



Private Marcelino Serna
See story on Page 3

NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
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CHANNEL CURRENTS

14th Annual Mark Mulloy Golf Tournament

Thursday, Oct. 19 at Stonebridge at Newport in Crosby. Contact Matt Davis, 281-682-1703 to participate. 4 person Scramble. Start 11am. Cost \$125 per player, includes lunch. Prizes for longest drive, closest to pin, Hole in One \$5000.

Pilot Club Bunco Night Oct. 13

San Jacinto Pilot Club will hold its annual BUNCO NIGHT on Friday, October 13 starting at 6:00 pm. Hampton Inn, 14120 Karissa Court, Houston 77049. Advance Tickets \$25, at the door \$30.

Silent Auction, Wine Pull and More.... Dinner, Drinks and Desserts included. Proceeds donated back to our community for scholarships and programs.

North Channel 'Salutes' set for Nov. 2nd

North Channel Chamber Annual Business EXPO and Health Fair.

Thursday, November 2nd 10am to 2pm at Armentia's Reception Hall, 823 Sheldon Road, Channelview.

A 'Salute' to Veterans and First Responders. FREE Admission. Prize for Best Decorated Booth. Lunch served 11:30am. \$20 Lunch Ticket.

RSVP to ysenia@ncachamber.com, or 713-450-3600.

CHIC's Stone fights pollution in Channelview

What is an 'acceptable cancer risk'? Polluted communities like Channelview demand protection

By Elena Bruess
Houston Landing

Most days, Carolyn Stone, 62, will smell something like rotten vegetables mixed with antifreeze and melted plastic in her neighborhood. The scent might come off the harbor in front of her house, or from down the street where at least five mooring and marine companies



Carolyn Stone, CHIC (Channelview Health and Improvement Coalition) founder, at her home in Channelview. (Photo by M. Kohut, HL)

line the block, or from the petrochemical plants just a few miles away. The former firefighter is never certain of the source, but one thing she knows without a doubt: it can't be healthy to breathe.

In Channelview, a chemical cocktail of smells wafts through the community daily. Due to its proximity to the Houston Ship Channel, the 42,000-person town – which sits just east of Houston in unincorporated Harris County – is home to some of the largest petrochemical facilities on the Gulf Coast, as well as numerous barge and shipping companies.

It is also one of the many communities in Houston impacted by a recent proposal being considered by the Tex-

Continued. See CHANNELVIEW POLLUTION, Page 7

MUSTANGS EDGE BULLDOGS 31-21

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. ~ October 5, 2023 at the GPISD stadium head coach Willie Gaston's Eastside Boys had their hands full for four quarters with a tough visiting Summer Creek football team.

The Bulldogs took advantage of Mustang's quarterback Kaleb Bailey's two turnovers, a pass interception and a fumble making two easy Touchdowns (TD's). But later Bailey made up for it with his two running TD's that made the difference in their 31 to 21 win giving the Bulldogs their first loss this season.

With the tightly contested game tied 21 -21 in the fourth with 6:05 left on the clock Mustang #6 Devin Sanchez blocked a Bulldog 25 yard field goal attempt. Bailey broke the tie on his 14 yard run TD taking the lead 28 - 21. The NS de



#4 Terrence Guillory scores a North Shore TD on a 61 yard Kaleb Bailey pass. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Continued. See MUSTANGS BEAT BULLDOGS, Page 2

Yellow Jackets Lose to Broncos

By Allan Jamail

October 6, 2023 ~ GPISD Stadium ~ The Galena Park Yellow Jackets hosted and lost to their district opponent the Liberty County Dayton ISD Broncos 55-13.

Head Coach Spiro Amarantos had his Jackets taking command of the game early in the first quarter scoring first leading 6-0. The Broncos replied with a TD and extra point to take the lead 7-6. The Jackets scored next taking the lead again 13-6. The Broncos came back with another TD taking the lead back again and for the rest of the game 14-13.

The Jackets lost their starting quarterback Daniel Gomez with a hand injury which affected their offense by producing several fumbles on the handoff exchanges with their running backs. The Jackets defense tired from being on the field too often which Dayton took advantage of and began scoring



#12 Daniel Gomez, Yellow Jackets quarterback runs 12 yards to score games first TD. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Continued. See YELLOW JACKETS LOSE TO BRONCOS, Page 2

LULAC Council #4703 PRESENTS

Optional to wear a Dia de los Muertos outfit

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JC National Night Out

A Crime Prevention Gathering in Jacinto City



One of many group photos of the NNO event at Los Mexicanos Refresqueria y Carwash, 1713 Holland Ave. Jacinto City. Back Row L-R: Captain Chris Kritzer, Hector Salinas (JC Machine Shop owner), Lt. Marco Leal, Constable Pct 2 Staff YADI Sosa, Constable Jerry Garcia, Aldo Hernandez (maroon shirt, Brothers owner), Captain Zedric Guinn, Sgt. Paul Rodela, (Anali Gomez, front holding tote bag). Kneeling: Captain Marcus Anderson & Linda Jamail, Community Liaison of Rep. Ana Hernandez office. Others: Evin Rivera, Abraham Sanchez, Belin Sanchez, Clarissa Hernandez, Adrian Hernandez, Olivia Matus and Maria Luisa Peres, Diego Sanchez & Maria Hernandez. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

By Allan Jamail

October 3, 2023 ~ Jacinto City citizens, Jacinto City Police Officers and Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia and his deputies came together on America's Official National Night Out Against Crime. The on and off again rain could not stop the community from coming together as the national event intends for it to do. National Night Out

(NNO) is a community-police awareness-raising event in the United States, held in Texas on the first Tuesday in October.

"It was a well attended event and I could see and feel the enthusiasm in the crowd as they gathered their hotdogs and refreshments to enjoy while sitting on picnic tables visiting with law enforcement officers discussing ways to prevent crime.

This is what NNO is suppose to do, citizens having one on one conversations with officers," said Allan Jamail, NC Star Writer and former Police Chief and Mayor who is one of the four organizers. The event was held at 1713 Holland Ave. in Jacinto City at the (Los Mexicanos Refresqueria y

Continued. See NNO GATHERING IN JACINTO CITY, Page 7

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Band and Football Unite in School Spirit



Congratulations to the C.E. King High School Panther Band for an amazing show performed at the Galena Park ISD Stadium on Saturday, September 30. The stadium was filled with many Panther supporters for the band including the King High School varsity football team.

25 Sheldon ISD middle school students earn top band honors

This year, for the first time in district history, Sheldon ISD added a practice audition round to help students prepare for the TMEA All-Region Band audition process. On Saturday, September 23, middle school band students from King Middle School and Null Middle School performed their scales and audition music in front of judges for feedback in advance of October's Middle School All-Region auditions. As part of that process, Sheldon ISD awarded the top performers with the distinction of being named the All-Sheldon ISD Honor Band. The first honorees are:

- na and Danna Gaviria of KMS
- Oboe - Ramon Abrego of KMS
- Bassoon - Mariah Lambert of NMS
- Clarinets - Stephanie Moctezuma-Ramirez and Madielynn Hilton of NMS
- Bass Clarinet - Sebastian Varela of NMS
- Alto Saxophones - King Robinson, Mia Garcia, and Aaron Davila of KMS
- Baritone Saxophones - Elijah Martinez of NMS and Te'Jean Martin of KMS
- Trumpets - Frank Garza Jr. and Byron Cruz of NMS
- F Horns - Lennin Gonzalez and Ulises Ramirez of KMS
- Trombones - Angel Maga-
- na and Kaelyn Granados of KMS
- Euphonium - Bernard Boulden of KMS
- Tubas - Lyonel Nambo of NMS and Diego Rodriguez of KMS
- Percussion - Britton Bernard, Emma Flores, and Brandon Sandoval of KMS
- Congratulations to all 70 King Middle School and Null Middle School Band students who participated in this educational experience and to these 25 students who earned top honors. King Middle School and Null Middle School students will compete in All-Region auditions in late October.

Yellow Jackets Lose to Dayton Broncos 55-13,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



#6 Joshua Williams scores a Yellow Jacket TD on a 41 yard run.(Photo by Allan Jamail)



#3 Jordan Balderas senior Jacket running back takes a pitchout and runs over a Bronco defender for a big gain. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



Yellow Jackets team captains. L-R: #73-Miguel Hermoso, #4-Isai Merian, #33-Sebastian Bernal and #3-Jordan Balderas (Photo by Linda Jamail)

at will. Linda Jamail, statistician and photographer. Galena Park takes their 3-3 record and travels to play the 3-3 Santa Fe Indians Friday, October 13th at 7PM.

Sheldon Elementary Hosts Car Show for Students



On September 29, Sheldon Elementary hosted a car show supported by members of the community with unique vehicles. The purpose of the car show was to incorporate real-world connections to math, literacy and careers. As students admired cars, they collected data such as car colors, prices and mileage. After they left the car show, they then applied the data to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) based activities.

Sheldon Community Partner Night hosts 50+



At the September 29 football game at Panther Stadium, Sheldon ISD held its annual Community Partner Night inviting business partners and Blue Card Members to attend the game and watch from the Panther Zone at the end zone complex. Partners were treated to dinner and an excellent view of the game. Sheldon ISD is grateful for its instrumental partners and support with the community.

Mustangs Beat Summer Creek Bulldogs 31-21,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Mustang's #55 John Nealey junior defensive lineman pressures Bulldogs QB Blake Thomas from throwing an accurate pass (see arrow). (Photo by Allan Jamail)



CUTLINE: #9 Kaleb Bailey runs for his second TD breaking the fourth quarter tied game.(Photo by Allan Jamail)



Eastside Boys Team Captains: #77-Jakoby Isom, #43-Nicholas Goins, #18-Charles Ross and #8-Cameron Smith (Photo by Linda Jamail)

fense shutdown the Bulldogs offense for the rest of the game. Kicker Jonathan Soto hit a 22-yard field goal to give the Mustangs a cushion with 1:34 remaining 31 – 21. North Shore (NS) remains undefeated this season (6-0) and extended their district winning streak to 39 games. The Bulldogs was the first team this season to really compete and test NS, the other five teams they played only mustered 39 points collectively while NS scored 227 points. NS TD scorers: #9 Kaleb Bailey ~ 2 TD's, #4 Terrence Guillory ~ 1 TD, #8 Cameron Smith ~ 1 TD. Mustang's kicker Jonathan Soto kicked 4 extra points and a 3 point field goal; he owns a perfect record with no misses this season. Bailey was 10-of-16 for 195 yards (63%), throwing two TDs and one interception while adding two rushing TDs. Linda Jamail statistician and photographer. The Mustangs travel to play the Beaumont West Brook Bruins Friday, October 13th at 7PM.

In North Shore, nearly everyone reads the NORTH CHANNEL STAR.
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CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



I Love You

Some people will automatically ask how can I love them if I do not know them. Others will skip the column. And still some others will read to find out what has been on my mind this last week. No matter which one you are, know that I love you.

It seems like in the past few years, too many people have focused on the differences and have chosen to hate others. To me, it is just as easy to love an unknown person as it is to hate them.

Over the past few months, some of you have read my column and understand that there is a special place for all of God’s children in my heart. I have a very special place for the members of the homeless community. I understand how easy it would be to wake up one day and find yourself or a loved one in their space.

Early in the week I received a phone call from a former coworker. She has been battling cancer for several years. She just buried her sister this week. Her son was beaten and robbed on Sunday. His bloody body was found on South Drive where he had been left for dead. By the grace of God, he was discovered by a neighbor, and he was transported to Ben Taub Hospital. By the time my friend arrived, her son was attached to more than fifteen machines with tubes and wires running throughout his body. I prayed with her and reached out to others for prayer.

As the week went on, I spoke to some members of the community who live in fear that it might be them next. There is a growing fear among the homeless that someone is out to kill them to get them out of the area. There are parents and grandparents who are praying for their children as well as children praying for their parents. I talked to some pastors, some firefighters, some prayer warriors as well as retired teachers who remembered the young man from his years in Channelview ISD. I talked to former coworkers who started praying and asking how they could help. I talked to others who did not know him, yet they were burdened for his family.

So, what can we do? We need to pray for everyone. We do not know what battles they are experiencing. We can smile. We can look people in the eyes and listen to what they are saying.

But we must do more. During the upcoming November Election there is a proposition to fund the expansion of services being offered at LBJ Hospital. These services expand the psychiatric beds from eleven to one hundred. Anyone who has ever experienced a mental health emergency for themselves or a loved one will understand the importance of this proposition passing. If Americans treated mental illness with the same passion that they do for cancer, we would have fewer homeless, fewer incarcerated and fewer deaths. I am asking you to vote for the proposition to show what is in your heart for others. You do not need to know them to love them, or to support this life-saving proposition.

Racism Delayed Texan’s Medal of Honor,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

By Allan Jamail

October 10, 2023 Racism rears its head sometimes in the most unexpected places as it did in our nation’s military in World War I. Racism still exists everywhere in our society... it’s intertwined in businesses, governments, churches, schools, youth and adult sports.

The FBI Director Christopher Wray recently said White Supremacy is the biggest domestic terror threat. He says Neo-Nazism comprises the post-World War II militant, social, and political movements that seek to revive and reinstate Nazi ideology. Neo-Nazis employ their ideology to promote hatred and racial supremacy (often white supremacy), to attack racial and ethnic minorities.

There are two forms of race discrimination, one is xenophobia, and it’s the fear and hatred of strangers or foreigners, whereas racism has a broader meaning, including “a belief that racial differences produce the inherent superiority of a particular race.” Although they are similar, they are different enough that it is possible for one to be both xenophobic and racist.

NC Star writer Allan Jamail said, “my article is to give due honor to Marcelino Serna a Hispanic War Hero who had been denied his war medals because of racism that existed in some of our military agencies during and after the war with Germany. I have fought racism all my life and when serving as Mayor I made sure the city departments hired and promoted deserving employees regardless of their Race.”

Serna was told by an officer that a “buck’ private” was not eligible for the Medal of Honor, and that he could not be promoted because he did not know enough English.

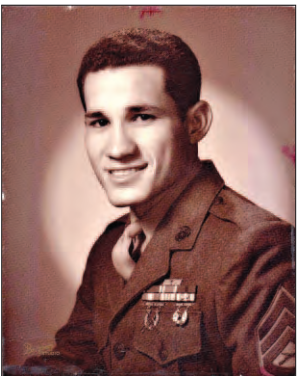
Serna was born in the city of Chihuahua, in the Mexican state of Chihuahua, to a poor family. In 1916, when he was 20 years old, Serna decided to enter the United States by crossing the Rio Grande and going to El Paso, Texas, in search of a job and a better way of life. Serna did not speak English and he was only able to find low-paying jobs. He soon found himself working as a farm hand in a sugar beet field in Denver, Colorado.

The United States declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917. Serna was with a group of men in Denver when he was picked up by federal officials. He faced the possibility of being deported, but before that could happen; he volunteered to serve in the Army.

After his basic training, Serna was sent overseas and assigned to Company B, 355th Infantry Regiment, 89th Division. When the Army realized that he was a Mexican national, he was offered a discharge. Serna, however, chose to stay with his new friends.

Serna’s unit was ordered to advance towards the Meuse River and Argonne Forest in France. When his unit arrived at Saint-Mihiel, they encountered a German machine gunner who killed 12 American soldiers. Serna crawled up to the machine gunner’s left flank. Even though his helmet was hit twice by bullets, Serna was able to get close enough to throw four grenades into the nest. Eight Germans surrendered and the rest were dead.

On September 12, 1918, in another battle location Serna’s unit was engaged



Marcelino Serna
April 26, 1896 – February 29, 1992

in combat inside the Meuse-Argonne region when he spotted a German sniper and wounded him with his Enfield rifle. Serna followed the wounded soldier to a trench. He threw three grenades into the trench, which resulted in the death of 26 enemy soldiers and the capture of 24. “The Distinguished Service Cross was presented to Marcelino Serna, Private, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Flirey, France. Private Serna displayed exceptional coolness and courage in single handed charging and capturing German soldiers.

Serna was wounded in both of his legs by sniper fire, four days before the Armistice. During his recovery, General John J. Pershing, Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces, pinned on his chest the Distinguished Service Cross, the second highest military decoration of the United States Army but he was still denied the highest medal, The Medal of Honor because he was just a private and couldn’t speak good English.

Serna returned to the U.S. as the most decorated soldier from Texas and was discharged at Camp Bowie, Texas in May 1919. In 1924, Serna became a United States citizen and soon after he married and settled down in El Paso, Texas. He went to work at the Peyton Packing Company. In 1960, he retired as a plumber from William Beaumont Hospital. On February 29, 1992, Marcelino Serna died at the age of 95. He was buried with full military honors at Fort Bliss National Cemetery, of El Paso, Texas.

On September 29, 2016, the United States designated the Customs and Border Protection Port of Entry in Tornillo, Texas, as the “Marcelino Serna Port of Entry.”


After his death on March 2, 2022, Serna was awarded the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor for his brave actions on September 12, 1918 after it was determined he’d been discriminated against receiving it.

President Barack Obama in 2015 recognized that racism in the military denied lots of Hispanics, Blacks, Jews and other minorities their medals of heroism, so 100 years later he gave the families their war medals.

Among Serna’s many military decorations are the following some of which he was no longer alive to get them for himself: Distinguished Service Cross, Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster, World War I Victory Medal, French Croix de Guerre with Palm (2) (France), French Médaille militaire (France), Croce al Merito di Guerra (Italy), French Commemorative Medal (France), 1914–1918 Inter-Allied Victory medal (France) (France), St. Mihiel Medal (France), Verdun Medal (France) and Texas Legislative Medal of Honor (2022).

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: “The Engagement ring is the promise.. the wedding band is the fulfillment?”



Ever wondered about the historical significance of wedding bands, engagement rings, and their placement? While Pineforest Jewelry offers a diverse range of exquisite engagement rings, understanding the history and meaning behind wearing them is equally important. Join us as we delve into this timeless debate.

Origins and Traditions

From ancient cultures to contemporary times, the order of wearing these rings varies. Traditionally, many believed in wearing the wedding band closer to the heart, emphasizing its profound importance over the engagement ring.

At Pineforest Jewelry, we understand that traditions are just as important as the ring itself. This is why our expert consultation services, backed by years of industry knowledge, are always available to answer such queries. You can even explore more on our “Ask Diamond Jim” blog series, where our co-founder, Diamond Jim, shares insights into such rich traditions.

Symbolism Behind the Placement

Engagement rings are a symbol of promise, while the wedding ring signifies its fulfillment. Many choose to wear the wedding ring below the engagement ring to signify that the promise has been sealed and is now closer to the heart. Whether you’re looking for an engagement ring or a wedding band, Pineforest Jewelry offers pieces that perfectly embody these sentiments.

Practicality and Comfort

Just as everyone has a unique love story, comfort levels differ. Some designs and combinations sit better in a specific order. We pride ourselves in offering custom designs tailored to individual preferences, ensuring the utmost comfort and style.

Changing Trends and Personal Preferences

Today, many modern couples opt for what feels right to them rather than following tradition. The beauty of it? Pineforest Jewelry supports every unique choice. With a range of stunning fashion jewelry alongside traditional pieces, we ensure every couple finds their perfect match.

Wearing Rings Separately

Some individuals, for various reasons, wear their rings separately. Maybe on different fingers or even hands. While it’s essential to find what resonates with your style, remember our jewelry repair services are always here to ensure your precious pieces remain in pristine condition.

Fusion Rings: A Modern Take

Fusion rings, merging the engagement and wedding bands, have gained traction lately. While it’s a fresh take on the age-old tradition, Pineforest Jewelry is ever ready to help you create your dream piece that reflects both commitments seamlessly.

Consulting With a Jeweler

Emphasizing the importance of personalized service, Pineforest Jewelry is committed to building strong relationships with clients. Always consider consulting with us when deciding on ring placement or if the rings weren’t designed as a set.

Conclusion

Choosing the placement of your rings is deeply personal. It’s about what resonates with you and the memories attached to each piece. At Pineforest Jewelry, we always prioritize your preferences and the significance each ring holds for you.

We’d love to hear your stories! How do you wear your rings? Share your thoughts, photos, and experiences with us. And if you’re ever curious about jewelry, don’t hesitate to [Ask Diamond Jim on our blog!](#)


Ready to [explore exquisite jewelry](#) that tells a story? From engagement rings to unique pieces, Pineforest Jewelry has something for everyone. And to our esteemed first responders and military personnel, we’re pleased to offer a 10% discount on both online and in-store purchases as a token of our gratitude.

Dive in, create your dream piece, and let us be a part of your journey.


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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OPINION

State Sen. Borris Miles



The Problem with School Vouchers

Once again, the Texas leadership is trying to divert taxpayer dollars for public education to private schools. They are calling it “school choice,” but it is really another voucher program that the Legislature has rejected for nearly two decades. I have always and will continue to oppose school vouchers and advocate for fully funding our public education system, which includes increasing the basic allotment per student for public education and teacher pay raises.

Historically, vouchers and private schools were utilized to sidestep the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1954 order to integrate public education. Many fear that taxpayer-funded vouchers may become the catalyst for the state of Texas to revisit that dark history. Additionally, there are several issues and concerns that families who reside within historically underserved communities face that make vouchers dangerous to neighborhood schools.

Taxpayer-funded vouchers will not be accessible to the majority of poor and middle-class students and families. Private schools have no legal requirement or obligation to enroll any student, including a student with a taxpayer-funded voucher. Admission choices will belong solely to these schools, not the parents. For example, private schools typically do not admit students with special education needs because they are not prepared to provide those essential and vital services.

Private schools will not be affordable to the majority of poor to middle-class students and their families, even with vouchers. Tuition at many private schools in Houston can often be as high as \$30,000 per year. If a taxpayer-funded voucher is valued at \$8,000 to \$10,000, how does that affect the school choice opportunity for a student from a poor or middle-income working-class family?

Taxpayer-funded vouchers will take tax dollars from everyone’s underfunded public school. The reality is that the vast majority of Texas students will remain in public schools, where the per-student funding is already more than \$4,000 below the national average. Within a few years, as much as \$1 billion could likely be diverted from our public schools.

Providing a high-quality public education should always be a priority in a state as large and diverse as Texas. At times, that task may be challenging. But as leaders, we must stay committed to providing quality, affordable and sustainable public education options for all Texans, especially those with modest means who may not have any other options.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your Texas State Senator for District 13. If you need assistance navigating the local, state, or federal agencies of government, do not hesitate to contact one of my offices. We are here to serve you!

Keep the Faith, Keep the Fight!
Borris L. Miles
Texas State Senator
District 13

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.*

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Texas employment at historic high, but joblessness rate is up

TEXAS EMPLOYMENT AT HISTORIC HIGH, BUT JOBLESS RATE IS UP

For the 30th consecutive month Texas showed job growth, reaching just under 14 million jobs and outpacing the nation in its annual rate of employment growth, according to the Texas Workforce Commission.

“Our world-class Texas workforce has grown by more than 400,000 jobs over the last year, thanks largely to the energizing job creation by our private-sector employers,” said TWC commissioner Aaron Demerson. “This continued growth highlights TWC’s unwavering commitment to fostering collaboration and building partnerships with Texas employers across the state.”

At the same time, the state’s unemployment rate is tied for fifth-worst in the country at 4.1%, which is below the national average of 3.8%, the Texas Tribune reported. The jobless rate still has not returned to pre-pandemic levels, according to data from the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

The higher jobless rate reflects a growing labor force due to increased population growth and fewer workers leaving the state, according to economic experts.

“Very tight labor markets, like what we’ve seen at the national level, are actually detrimental to matching workers to jobs because it’s so hard for employers to hire,” said Pia Orrenius, with the Dallas Federal Reserve office.

HEGAR: TEXAS ECONOMY CHUGGING ALONG

Comptroller Glenn Hegar says lawmakers are likely to have billions of dollars more than anticipated to spend as they go into another special session, The Dallas Morning News reported. However, though he has increased his revenue projection for the state by nearly \$5 billion over earlier projections, he warns that there are “dangers to the economic outlook.”

Hegar said his economic outlook does not assume a recession is imminent, but that possibility is “very real.” His current forecast indicates the



TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION
STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders

state will finish the two-year budget cycle with \$18.5 billion in unspent discretionary funds.

Lawmakers entered their third special session on Monday to consider Gov. Greg Abbott’s proposal for school choice, widely known as vouchers, and increased border security. Other topics may be added later.

ERCOT SEEKING TO REGULATE NEW INDUSTRIAL CONSUMERS

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas is seeking to require large electric consumers to get its approval before connecting to its grid, The News reported. Opponents of the proposal say it is unprecedented and could damage the state’s ability to attract large new businesses to the state.

Under ERCOT’s proposal, any new facility that consumes an average peak of 75 megawatts would need its OK before getting power from the grid. That is enough electricity to power 15,000 homes, according to The News.

The proposed regulation, which is months away from final approval, comes due to the influx of large data centers, including cryptocurrency mining facilities that gobble up electricity from a grid that has become increasingly strained during both winter storms such as Uri in 2021 and last summer’s intense heat wave.

Cryptominers and data centers differ from traditional power users in that they can turn power on and off almost immediately to take advantage of fluctuations in power prices. Some crypto

centers made millions of dollars over the summer by voluntarily cutting usage when the grid is approaching peak levels.

“Many large loads that have connected to the system within the past two years are capable of going from full consumption to no consumption (or the reverse) in five minutes or less,” ERCOT spokeswoman Trudi Webster said in an email to The News.

HISTORIC FUNDING FOR TEXAS SEAPORTS

The Texas Transportation Commission has approved \$200 million for Texas seaports, the first funding of its kind in the state. The funding comes from a bill passed in the last full legislative session and is intended for port development and infrastructure projects.

The funding goes toward 31 projects recommended by the Port Authority Advisory Committee, a nine-member body that represents the Texas port industry.

“Texas ports are a crucial link in the supply chain,” said Texas Transportation Commissioner Steven Alvis. “With the expansion of the Panama Canal, and under the governor’s direction, improving these port facilities along the Texas Gulf Coast helps support this key economic driver for our state and the nation.”

The state has two of the three largest ports in the country based on tonnage and drive \$450 billion in economic activity annually, according to TxDOT.

DSHS RECOMMENDS GETTING FLU VACCINES

All eligible Texans are urged by the Texas Department of State Health Services to get a flu shot as soon as possible. It takes about two weeks for the vaccination to be effective, experts say.

“Seasonal influenza presents a real public health threat to Texans, and immunization remains our best defense against serious flu illness,” said DSHS Commissioner Jennifer Shuford.

It is also both possible and safe to get a flu vaccine and an updated COVID-19 vaccine at the same time if one is due for both.

Approximately 36,000 Americans die each year from flu-related illness, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

TWO SOLAR ECLIPSES ON THE HORIZON FOR TEXANS

There are two solar eclipses coming up over Texas skies in the next six months, the Texas Standard reported, the first in less than a week. The “ring of fire” solar eclipse arrives on Oct. 14 when a halo of light will be visible around the moon but should be viewed through solar eclipse glasses.

Depending on cloud conditions, the annular — Latin for ring — eclipse will be visible in Texas about noon, primarily in the Hill Country and around San Antonio. The total eclipse will occur on April 8 of next year starting at 1:30 p.m., along a line in Texas from Del Rio to Texarkana.

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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

My Story

I’ve been thinking about forgiveness.

A lot has been said on the subject by people a lot smarter than I, so I don’t have anything valuable to add to the discussion at large, but I’ve been thinking of how it affects me, and what a powerful thing it is.

I’ve had very little to forgive compared to most people. People have always been kind to me. I am always astonished by how kind people have been—for no reason. As a young person, I received help and advice from strangers at every turn.

As I got older, I lived in different places and continued to meet a wide variety of people from different cultures, with different experiences, and time after time, people were kind to me when they had no reason to be. They were kind because it was who they were.

But very occasionally, I’ve been treated poorly. It usually takes me a long time to even realize it. I always assume I have made some dreadful mistake and, as soon as that is cleared up, their behavior will change.

When it turns out I am wrong—that no change on my part will change them in the slightest way—then I tend to get very hurt. Probably because I am so spoiled by the kindness of others, this less-than-charitable behavior strikes me to the core.

A few months back, I wrote a column about a friend who hurt my feelings. He had written a long essay and quoted my column about finding beauty in unexpected places. He accused me of being an idealist, someone who would rationalize mass shootings and natural disasters. He said I’d go “looking for a pony in a pile of horse poop.” He urged his readers not to be like me. It made me feel awful.

I wondered what I had done to cause him to write such a mean-spirited thing about me, and (as usual) I got very hurt.

But then I did something new. I gathered those feelings, and I did something with them. I took his point of view, and I wrote a story about a man who believed as my friend did. I tried to imagine what might happen to that man that could cause him to change his mind.

Writing that story put me inside this friend’s head in a way I had never been before. He annoyed me, but he also touched me, and I came to appreciate him in a new way—even if he was only a fictional character.

And this is my new idea about forgiveness.

Sometimes—most of the time—I can never know what causes people to say hurtful things. I don’t know why friends betray me or strangers curse at me on the street. These things have happened and will probably happen again.

My new idea is to make up a story.

My story will give that person a reason to be so hurt or angry that they would do these things. My story will help me to empathize with them, even though I know my story is fiction. Because even without a made-up story, I will make assumptions about why that person was unkind, and those assumptions will almost certainly be fiction—I will just imagine they are true. So I might as well make up a better story, a more compassionate story.

Yesterday, I wrote a note to this friend who had been unkind. I thanked him for the inspiration. He had no recollection of what he had written.

And that might just be the best part of the story.

Till next time, Carrie

NOTICE OF ELECTION

TO: THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS, WHO RESIDE IN HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 60:

The Board of Emergency Services Commissioners of HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 60 has issued an Order calling for an election to be held on November 7, 2023, from 7:00 A.M., to 7:00 P.M., at which election all eligible voters residing within the boundaries of HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 60 will be entitled to vote on the following:

Proposition A: FOR	"APPROVING THE AD VALOREM TAX RATE OF \$0.075 PER \$100 VALUATION IN HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 60 FOR THE CURRENT YEAR, A RATE THAT IS \$0.0308 HIGHER PER \$100 VALUATION THAN THE VOTER APPROVAL TAX RATE OF HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 60, FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING FIRE PROTECTION AND RESCUE SERVICES. LAST YEAR, THE AD VALOREM TAX RATE IN HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 60 WAS \$0.0500 PER \$100 VALUATION."
AGAINST	

LOCATIONS OF POLLING PLACES: Qualified voters residing in Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 may vote in the appropriate polling place locations designated by the Administrator of Elections pursuant to the Harris County Election Order, Notice of Election published by Harris County and as more specifically identified at www.harrisvotes.com.

EARLY VOTING: Early voting shall be conducted by **Teneshia Hudspeth**, the Harris County Early Voting Clerk, from October 23, 2023 through November 3, 2023 and at the hours and locations designated by the Harris County Administrator of Elections pursuant to the Harris County Election Order, Notice of Election published by Harris County and as more specifically identified at www.harrisvotes.com.

The Early Voting Clerk's official mailing address to which ballot applications and ballots voted by mail may be sent is Teneshia Hudspeth, Harris County Clerk's Office, 1001 Preston, Suite 426, Houston, Texas 77002. The phone number for the Early Voting Clerk is (713) 755-6965. The email address for the Early Voting Clerk is voters@harrisvotes.com. The internet website for the Early Voting Clerk is www.harrisvotes.com. The location of the main early voting place is NRG Arena, 1 NRG Parkway, Houston, Texas 77054. The ballot applications must be received by the Early Voting Clerk no later than October 27, 2023, at 5:00 P.M.

HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 60
By: /s/ Helen Lauersdorf, President
ATTEST: By: /s/ Alfred A. Adams, Secretary

THÔNG BÁO VỀ CUỘC BẦU CỬ

GỬI: CÁC CỬ TRI HỘI ĐỦ ĐIỀU KIỆN CỦA QUẬN HARRIS, TEXAS, HIỆN ĐANG CƯ TRÚ TRONG CƠ QUAN DỊCH VỤ KHẨN CẤP SỐ 60 QUẬN HARRIS:

Ủy Ban Điều Hành Dịch Vụ Khẩn Cấp của CƠ QUAN DỊCH VỤ KHẨN CẤP SỐ 60 QUẬN HARRIS đã ban hành Lệnh yêu cầu tổ chức một cuộc bầu cử vào ngày Tháng Mười Một 7, 2023 từ 7 giờ sáng đến 7 giờ tối, tại cuộc bầu cử đó tất cả các cử tri hội đủ điều kiện hiện cư ngụ trong phạm vi ranh giới của CƠ QUAN DỊCH VỤ KHẨN CẤP SỐ 60 QUẬN HARRIS sẽ được quyền bỏ phiếu về các vấn đề sau đây:

KẾ HOẠCH ĐỀ NGHỊ A THUẬN	"PHÊ CHUẨN MỨC THUẾ GIÁ TRỊ TÀI SẢN \$0.075 TRÊN MỖI \$100 GIÁ TRỊ BẤT ĐỘNG SẢN TẠI CƠ QUAN DỊCH VỤ KHẨN CẤP SỐ 60 QUẬN HARRIS CHO NĂM HIỆN TẠI, LÀ MỨC THUẾ CAO HƠN \$0.0308 TRÊN MỖI \$100 GIÁ TRỊ BẤT ĐỘNG SẢN SO VỚI MỨC THUẾ CỬ TRI PHÊ CHUẨN CỦA CƠ QUAN DỊCH VỤ KHẨN CẤP SỐ 60 QUẬN HARRIS, CHO MỤC ĐÍCH ĐỂ DUY TRÌ CÁC DỊCH VỤ PHÒNG NGỪA HÒA HOẠN VÀ TIẾP CỨU. NĂM NGOÀI, MỨC THUẾ GIÁ TRỊ BẤT ĐỘNG SẢN TRONG CƠ QUAN DỊCH VỤ KHẨN CẤP SỐ 60 QUẬN HARRIS LÀ \$0.0500 TRÊN MỖI \$100 GIÁ TRỊ BẤT ĐỘNG SẢN."
CHỐNG	

CÁC ĐỊA ĐIỂM BỎ PHIẾU: Các cử tri hội đủ điều kiện cư ngụ trong phần địa giới của QUẬN HARRIS nằm trong Cơ Quan Dịch Vụ Khẩn Cấp Số 60 Quận Harris có thể bỏ phiếu tại các địa điểm phòng phiếu thích hợp do Quản Lý Viên phụ trách Bầu Cử ấn định chiếu theo Lệnh Bầu Cử của Quận Harris, Thông Báo Bầu Cử do Quận Harris đăng/niêm yết và cụ thể hơn trên trang mạng www.harrisvotes.com.

BỎ PHIẾU SỚM: Thủ tục bỏ phiếu sớm sẽ được tiến hành bởi ông **Teneshia Hudspeth**, Thư ký phụ trách bỏ phiếu sớm quận Harris, từ ngày 23 tháng Mười, 2023 đến hết ngày 3 tháng 11, 2023 và vào các ngày giờ và địa điểm do Quản Lý Viên phụ trách Bầu Cử ấn định chiếu theo Lệnh Bầu Cử của Quận Harris, Thông Báo Bầu Cử do Quận Harris đăng/niêm yết và cụ thể hơn trên trang mạng www.harrisvotes.com.

Địa chỉ thư chính thức của Thư Ký Phụ Trách Bỏ Phiếu Sớm nơi quý vị gửi đơn xin lá phiếu và gửi trở lại các lá phiếu bầu qua thư về cho, Teneshia Hudspeth, Harris County Clerk's Office, 1001 Preston, Suite 426, Houston, Texas 77002. Số điện thoại của Thư Ký phụ trách Bỏ Phiếu Sớm là (713) 755-6965. Địa chỉ email của Thư Ký phụ trách Bỏ Phiếu Sớm là voters@harrisvotes.com. Trang mạng của Thư Ký phụ trách Bỏ Phiếu Sớm là www.harrisvotes.com. Địa điểm chính tiến hành bỏ phiếu sớm là NRG Arena, 1 NRG Parkway, Houston, Texas 77054. Các đơn xin lá phiếu phải được Thư Ký Phụ Trách Bỏ Phiếu Sớm nhận được không trễ hơn ngày, 27 tháng 10, 2023, lúc 5:00 giờ chiều.

CƠ QUAN DỊCH VỤ KHẨN CẤP SỐ 60 QUẬN HARRIS
Bởi: /s/ Helen Lauersdorf, Chủ Tịch
CHỨNG THỰC: Bởi: /s/ Alfred A. Adams, Thư Ký

AVISO DE ELECCIÓN

PARA: LOS VOTANTES HABILITADOS DEL CONDADO DE HARRIS, TEXAS, QUE RESIDEN EN EL DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS DE EMERGENCIA NRO. 60 DEL CONDADO DE HARRIS:

La Junta de Comisionados de Servicios de Emergencia del DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS DE EMERGENCIA NRO. 60 DEL CONDADO DE HARRIS ha emitido una Orden que convoca a una elección a realizarse el 7 de noviembre de 2023 desde las 7:00 A.M. hasta las 7:00 P.M., en la que todos los votantes elegibles que residen dentro de los límites del DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS DE EMERGENCIA NRO. 60 DEL CONDADO DE HARRIS tendrán derecho a votar por lo siguiente:

Proposición A A FAVOR	“APROBAR LA TASA IMPOSITIVA AD VALOREM DE \$0.075 POR CADA VALORACIÓN DE \$100 EN EL DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS DE EMERGENCIA DEL CONDADO DE HARRIS NRO. 60 PARA EL AÑO EN CURSO, UNA TASA QUE ES \$0.0308 MÁS ALTA POR VALORACIÓN DE \$100 QUE LA TASA DEL IMPUESTO DE APROBACIÓN DE VOTANTES DEL DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS DE EMERGENCIA DEL CONDADO DE HARRIS NRO. 60, CON EL PROPÓSITO DE AUMENTAR LOS RECURSOS DE PROTECCIÓN CONTRA INCENDIOS. EL AÑO PASADO, LA TASA IMPOSITIVA AD VALOREM EN EL DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS DE EMERGENCIA DEL CONDADO DE HARRIS NRO. 60 FUE DE \$0.0500 POR CADA VALORACIÓN DE \$100.”
EN CONTRA	

UBACIONES DE LOS LUGARES DE VOTACIÓN: Los votantes calificados que residen en el DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS DE EMERGENCIA Nro. 60 DEL CONDADO DE HARRIS pueden votar en los lugares de votación adecuados, designados por el Administrador de Elecciones en virtud de la Orden de Elección del Condado de Harris, Aviso de Elección publicado por el Condado de Harris y como se identifican más específicamente en www.harrisvotes.com.

VOTACIÓN ANTICIPADA: La votación anticipada estará a cargo de **Teneshia Hudspeth**, la Oficial de Votación Anticipada, del Condado de Harris, desde el 23 de octubre hasta el 3 de noviembre de 2023, y en los horarios y lugares designados por el Administrador de Elecciones del Condado de Harris en virtud de la Orden de Elección del Condado de Harris, Aviso de Elección publicado por el Condado de Harris y como se identifican más específicamente en www.harrisvotes.com.

La dirección postal oficial del Oficial de Votación Anticipada a la cual se pueden enviar las solicitudes para boletas de votación y las boletas de votación por correo es Teneshia Hudspeth, Harris County Clerk's Office, 1001 Preston, Suite 426, Houston, Texas 77002. El número de teléfono de la Oficial de Votación Anticipada es (713) 755-6965. La dirección de correo electrónico de la Oficial de Votación Anticipada es voters@harrisvotes.com. El sitio web en internet de la Oficial de Votación Anticipada es www.harrisvotes.com. La ubicación del lugar de votación anticipada principal es NRG Arena, 1 NRG Parkway, Houston, Texas 77054. El Oficial de Votación Anticipada debe recibir las solicitudes de boleta de votación antes del octubre 27 de 2023, a las 5:00 P.M.

DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS DE EMERGENCIA NRO. 60 DEL CONDADO DE HARRIS
Por: /firma/ Helen Lauersdorf, Presidente
ATESTIGUA: Por: /firma/ Alfred A. Adams, Secretario

選舉通知

致：居住於 HARRIS 郡緊急服務區第 60 區的 TEXAS 州 HARRIS 縣之合資格選民：

HARRIS 郡緊急服務區第 60 區緊急服務委員會已發佈命令要求於 2023 年 11 月 7 日上午 7:00 至晚上 7:00 間舉行選舉，屆時居住於 HARRIS 郡緊急服務區第 60 區範圍內的所有合資格選民均有權就以下事項作出投票表決：

提案 A 贊成	“批准 HARRIS 縣緊急服務區第 60 號本年度每 100 美元 估價 0.075 美元之從價稅率，該稅率 比 HARRIS 縣緊急 服務區第 60 號選民批准的每 100 美元估價高出 0.0308 美元，以維持消防和救援服務的目的。 去年，HARRIS 縣緊急服務區第 60 號的從價稅率為每 100 美元估價 0.0500 美元。 ”
反對	

投票點地址：居住於 HARRIS 郡緊急服務區第 60 區內（HARRIS 縣部分）的合資格選民可在選舉行政官員依照 Harris 縣選舉命令及 Harris 縣選舉通知指定的相應投票所地點進行投票，詳見www.harrisvotes.com。

提前投票： 提前投票將由提前投票書記員 Teneshia Hudspeth 執行，時間為 2023 年 10 月 23 至年 11 月 3。在 Harris 縣選舉行政官員依照 Harris 縣選舉命令及 Harris 縣選舉通知指定的時間和地點執行，詳見www.harrisvotes.com。

選票申請與郵寄選票可寄至提前投票書記員的正式郵寄地址，即：Early Voting Clerk, Teneshia Hudspeth, Harris County Clerk's Office, 1001 Preston, Suite 426, Houston, Texas 77002. 。提前投票書記員電話是 (713) 755-6965。提前投票書記員電子郵件地址是 voters@harrisvotes.com。提前投票書記員網站是 www.harrisvotes.com。主要的提前投票地址是 NRG Arena, 1 NRG Parkway, Houston, Texas 77054.。選票申請必須於 2023 年 10 月 27 下午 5:00 前送達提前投票書記員。

HARRIS 郡緊急服務區 60 區
簽署人： /簽名/ Helen Lauersdorf, 主席
見證： 簽署人： /簽名/ Alfred A. Adams, 秘書長

EPA Stops Negotiations on Waste Pits North Site

By Jackie Medcalf
THEA Director

HIGHLANDS – The EPA has announced it is not going to wait for the companies responsible for the San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund Site any longer. The agency wrote in a letter to the companies that it will no longer negotiate with the responsible parties for an independent review of the remediation plan.

Here's THEA's Analysis Of The Decision

The EPA announcement involves the remediation plan for the Northern Pit. For nearly a year,

there has been no progress on the project. The EPA wanted the companies responsible for the contamination, International Paper and McGinnes Industrial Maintenance Corporation/Waste Management to hire a third party to review the plan. However, after months of delay, the agency and the companies still hadn't agreed on the requirements for the independent contractor, including how to make sure there were no conflict of interest problems between the third party and the responsible companies. So, the EPA called off the negotiations and said it is considering conducting its own engineering review

without asking the companies for any input.

In a letter to the companies, the EPA says it won't wait any longer and is taking charge. The agency says it will decide what to do next on the cleanup without consulting the companies.

Why is this important?

The companies responsible for Superfund Sites are required to pay for the site cleanup and the government tries to let the companies manage the remediation process under the EPA's watchful eye. However, under the law, if the EPA decides that the companies responsible for a Superfund Site are not

cooperating, it has the power to take over the cleanup process and force the companies to pay any expenses. It is a power that the EPA only uses rarely and only after making every effort to allow the companies to do the right thing. By taking the lead in this step of the process, the EPA is moving in the right direction.

Background

Last year, the EPA told the responsible parties to finalize a plan to fully remove the contaminated material, including dioxin, from the Northern Pit. International Paper and McGinnes said that wasn't feasible. The companies want to cap a

portion of the material and leave it in the river. The EPA called for what is called an "Independent Design Review" (IDR), meaning an unbiased outside engineering firm would evaluate technical design challenges.

In its letter, the EPA said, "Nine months later, however, the IDR has not started, and the parties have not even agreed on a protocol on how to conduct it." The letter says that International Paper and McGinnes' approach appears to make it "difficult, and potentially impossible...to develop and conduct a mutually acceptable" review.

The letter ends by saying that, instead of allowing the companies' approach to delay the process anymore, "The EPA will determine its next steps for the RD and inform Respondents accordingly."

Bottom Line

This is an important and much needed step in protecting the health of the communities along the San Jacinto River and the health of the San Jacinto River and Galveston Bay Estuary. THEA applauds the EPA for sending the message, ***International Paper and McGinnes/Waste Management...Enough Is Enough!***

★

SPORTS PAGE

★

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 7

Aggies face big test at Tennessee: Texans look for another home win against Saints

Aggies face big test at Houston had one heck of a day two weeks ago. The Astros completed a sweep of the Arizona Diamondbacks and thanks to Seattle's 1-0 win over the Texas Rangers on that same day, Houston's Local Nine wrapped up the American League West Division. It was a great road trip for Dusty Baker's team as they won five of their last six games to win their third straight division crown.

While the Astros were doing their thing in the desert, the Houston Texans were overwhelming the Pittsburgh Steelers at NRG Stadium, 30-6, on the day the team inducted star defensive end J.J. Watt into its Ring of Honor.

Let's hope the Astros have one more run in them as they look to win a second straight World Series title. It won't be easy, but at least we get to enjoy the ride.

The Texans have been one of the surprise teams thus far in the NFL. After losing their first two games, DeMeco Ryan's team has run off two convincing victories (37-17 at Jacksonville and 30-6 at home against the Steelers).

This Sunday, Houston hosts New Orleans at noon in NRG Stadium. The Saints are struggling on offense as former Raider Derek Carr is the new man under center. NO did get back all-purpose running back Alvin Kamara back after he served a three-game suspension, which should help Carr and the offense. The Texans have received stellar play from rookie QB C.J. Stroud, who in his first four games as a pro has yet to throw an interception, while tossing six touchdown passes.

Other interesting games on tap in the NFL this weekend has the Detroit Lions visiting the surprising Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Two weeks ago, Detroit dominated the Packers in Green Bay and left with a 34-20 win, while the Bucs won at New Orleans, 26-9 to take over sole possession of first place in the



KEENEY'S KORNER

By
MIKE KEENEY

NFC South.

The Cowboys rebounded from their embarrassing loss at Arizona in Week 3 with a 38-3 stomping of the New England Patriots, handing head coach Bill Belichick his worst loss as an NFL head coach. This week, the Cowboys travel to Los Angeles to take on the Chargers on Monday Night Football.

In the college game, Jimbo Fisher and his Texas A&M Aggies face a tough road test when they take on Tennessee in Knoxville. This will be a good test for the Aggies who looked solid in their 34-22 win over Arkansas two weeks ago. A&M has a ton of weapons on offense and will need every one of them when they take on the Vols on Saturday.

There are two big games on tap this weekend at No. 8-ranked Oregon visits No. 7-ranked Washington in a key Pac 12 battle, while No. 9-ranked USC visits No. 10-ranked Notre Dame in prime time on NBC.

Before we take a look at this weekend's games, let's review last week's record. An 8-4 record (best of the season) brought the season record to 28-22 (56%). Now, onto this weekend's games.

NCAA

Texas A&M at Tennessee: Jimbo Fisher's Aggies travel to Knoxville to take on the Vols in what should be a key game for both teams in SEC play. The Aggies are in the hunt in the SEC

West, while the Vols look to contend with Georgia in the SEC East. Two weeks ago, the Ags had a workman like performance against Arkansas and left AT&T Stadium in Arlington with a 34-22 win. Backup QB Max Johnson (436 yards, 6 TDs) has filled in nicely for injured starter Conner Weigman. He has a load of talent on offense to help him out in running back Le'Von Moss (276 yards, 2 TDs) and Amari Daniels (270 yards, 2 TDs) and big-play wide receivers Evan Stewart (24 receptions, 357 yards, 4 TDs) and Ainiias Smith (22 receptions, 343 yards, plus an 80-yard punt return for a TD against the Hogs. Tennessee is lethal on offense as well with QB Joe Milton III (1,164 yards, 9 TDs), running back Jaylan Wright (435 yards, 1 TD) and wide receiver Squirrel White (26 receptions, 276 yards). This should be a high scoring game and look for the Vols to make one or two more plays than the Aggies do to pull it out. My pick, Tennessee 37, Texas A&M 34

Oregon at Washington: This should be another offensive shootout as No. 8-ranked Oregon visits No. 7-ranked Washington. In its first five games, Oregon has averaged 51.6 points per game, while the Huskies have averaged 46 points per game. I don't think there will be a lot of defense played in this game. Oregon is led by QB Bo Nix (1,459 yards, 15 TDs), running back Bucky Irving (393 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receiver Troy Franklin (32 receptions, 535 yards, 7 TDs). Washington has a pretty fair signal caller of their own

in left-handed thrower Michael Penix (1,999 yards, 16 TDs). Penix has three quality wideouts to throw to in Rome Odunza (32 receptions, 608 yards, 4 TDs), Ja'Lynn Polk (26 receptions, 468 yards, 4 TDs) and Jalen McMillan (20 receptions, 311 yards, 3 TDs). Look for those three to wear out the Oregon secondary as the Huskie pick up a big conference win. My pick, Washington 38, Oregon 35

USC at Notre Dame: No. 9-ranked USC travels to the Midwest to take on No. 10-ranked Notre Dame in one of the most storied intersectional rivalries in college football. USC QB Caleb Williams (1,603 yards, 21 TDs) could very well be the No. 1 overall pick in the 2024 NFL draft and he has a host of weapons that will test the Irish defense in running back Marshawn Lloyd (433 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receivers Tahj Washington (18 receptions, 395 yards, 5 TDs) and Brendan Rice (17 receptions, 335 yards, 7 TDs). ND has a solid QB in Sam Hartman (1,458 yards, 14 TDs) and one of the best tight ends in the country in Mitchell Evans (18 receptions, 272 yards). They also have a solid running back in Audric Estime (672 yards, 7 TDs). Look for Notre Dame to give Estime plenty of work to work the clock and keep Williams off the field. USC is potent on offense, but it's defense is suspect. If ND can get an early lead and work the clock, Marcus Freeman could earn the biggest win of his young head coaching career. Playing at home under the lights will also be a huge plus for the Irish. My pick, Notre Dame 33, USC 31

NFL

San Francisco at Cleveland: The 49ers potent offense takes on one of the league's top defenses when these two meet in Cleveland on Sunday afternoon. The Browns will have their hands full with SF running back Christian McCaffrey (455 yards, 7 total TDs), QB Brock Purdy (1,019 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receiver Brandon Aiyuk (17 receptions, 320 yards, 2 TDs). The Browns will need a big day from defensive end Myles Garrett (5.5 sacks in his first four games) to

slow down McCaffrey. Cleveland should have starting QB Deshaun Watson (675 yards, 4 TDs) back after he missed the Browns loss to Baltimore two weeks ago with a shoulder injury. Look for the 49ers to continue to roll as they take care of the Browns on Sunday. My pick, San Francisco 26, Cleveland 20

Detroit at Tampa Bay: The Lions travel to Florida to take on the Bucs in a meeting between two of the more surprising teams thus far in the 2023 NFL season. Two weeks ago, Detroit improved to 3-1 with a convincing 34-20 win at Green Bay, while the Bucs also improved to 3-1 with a 26-9 thumping of the Saints in New Orleans. Detroit is led by QB Jared Goff (1,029 yards, 6 TDs), running back David Montgomery (262 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown (26 receptions, 331 yards, 2 TDs) and a stout defense led by defensive end Aidan Hutchinson (3.5 sacks in his first four games). TB has gotten solid play from journeyman QB Baker Mayfield (882 yards, 7 TDs) and big plays from wide receiver Mike Evans (20 receptions, 337 yards, 3 TDs). Evans injured his hamstring in the Saints win and he might not be available for this game. That would be a big blow to the TB offense. Look for the Lions to pick up another big road win as they look to take command of the NFC North Division. My pick, Detroit 24, Tampa Bay 20

New Orleans at Houston: The Texans will look for another home when they host the Saints on Sunday at NRG Stadium. Two weeks ago, rookie QB C.J. Stroud (1,212 yards, 6 TDs) passed for 306 yards and two touchdowns in the Texans' 30-6 route of the Steelers. In his first four games, Stroud has yet to throw an interception and seems to have made a strong connection with wide receivers Nico Collins (22 receptions, 428 yards, 3 TDs) and Tank Dell (16 receptions, 267 yards, 2 TDs). The Saints split their first four games with Derek Carr (763 yards, 2 TDs) as their new QB. Running back Alvin Kamara is back after serving a three-game suspension and his return should help the Saints offense. Look for another solid day from Stroud as

the Texans pick up another win that should put them squarely in the hunt in the AFC South race. My pick, Houston 26, New Orleans 20

New York Giants at Buffalo: I wish the NFL would flex this game because I think we've seen enough of the Giants in prime time. After opening the season with a 40-0 loss on Sunday Night Football to the Cowboys, they lost 24-3 on Monday Night Football two weeks ago as Seattle recorded 11 sacks against the hapless Giants. It could be another long night for them when they face a Buffalo team that rolled previously undefeated Miami 48-20 two weeks ago. Now, the Bills will be coming off a game in London and could be fatigued, but even a tired Josh Allen (1,048 passing yards, 9 TDs/106 rushing yards, 2 TDs) and Stefon Diggs (31 receptions, 399 yards, 4 TDs) should have enough left in the tank to take down their in-state rivals. My pick, Buffalo 33, New York Giants 16

Dallas at Los Angeles Chargers: The Cowboys take on the Chargers on Monday Night Football to close out Week 6. Two weeks ago, Dallas embarrassed New England 38-3 as the defense recorded two more touchdowns (a fumble recovery and a pick six). The offense did just enough behind QB Dak Prescott (908 yards, 4 TDs) to get the job done. Look for the Cowboys to try and get running back Tony Pollard (311 yards, 2 TDs) going against a very decent Chargers defense. If the running game gets going, that should open up things for Prescott to make some plays with wide receiver CeeDee Lamb (23 receptions, 309 yards, 1 TD). The Chargers had a week off to rest up for this one and should have running back Austin Ekeler back. Ekeler has not played since Week 1 after he injured his ankle. Speaking of injuries, QB Justin Herbert (1,106 yards, 7 TDs) suffered an injury to his non-throwing hand two weeks ago, but should be ready for this prime time matchup. He and wide receiver Keenan Allen (35 receptions, 434 yards, 3 TDs) have been hot thus far. This should be a fun game to watch, with the Dallas defense (14 sacks in first four games) being the difference maker. My pick, Dallas 26, Los Angeles Chargers 17

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Channelview Pollution,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

as Commission on Environmental Quality.

The state agency examines cancer risks in any given community exposed to a pollutant. TCEQ uses this risk standard to help decide on permits, rules, and regulations that affect how much pollution can be released near neighborhoods.

In the past, there was no formal process for Texans to have a say in how these risks were calculated. But the Texas Sunset Commission – a legislative agency that reviews state agencies – is now recommending the TCEQ reevaluate its cancer risk model with public input. Residents such as Stone will have a chance to ask for more protective measures when it comes to these pollutants in the community, by sending in comments.

Texas residents have until Oct. 3 to submit comments on the TCEQ website. The agency will then evaluate these comments and concerns and decide whether to keep the cancer-risk standard the same or change it.

Current standard
Currently, the TCEQ analyzes cancer risk in a community by determining, out of every 100,000 people, how many may develop cancer after being continuously exposed to a pollutant.

Many environmentalists and residents believe the standard isn't protective enough. Jennifer Hadaya, the executive director of Air Alliance Houston, a nonprofit environmental advocacy agency, said she had no clue about TCEQ's standard reconsideration and the public comment period until recently. But now that she does, there's a lot to comment on.

"There are serious problems with the standard, so we are preparing our official comments now," Hadaya said. "We know that a vast majority of hazardous air pollutants that the TCEQ regulates have a connection to cancer. And we think this standard could be even more protective than it is right now."

Environmentalists like Hadaya are concerned, for example, about the standard's silence when it comes to measuring the cumulative impact created by pollution emitted from multiple facilities. As it stands now, the standard only focuses on long-term exposure and evaluates individual chemicals emitted from a particular facility, instead of looking at the cumulative effect from all the facilities.

In a statement to the Houston Landing, the TCEQ said its acceptable lifetime excess cancer-risk range "allows for potential cumulative exposure to multiple carcinogens" when they come from one source. However, the TCEQ will only regulate stationary facilities, such as power plants or refineries, and it will also only evaluate one source's emissions at a time, rather than address the impact of all pollutants at once.

Petrochemical plants in Channelview, Texas on September 26, 2023. The TCEQ is currently considering a proposal over the establishment of an acceptable level of cancer risk from industry pollutants which would determine how air and water and other factors are regulated. Environmentalists have several issues with this new proposal. The period for public comment ends Oct. 3. (Mer-

ridith Kohut for Houston Landing)

Carolyn Stone, founder of Channelview Health and Improvement Coalition, gives visiting journalists a tour on September 26, 2023 of the industry around her home in Channelview. She is concerned about cancer risk for her family and neighbors, and potential chemical explosions from the petrochemical industry that has significantly expanded around her home since she moved there in the 1980s. (Meridith Kohut for Houston Landing)

The Ksolv Channelview terminal is down the street from where Carolyn Stone lives. She is concerned about cancer risk for her family and neighbors, and potential chemical explosions from the petrochemical industry that has significantly expanded around her home since she moved there in the 1980s. (Meridith Kohut for Houston Landing)

Posted signs to not eat fish or crabs caught along the contaminated shore of a public park where chemical tankers moor nearby in Channelview. on September 26, 2023. (Meridith Kohut for Houston Landing)

Chemical tankers move in and out of Southwest Shipyard on September 26, 2023 in Channelview, Texas. (Meridith Kohut for Houston Landing)

Chemical tankers moored near a public park and playground in Channelview on September 26, 2023. Posted signs warn of health risks of eating fish caught in the contaminated water here. (Meridith Kohut for Houston Landing)

Hadaya also wants the agency to adjust the standard to take into account "acute risk" – singular incidents such as chemical explosions like the Houston Ship Channel ITC fire in 2019. The Sunset Commission's review only requires that the TCEQ look at long-term exposure effects and not acute exposure. Although TCEQ monitors acute exposure incidents, those rules will not be up for public comment.

A community taken over by industry

In Channelview, Stone said the number of facilities in her neighborhood is what concerns her most. On a drive through her community last week, she pointed to several spots that used to be little forested areas or grassy green parks, now taken over by industry. When she moved into the community, there was industry, she said, but not this much.

She has lived in the area since 1981. In that time, she has seen a lot of people die from cancer. Her neighbor down the street was just diagnosed with a rare form of breast cancer, she said. And a father and son nearby both died of cancer just a few years ago, with the son only being in his early 20s.

Because of what she saw happening around her, in 2019, she founded the Channelview Health and Improvement Coalition. They meet every month if they can.

"We shouldn't have to die for breathing and living," Stone said. "We didn't do anything wrong but live in a place. With all the doctors' bills that pile up when you're sick, we're the ones who end up having to pay the price."

Earlier this year, Stone and other members in Channelview, Galena Park and Pleasantville installed their own air-mon-

itors at various locations throughout the communities. So far, Stone says the monitor consistently shows unhealthy levels of air quality.

Harris County has some of the highest levels of cancer in the state. An 18-month study published in 2007 by the University of Texas School of Public Health and the Houston Health Department found that children living within two miles of the Houston Ship Channel had a 56 percent higher chance of being diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia than children living at least 10 miles away.

Even now, the location for Harris County's Head Start program for infants, toddlers and pre-school children in Channelview is only feet from a facility which cleans out tanks that once held chemicals. And Channelview High School is less than 2 miles from a major petrochemical refinery that processes plastics, fuels and chemicals, which can be seen poking up over the distance from the school's parking lot.

"Cancer isn't the only thing"

Loren Hopkins, the chief environmental science officer for the City of Houston, said analyzing cancer risk by 1 in one million is far more protective than the TCEQ's 1 in 100,000 standard. The Environmental Protection Agency analyzes cancer risk by 1 in one million, meaning the TCEQ uses a less protective standard than the federal government.

"Cancer isn't the only thing people are being exposed to, either," said Hopkins.

She pointed out that communities like Channelview are exposed to other pollutants as well, such as ozone pollution, a smog-like substance produced by a mixture of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds released by sources such as cars and refineries, and PM2.5, which are inhalable air-borne particles linked to asthma, stroke and cardiac arrest.

Not all residents are the same, either.

"A healthy worker with no preexisting conditions will react differently to cancer-causing chemicals than, let's say, a family that does not have access to proper health care, correct food," Hopkins said. "A lot of these communities already have a societal burden on top of the industry that's there."

The TCEQ's excess cancer risk assessment does not take into account an individual's risk, meaning the TCEQ does not discern between someone with a preexisting condition who could be more at risk than someone who is generally healthy. It's another concern Air Alliance Houston has about the current cancer risk assessment, said Hadaya.

For Stone, the public comment period is just another part of her life in Channelview. She said the area is in a constant fight with industry, policies and public officials. And as a former firefighter, she gets what it's like to be blowing out flames left and right.

"Cancer is always a possibility for us here because of the air quality," Stone said. "And it really shouldn't be."

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NNO Gathering Jacinto City,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Carwash.

The NNO organization's goal is to encourage each local law enforcement agency to plan, sponsor, organize and have throughout their city neighborhood get-togethers so neighbors can get to know each other better and become Crime Watchers in their local area for strange or unusual activities and to report them to their law enforcement agency. The more neighborhood get-togethers a community has the lower the crime rate will be in the city according to statistics.

Constable Jerry Garcia, his deputies and his staff were out in good numbers giving crime prevention talks and literature. Garcia's staff had a "Spin-The Wheel" game that provided a free gift to each participant; all ages enjoyed spinning the wheel. Garcia and his deputies visited all of the designated NNO events in his jurisdiction.

Sandra Zamarripa, Community Liaison of the office of Adrian Garcia, County Commissioner Pct. 2 was present passing out gifts and helpful contact information for county services.

Jacinto City Police Chief Joe Ayala and the police department donated some of the hotdogs, refreshments and crime prevention literature. JC Sgt. Francisco Benavides and Officer Arthur Luevanos were present meeting and greeting the citizens and letting them know how to report suspicious activities in their neighborhood.

Organizers and sponsors were: Aldo Hernandez (Brothers Granite &



Future crime fighter, 5 year old Diego Sanchez and Constable Jerry Garcia. Diego's mother Maria Hernandez attended with him, he was in full police uniform which made an impression with all in attendance. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Marble Services & Carpentry & Cabinets (832-571-6956), Anali Gomez (Los Mexicananos Refresqueria y Carwash (1713 Holland – 832-516-3114), Hector Salinas (JC Precision Machine Shop – 832-516-3114) and Allan & Linda Jamail.

To participate and or sponsor a NNO next year contact Constable Jerry Garcia's office, 713-477-2766, Jacinto City Police, 713-672-2455, Galena Park Police, 713-675-3471, Harris County Sheriff, 713-221-6000 or Allan Jamail at allanj211@aol.com.

Having your information in the FREE Emergency Safety Profile database "SMART911" for your household quickly helps to save time for responders in the event of a fire, flood or crime or other emergency. To sign up go to SMART911.com / National Child Abuse Hotline – call or text for help: 1-800-4-A-Child (422-4453) / <https://www.childhelp.org>

Harris County Water Control Improvement District No. 21 Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Harris County Water Control Improvement District No. 21 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2023 on November 6, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at 15808 Avenue C, Channelview, TX 77530. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

FOR the proposal: Jimmy L. Ramsey, Wesley Hutchins, Brian Uhazie & Pete Brady
AGAINST the proposal: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: Floyd A. Carroll

	2022	2023
	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.28/\$100	\$0.28/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
		\$0.00/\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		0.00%
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)	\$ 116,925	\$ 101,590
Average appraised residence homestead value		
General homestead exemptions available		
(excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled	\$ -	\$ -
person's exemptions)	\$ 116,925	\$ 101,590
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 327.39	\$ 284.45
Tax on average residence homestead		
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if		-\$42.94
proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		-13.12%
and percentage of increase (+/-)		

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

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.

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