Darwin Judge were two of a small number of Marines tasked with safeguarding the U.S. Embassy in Saigon. They had been deployed for only 11 days when they were killed by a rocket attack. The U.S. would complete the process of withdrawing from Saigon the following day. Staff Sergeant Ryan Knauss was the last of the 2,461 Service Members who died in Afghanistan; he along with 12 of his comrades was killed in a suicide attack during the withdrawal from

In every war, there is always one that must fill the dignified but dubious role in history as being the last to give the full measure of devotion. Each year on the 11th day of the 11th month as a nation we pause, not only to honor those that have given their lives but for all those who believed so deeply in American exceptionalism that they were willing to give their lives to defend it. For most Americans talking about war is conceptual, something learned through history books, news reports, and movies - those that have served do not have that luxury. Not only should we remember that the democratic principles we hold so dear have been defended by generations of Americans whom we honor on Veterans Day, but more importantly we should take inspiration from that sacrifice. Our country, despite all our self-imposed differences, needs to look to our Veterans and see that there are no divisions in a foxhole - there are only those who stand in defense of democracy and those who stand against

While we may only celebrate Veterans Day with a few moments of silence each year, we have an opportunity to use those moments to find our own way to serve as part of our commitment to living up to the legacy of our Veterans. When the Armistice was signed in 1918 when the Japanese surrendered, and when the last flights departed Kabul and Saigon these were not simply endings – they were new beginnings. We honor those who serve by recommitting ourselves to making the sacrifices necessary to preserve our way of life.

As Adlai Stevenson once stated, "Patriotism is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime." Let this Veterans Day be a new beginning. Go forth and find a way to serve, our nation, our communities, and each other we owe it to our Veterans.

Joseph Reagan is the Director of Military and Veterans Outreach for Wreaths Across America. He has over 10 years' experience working with leaders within Government, non-profit, and Fortune 500 companies to develop sustainable strategies supporting National Security, and Veterans Health. He served 8 years on active duty as an officer in the U.S. Army including two tours to Afghanistan with the 10th Mountain Division. He is a graduate of Norwich University, the oldest private military college in the country.

###

About Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester in 1992. The organization's mission -Remember, Honor, Teach - is carried out in part each year by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in December at Arlington, as well as at thousands of veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond.



# STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

**By Gary Borders** 



# Early Voting Ends Friday; Election is Tuesday, Nov. 8

Early voting for the general election ends on Friday. Nov. 4, with the closely watched governor's race pitting incumbent Gov. Greg Abbott against challenger Beto O' Rourke headlining the ballot. A number of other statewide races are on the ballot, including lieutenant governor, attorney general, land commissioner, agriculture commissioner and comptroller.

Voters can find polling places in their county by visiting VoteTexas.gov. Those voting early can visit any location in the county in which they're registered. However, those who choose to vote on Election Day must go to the specific precinct in which they live.

#### **DPS DIRECTOR SAYS HE WON'T RESIGN**

Texas Department of Public Safety Director Steve McCraw is fending off calls for his resignation in light of his department's handling of the mass shooting at Robb Elementary in Uvalde last May, in which 19 students and two teachers died. However, McCraw said "every responding officer needs to be accountable for their actions," according to the Austin American-Statesman. The Texas Rangers, an arm of the DPS, reportedly are investigating several troopers among the 90 who were on the scene. DPS Sgt. Juan Maldonado was fired recently for his role in the shooting response.

As the Statesman reported, officers from multiple law enforcement agencies delayed confronting the gunman for 77 minutes even as those trapped inside called for help.

McCraw said the Rangers' investigation will be complete by year's end.

#### REPORT CARD: TEXAS STUDENTS LAG IN MATH

Like students across the country, students in Texas are struggling to recover from learning losses stemming from the pandemic, particularly in math, the



Nation's Report Card indicates. Officially called the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the test is administered in reading and math for a sample of students in 4th and 8th grade roughly every two years, according to the Texas Education

Agency. The bright side appears to be that students in Texas showed more progress than most in their academic recovery, TEA reported. Reading scores for Texas students are not statisticallv different than in 2019, the last time the test was administered — and before the pandemic struck. However. math scores are significantly lower than they were in

"Results from the 2022 Nation's Report Card highlight the hard work of Texas teachers and students. While we are largely recovering from the effects of the pandemic in reading, much work remains in math," said Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath.

#### STATEWIDE VETERANS' HIRING EVENT

Texas veterans, service members and their spouses are invited to participate in this year's Hiring Red, White & You! statewide hiring event, which began Nov. 1 and runs through Nov. 18 with in-person and virtual events across the state.

Hosted by the Texas Workforce Commission, along with workforce development boards and other agencies, the hiring fair

connects veterans, transitioning service members and spouses with Texas employers seeking their skills and experience. The state is home to more than 1.7 million veterans and current military members.

Employers who hire veterans could be eligible for a tax credit of up to \$9,600. The event in the past 10 years has worked with more than 20,000 employers, connected more than 144,000 job seekers to job opportunities, and helped facilitate 3,198 same-day hires.

The events are free. Job seekers can find more details at twc.texas.gov/hiring-red-white-you.

#### **AGRICULTURE STILL** SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC **DRIVER**

While the state's large cities are experiencing considerable population growth, agriculture continues to be a big part of the Texas economy. Farming and ranching operations can be found in every part of the - citrus crops in the Rio Grande Valley, cotton in the High Plains, rice paddies in the Coastal Plains, cattle ranches in West Texas and timber in East Tex-

The state comptroller's office reported nearly \$25 billion in cash receipts in 2021 from the Texas agricultural industry, the fourthhighest among all states trailing only California, Iowa and Nebraska. The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports the state has 247,000 farms (ranches are considered a type of farm), more than double the next two states, Missouri and Iowa.

Cattle represent the state's top ag commodity, with 40.4% of the cash receipts generated. The top three commodities are cattle, dairy and poultry, according to USDA.

#### **DRY WEATHER TEMPERS DEER SEASON EXPECTATIONS**

Dry weather throughout much of the state as deer season approaches is tempering expectations for the general white-tailed deer season, which begins Saturday, Nov. 5.

"A number of hunters and landowners report seeing lots of deer, especially younger deer," said Alan Cain of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. "Part of that is a result of good fawn crops the last couple of years, so there's more bucks in those younger age classes relative to bucks in that four- to six-year-old range. As we move into November and closer to the rut, those older bucks should increase movement activities in search of does, hopefully presenting an opportunity for a lucky hunter."

Drought impacts on deer habitats have adversely affected antler quality, Cain added.



### Rushing the Season

My husband, Peter, says they are rushing the season.

I'm not sure who "they' are. The Christmas Cartel, perhaps. The vast conspiracy of premature holiday merrymakers. Whoever they are, Peter does not approve.

And he does have a point. There are still life-size skeletons scaling the walls of a huge brick house I walk by every day. The remains of jack-o'-lanterns are still sitting on the stoops—although the squirrels have eaten off most of their faces, making them much scarier than they were to begin with.

"What are you doing?" I ask a gray squirrel, caught in

"What do you care?" she answers, cheeks full of pumpkin. "It's almost Thanksgiv-

ing."
"Thanksgiving is a month away!"

Meanwhile, the first red and green lights have appeared, Holiday Festival posters are springing up in the lawns, and I have already found myself humming snatches of Christmas tunes that I picked up from an open shop door.

Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas all pile on top of one another in a way that Peter finds annoying. I am more open-minded. It's a confusing time of year, after all.

My mother tells me that, up north, the adult loons have all migrated, leaving their children behind. Apparently, young loons are not old enough to make the flight, and so they are left behind for a few weeks to mature and figure things out on their own. I expect a new parenting style, "Loon Parenting," to become all the rage sometime in the very near future.

The young loons are left by themselves, looking a little bewildered and forlorn. Although I might be imagining that part. Perhaps they are relieved the older loons have finally left them in peace. "Yes, Mom, I can make it to the Gulf of Mexico without your help!" (eye-roll)

At any rate, they are left behind in this, the most unpredictable time of the year, when it feels like summer one day and requires a puff jacket and mittens the next. I can understand why people might just throw up their hands, let the squirrel finish off the jack-o'-lantern, start making pumpkin pie and play Christmas songs.

How would I know?

I always feel restless this time of year. I see those older loons-and older humans—heading south. leaving the younger loons and younger humans behind, and I understand the need for motion. Fall is a time of change, and a lot of those changes happen fast.

The wind picks up, and it doesn't feel like it's from around here. It feels like it has come from somewhere far away. It offers the suggestion of new surroundings, new emotions, new experiences. Every day, I walk through the piles of leaves and wonder what this fall will bring, what that new wind is carrying with it. I remember myself as a younger human, watching the birds overhead flying south, and wondering where they were going and why I wasn't going with them.

Peter and I, now being older humans, will be heading south in a little while. Peter is working on his packing list. I am, too-but only in my head.

I'm packing up new ideas and things I'd like to do and putting them in my carry-on so I can pull them out in an instant. I'm putting into storage some of the judgments and opinions I've been hanging onto for too long. I'm imagining how it would feel to be as bright and fearless as the maple tree in the autumn of its life.

Peter would probably say I'm rushing the season.

Till next time, Carrie

Photos from the column and other fun stuff can be found at <u>CarrieClasson.com</u>.



Marketing Executive..... ..Willie Glasgow Production Manager......**Gerardo Hernandez** Entered as Periodicals Class at Highlands Post Office, Highlands, TX 77562. Under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Published 50 weeks per year, on Thursday, by Grafikpress Corp., 5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057. Opinions in this paper are those of the authors, and not necessarily this newspaper's. Any erroneous statement which may appear

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## **EPA** awards \$3million for **Air Polution monitoring**

### City of Houston, Galena Park to benefit

Galena Park area, City of Houston each receive \$500,000

HARRIS COUNTY -The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced that six Texas organizations will receive \$3,050,010 from President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act and American Rescue Plan to enhance air quality monitoring in marginalized communities. The project is focused on communities that are underserved, historically marginalized, and overburdened by pollution, supporting President Biden's Justice40 Initia-

"I've traveled across the country and visited communities who've suffered from unhealthy, polluted air for far too long. I pledged to change that by prioritizing underserved communities and ensuring they have the resources they need to confront longstanding pollution challenges," said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. "The air monitoring projects we are announcing today, which include the first EPA grants funded by President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act, will ensure dozens of overburdened communities have the tools they need to better understand air quality challenges in their neighborhoods and will help protect people from the dangers posed by air pollution."

EPA has prioritized cutting harmful pollution in communities and this announcement delivers on that promise," said Regional Administrator Dr. Earthea Nance. "We are pleased to award these grants to the state, local, tribal agencies and community-based groups to monitor air pollution in their areas. "This funding will allow vulnerable communities to have better data on toxic pollutants and allows for development on community led strategies that achieve healthy air quality."

"I'm proud of the \$500,000 in federal grant funds the EPA awarded to the City of Houston for

their community air monitori n g projects," said Congresswoman



Garcia. "This will help improve

Houston's local air quali-

ty and educate residents on the hazards of air pollutants. These funds are a direct result of President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act. I strongly supported both laws in Congress because I knew it would help communities like ours. I look forward to seeing the positive impact this grant will bring to Houston neighborhoods."

"After years of inaction

and inattention to this insidious problem, I am very pleased there is a much broader understanding of how communities of color are directly impacted by the harmful emissions that emanate from mobile and stationary sources. Today, the EPA announces its award \$6,100,021.58 in funding, the largest investment for community air monitoring in EPA history, to enhance air quality monitoring in marginalized communities," said Congresswoman Sheila Jackson. "The City of

Houston will rec e i v e \$499,982 for community air monitoring

SHEILA while **JACKSON LEE** 

Achieving Community Tasks Successfully (ACTS) will receive \$499,197 for an air monitoring campaign in some of the communities that I represent, specifically, Pleasantville, Sunnyside, Fifth Ward, and Galena Park. It is gratifying to see that the funding for which I advocated will be allocated in the form of grants to the City of Houston and organizations that are working in local communities. This funding will target the problem of air pollution in the neighborhoods that have been most affected by toxic emissions. The real-time monitoring of these airborne toxins will enable us to better understand the risks that they pose to human health, the specific neighborhoods which are most in jeopardy, and the steps that will be necessary to curtail harmful activities that impair the health and

The city of Houston and Achieving Community Tasks Successfully (ACTS) will receive \$499,982 and \$499,197 respectively for community air monitoring in several Houston-area neighborhoods. The city of Houston will monitor for four haz-

lives of Houstonians."

ardous air pollutants in the Meadowbrook/Allendale, Park Place and Pecan Park neighborhoods with community members working towards implementing education programs for residents. ACTS will receive \$499,197 for an air monitoring campaign in the Pleasantville, Sunnyside, Fifth Ward and Galena Park areas. The campaign's goal is improving community health by reducing exposure to pollutants, increasing surveillance and response from local and state governments, and implementing community-led efforts on disaster planning and contributing to new data for national risk assessments and rule-

makings. The air pollution monitoring projects are made possible by more than \$30 million in Inflation Reduction Act funds, which supplemented \$20 million from the American Rescue Plan and enabled EPA to support 77 additional projects, more than twice the number of projects initially proposed by community-based nonprofit organizations, state and local governments, and Tribal governments. More than \$4 million will be awarded to communities visited by EPA Administrator Michael Regan during his first Journey to

Justice tour. EPA will start the process to award the funding by the end of 2022, once the grant applicants have met all legal and administrative requirements. The grantees will have three years to spend the funds from the time EPA awards the grants.

The announcement today delivers on Administrator Regan's commitment to action following his ongoing Journey to Justice tour. Following the first leg of the tour through Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas in November 2021, EPA encouraged communities to apply for the grants. Today's selectees include eight projects in communities from the tour, totaling nearly \$4 million from this grant program. These awards to communities from Journey to Justice and additional awards to underserved and overburdened communities reflect the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to deliver environmental justice and the whole-of-government approach to addressing these issues in communities that are historically marginalized.

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**FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 11:** 

## UT, Sarkisian look for program-changing win at No. 7 TCU: Surging Cowboys head to GB to face struggling Packers

College teams are beginning their home stretch as a handful of hopefuls jockey to be one of four teams that receive College Football Playoff (CFP) berths, while in the NFL teams that many thought would be in rebuild mode (Atlanta, Seattle, the New York Giants and Minnesota) are leading their respective divisions and are gaining momentum week by week.

The University of Texas and second-year head coach Steve Sarkisian are looking for a program-changing win when they face No. 7-ranked TCU on Saturday afternoon in Austin. Much was expected of UT this year after finishing 5-7 in Sark's first year at the 40 Acres, but they entered their bye week two weeks ago at 5-3 and played at pesky Kansas State (a 48-0 winner over Oklahoma State two weeks ago) last weekend. There's a good chance the Longhorns enter their game against the Horned Frogs at 5-4, which has to have some UT loyalists wondering if Sarkisian is the right man for the job and to take Texas into the SEC in a year or

The Horned frogs are no joke and have a high-powered offense led by QB Max Duggan. They picked up a gritty road win two weeks ago when they outscored West Virginia 41-31 to move to 8-0 on the season. They should be 9-0 when they face UT considering they hosted Texas Tech last Saturday in Fort Worth (the Red Raiders celebrated putting former Tech QB Patrick Mahomes in their Hall of Honor by laying an egg enroute to a 45-17 thumping by Bay-

While Texas looks to pull off the upset, there's a good one on tap in the SEC as No. 6-ranked Alabama visits No. 11-ranked Mississippi and their fast-talking head coach Lane Kiffin. Kiffin served as Nick Saban's offensive coordinator before leaving for the job in Oxford and the young protege would like nothing more than to stick it to his mentor on Saturday night.

In the NFL, the hapless Texans travel to New Jersev to take on one of those surprise teams when they face the Giants in the Meadowlands. Two weeks ago, the Giants suffered their second loss of the season when they fell at Seattle (another surprise team) to go to 6-2 on the season heading into their bye week. They should be rested and ready for a Houston team that looked awful two weeks ago in their 17-10 home loss to the

Texas' other pro team, the Dallas Cowboys, also entered their bye week with a 6-2 record after dispatching Chicago, 49-29. This week, they travel to Green Bay to take on Aaron Rodgers and a Packers team that fell to 3-5 after their Sunday night loss at Buffalo two weeks ago. The Packers passing game has issues and it could be another long afternoon when they face a Dallas team that can flat out bring a lot of heat to the QB. Micah Parsons and Co. have recorded 33 sacks and forced 13 turnovers in their first eight games. Not too shabby.

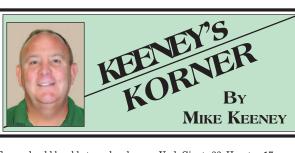
Other key games in the NFL this week pit the NFC South leaders Atlanta visiting a feisty Carolina team while Seattle, which is first in the NFC West, visits the struggling Tom Brady and Tampa Bay. Minnesota, the leaders in the NFC North, take their shot against the Buffalo Bills Good luck. The Sunday Night Football game should be a good one as the Los Angeles Chargers visit the San Francisco 49ers and their new weapon running back Christian Mc-Caffrey. The 49ers traded for Mc-Craffrey in October and in his second game he threw a touchdown pass, rushed for a touchdown and caught a touchdown pass, becoming the first NFL player since Chargers Hall of Fame running back LaDainian Tomlinson had a hattrick in 2005.

Before we take a look at this weekend's schedule, let's review last week's record. A 10-2 week (another solid one!) upped the season record to 70-38 (65%).

Now, onto this week's schedule.

### NCAA

TCU at Texas: It's time for the Longhorns to prove they can play with the big boys in the Big 12 and they don't get any bigger than No. 7-ranked TCU. The Horned Frogs have one of the most balanced offenses in the NCAA led by QB Max Dug $gan\,(2,\!212\,passing\,yards,22\,TDs/\!276$ rushing yards, 4 TDs) and a solid running back in Kendre Miller (851 yards, 11 TDs). They also have a bigplay wide receiver in Quintin Johnson (42 receptions, 650 vards, 4 TDs). The TCU defense can be moved on and it would behoove UT QB Quinn Ewers (1,139 yards, 11 TDs) to give the Frogs a steady dose of running back Bijan Robinson (920 yards, 13 total TDs). Let Robinson soften up the TCU defense and then



Ewers should be able to make plays to speedy wide receiver Xavier Worthy (36 receptions, 510 yards, 7 TDs) and Jordan Whittington. Sarkisian needs a quality win to keep the wolves off of his front door. Something tells me UT gives him it on Saturday. My pick, Texas 34, TCU

LSU at Arkansas: These two bitter rivals meet in Fayetteville on Saturday with the Razorbacks looking to put a crimp in first-year LSU head coach Brian Kelly's rebuild project. Kelly has done a nice job in his first year and had the Tigers ranked No. 15 in the country heading into last Saturday's game against Alabama. Kelly inherited a questionable roster, but has LSU winning behind dual-threat QB Jayden Daniels (1,812 passing yards, 10 TDs/524 rushing yards, 9 TDs). Arkansas has a pretty fair dual-threat QB of their own in KJ Jefferson (1,697 passing yards, 15 TDs/399 rushing yards, 6 TDs) and a solid running back in Raheim Sanders (1,041 yards, 7 TDs). Arkansas should be bowl eligible (they hosted Liberty last Saturday) and would like nothing more than to solidify their bowl destination with a signature win over LSU. My pick, Arkansas 31, LSU 24

Alabama at Mississippi: A key one in the SEC West pits the defending SEC champs against the Rebels as both teams are tied atop the division standings. Two weeks ago, Ole Miss picked up a nice road win with a 31-28 win at Texas A&M, while Alabama enjoyed its bye week and rested and prepared for a late-season run. The Crimson Tide will once again rely on QB Bryce Young (1,906 yards, 18 TDs) and running back Jahmyr Gibbs (672 yards, 6 TDs). Young has found a new target to throw to in speedy wideout Ja'Corey Brooks (21 receptions, 376 yards, 4 TDs). The Rebels have one of the best running teams in the country led by its two-headed rushing attack of Quinshon Judkins (1,036 yards, 13 TDs) and former North Shore star Zach Evans (680 yards, 7 TDs). They have a decent QB in Jaxson Dart yards). While they can light it up on offense, the defense is suspect. Look for Saban to take advantage of that suspect defense as Young and Co. light it up in Oxford come Saturday. My pick, Alabama 36, Mississippi 38

Seattle at Tampa Bay: The NFC West-leading Seahawks travel to Tampa to take on a struggling Bucs team that fell to 3-5 after their home loss to Baltimore two weeks ago. Seattle has been getting solid play from QB Geno Smith (1,924 yards, 13 TDs) and have been sparked by rookie running back Kenneth Walker III (461 yards, 5 TDs). They still have dependable wideouts in Tyler Lockett (46 receptions, 531 yards, 3 TDs) and DK Metcalf (37 receptions, 473 yards, 5 TDs). Tom Brady (2,267 yards, 9 TDs) has had a rough season on and off the field. Brady and his wife Gisele Bucshon announced they were filing for divorce. This has to be a difficult time for the seven-time Super Bowl champ. On the field, he's having trouble finding the end zone as the Bucs continue to struggle in the Red Zone. Look for Brady and TB begin to turn things around this week as he starts to make plays downfield to Mike Evans (37 receptions, 577 yards, 3 TDs) and Chris Godwin. Brady knows his team can't afford to get too far behind in the division race, so look for a more determined team come Sunday. My pick, Tampa Bay 26, Seattle 20

**Houston at New York Giants:** It looks like it's going to be another long year for Texans fans. Two weeks ago, in their 17-10 loss at home to Tennessee, the offense was horrible, while the defense gave up 319 rushing yards (Derrick Henry romped for 219 yards). If the run defense does not play better, it could be another long day when it faces Saquon Barkley (779 yards, 5 TDs) on Sunday. The Giants are another surprise team led by first-year head coach Brian Daboll. Much maligned QB Daniel Jones (1,379 passing yards, 6 TDs/363 rushing yards, 3 TDs) has played well. I wish the same could be said for Texans QB Davis Mills (1,502 yards, 8 TDs/6 interceptions). Rookie running back Dameon Pierce (539 yards, 4 total TDs) has been the lone bright spot on offense. It could be another long day for both sides of the ball this Sunday. My pick, New

York Giants 33, Houston 17

Minnesota at Buffalo: A meeting of division leaders as the NFC North leading Vikings take on the AFC East leaders Buffalo in what should be an interesting game to view. The Vikings won six of their first seven games as QB Kirk Cousins (1,734 yards, 11 TDs) has played solidly thus far this season. He has a stud at running back in Dalvin Cook (561 yards,  $\bar{5}$  TDs) and one of the top receivers in the league in Justin Jefferson (52 receptions, 752 yards, 2 TDs). The defense has been opportunistic, but will face its biggest challenge of the season when it takes on Josh Allen (2,198 passing vards, 19 TDs/306 rushing vards, 2 TDs) and WR Stefon Diggs (55 receptions, 764 yards, 7 TDs). The Bills also have a very solid defense. Two weeks ago, both sides of the ball performed well enroute to a 27-17 win over the Packers. Look for the Bills to continue to roll this week as they send the Vikings back to Minnesota with a loss. My pick, Buffalo 31, Min-

Arizona at Los Angeles Rams: This is an important game for both teams if they hope to remain in the NFC West race. Two weeks ago, the defending Super Bowl champs the Rams fell to 3-4 after losing 31-14 at home to the 49ers, while the Cardinals dropped to 3-5 after losing at Minnesota. The Rams have issues on offense, especially on the offensive line and at the running back position. The Rams are pretty much onedimensional on offense with QB Matthew Stafford (1,763 yards, 7 TDs/8 interceptions). Stafford may be without star WR Cooper Kupp (64 receptions, 686 yards, 5 TDs) after he sustained an ankle injury late in the loss to SF. The Cardinals aren't. in much better shape. QB Kyler Murray (1,993 passing yards, 10 TDs/299 rushing yards, 2 TDs) has been soso this year, but he does have his favorite wideout back in DeAndre Hopkins (22 receptions, 262 yards, 1 TD in 2 games). The Rams are a beat up team and if they lose this game, they can pretty much kiss their playoff hopes goodbye. The deter. Perhaps they will against the Cards. My pick, Los Angeles Rams 27, Arizona 23

Dallas at Green Bay: The Cowboys head into Lambeau Field rested and ready to make a second half run after enjoying their bye week after their 49-29 home win over the Bears on Oct. 30. QB Dak Prescott (591 yards, 3 TDs in first two games back from his thumb injury) has played well in his return. It helps that he has two strong backs in Tony Pollard (506 yards, 5 TDs) and Ezekiel Elliott (443 yards, 4 TDs). Elliott missed the Chicago game and Pollard filled in well with 131 yards and three touchdowns. Prescott and CeeDee Lamb (42 receptions, 556 yards, 3 TDs) appear to be locked in in the passing game. GB QB Aaron Rodgers (1,800 yards, 13 TDs) will have his hands full against a Dallas defensive front that should feast on a banged up Packers offensive line. As stated earlier, the Dallas defense has 33 sacks and 13 turnovers in their first eight games. Rodgers will need help in the running game from Aaron Jones (575 yards, 1 TD). Even a big day from Rodgers and Jones probably won't be enough against a good Dallas team. The Cowboys end their slide at Lambeau with a big road win. My pick, Dallas 33, Green

Los Angeles Chargers at San Francisco: A good one for Troy and Joe and the Monday Night Football crew. The Chargers head north to SF to face 49ers team that now has the services of versatile running back Christian McCaffrey. QB Jimmy Garoppolo (1,691 yards, 11 TDs) should benefit from McCaffrey as a runner and pass catcher. The Chargers have some weapons of their own on offense in QB Justin Herbert (2,009 yards, 12 TDs) and running back Austin Ekeler (380 rushing yards, 5 TDs/53 receptions, 357 yards, 3 TDs). The Chargers are hoping WR Keenan Allen returns after missing most of the season with an injury. They will need him back because their other WR, Mike Williams (37 receptions, 495 yards, 3 TDs) might miss considerable time after sustaining an ankle injury two weeks ago in their home loss to Seattle. Look for the 49ers defense to be the difference in this one as the 49ers get on a second-half season roll. My pick, San Francisco 24, Los Angeles 21





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## Pct 2 opens Mental Health Services POD in Aldine,

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 



Cutting the ribbon to open the health POD were Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, Dr. Sharmila Anandasabapathy, Baylor College of Medicine; Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee; and Wayne Young, The Harris Center.

er Adrian Garcia; Dr. Sharmila Anandasabapathy, Baylor College of Medicine; Cynthia Colbert, Catholic Charities; Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee; and Wayne Young, The Harris Center.

The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony took place Monday, October 31, 2022, 2:30 p.m. at the Northeast Community Center parking lot at 10918 Bentley, Houston, Tx 77093.

About the ACCESS2 **HEALTH Smart Pods:** When taking office in January 2019, Commissioner Adrian Garcia made it one of his top priorities to ensure everyone, regardless

of their socio-economic status, had access to health-His care. team immediately got to work to find medical partners who would be willing to join in and make this vision come to life. Baylor Medical College proudly stepped up to the plate. Together, they have brought 3 mobile clinics to Precinct 2, now known as the Access2Health Smart

What is a Smart Pod? A Smart Pod is a mobile clinic containing innovative technology that allows healthcare professionals to treat patients with a severe common cold all the

way to a highly infectious disease without risk of additional spread. The Smart Pods are also unique in their ability to fold up and be moved to other locations as needed via truck or even helicopter. Smart Pods were designed and trademarked by Baylor College of Medicine with the help of NASA engineers.

FACT: The original Smart Pod was invented by Baylor Dr. Sharmila Anandasabapathy for the Ebola outbreak. It was entered into a contest from USAID and was chosen to be developed for treatment for infectious diseases in

## **Channelview ISD Honors Jalen Hurts at Football** Frenzy Event

Here in Channelview, we couldn't be prouder of our hometown hero Jalen Hurts! Great evening celebrating him playing his first game at NRG stadium. The former Channelview High School football

star has led the Eagles to a perfect record in his third year as QB and has solidified himself as an MVP candidate.

Jalen's return home was also highlighted by Harris County Precinct Three's

decision to proclaim Nov. 3, 2022, as Jalen Alexander Hurts Day.

Channelview ISD is not only where Jalen became a star it's the same place where both his parents work.









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Photo Album continued from Page 1



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# GP Lady Varsity Volleyball Win 5A Title,

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

battle in the 5A Bi-District playoff game against Fort Bend ISD's Kemper Cougars.

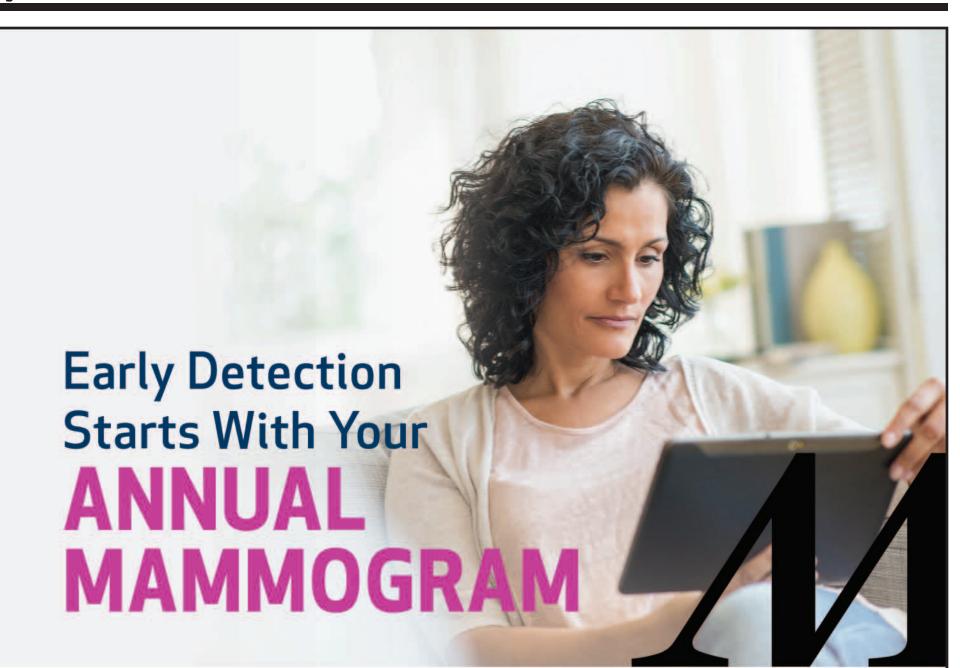
Expect to see more successes next season when Coach DeFiore has 9 of her 14 varsity team players return having this year's playoff experience.

DeFiore said, "I have a good group of returning varsity players... and our Junior Varsity and Freshmen teams were undefeated in district play this past season. We are ready to get back to work!"



L - R: Asst. Coach Lydia Baggett, Jose Perales, Asst. Coach Catherine Swanson, Julissa Montano, Judith Torres, Belinda Lopez, Megan Lopez, Avalynn Estrada, Dasia Cearcy, Gina Martinez #1, Camila Esquivel, Jazlynn Estrada, Emma Colon, Abigail Esqueda, Abigail Berrones, Jada Bryant, Italia Estrada, Head Coach - Mary DeFiore & Manager Ximena Tamez.

Not in the photo: Athletic Trainer Jessica Pfannsteil, Managers Diego Villarreal & Layla Moreno, Athletic Director Vivian Dancy, Assist. Kae Walker, Campus Coordinator Spiro Amarantos, Principal Kimberly Martin & Superintendent John Moore



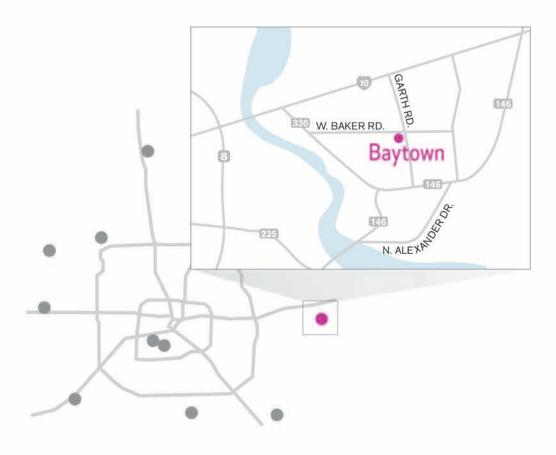
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