NORTH CHANNEL *STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Congratulations to Judge Stephens Congratulations to Judge Joe Stephens, graduating from

South Texas Law School AND passing the bar exam.

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City www.northchannelstar.com THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023 VOLUME 11, NO. 21 (#471)

CHANNEL **CURRENTS**

Galena Park ISD holds Service Awards Ceremony

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City changes Trash Pick-up Days Starting Monday, May 3

waste collection days will change to MONDAY and THURSDAY. The last Saturday that waste will be collected is April 29. Heavy waste collection will occur on

Contact WM at 800-800-5804 with questions.

Tina's Resale Shop closing after 20 years

Tina Zorrilla is retiring after 20 years, and permanently closing her Resale Shop at 10407 Market Street in Jacinto City. All merchandise is 50% off, including furniture, antique collectibles, sports memorabilia, cameras, jewelry, and much more. Open Tues-Sat 11-6. See details on page 5.

It's a Dirty Business

Joe Flanagan of Lonestar Siteworks has available time for Dozer, Backhoe and Tractor work. Call or text him for a Free Quote on your next Dirt(y) project. 832-530-0054. He's well recommended, fast and inexpensive. Call now.

Free Student Desks at Ace Hardware

Sunday, June 11th from 10 am to 2 pm at the Galena Park Ace Hardware (Kiran Bardai owner/operator) located at 1401 Holland Ave, Galena Park, TX 77547, students and or parents can build a free-totake-home student desk in just 45 minutes. The Houston Tool Bank will provide everything you need, including pre-cut building materials, tools, instructions and expert facilitators. This is a family friendly event, all ages and abilities are welcome. Volunteers needed. For more

details call; 713-674-0262.

May 18, 2023 – The Galena Park School District held their annual awards ceremony in the auditorium of the North Shore High School. There were 140 awardees given recognition for outstanding service and achievements to the district. Various categories of awards were presented by several school administration officials.

Mistress of Ceremonies Terri Moore directed the program agenda and gave the welcoming introductions. The event began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the USA & Texas flags by Dr. David Harris who also gave the Invocation.

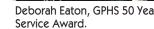
Adrian Stephens, President of the District's Trustees praised the awardees and gave the attendees a greeting from the Trustees.

Dr. John Moore, Superintendent made the closing remarks. He stressed the importance of the district's teachers to the lives of their students. And emphasized what happened here tonight is not some little thing. These teachers and administrators played a vital service to the com-



L-R: Rosa Contreras, GPMS Paraprofessional of the year & Mary Dale-Cravens, GPMS 50 Year Service Award. (Photo by Allan Jamail)







Deborah Eaton, GPHS 50 Year

munity. They didn't just give their students a sound education, but what they really did was prepare them for their future. They taught them how to be productive citizens and a positive influence in the community

Two awards for principals of the year, Michelle Cavazos & Dr. Christopher Eckford and two awards for assistant principals of the year, Barika Noris & Alaide Zavala.

Alondria Brooks, Secondary Teacher of the Year, Dr. Joe Colman, Administrator of the Year,

Cathleen Ethridge, Support Personnel of the Year and Nereyda Rojas, Elementary Teacher of the Year were awarded by the Galena Park Classroom Teachers Association.

Carmela Garcia and Marla Taylor were awarded Campus Educator of the Year by the Association of Texas Professional Educa-

CONTINUED. SEE GPISD SERVICE AWARDS, PAGE 3

AT LEFT: *District Teachers of the Year & **Rookie Teachers of the year.

L - R: *James Bell III, **Reyna Aguiar, *Tyneasha Turk & **Camryn Goodman



2023 GP Yellow Jackets Soccer Team Winning Season

By Allan Jamail

May, 30, 2023 - The 2023 Galena Park High School Varsity Soccer Team had a winning season and advanced into the playoffs. They won 80 percent of their district games with a 12 wins & 3 loss record. The District 5A Bi-District playoff game #with Fulshear was all defense.

Head Coach Shannon Summers with assistant coaches Steven Botello and Dalton Strouse had the Jackets playing outstanding defense and offense all season.

The Yellow Jackets lost in the 2023 UIL Texas Boys Soccer State Championship Tournaments. They lost against the Fort Bend Fulshear Chargers. At the end of regulation play, both teams were scoreless. To break the tie each team has the same amount of "spot kicks" where the ball is placed at the penalty mark location, the Chargers won 3-1.



TOP ROW – L – R: Kevin Vega, Diego Rendon, Victor Silva, Leonardo Castro, Yorgo Reyna, Isaias Quiroz, Alfonso Mendoza, Isaac Quiroz, Arturo Alvarado, Mauricio Garza, Alexis Peña. MIDDLE ROW- L - R: Jayden Carmona, Bryan Cordova, Daniel Gonzalez, Gilberto Guzman, Alfredo Flores, Jose De La Torre, Andrew Gutierrez, Abdiel Lopez, Ernesto Villarreal. BOTTOM ROW - L - R: Javier Moreno, Aidan Olmos, Diego Sierra. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Woman leaves loaded gun in purse at Havard Elementary

GALENA PARK, Texas – A woman has been charged after a purse with a loaded gun was left unattended at a Galena Park elementary school, according to the Harris County District Attorney's Office. Alyssa Monique Serna, 21, was charged with possession of a prohibited weap-

On Tuesday, Serna visited James B. Havard Elementary School to watch a second-grade award ceremony where she allegedly left her purse in the school's cafeteria, officials said. An administrator who was clearing out the cafeteria found her purse and turned it over to the principal, according to the school. When the principal opened the purse and looked inside to identify the owner, a fully loaded 9mm Taurus pistol was found, officials said.

According to the school, the administrator immediately contacted the Harris

County Precinct 3 resource officer who then recovered the weapon.

Serna is accused of leaving the purse unattended where any student or child could have access to the loaded firearm, documents show. When she returned to the school to retrieve the purse, she was detained by the school resource officer and charges were filed. She was arrested and posted a \$12,500 bond. Serna's court date was set for Thursday.

James B. Havard Elementary School released the following statement to parents and guardians:

"On May 23, 2023, an administrator was clearing out the cafeteria after $the\ second\mbox{-}grade\ awards$ ceremony and found an unaccompanied purse. The administrator looked inside the purse to see if there was any identification and found a loaded handgun.

"The administrator im-

mediately contacted the Harris County Precinct 3 School Resource Officer, and the officer took possession of the purse and gun. After further investigation, it was determined that the purse was inadvertently left in the cafeteria by a campus visitor. The School Resource Officer detained the purse owner (when she returned to campus to retrieve the purse), contacted the district attorney, and criminal charges were accepted.

"Please know that these situations are never dismissed, as the safety of students and staff is always our first concern. As a reminder, Galena Park ISD is a gun-free zone, and violators will be prosecuted. Feel free to contact my office at 832-386-3710 if you have any questions or concerns you would like to share. Our commitment to maintaining a safe school environment is unwavering, and we accomplish this with your support."

Galena Park Vape Shop firebombed by unknown assailants

GALENA PARK — The Galena Park Police Department is investigating a fire that was started by masked intruders at a

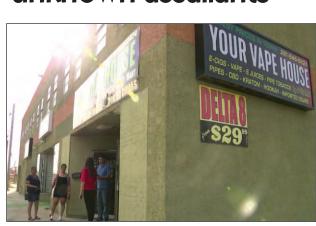
smoke shop last weekend. The store owner and a cashier were inside when the store went up in flames.

Your Vape House cashier Merlyn Rodriguez said she doesn't understand why anyone would do what they did - putting her life at risk.

"The fire got from here all the way up and that's when I knew I couldn't do anything," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez said two masked men came into the store and started the fire by throwing a fire-bomb.

"Within a second or two, there was fire everywhere because this is carpet. So, I didn't know what to do. And while he was walking out, he shoved something by the door and that was on fire, too," Rodriguez CONTINUED. SEE VAPE SHOP ATTACKED, PAGE 3



Store owner Sami Durrani talks at the front of his store on Clinton Drive in Galena Park.



The fire started by the fire-bombs ruined the ceiling, and all of the merchandise in cabinets and on the walls



SHELDON ISD NEWS

KMS Students Surprised with Classroom Makeover for Good Behavior

Life Enhancements Services has teamed up with Houston Random Acts of Kindness Day, Inc., (HRAK) Founders, David and Treveia Dennis, and Sheldon ISD's Education Foundation to provide a Random Acts of Kindness Day, Inc. "RAK Room" for C.E. King Middle School. Students were surprised with the room May 24 during a ribbon cutting ceremony.

The exciting new RAK Room is a student incentive-based school store created by Houston Random Acts of Kindness Day, Inc., in collaboration with community partners. The RAK Room is a physical space designed as fun, colorful reward rooms where students can shop and purchase a variety of

items, engage in a play station area, take a break from studies with a selfie room, and participate in special events!

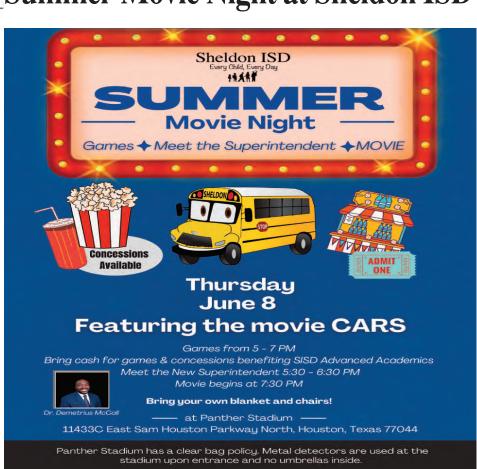
Students can earn points for positive behavior, attendance, anti-bullying, academic achievement, random acts of kindness and other accomplishments, which can be used for RAK Room purchases and experiences. The RAK Rooms are designed to provide incentives to motivate students academically and socially by encouraging attendance, kindness, accountability, volunteering, philanthropy, engagement, appreciation, and participation. The rooms and incentives give students opportunities to engage, excel, and learn.



KASE Academy Holds First Field Day Event



Summer Movie Night at Sheldon ISD



CHANNELVIEW ISD NEWS

Channelview Debate team earns UIL honors



ncredible season. Noemi Sanchez is the first student in 14 years who attended UIL state in Austin Texas on May 18. She earned 3rd place at regionals out of 40 writers.

CISD would also like to recognize Kyle Morgan for being 1st and district champion in Current Events and News and Aleyda Hernandez for placing 1st and district champion in Persuasive Speaking.

Sheldon ISD Students Receive State art Medals



King High School's Monica Arceo and Ashley Banegas received state medals for the High School Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE). In February, Areco and Benegas were selected as Regional Superior Rating Medalist and State Qualifiers for their 2D and 3D artwork. Additionally, Monica Arceo entered a scholarship workshop competition where she was given one

hour to create a sculpture out of copper wire. She received first place and a \$600 scholarship. There are more than 35,000 entries statewide in this competition, which is equivalent to the UIL Contests where other campus organizations compete for Texas's art programs. King High School had 14 Regional Superior Rating Medalists, and four state qualifiers. The following

were state qualifiers for 2023:

Monica Areco (3D Artwork, Title: "Chose One, Or Not" AND 2D Artwork, Title: "Saturday Morning")

Ashley Benegas (2D Artwork, Title: "Ojos Lindos")

Samantha Meza (2D Artwork, Title: "I Hold The Sun To My World")

Amanda Moreno (2D Artwork, Title: "A Ski Trip I Will Never Forget")

GALENA PARK ISD NEWS GPISD's Winning Calculations



Pictured: Wanda Heath-Johnson, GPISD Board Trustee; Zachary Mann; Hiromi Islas; Diana Delosa; Jase Tapiz; Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools; Don Kirby, Coach; and Dr. Joe Coleman, NSSHS Principal

Houston, TX: The Galena Park ISD Board of Trustees recognized the 6A High School (HS) Calculator Team from North Shore Senior High School (NSSHS) for winning first place in their division and earning additional individual awards at the 2023 Texas Math and Science Coaches Association (TM-SCA) High School State Meet on March 18, 2023.

The first-place team members included:

*Diana Delosa (12th grade)

*Hiromi Islas (11th

grade)
*Zachary Mann (10th

*Jase Tapiz (9th grade) In the individual category, the following awards were earned:

*Diana Delosa - First-place in HS Calculator $12^{\rm th}$ Grade 6A

*Hiromi Islas - Fifth-place in HS Calculator $11^{\rm th}$ Grade 6A

 * Zachary Mann - Second-place in HS Calculator 10^{th} Grade 6A

*Jase Tapiz - First-place in HS Calculator 9th Grade 6A; 3rd place in HS Number Sense 9th Grade 6A; Fourth-place in HS Mathematics 9th Grade 6A; and Seventh-place in HS Sci-

ence 9th Grade 6A. The TMSCA is dedicated to promoting excellence in math and science through competition, and this team from NSSHS demonstrated their excellence! These outstanding recognitions, which are the result of expanding academic interests, are a stellar representation of teaching and learning in Galena Park ISD.

A certificate and medal were presented to each student on behalf of the Board of Trustees and Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools.

Story Credits: Dr. Tommie L. Smith

Photo Credits: Jerome Delafosse

In North Shore, nearly everyone reads the NORTH CHANNEL STAR. Your Hometown Newspaper.

CHARLOTTE'S By Charlotte Jackson



Someone's Child

s I turned out of my apartment drive way, I received a phone call that, yet another young person had been killed by a gunshot earlier in the morning. I immediately began to pray, not just that I did not know this young man, but also for his loved ones. Before I passed the apartment where he had been killed, I noticed several other people that I felt the urge to pray for.

There is an older man who for years has been homeless in our area. On this day, he was sitting at the bus stop in front of an elementary school. He nodded his head as I glanced towards him. I have witnessed him lose more than one hundred pounds since I first met him. He had entered the military after graduating from a local high school. When he returned from his duty in Vietnam, he has never been the same. He has battled demons of alcohol and drug abuse as well as waking up too many mornings with the effects of post traumatic stress. After several failed marriages as well as a stint in prison, he prefers the streets.

As I approached the next light, I saw a young woman stumbling as she tried to cross Uvalde Road. She appeared to be under the influence of some substance. Our eyes met as I motioned for her to cross the street. She smiled and I could see the result of her using drugs, her teeth had deteriorated, and her eyes looked hollow. I noticed a tattoo on her that had a small butterfly. The next block had signs of another individual that needed help. This young woman is morbidly obese. She often sits on blanket or clothes, smiling yet never looking people in the eyes. I have learned over the years that she has family in the area, but she lives with a mental illness and refuses help.

As I passed the apartments where the young man had been murdered, I saw the emergency vehicles. I began to pray again. This time, I was praying for the First

Responders who had been working at the scene. I prayed asking for extra strength to endure the days ahead. Summer seems to bring more drownings as well as more motor vehicle accidents. Too often with the stress of seeing these things, individuals can grow complacent and forget why they went into this line of work.

As I prayed for these people and their loved ones, I prayed that God would soften the hearts of everyone in the community. None of us are perfect and we do not know the roads that anyone has traveled, but we know that each one of us is someone's child. We must remind ourselves that we do not know their stories and even if we are not led to physically minister to them, I pray that we will keep them in our prayers.

Vape Shop attacked,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said. She quickly kicked the door open to escape.

"I had not a single scratch on my body when I walked out. It is unbelievable. It's simply a miracle. Only God could have done that," she said.

Store owner Sami Durrani has been in business since 2021. He said he's never had issues with customers or anyone in the community. "I don't understand what hap-

pened. We are still in shock," Durrani said. Durrani said he thinks it was a targeted attack.

"A motive was to destroy this business so I can get out of here," he said. Durrani said the suspects took nothing and everything all at once. Yet, he's still thankful.

"I lost my merchandise, I lost my business, but it would have been more devastating for me if somebody would have been injured or killed," he said. Rodriguez said she loves the shop like it's her own.

"For me to walk in this and see there's nothing here, it hurts because as much as he lost his business, I lost my job," she said.

Both of them aren't sure of their next steps. "It's in bad shape, you know. It will take me a lot of money to restart this business and I don't think, right now, I can do that," Durrani said. "All I want to know is

why they did this.' Due to the nature of the crime, the Galena Park PD said it's working with the Harris County Fire Marshal and the ATF. Investigators are still in the process of reviewing surveillance video of the incident.

GPISD Service Awards,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Twenty-six paraprofessionals of the year awards were given to: Jenise Benavides, Merry Bryant, Crystal Casas, Claudia Cervantes, Rosa Contreras, Tina Escalante, Maribel Hernandez, Amy Garza, Gala Brunini Gerez, Dina Gonzalez, Yolanda Gonzalez, Leslie Guajardo, Elizabeth Gusman, Nydia Herrera, Beverly Joseph, Courtney Lane, Paula Leal, Lucia Martinez, Yolanda Olvera, Cynthia Profit, Rosa Rodriguez, Irma Garcia De Saldana, Jacqueline Sanchez, Kendrick Ruben, Lisa Thompson and Sharonda

Twenty-two rookie teacher of the year awards were given to: Reyna Aguiar, Anayeli Alfaro, James Bell III, Magailie Bouillion, Brenda Canales, Angela Dominguez, Kayla Eber, Amayranni Estrada, Adama Evans, Joseph Figueredo, Naomi Macia, Miryam Marroquin-Lopez, Natalia Martinez, Nathaly Martinez, Patrick Matin, Victoria McMillion, Jacob Montemayor, Adriana Morales, Delia Perez, Christopher Rodriguez, Yaqueline Serrrano and Keyla Valentin.

Twenty-six teacher of the year awards were given to: James Arceneaux, Fre'Drika Aubrey, Tiffany Baldon, Bernadette Bamba, Glenton Beadle, Mary Dale-Craven, Alejandra Cruz, Vonthisha DeFriend, Rachel Estrada, Paola Fernández Cervantes, Du Wayne La Fountain, Camryn Goodman, Whitney Kenney, Kelly Kruzman, Cynthia Luna, Noah Munger, Tonya Murphy, Juan Rangel, Alisha Robinson, Crystal Rosas, Marisol Sanchez, Whitley Savage, Gerardina Torres, Tyneasha Turk, Noelia Vargas and

Sixty-two awards for length of time served, Roger Banks, Page Berglan, Erin Bilski, Ruby Bonilla, Allison Campbell, Mary Craven, Angelica Cuellar, Nikkia Eagleton, Deborah Eaton, Lawrence Etienne, Ana Galvan, Celia Gonzales, Jovita Gutierrez, Arlonda Henderson, Mary Hernandez, Angela Hughes, Miroslava Ibarra, Margarita Janice, Janie Lanham, Jose Lerma,

Steven Lewis, Tonya Lloyd, Denise Maddux, Rosalinda Ortiz, David Pierson, Maria Ramirez,

Thelma Rodriguez, Linda Schoffield, Maria Tamez, Marlon Trent, Danielle Venable, Byron Williams, Rhonda Wright and Martha Yanez.

Sixty-eight district employees retired from various depart-

HOUSTON EASTSIDE

We are excited to announce that our next "Eastside Prayer



Diamond Jim: "What is Alexandrite and Where is it found"

Often described by gem aficionados as "emerald by day, ruby by night," Alexandrite is the very rare colorchange variety of the mineral chrysoberyl. Originally discovered in Russia's Ural Mountains in the 1830s, it's now found in Sri Lanka, East Africa, and Brazil, but fine material is exceptionally rare and valuable.





This 7.19-carat alexandrite was cut to feature its beautiful color change. When the light source changes from daylight to incandescent light, the gem's color changes from bluish green to reddish purple.

Alexandrite, with its chameleon-like qualities, is a rare variety of the mineral chrysoberyl. Its color can be a lovely green in daylight or fluorescent light, changing to brownish or purplish red in the incandescent light from a lamp or candle flame. This is a result of the complex way the mineral absorbs light. Alexandrite's dramatic color change is sometimes described as "emerald by day, ruby by night." Other gems also change color in response to a light-source change, but this gem's transformation is so striking that the phenomenon itself is often called "the alexandrite effect."

Alexandrite is also a strongly pleochroic gem, which means it can show different colors when viewed from different directions. Typically, its three pleochroic colors are green, orange, and purple-red. However, the striking color change doesn't arise from the gem's pleochroism, but rather from the mineral's unusual lightabsorbing properties. Because of its scarcity, especially in larger sizes, alexandrite is a relatively expensive member of the chrysoberyl family. It shares its status as a June birthstone with cultured pearl and moonstone.

Abundant alexandrite deposits were first discovered in 1830 in Russia's Ural Mountains. Those first Alexandrite were of very fine quality and displayed vivid hues and dramatic color change. The gem was named after the young Alexander II, heir apparent to the throne. It caught the country's attention because its red and green colors mirrored the national military colors of imperial Russia.

The spectacular Ural Mountain deposits didn't last forever, and now most alexandrite comes from Sri Lanka, East Africa, and Brazil. The newer deposits contain some fine-quality stones, but many display less-precise color change and muddier hues than the nineteenth-century Russian Alexandrite. You'll still find estate jewelry set with some of the famed Ural Mountain Alexandrite. They remain the quality standard for this phenomenal gemstone.

More importantly, since 2015, you can find Alexandrite right here in Houston (believe it or not) at Pineforest Jewelry. Now isn't that something!

If you are looking for any genuine Alexandrite, look no further than Pineforest Jewelry. Contact us if you would like to set up a private appointment.

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

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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.

diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other $questions\ related\ to\ the\ jewelry\ industry,\ email$







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OPINION PAGE \bigstar \bigstar



Remembering Uvalde One Year later; Ending gun violence

One year ago, 19 students and 2 teachers were senselessly murdered, and 17 others were injured at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texasmaking it the deadliest school shooting since Sandy Hook Elementary in 2012.

No family should ever experience the pain of losing a loved one to gun violence.

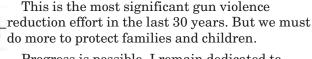
As your representative, I've been listening to your voices and working tirelessly to address this issue. Recently, I conducted a district-wide text message survey on gun reform, and the responses were striking. An overwhelming majority of TX-29 residents expressed support for common-sense

- 77% support an assault weapons ban.
- 92% support red flag laws.
- 94% believe domestic abusers should be disarmed.
- 95% agree that background checks should be required for all gun sales.

Last year, Congress took a significant step forward with the passage of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, signed into law by President

This law will save lives because it delivers the

- \$750 million for states to create laws that keep guns out of the hands of people who are dangerous to themselves and/or others;
- enhanced background checks for people under age 21;
- more than \$2.3 billion for school safety programs, mental health support for students, and improved learning conditions; and
- \$250 million in community-based violence prevention programs.



Progress is possible. I remain dedicated to fighting for comprehensive gun reform policies,

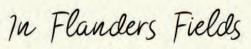
- including: Raising the age to purchase an assault rifle
- Strengthening gun storage requirements. • Cracking down on gun trafficking.
- Outlawing high-capacity magazines.

When it comes to keeping our communities safe, there can be no debate. The time for action is NOW. I will always put the children of Texas and the safety of my constituents first. No child deserves to live in fear that they will become the next school shooting victim. Schools are meant for books, not bullets.

I won't stop until we are all safe from preventable gun violence.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5906 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.

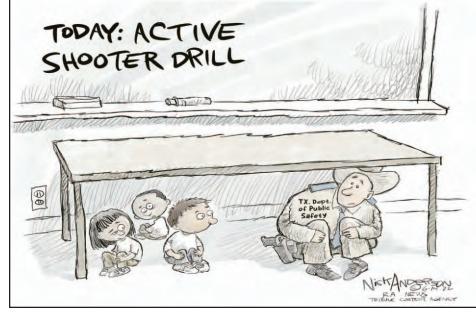
Memorial Day 2023



In Flanders fields the poppies blow Between the crosses row on row, That mark our place; and in the sky The larks, still bravely singing, fly Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, Loved and were loved and now we lie In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe: To you, from failing hands we throw The torch; be yours to hold it high. If ye break faith with us who die We shall not sleep, though poppies grow, In Flanders fields.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Texas House Impeaches AG Paxton

The Texas House voted overwhelmingly to impeach Attorney General Ken Paxton Saturday, only the third time in the state's history that has occurred.

The Austin American-Statesman and numerous news outlets reported the chamber voted 121-23 to remove Paxton, 60, from office while he awaits a trial in the Senate during a special session yet to be called.

Last week a House investigations committee heard evidence from investigators and sent 20 articles of impeachment against Paxton.

The evidence presented by investigators against Paxton included a 2015 state securities case, an ongoing federal probe into his connection with campaign donor Nate Paul, an Austin real estate developer, and an extramarital affair he tried to conceal from his wife, state Sen. Angela Paxton, R-Allen.

Adding to Paxton's legal woes, a \$3.3 million settlement with some of his former employees who were whistleblowers fell apart after the House refused to approve paying it with taxpayer money. The case remains pending.

Rep. Andrew Murr tion, chair of the investigations committee, in closing remarks Saturday urged House members to vote in favor of impeachment.

"The evidence is substantial. It is alarming, and it is unnerving," he said.

Paxton called the bipartisan vote — 61 Democrats and 60 Republicans voted for impeachment — "politically motivat-

"The ugly spectacle in the Texas House today confirmed the outrageous impeachment plot against me was never meant to be fair or just," Paxton said in a statement.

BILL ENDING VEHICLE **INSPECTIONS HEADS TO ABBOTT**

Vehicles registered in Texas would no longer be required to pass safety inspections under a bill headed to Gov. Greg Abbott's desk, the Houston Chronicle reported.

House Bill 3297, sponsored by Rep. Cody Harris, R-Palestine, also creates a new annu-\$7.50 inspection replacement fee that will be



added to annual vehicle registration fees. Thus, owners won't save any money but will not have to take their vehicle to a licensed inspection station.

The measure passed the Senate along party lines, 20-11, with the Republican majority arguing the annual inspections are a burden to residents without making Texas roads safer.

Sen. Nathan Johnson. D-Dallas, told his fellow senators that a recent study by the American Society of Civil Engineers found fewer highway fatality deaths in states with an inspection program.

"It found that states that ave vehicle safety inspections have 5.5% fewer fatalities per year than states that don't have inspection programs. In Texas, that's 261 dead people every single year," Johnson

If Abbott signs the bill or allows it to become law without his signature, it will go into effect Sept. 1.

Texas is currently one of 15 states still requiring regular inspections. Although the statewide inspection rule is on its way out, vehicle emission inspections will still be required in 17 metropolitan

HOUSE APPROVES CHANGES TO UNIVERSITY TENURE **POLICIES**

The House last week gave approval to a bill changing tenure policies at the state's colleges and universities, the Statesman reported. The lower chamber's measure differs somewhat from the Senate version, which would completely ban public colleges and universities from grant tenure to faculty members beginning in



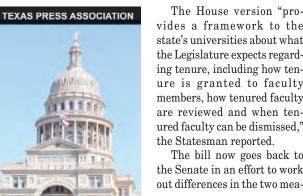
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vides a framework to the state's universities about what the Legislature expects regarding tenure, including how tenure is granted to faculty members, how tenured faculty are reviewed and when tenured faculty can be dismissed," the Statesman reported. The bill now goes back to

the Senate in an effort to work out differences in the two mea-

BUDGET WRITERS STRIKE \$321.3 BILLION TWO-YEAR DEAL

Budget writers for the Texas House and Senate have come to agreement on a \$321.3 billion two-year budget that includes \$12.3 billion for property tax cuts and provides considerable new funding for higher education, the energy grid, mental health and broadband, according to the Texas Tribune. The property tax reductions are dependent on passage of a constitutional amendment in November.

A \$15 billion supplemental spending proposal uses some of the state's record surplus to provide funding for a higher education endowment, enhanced retirement for public school teachers, border security, Medicaid costs and state debt reduction, according to the Tribune.

Both plans were expected to get floor votes in each chamber before session adjournment on Monday night.

BOATERS URGED TO 'CLEAN, DRAIN AND DRY'

Texans have begun heading to state lakes and waterways as Memorial Day weekend kicks off the summer boating season. Officials with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department urge boaters and paddlers to protect Texas lakes from invasive aquatic species.

"Memorial Day weekend is the unofficial kick-off to boating season in Texas, and while we want everyone to have a great time, we also want them to avoid giving free rides to invasive species and helping them travel to new lakes," said Brian Van Zee, TPWD Inland Fisheries regional director. "The best way to prevent the spread of many harmful aquatic invasive species is to clean, drain and dry your boats and equipment - every time."

The biggest threat to Texas lakes is zebra mussels and giant salvinia, which continues to spread to new areas of Texas. Other invasive species that can be spread include quagga mussels, crested floating heart, and water hyacinth.

Giant salvinia is now found on 27 East Texas lakes and numerous creeks, marshes and rivers between Houston and Beaumont, according to TPWD. Zebra mussels are now found in 36 Texas lakes and in rivers downstream of infested

TPWD urges boaters to follow three simple steps to reduce the risk of spreading invasive species: 1. Remove mud, plants and debris. 2. Drain all water from the boat and gear. 3. Once home, open all compartments and let everything dry completely for at least a week, if possible.

POSTSCRIPT Carrie Classon

"Too Old"

My new friend, Betty Lou, started a book club, and she asked me to join.

I was delighted. I hadn't been in a book club for a long time. Because she is a librarian, Betty Lou knows better than most the importance of reading a variety of things and so, at the very first meeting, we read a graphic novel.

None of the members of this group are young, and this was the first graphic novel most of us had read. We weren't sure what to say about it.

"This book is very heavy!" one member finally said.

"It's a doorstop!" said an-

We all agreed we were not crazy about the weight of the book. I wondered if a book club should really be concerned with how much a book weighs, but I figured it was a legitimate concern if you could injure yourself by dropping it. And we did, eventually, get to what was inside.

There were a lot of pictures," I pointed out.

Since it was a graphic novel, this should not have been a surprise. Still, there were a lot more pictures than I expected, and I didn't want to look at them all. I wanted to get on with the story. But the story wasn't being told with a lot of words- it was being told with pictures. I realized this, but it didn't make me want to look at the pictures, it just made me want more words. I began to think that I was not a good reader for graphic novels.

"Are we just too old for this?" one of the members asked. The question hung in

"It's an important story!" another member said, and we

We talked about all the important things the book was saying, and we all agreed they were things that should be said.

"But shouldn't it be more entertaining?" I asked.

I felt a little like the boy pointing out that the emperor had no clothes. Everyone looked a little relieved. We all agreed that it should be more entertaining than it was -at least for us. We suspected other people (younger people) might have more fun reading this than we were.

I don't think of myself as being too old for very much. I know younger people are better at some things (anything involving technology), but I don't consider myself too old to learn.

Still, there might be things I am simply too old to enjoy. Graphic novels might be one of them. I'm not sure if that's a bad thing or not.

There are things I know I will not try because I am no longer young - skateboarding, for instance, video games, learning more languages or how to draw. Theoretically, I could learn to do any of these things, and yet I am pretty sure I will not. It occurs to me it would be

good to take at least one of those activities off the "Things I Will Never Do" list and move it over to the "Things I Just Started Doing" list. And yet my day already seems filled with the things I'm doing, things I already enjoy.

And so I'm glad Betty Lou got us to read a graphic novel, even if it was not my favorite book. Now I can say I've read one, and I am reminded that there are many ways of telling stories, even if not all of those stories are interesting to me.

It was a good reminder. It's just the sort of reminder you might expect from a librarian.

Till next time,

Carrie

To see photos, check out CarrieClassonAuthor on Facebook visit o r CarrieClasson.com.



San Jacinto College debuts new College mascot



PASADENA, Texas -San Jacinto College debuted its new Raven mascot with spirit rallies on the South, Central and North Campuses on Tuesday, April 25 2023.

The rallies were attended by San Jacinto College Board of Trustees members, employees, and students, and celebrated the announcement of Poe, the Raven.

"We are so excited to introduce our Raven, Poe, to our College community," said Dr. Allatia Harris, San Jacinto College Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives. "We all have a special place in our hearts for our three historic mascots, but it's time for one mascot to be part of all the milestones and growth that we will have in the future at San Jacinto College."

Last fall, San Jacinto College began the process of selecting a new mascot. A committee of employees and students from all campuses and work areas representing the College's diverse community of stakeholders sought suggestions for a new mascot. More than 1,700 people submitted more than 50 ideas. The committee narrowed it down to two for

the San Jacinto College community to vote on - the Jaguar and the Raven. More than 6,200 votes were cast, and the Raven will now represent San Jacinto College as the mas-

As San Jacinto College's original mascot chosen by students more than 60 years ago, the Raven has been an integral piece of tradition throughout the College's history. Originally selected as a nod to General Sam Houston who the Cherokee Nation named "Colonneh," which translates to "The Raven" General Houston led the Texas Army at the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836 that won Texas its independence.

The Ravens began what has been a rich athletics history for San Jacinto College with nationally ranked basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, soccer, and track and field teams that produced 12 national championships and several professional athletes since the early 1960s. Ravens are also said to represent intelligence, resourcefulness, wisdom, adaptability, and opportunity. The new Raven will serve as an echo to tradition and as an opportunity

for rebirth and redefining new traditions for new generations of students, alumni, and community members.

About San Jacinto Col-

Surrounded by monuments of history, evolving industries, maritime enterprises of today, and the space age of tomorrow, San Jacinto College has served the people of East Harris County, Texas, since 1961. The College is one of the top 10 community colleges in the nation as designated by the Aspen Institute, and was named an Achieving the Dream Leader College of Distinction in 2020. The College is a Hispanic-Serving Institution that spans five campuses, serving approximately 41,000 credit and non-credit students annually. It offers more than 200 degrees and certificates across eight major areas of study that put students on a path to transfer to four-year institutions or enter the workforce. The College is fiscally sound, holding bond ratings of AA and Aa2 by Standard & Poor's and Moody's.

For more information about San Jacinto College visit sanjac.edu.



Bezos Academy-North Shore is Accepting Applications Now for the 2023–2024 School Year.

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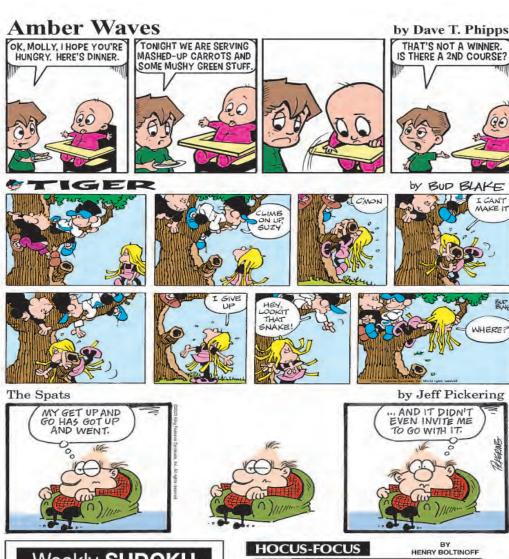
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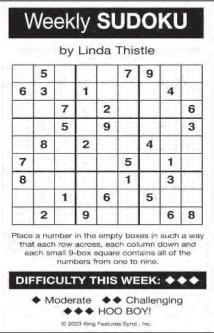


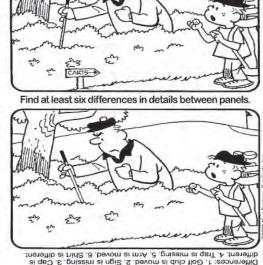
ENTERTAINMENT



in the Rue Morgue" by Edgar Allen Poe.; 6. Pompeii and Herculaneum.; 7. The Albu-1. 1977.; 2. North Atlantic Ocean.; 3. Art Fleming.; 4. Cerebellum.; 5. "The Murders

Trivia Test Answerst





nces: 1. Golf club is moved. 2. Sign is missing. 3. Cap is nt. 4. Trap is missing. 5. Arm is moved. 6. Shirt is different. querque Isotopes.; 8. Food baked in a pastry crust.; 9. Peanut.; 10. Subway.

Answer Weekly SUDOKU

Solution time: 23 mins. - King Crossword

May 29, 2023 Posting Date Crossword

Zero, in tennis 38 39 48 49

49 Military group 50 "A Doll's House" hero-

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20 Cleric's tunic VOU

21 It grows on 22 Initial chip

23 Crime lab specimen 24 Glenn of the

Eagles 26 Very small batteries © 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

27 Dol. fractions

28 Try out 29 Merit badge holder 31 Endures

34 Common title start 35 Brick workers

And so on (Abbr.) Yale students

39 Cilium 40 Elevator name

"The Thin Man" dog

44 Blackbird 45 Tier 46 Epoch

47 Actor

Waterston

Rodriguez

1. MOVIES: When was the first "Star Wars" movie released?

2. GEOGRAPHY: In which body of water is Bermuda located?

3. TELEVISION: Who was the first host of the game show "Jeopardy!"?

ANATOMY: Which part of the brain controls balance and coordination? 5. LITERATURE: Which short story is

described as the first modern detective story? 6. ANCIENT WORLD: Which two cities were destroyed by a volcano in 79 A.D.?

7. U.S. CITIES: What is the nickname of Albuquerque's (New Mexico) minor league baseball

8. FOOD & DRINK: What does "en croute" mean?

9. U.S. PRESIDENTS: What kind of farm did Jimmy Carter have before he became president? 10. AD SLOGANS: Which restaurant urges customers to "Eat fresh"?

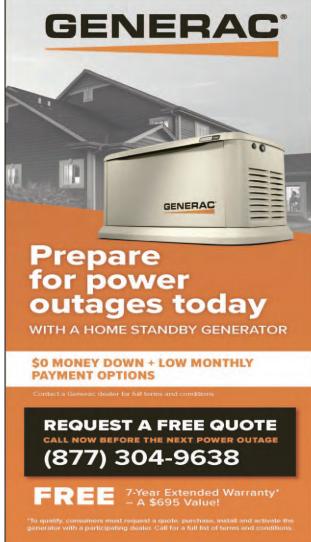
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HELP WANTED

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Channelview I.S.D. will accept Sealed Request for Proposals for the following:

- RFP# 2223-003 Milk Coolers
- RFP# 2223-004 Cambro Flex Stations

Bids will be received until 10:00 a.m., Friday, June 02, 2023, at the Channelview ISD's Ebidding website. Please visit the electronic bidding website at https://cvisd.ionwave.net

All necessary information may be obtained by calling the Business Office at (281) 452-8003, or the district website <u>www.cvisd.org</u>, under Departments → Business Office → Purchasing. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Channelview I.S.D. will accept Sealed Request for Proposals for the following:

RFP# 2225-001 – Depository Services

Bids will be received until 10:00 a.m., Friday, June 02, 2023, at the Channelview ISD's Ebidding website. Please visit the electronic bidding website at https://cvisd.ionwave.net

All necessary information may be obtained by calling the Business Office at (281) 452-8003, or the district website <u>www.cvisd.org</u>, under Departments → Business Office → Purchasing. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Channelview I.S.D. will accept Sealed Request for Proposals for the following:

RFP# 2324-001 – BIDS

Bids will be received until 10:00 a.m., Friday, June 16, 2023, at the Channelview ISD's Ebidding website. Please visit the electronic bidding website at https://cvisd.ionwave.net

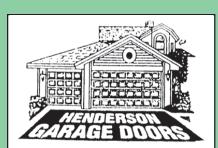
All necessary information may be obtained by calling the Business Office at (281) 452-8003, or the district website <u>www.cvisd.org</u>, under Departments → Business Office → Purchasing. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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50-280 (Rev. 4-22/6)

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LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE

School Debt Service Tax

LEGAL NOTICE

Channelview I.S.D. will accept Sealed Request for Proposals for the following:

• RFP# 2324-002 – Student/Athletic Accident Insurance Bids will be received until <u>10:00 a.m., Friday, June 16, 2023</u>, at the Channelview ISD's Ebidding website. Please visit the electronic bidding website at https://cvisd.ionwave.net

All necessary information may be obtained by calling the Business Office at (281) 452-8003, or the district website www.cvisd.org, under Departments → Business Office → Purchasing. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Notice for Private Nonprofit Schools with students who reside in the Galena Park ISD attendance area.

Please be advised that Galena Park ISD will hold a Zoom meeting for administrators of all Private Nonprofit Schools that have students who reside in the Galena Park ISD attendance area. Information on program planning, availability, and eligibility criteria of Federal funds and services (Title I, II, III, IV, and Special Education programs) will be held on Monday, June 19, 2023, at 9:00 am. For additional information about this meeting, please contact Amy Cole at 832-386-1028 or at acole@galenaparkisd.com.







NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS
BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Sheldon Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 7:00 pm, June 20, 2023 in Donald P. Ney Administration Building

Houston, Texas 77044 . The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax \$\,_0.955\,_/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)

Approved by Local Voters \$ 0.500 /\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	5.8	_% increase	or	n/a	_% (decrease)
Debt service	19.4	_% increase	or	n/a	_% (decrease)
Total expenditures	8.2	_% increase	or	n/a	_% (decrease)

<u>Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value</u> (as calculated under Tax Code Section 26.04)

	Prec	eding Tax Year	Current Tax Year		
Total appraised value* of all property	\$	7,842,834,944	\$	8,510,723,950	
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$	116,167,645	\$	289,630,917	
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$	6,443,108,746	\$	6,991,798,286	
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$	95,434,977	\$	237,939,917	

- "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(8).
 "New property" is defined by Tax Code Section 26.012(17).
- *** "Taxable value" is defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(10).

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$ 367 MM

* Outstanding principal.

50-280 (Rev. 4-22/6) (Back)

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

		tenance erations	<u>& Si</u>	Interest nking Fund*	<u>Total</u>	 l Revenue Student	 Revenue Student
Last Year's Rate	\$	0.95500	\$	0.46000*	\$ 1.41500	\$ 8,408	\$ 4,540
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenand Operations Revenue	:e &						
Pay Debt Service	\$	0.97575	\$	0.50188*	\$ 1.47763	\$ 9,046	\$ 4,477
Proposed Rate	\$	0.95500	\$	0.50000*	\$ 1.45500	\$ 8,085	\$ 4,682

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	<u>Last Year</u>		<u>This '</u>	<u>Year</u>	
Average Market Value of Residences	\$	184,333	\$	205,306	
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$	119,879	\$	131,713	
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$	1.415	\$	1.455	
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$	1,696	\$	1,916	
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes			Ś	240	

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-	Approval Rate: The highes	t tax rate the district car	n adopt before requiring voter appr	oval at
an election is _	1.455	. This election will be au	utomatically held if the district ado	pts a
rate in excess of	the voter-approval rate of	1.455	,	

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s) \$ 44.5 MM
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s) \$ 12.5 MM

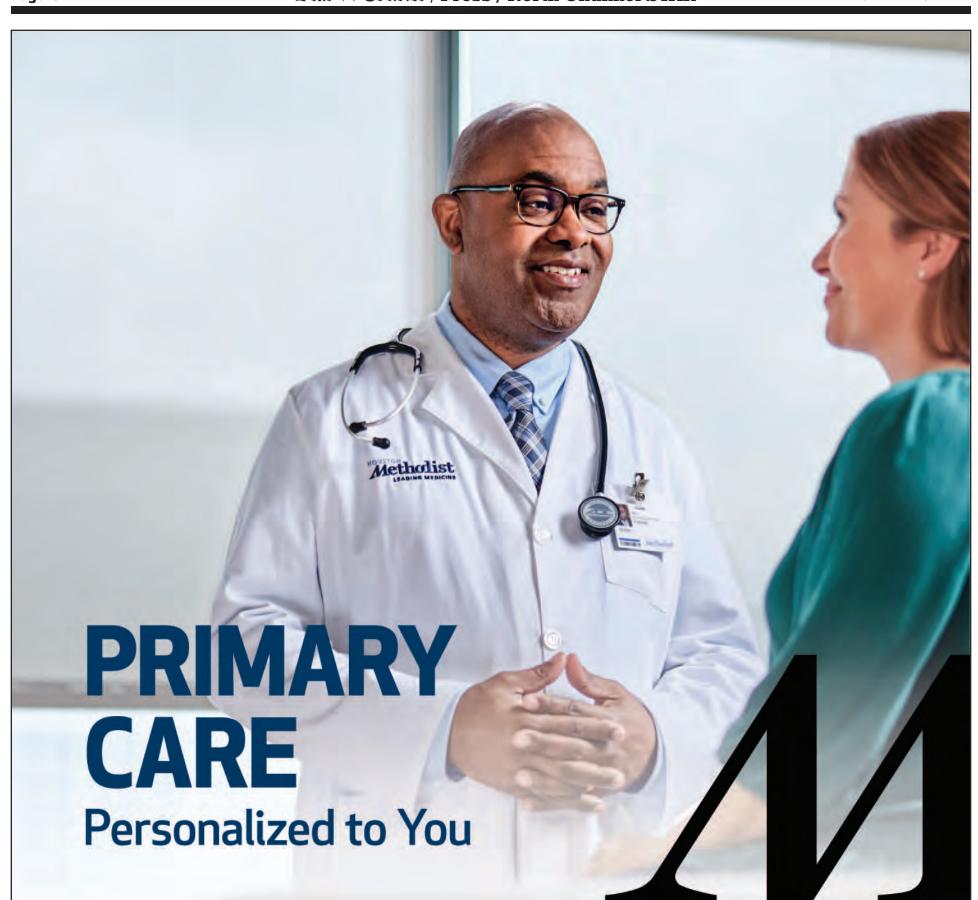
A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each

entity that taxes your property.

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





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