



Channelview ISD Superintendent Dr. Tory Hill welcomes students and staff back for another school year. See Message, Page 2.

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CHANNEL CURRENTS

Rotary Washer Tourney set for Saturday, Sept. 9

Highlands Rotary Club will hold their annual 3-Hole Washer Board Charity Tournament on Saturday, September 9, 2023 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.

The Tournament starts at 1:00pm Sharp, at Charlie's Ice House, 906 N. Main Street in Highlands.

All teams must register and sign in no later than 12:30pm the day of the tournament.

TEAMS: 2 person teams, \$50 per team entry, Double Elimination rules. Awards and Prize Money for the top 3 teams, \$150, \$100, and \$50.

SPONSORSHIPS: Board Sponsors at \$100 and \$200; T-Shirt Sponsors at \$150 and \$250; Major Sponsor available at \$500 with benefits.

Event includes a Raffle for a Liquor Wagon.

Contact Denise Smith niecy1616@gmail.com, or Patricia Scott plscott1957@gmail.com to enter or for info.

Proceeds benefit the Rotary Foundation and Polio Plus.



FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25
Magnolia West at **Barbers Hill**, 7 p.m., Eagle Stadium in Mont Belvieu
Crosby at C. E. King, 7 p.m., Panther Stadium in Houston
Humble at **Channelview**, 7 p.m., Ray Maddy Memorial Stadium in Channelview
Porter at **Dayton**, 7 p.m., Bronco Stadium in Dayton
Galena Park at Goose Creek Memorial, 7 p.m., Stallworth Stadium in Baytown
Legacy School of Sport Sciences at **Huffman Hargrave**, 7 p.m., Falcon Stadium in Huffman
North Shore at The Woodlands, 7 p.m., Woodforest Bank Stadium in Shenandoah

County brings 'Listening' Meeting to Flukinger Center

By David Taylor
North Channel Star

A dozen or so residents in the Channelview area turned out to give their thoughts on how they'd like to see tax dollars spent over the next five years at a public meeting in the Flukinger Center last week. Almost as many county officials were on hand to answer questions and listen to residents wants and needs on proposals that would improve the area.

"We are in the beginning of our five-year Consolidated Plan process," said Walter Peacock, assistant director of planning for Harris County Community Services Department.



Airon Holliday watches as David Suman points out different parts of the maps where residents placed different colored stars looking for help from the county HUD funds while Crystal Keller looks on. (Photo by David T)

The plan relates to entitlement funding for the county that comes from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"HUD requires us to have a consolidated plan

that will either be for three or five years to talk about how we will fund different national objectives that has been spelled out by the department, and what projects we're going to do over that time" Peacock

explained.

He said over the next few weeks, they will gather information from residents across the county who will tell them what is most important to them as it relates to infrastructure, public facilities, safety, veteran services, homelessness and many more objectives.

"We will do one of these meetings in each one of the precincts and that will tell us what the community wants the most and allocate funds based on those comments," he said.

Unfortunately, the meeting didn't attract as many people as they hoped, but Peacock promised additional county-wide meetings for those

who were unable to attend.

With the opinions they gathered last week, the Community Services Department will be able to make goals and visions for public housing, water lines, infrastructure, veterans services, and other projects requested by the public.

While the meeting was primarily based on HUD requirements, Peacock said they still wanted to hear from the public about anything they wanted for their community.

"While we might not be able to help, what we could possibly do is leverage our

CONTINUED. See Listening Meeting to Flukinger Center, Page 2

Capitol Bank I-10 Manager Al Gutierrez retires

By Allan Jamail
North Channel Star

Jacinto City, TX. August 15, 2023 at the IH-10 Jacinto City Capital branch location many of the bank's present, former clients and bank staff gathered to celebrate and wish retiring Al Gutierrez the bank's manager for his 30 years of service to the bank and the surrounding communities.

The City of Jacinto City proclaimed August 15, 2023 as Al Gutierrez Day in the city.

State Representative Ana Hernandez 's certificate of recognition stated that it was her privilege to extend her sincere congratulations on his retirement from Capital Bank after 30



Jacinto City's Councilwoman Carmela Garcia (left) and Linda Jamail (right), Community Liaison for State Rep. Ana Hernandez present retiring Al Gutierrez, Capital Bank's I-10 Center Manager with a proclamation and certificate of recognition for his community involvement. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

years of service, and may this day commemorate your outstanding career

and extend best wishes for the future.

Guests were served

cake, cookies and refreshments.

Many spoke and thanked Gutierrez for his help in taking care of their needs.

NC Star writer Allan Jamail said he's heard through the years from many how Gutierrez went beyond most would expect any bank manager would do to take care of their business and personal needs.

"Mr. Gutierrez met my grandson Isaiah Jamail a couple years ago and set-up his college banking account and personally assisted him on how to best use the bank's services," Jamail said.

Capital Bank and Al Gutierrez through the years has always been

there sponsoring the City's senior and youth activities. Gutierrez has truly made the bank a "community bank".

Al Gutierrez's retirement statement below.

Dearest Customers and Friends,

I want to announce that I will be retiring from Capital Bank on August 15, after 30 years of service. It has been my pleasure in servicing you with all your banking needs. I have enjoyed our talks and sharing family stories. I am glad that you felt comfortable enough in sharing your personal stories with me. I will treasure those

Continued. See Gutierrez Retirement, Page 3

Woodland Acres students receive backpack gifts

By Allan Jamail
North Channel Star

August 15, 2023 – At the GPISD Woodland Acres Elementary School the student wildcats received free backpacks through the partnership of State Representative Ana Hernandez and the Port of Houston.

Sandra Rodriguez, Principal said, "We are thankful that the Port of Houston and State Representative Ana Hernandez collaborated to offer this generous donation to our campus. The students backpacks will help pro-



PHOTO LEFT: Those attending the Woodland Acres Elementary backpack give-away event.

Front Row: Students Wildcats L~ R: Jason Garza, Sofia Guerra, Jayden Mendoza & Raena Cofield.

Back Row: L ~ R: Alaide Zavala, Assistant Principal, Monica Glover, Port of Houston, Deputy Carl Smith, Prct. 2, State Rep. Ana Hernandez, Sandra Rodriguez, Principal & Dr. John Moore, Superintendent, GPISD. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

vide those in need as well as replace students' backpacks throughout the year."

Dr. John Moore, GPISD

Continued. See WOODLAND ACRES BACKPACKS, Page 7

THEA/SJRC meeting set for August 29 in Highlands

HIGHLANDS – THEA (Texas Health and Environment Alliance) has announced an Important Upcoming Meeting On the Superfund Cleanup at the San Jacinto River.

The San Jacinto River Coalition will meet August 29th at 6pm to discuss remediation at the Waste Pits Superfund Site.

We will discuss three very important topics:

- When we talk to residents one-on-one, we hear about loved ones lost, illnesses and cancer, especially cases striking the very young. We need to



come together and push the state to update its study of cancer rates in the community.

- The cleanup at the Southern Pit is proceeding on schedule. We'll talk about the next steps.

- Unfortunately, the EPA is not moving quickly enough to finalize the remediation at the Northern

Pit and it looks like we will experience another hurricane season with no action. We need your feedback on keeping the process on track.

Join us: August 29th, 6pm, San Jacinto Community Center, 604 Highland Woods Drive, Highlands, TX 77562.

NS Rotary hears annual Coaches Previews



Local High School Football coaches previewed the Season at last week's North Shore Rotary luncheon. ABOVE, Rotary President Lee Brown presents Gold Rimmed Cups to North Shore's WILLIE GASTON, CE King's GEORGE YOUNG, Channelview's MARION HURTS, and Galena Park HS's SPIRO AMARANTOS. Each coach spoke about their teams prospects, players and opponents for the coming season. (Photo by Gil Hoffman)

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Dual Credit Students Earn STEM Letter Jackets

Sheldon ISD King High School students earned their STEM patch for letterman jackets by passing their dual credit classes through San Jacinto College last semester. Beginning in 2023-24, the high school program will be a P-Tech Academy (Pathways in Technology Early College High School) providing a way for students to receive endorsements in areas like engineering, computer science, cybersecurity and biomedical science as well as an opportunity to earn an associates degree in STEM.



CHANNELVIEW ISD NEWS

Superintendent Dr. Tory Hill welcomes back students, staff

As the Superintendent of Channelview ISD, it brings me great joy to extend a warm welcome back as we prepare for the upcoming fall semester. Our theme for this year is #WeAreChannelview. I felt this theme was appropriate for this school year to remind us that we are a community that will strive to work together for the betterment of our students. I want Channelview to be a place where all can learn, work and live.

As we begin this new academic year, it is with a renewed sense of optimism and excitement. Our dedicated teachers and staff have been working tirelessly to prepare for the new academic year, and their enthusiasm and passion for education will undoubtedly inspire and empower our students.

I firmly believe in the power of collaboration and open communication. This year several community members, parents, educators and

students participated in a Strategic Planning Committee. This committee met regularly over the course of 6 months to develop the CISD 5 Year Strategic Plan. The first of its kind for CISD! We received feedback from the committee on how to improve the district and the strategic plan will help us do that. In addition, we officially adopted district colors, secondary logos, and a motto – “Empowered To Thrive”. It’s important to know, our traditional seal will not be replaced, it’s a part of the district’s history and we plan to cherish it.

I am incredibly optimistic about the possibilities that lie ahead of us. As we come together to embark on this new academic year, let us create a vibrant and nurturing educational community. Remember, #WeAreChannelview and our students are Empowered To Thrive.

-- Dr. Tory Hill

CISD Hosts 2nd Annual Back-2-School Bash for 3,500 Channelview Residents



Channelview, TX — August 15, 2023: Channelview ISD saw 3,500 visitors walk through the doors of the Bill Neal Center (BNC) on August 12 for its annual Back-to-School festival. The event featured representatives from all 11 CISD campuses as well as vendors and resources from local, state, and federal partners to supplement students for the first day of classes of the 2023-2024 school year.

With its inaugural event in 2022, the goal of the CISD Back-2-School Bash (B2SB) is to equip as many students as possible with clear or mesh backpacks, school supplies, and other resources from local vendors. The 2023 CISD B2SB saw an attendance rate increase of 40% from last year.

Collaborations with community partners such as Kroger Southwest, Greater Houston Office Products (GHOP), Harris County Public Library (HCPL), the East Harris County Empowerment Council (EHCEC), H-E-B, Harris County Community Youth Services, MEXCOR International, and the City of Houston helped provide 1,100 backpacks and 5,000 supplemental backpack booster kits to CISD students - enough supplies to equip 53% of all CISD students for the 23-24 academic school year.

“We are unique in that we are one of the few school districts in the greater Houston area that has this capability of equipping over half of our students with school supplies at no financial cost to their parents,” said CISD Superintendent Dr. Tory C. Hill. “The rapport between us and our local, state, and federal partners is unparalleled anywhere in the education sector in Harris County and we will continue to build relationships and maintain partnerships to help improve the lives of CISD families.”

Spearheaded by the CISD Department of Communications, the 2023 CISD B2SB took nearly six months of outreach and planning while requiring the collaboration of 19 CISD Departments and their resources to execute to completion.

“This was a unified effort”, said Hill. “It took a lot of manpower to bring this vision to fruition – and I’m proud of our team who come each and every day empowered to thrive to ensure that one of our flagship events succeeded with such a resounding impact to our community.”

Lila Hollin
Executive Director of Communications
Channelview Independent School District



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CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Expect More

Imagine someone arriving to work an hour early to reserve a parking spot for someone who then arrives forty-five minutes early to work, just to sit in their car. Imagine a parent who refuses to work in order to be present at their children’s extracurricular activities, yet is among the first to sign up for free items at Christmas and Back-to-School events.

Imagine the parent who spends money for their “night out” with friends yet will not buy their child a book from the school book fair?

Or how about the parent with the top of the line Mustang ordering from the local coffee shop while their toddler stands in the backseat, unrestrained by a car seat or seatbelt? What about the spouse who spends money weekly on buying breakfast and lunch while their spouse goes without health and dental insurance?

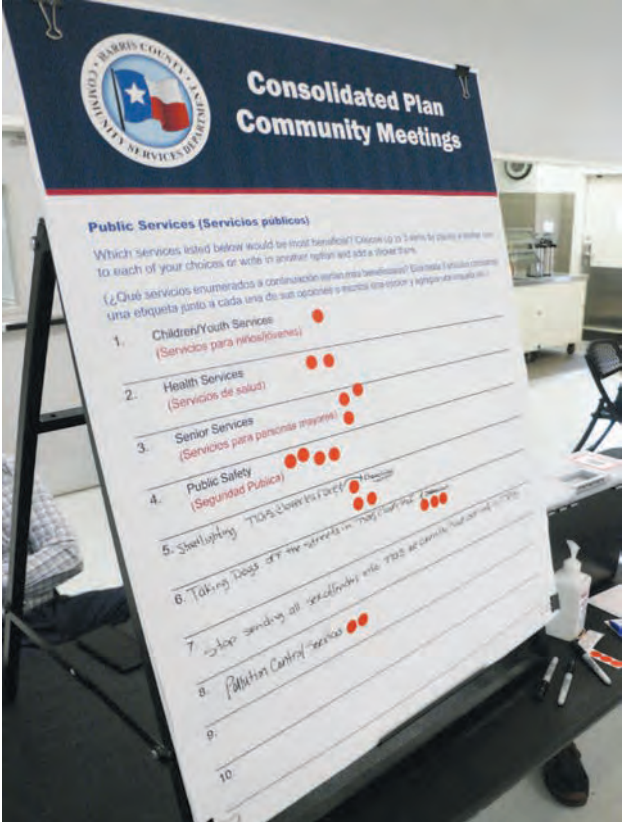
It is any wonder that we have young adults in the workplace who refuse to go the extra mile in helping others? I have witnessed young adults come to work, finish their assigned task and then pick up a book to read for the remainder of their shift. I have heard a struggling parent begging for help while her twenty-something son demands money to go off to play video games instead of applying for a job. I have seen young adults refuse a job unless it pays more than their parent earns after being in the workplace forty years.

How did America get to this point? Of course, parents want better for their children than they had, yet why are they afraid to hold them accountable? Why are they not setting an example? I see parents upset that they children are not treated fair, yet they do not see the mistakes that they made which led to their children following in their footsteps. I have watched two women grown up as friends. Both came from homes where they did not know their father. Both of their mothers had multiple children by multiple men. They went on to follow the same pattern. Their children had children out of wedlock. Both had a child go to prison. Both experienced drug and alcohol addiction. Both are raising grandchildren. They both want their grandchildren to do better, but are not doing anything to show them better choices. The two grandmothers are constantly arguing with or bashing the other on social media and in public.

How can we expect children to do better if we do not expect better? One of my pet peeves which my offend some people is that if a person must be eighteen to get a tattoo in Texas, unless parent signs a consent form at age seventeen, why do so many children under the age of eighteen have tattoos? Why are they allowed to represent schools in various activities from athletics to robotic competition? When did we lower our expectations of others? I wonder if when a child enters kindergarten and sees their teacher with tattoos or hears about the teacher and their same sex partner having children, what will they grow up to value in twelve years? We need to return to having some absolute values as well as expectations.

Listening Meeting at Flukinger Center,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Throughout the Flukinger Center were presentation boards where residents could vote on the items they would like to see the money spent on in their community. (Photo by David Taylor)

resources with another department, another non-governmental organization, to help them meet that demand,” he said. “We don’t want to stifle anything that a community member would want to say or want to bring up related to any of the needs here.”

Entitlement fundings increase and decreases based upon a formula, which is related to how many low to moderate income people you have in your population and the total population at home. Peacock estimated their last entitlement was over \$21 million but divided between the four precincts of Harris County.

The Annual Action Plan shows how the projects are divided out amongst the precincts through a request for proposal process.

David Suman, Geographic Information Systems analyst for Harris County, does a considerable amount of mapping for the county.

“We have a demographics dashboard here so if you scan the QR code, you can pull it up, and you can kind of look over what we call special geography like precincts or target areas for Harris County with general demographic information,” he said.

“This is an extremely important part of the process,” Suman explained.

“This gives us context on where to use these funds and Precinct 2 includes a wide swath of the county including Channelview, Galena Park, Jacinto City, LaPorte, and as far south as Nassau Bay near Clear Lake.

Many of the funds come in the form of Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) that target low to moderate income areas, Suman said.

“One of our goals is to get more people into homes to own them,” he said, explaining they have shied away from using funds for rental or utility assistance.

Peacock said the funds are basically broken up into three different pots—community development general funds used for infrastructure, public services funds, and home funds that can be tapped for housing downpayment assistance, voucher programs, and emergency services, he said.

Funds won’t be expended until the plan has been formulated and approved by HUD.

Miss the meeting? There are several more planned over the month of August. Residents can also go online to take the survey at bit.ly/HCCSDConsolidatePlanSurvey. For comments via email, send them to hconsolidatedplan@csd.hctx.net.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: “What is “Specie Money?””

With inflation still at high levels, it is becoming overwhelmingly evident to Americans that Federal Reserve notes steadily depreciate in value as a form of currency.

For example, an item that cost a silver dollar in 1913 – the year the Federal Reserve and federal income tax (16th Amendment) began – would cost close to \$31.00 unbacked dollars today, as pointed out recently by Dr. Thomas L. Hogan.

In contrast to today’s ubiquitous fiat currency, specie money was available to our recent ancestors and consisted of coins made of gold, silver, and copper that were stamped with a monetary value and deliverable to holders of paper bank notes when taken to a bank for redemption.



This historic form of money (i.e. commodity money or “specie” money) dominated the world as the primary means of exchange while holding its value and helping provide economic stability.

As renowned Austrian economist Carl Menger explained, specie money emerged spontaneously through the actions of individuals. It was not conceived by a single person or government, and no government compulsion was necessary to transition from a barter system to a sound money economy.

Coins minted in the United States, as well as those from countries like Spain, Mexico, Great Britain, France, and Portugal, contributed to the realm of specie money and were commonly used in global and domestic trade.

Fiat Money Drove Specie Money Out of Circulation

Gresham’s Law predicts that “good money” will be driven out of circulation by “bad money.” Through government actions, specie money was systematically replaced by Federal Reserve notes and clad coinage throughout the 20th century.

The last link to gold was severed by President Richard Nixon in 1971 whereupon the United States “temporarily suspended” (i.e. “permanently defaulted on”) the convertibility of the dollar as prescribed by the Bretton Woods Agreement between the world’s major central banks.

Today’s unbacked Federal Reserve note – still referred to as a “dollar” even though it does not meet the historical definition (372.5 grains of silver or about 0.775 troy ounces) – has now lost a staggering 98% of its purchasing power since the establishment of the Federal Reserve in 1913.

Modern-day paper currency (and its electronic equivalents) have long since been irredeemable in specie, making it a cinch for the government to issue this fiat currency as legal tender with reckless abandon.

As we live in an Age of Inflation, specie money reminds us that a more stable and sound monetary system once existed – and is possible for us to return to once more.

Conclusion

In conclusion, It is a wise and prudent choice to protect your “money” by owning silver and gold bullion (coins, bars, and rounds). Bank failures and horrible monetary policies are threatening your money now more than any time in our history. We at Pineforest Jewelry are bullion brokers, offering you the opportunity to purchase and own physical silver and gold with the lowest premiums available anywhere. We invite you to contact Jim C. at Pineforest Jewelry with any questions you may have by calling (713) 451-1321.

Let us know what topics you’d like to see covered next. We’re always here to answer your questions and make your Pineforest Jewelry experience a “WOW Experience”

Credit to Christopher Larsen for the content in this article.

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 jmills@pineforestjewelry.com.

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Gutierrez Retirement,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

talks for sure. My successor, Doris Ford will be stepping in as the new Banking Center Manager and Melissa Jasso will take over as Lobby Service Supervisor. I am confident that these two fine ladies will take good care of you

and your banking needs. Again, I want to express my gratitude for being my customer and friend. Sincerely, Al Gutierrez I-10 Banking Center Manager

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PET MATTERS

In Memory of
Susan Hoffman



Building Your Pet Disaster Evacuation Kit: Kids Edition

Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham Joins Comical Kids to Unbox Disaster Evacuation Bag for Pets



AUSTIN – Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D., is again joined by some of Texas’ silliest kids to unbox items pets will need in case of an evacuation during a disaster. In this **second video** of a comical and educational series aimed at encouraging Texans to prepare for natural disasters, children remind Texans not to forget their furry, finned, and feathered friends.

“As you prepare your family’s emergency plan, evacuation routes, and go-bag, remember to pack a separate bag with everything your pets need if you have to leave home in a hurry,” Commissioner Buckingham said. “For many of us, our pets are an extension of our family so they should have a bag, too. This task is a great way to include children in your disaster preparedness planning, even if that means using dog bowls as drums!”

Watch these comically clever kiddos help Commissioner Buckingham unbox a pet evacuation go bag: **WATCH UNBOXING VIDEO!**

The GLO encourages all Texans to prepare for hurricane season by preparing an evacuation “go bag” for their pets, including the following:

1. Each pet should have enough food and water to last them at least 3-7 days. Don’t forget to change out their food every 2 days
 2. If daily medication is required for your animal, be sure to have enough for at least two weeks and store them in an airtight container. In case of any injury to your pet, be sure to include a first-aid kit. Include the animal’s health and vaccinations record book with other documents.
 3. Bring copies of your animals’ registration papers, adoption information, or other records for each pet. Include pictures of your pets individually with you. This will help reunite you if your pet gets lost during an evacuation.
 4. Make sure your pet is microchipped, which provides the best chance for efficient reunification if you get separated during a disaster.
 5. You can begin preparing your livestock and horses for a natural disaster by maintaining an inventory, making sure animals have some type of identification, and planning evacuation arrangements.
- WATCH VIDEO FOR MORE TIPS!**

Whether excessive heat waves, powerful tornadoes or damaging hurricanes, it is important to be prepared to evacuate. Texas has had 372 declared disasters since 1953. Of Texas’ total declarations, more than 30% happened in August or later. Evacuations are more common than most may think, and few disasters come with a lot of warning time.

Download the **GLO’s Disaster Evacuation Checklist** for more information. Texans can follow along on social media, watch the GLO’s preparedness tips on YouTube, and find resources for family and pet preparedness at **recovery.texas.gov/petprepared**.



HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star Courier

This special edition will run the week leading up to the celebration on Sept. 23 and includes a history of Crosby’s last 200 years with vintage photos, a map of the parade route, a map with the location of all booths and activities, and a timeline of all activities planned for the week-end plus much more.

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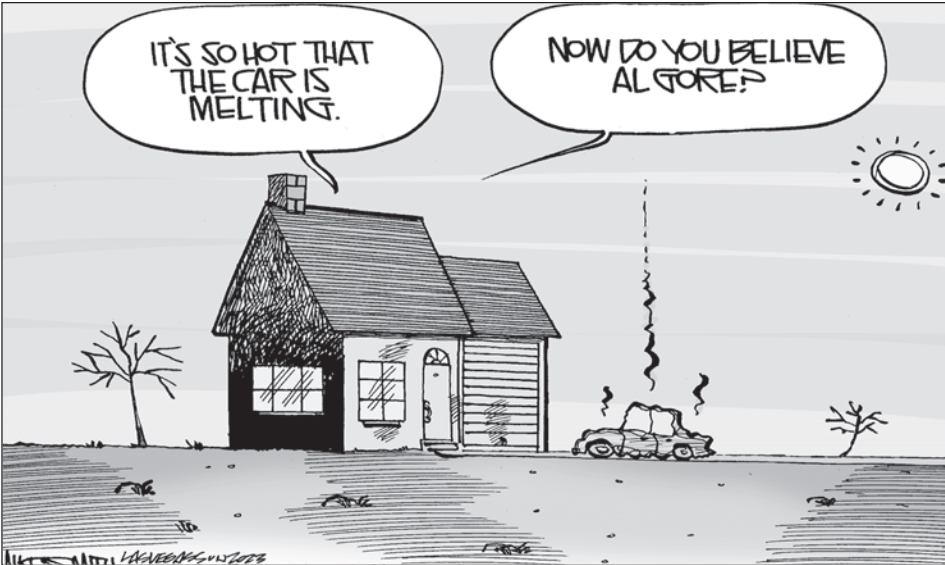
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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Record Sea Temps Could Spur more Hurricanes

Forecasters for the National Weather Service are anticipating a more active hurricane season this year because of record-warm ocean surface temperatures, the Texas Tribune reported.

Hurricane season runs through the end of November. The Climate Prediction Center now predicts six to 11 hurricanes this season in the Atlantic Ocean, with as many as five of those being major hurricanes. The new projection is considerably higher than the one released in May just before hurricane season commenced.

Bradley Brokamp, an NWS meteorologist in Galveston, said the higher prediction is the result of the higher sea surface temperatures.

“The name of the game this season seems to be the heat because it’s been quite exceptional,” Brokamp told the Tribune.

Another NWS meteorologist, Jeff Lutze, based in Corpus Christi, said the higher probability of Atlantic hurricanes increases the likelihood of a storm striking Southeast Texas.

“The big question mark is whether or not we’ll get the upper air pattern to allow the storms to get this far into the Gulf of Mexico,” Lutz said. Some of the most damaging hurricanes to hit Texas in recent years came in August or September.

FEDERAL GRAND JURY INVESTIGATING PAXTON

The Austin American-Statesman reported last week that federal prosecutors have seated a grand jury in San Antonio and called witnesses close to suspended Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton to testify. Paxton’s attorney has already confirmed that there is an active federal investigation of his client.

While the Justice Department has declined to comment, the secret proceedings come a few weeks before Paxton is set to stand trial for impeachment in the Texas Senate on bribery allegations involving Austin real estate developer Nate Paul, who was indicted on unrelated federal charges in May for mortgage fraud.



Paxton has been under indictment for securities fraud since 2015, with a trial set in Houston for February 2024. He was suspended without pay after the Texas House overwhelmingly passed 20 articles of impeachment in late May.

WILDFIRE DANGER CONTINUES TO INCREASE

Continued hot, dry weather has increased the number of wildfires, prompting the Texas A&M Forest Service to raise the State Wildfire Preparedness to Level 4, the second-highest level, in order to ensure resources are available to fight first breaking out across the state.

“Areas with high potential for wildfires include the Cross Timbers, Rolling Plains, Eastern/Western Hill Country where oak/juniper fuel is present and for the Western Pineywoods, as well as Central and Southeast Texas where pine fuel is present,” the service said.

As of Sunday, there were seven active fires, the largest being the Hawkeye Fire in Wichita County, consisting of 2,150 acres, which was 50% contained, and the Burnet 109 Fire, also in Wichita County, consisting of 2,126 acres, which was 75% contained.

Gov. Greg Abbott last Friday declared a wildfire disaster declaration in nearly 200 Texas counties, while burn bans are now in place in 181 counties.

July was hotter and drier than norm for most of the state, according to Mark Wentzel, a hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board, with 49% of the state now in drought, up 25 percentage points since the

ABBOTT SIGNS LARGEST PROPERTY TAX CUT IN STATE HISTORY

Abbott last week ceremonially signed legislation that — if voters approve it in November as expected — will provide what he is calling the largest property tax cut in Texas history. The \$18 billion reduction raises the homestead exemption to \$100,000 and provides other tax-reduction measures.

Voters will decide its fate as one of 14 proposed constitutional amendments in November. The measure is widely expected to pass, as do most measures to reduce taxes when placed on the ballot. “As the saying goes, everything is bigger in Texas—and now that includes property tax relief,” House Speaker Phelan said at the ceremony.

ERCOT GRID HOLDS UP DESPITE RECORD TEMPERATURES

The state’s electric grid, which supplies electricity to 90% of the state and is run by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, has thus far withstood record demand brought on by the summer heat. An analysis by the Dallas Morning News points to two factors for the grid’s ability to meet that demand: planning and renewable energy.

“The secret to ERCOT’s success has been astonishingly high levels of performance to date by the wind and solar ... and by the thermal fleet,” Alison Silverstein, an electric system reliability consultant and researcher, told the News. The latter refers to the state’s gas, coal and nuclear power plants.

In preparing for demand, ERCOT made conservative estimates of how much energy each power plant could generate and accounted for worst-case scenarios in preparing for summer.

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE PROMPTS NEW TPWD RULES

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department issued new rules limiting movement and testing restrictions for white-tailed deer in deer breeding facilities after receiving confirmation of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in nine deer breeding facilities in seven counties this year.

As the Texas Standard reported, CWD threatens both the deer and the state’s hunting economy. White-tailed deer hunting generates more than \$4 billion of economic activity in the state each year. The new rules aim to manage the spread of the disease.

MCWD is a fatal neurological disease found in deer, elk, moose and other members of the deer family. It progresses slowly and may not produce visible signs for several years

“Since 2021, we have seen an increase in CWD detections from breeder deer at an unprecedented rate,” said John Silovsky, Wildlife Division Director for TPWD. “It’s our hope that these emergency rules will strengthen our surveillance and reduce the number of CWD positive detections across the state.”



THE POSTSCRIPT

By
Carrie Classon

Hola Hour

Every day, whether here in Mexico or in the US, I take a walk. Walking in the morning would be nice, but that’s when I write, so, in the afternoon, I head out to see what the world looks like.

I always greet a lot of people on my walk, no matter which country I am in. I talk to dogs if there are dogs involved, or I comment on the weather, or I compliment what someone is wearing, or I simply say, “Hello.”

I do pretty much the same thing in either country, and my ability to converse with dogs in Spanish has improved dramatically, but there is one complication in Mexico that I do not encounter in the US, and I have taken to calling it the “Hola Hour.”

Because what one typically says in the afternoon to a stranger (unless I am complimenting their hat or their dog or noting the imminence of rain) is simply, “Buenas tardes,” (“Good afternoon!”)

In English, this sounds a little formal, but teenagers and old women and shopkeepers and street workers all say it. It is the universal greeting—until it isn’t.

As it turns to night, everyone naturally starts saying, “Buenas noches,” (“Good evening.”) This seems pretty straightforward, but determining when to stop saying “Good afternoon” and start saying “Good evening” is far more complicated than it seems.

I used to think there was some magic time that changed incrementally as the season changed, and everyone knew they should start saying “Good evening.” But I could never determine when this was. Was it completely dark? No. Perhaps it was just as the sun set? Not necessarily. Maybe it was the quality of light or when the streetlights turned on?

I would sometimes ask for a clarification: “Is it evening? Or is it still afternoon?” Whoever I asked would scan the sky and give me an answer that sounded very certain. I assumed this knowledge of when afternoon changed definitively to night was something one must be born in the culture to learn, and I would never be able to make this determination on my own.

But I don’t think I was correct.

Because in this twilight time—with the sun either up or down, depending on your altitude, or the buildings in the way, or the number of trees, or the density of clouds, or any number of other complications in this brief time of less than an hour—I don’t think anyone knows.

And the reason I believe this is because people start saying “Hola.” They simply say “Hello.”

It’s a simple solution. No one wants to get it wrong. No one wants to get into an argument about it. So, when it’s too close to call, people start saying “Hola” to me instead of “Good afternoon,” before they’ve begun to say, “Good evening.”

I shared my theory with Jorge, the owner of our hotel. It was a slightly complicated thing to explain in Spanish, but Jorge is very patient. In the past, I had asked Jorge, “Is it afternoon? Or is it evening?” and Jorge, like everyone else I asked before, claimed to know exactly which it was.

But when I shared my theory about the “Hola Hour,” he laughed. And he said, “It is true.”

Jorge looked just a little embarrassed, as though I’d discovered a secret. And I was pleased.

It takes a very long time to understand another culture, and there are many things I will never know. But I feel much better prepared for the Hola Hour tomorrow.

Till next time,
Carrie

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.0500 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of Harris County Emergency Service District No. 12.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.0500 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.0426 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.0460 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.0538 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2023 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Harris County Emergency Service District No. 12 from the same properties in both the 2022 tax year and the 2023 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that Harris County Emergency Service District No. 12 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for Harris County Emergency Service District No. 12 exceeds the voter-approval rate for Harris County Emergency Service District No. 12.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for Harris County Emergency Service District No. 12, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for Harris County Emergency Service District No. 12.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Harris County Emergency Service District No. 12 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2023 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 5, 2023 AT 6:00 PM AT 911 Hollywood Street, Houston, Harris County, Texas.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the voter-approval tax rate but not greater than the de minimis rate. However, the proposed tax rate exceeds the rate that allows voters to petition for an election under Section 26.075, Tax Code. If Harris County Emergency Service District No. 12 adopts the proposed tax rate, the qualified voters of the Harris County Emergency Service District No. 12 may petition the Harris County Emergency Service District No. 12 to require an election to be held to determine whether to reduce the proposed tax rate. If a majority of the voters reject the proposed tax rate, the tax rate of the Harris County Emergency Service District No. 12 will be the voter-approval tax rate of the Harris County Emergency Service District No. 12.

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

Property tax amount= (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property)/100

FOR the proposal:	William B. Anders, President	Larry Helgesen, Secretary
	David W. Proctor, Treasurer	Ken Wimbley, Asst Secretary/Treasurer
AGAINST the proposal:		
PRESENT and not voting:		
ABSENT:	Bryan Clements, Vice President	

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.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.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Service District No. 12 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Service District No. 12 this year.

	2022	2023	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.0500	\$0.0500	increase of 0.0000, or 0.00%
Average homestead taxable value	\$176,299	\$194,886	increase of 18,587, or 10.54%
Tax on average homestead	\$88.15	\$97.44	increase of 9.29, or 10.54%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$1,859,195	\$2,229,791	increase of 370,596, or 19.93%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for Harris County Emergency Service District No. 12 at 713-274-8000 or tax.office@tax.hctx.net, or visit www.hctx.net for more information.

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0005139000

APPLICATION. Kinder Morgan Crude & Condensate LLC, 1001 Louisiana Street, Suite 1000, Houston, Texas 77002, which owns a facility that produces petroleum products from crude condensate, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0005139000 (EPA I.D. No. TX0135640) to authorize the discharge of stormwater, fire suppression water, and hydrostatic test water at an intermittent and flow-variable rate via Outfalls 001 and 002. The facility is located at 407 Clinton Drive, Galena Park, in Harris County, Texas 77547. The discharge route is from the plant site via Outfalls 001 and 002 respectively to two unnamed tidal tributaries of Hunting Bayou Tidal, which is part of the Houston Ship Channel/Buffalo Bayou Tidal. TCEQ received this application on June 22, 2023. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying at Jacinto City Branch Library, Main Desk, 921 Akron Street, Houston, Texas prior to the date this notice is published in the newspaper. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.
<https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-95.218611,29.735833&level=18>

ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE NOTICE. Alternative language notice in Spanish is available at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notices>. El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notices>.

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address, and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Kinder Morgan Crude & Condensate LLC at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Sean Duncan, Operations Manager, at 832-690-5600.

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LULAC presents 12 scholarships at 22nd Annual Awards Banquet

Last Sunday, August 6, LULAC Council 4703 presented 12 scholarships at their 22nd Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet. Most of the students were beginning their journey in higher education and others were already in college. We are super proud of them and their parents! Pictured are some of the students with LULAC President Cruz Hinojosa and Scholarship Chair Maria Barraza.



CHANNELVIEW ISD NEWS

King 9th Grade Campus Volleyball team Spikes a tournament Win



The freshman volleyball team played in the Sam Rayburn tournament and won first place in the Silver bracket. Great start to the year, Panthers.

Backpacks,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Superintendent said, “We are always grateful for the help given our schools and students by the Port of Houston and Rep. Ana Hernandez. The help is deeply appreciated.” Monica Glover, Senior Manager, Government Relations, Port of Houston said, “We’re glad to be able to help the schools and communities with things which will benefit the students and help them

achieve a successful life.” State Representative Ana Hernandez said, “I had the pleasure of partnering with Port Houston to donate hundreds of backpacks to our Woodland Acres Elementary School students. It takes a village to raise a child, and I’m thankful for community members working together to provide the proper resources for our students to succeed.”

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

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.0300 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.0300 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.0250 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.0263 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.0325 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2023 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 from the same properties in both the 2022 tax year and the 2023 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 exceeds the voter-approval rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2023 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 12, 2023 AT 03:00 PM AT 14418 Beaumont Highway, Houston, Texas 77049.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the voter-approval tax rate but not greater than the de minimis rate. However, the proposed tax rate exceeds the rate that allows voters to petition for an election under Section 26.075, Tax Code. If Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 adopts the proposed tax rate, the qualified voters of the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 may petition the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 to require an election to be held to determine whether to reduce the proposed tax rate. If a majority of the voters reject the proposed tax rate, the tax rate of the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 will be the voter-approval tax rate of the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:
$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

FOR the proposal: Sonya Anderson, President Johnnie McClelland, Vice President
Charles Anthony, Secretary Buster Gates, Commissioner
Earl Skank, Commissioner

AGAINST the proposal:
PRESENT and not voting:
ABSENT:

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.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.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 this year.

	2022	2023	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.0300	\$0.0300	increase of 0.0000, or 0.00%
Average homestead taxable value	\$173,759	\$194,296	increase of 20,537, or 11.82%
Tax on average homestead	\$52.13	\$58.29	increase of 6.16, or 11.82%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$1,627,065	\$2,006,706	increase of 379,641, or 23.33%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 at 713-274-8000 or tax.office@tax.hctx.net, or visit www.hctx.net for more information.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.030000 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.030000 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.025465 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.026357 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.036402 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2023 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 from the same properties in both the 2022 tax year and the 2023 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 exceeds the voter-approval rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2023 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 12, 2023 AT 06:00 PM AT North Channel EMS, 332 Freeport St., Houston, Texas 77015.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the voter-approval tax rate but not greater than the de minimis rate. However, the proposed tax rate exceeds the rate that allows voters to petition for an election under Section 26.075, Tax Code. If Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 adopts the proposed tax rate, the qualified voters of the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 may petition the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 to require an election to be held to determine whether to reduce the proposed tax rate. If a majority of the voters reject the proposed tax rate, the tax rate of the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 will be the voter-approval tax rate of the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6.

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

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

FOR the proposal: Danny Naramore Roger Hamilton
Margie Buentello Theresa Parker
Mickey Berguin

AGAINST the proposal:
PRESENT and not voting:
ABSENT:

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.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.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 this year.

	2022	2023	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.030000	\$0.030000	increase of 0.000000, or 0.00%
Average homestead taxable value	\$180,308	\$198,946	increase of 18,638, or 10.34%
Tax on average homestead	\$54.09	\$59.68	increase of 5.59, or 10.33%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$1,139,911	\$1,371,574	increase of 231,663, or 20.32%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 at 713-274-8000 or tax.office@tax.hctx.net, or visit www.hctx.net for more information.



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