



Candidate John Whitmire greets Isaiah Jamail, one of many college students at the Election Afterparty. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

# NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
VOLUME 11, NO. 44 (#494) THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023 www.northchannelstar.com

## Houston's Mayoral Race Heads to a Runoff

By Allan Jamail

Houston, Texas ~ November 7, 2023 ~ Houston's City Hall races ended with 7 of the 18 contested positions having to be decided on the election runoff date of Saturday, December 9th including the mayor's race.

Senator John Whitmire (age 74) came in first place with 43.06 percent; US Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (age 73) got 34.81 percent, a difference of 20,373 votes or 8.25 percent lead for Whitmire over Jackson Lee.

The Whitmire campaign election watch party event was held at the Marriott Marquis Hotel downtown.

The event went off perfect as coordinator Sue Davis planned. The ballroom was overflowing with supporters of the most diverse group by nationality and age of any election watch party I've ever seen in my forty plus years of attending them.

Asians, Blacks, Hispanic and Anglos were equally proportionately mixed at the event. The ages in attendance were mixed from college age up to seniors. In the Houston's nonpartisan government there were good balances of Republican and Democrat supporters. To entertain the large gathering, music was played by the highly acclaimed five time Gram-



Houston Mayoral candidate Senator John Whitmire with his two daughters to his immediate left, Whitney Whitmire Jenkins & Sarah Whitmire. Introducing Whitmire, L-R: Dr. Theresa Tran, Rep. Garnet Coleman, Rev. F.N. Williams Sr. & Senator Carol Alvarado (blue dress). (Photo by Allan Jamail)

my award winner David DeLaGarza Band.

Senator Whitmire individually thanked and greeted hundreds of supporters on the floor as he mingled amongst them, most wanted selfie photos with him. When the news came that declared Whitmire finished in first place he went to the stage.

He was introduced by a diverse group, Senator Carol Alvarado, Rep. Garnett Coleman, Dr. Theresa Tran, a widely popular Asian and Rev. F.N. Williams Sr. a well known Black minister who's

Continued. See RUNOFF IN HOUSTON'S MAYOR ELECTION, Page 5

### CHANNEL CURRENTS

#### Community Toy Drive Dec. 2

Channelview Fire Department will hold its Annual Toy Drive, Saturday, Dec. 2 from 10am to 1pm at Panera Bread, 15450 Wallisville Road, Channelview.

Collecting NEW unwrapped toys benefitting the North Channel Community. "EVERY CHILD DESERVES A CHRISTMAS"

#### Hands Only CPR Training Nov. 17

Everyone Can Save a Life. CPR Training, Nov. 17 at 9:00am. Hampton Inn & Suites, Beltway 8 East. Complimentary Breakfast. Register at NCEMS.net. Sponsored by ESD6, Channelview FD, South Lake Houston EMS, and Crosby ESD5.

## Undefeated Mustangs win Bi-District, Advance to Area Playoff Round

By Allan Jamail

November 9, 2023 - GPISD stadium the North Shore (NS) Mustangs in a drenching rain won their Bi-District game over the visiting Deer Park Deer, 42-14. It was the 24th consecutive time the Eastside Boys advanced into the UIL Texas Football State Championships playoffs, and their 43rd consecutive district win.

The torrential rain kept the usual large crowd of fans at home. The fans of both teams who braved the rainy cold-front wore rain gear to root for their team.

The Deer scored first from a fumble recovery on the NS three yard line. That's a first in several seasons that NS didn't make the first score or even score at all in the first quarter. The Deer defense shutout the Eastside Boys until midway into the second quarter when NS tied the game 7-7. NS went ahead 14-7 with less than a minute before halftime.



#9 NS Kaleb Bailey 9 yd. quarterback keeper run for a TD. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



#28 Mustang's D'Andre Hardeman 84 yd run TD. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



North Shore Team Captains: #5-Lavonte Johnson, #28-D'Andre Hardeman, #17-Paul Porter and #9-Kaleb Bailey (Photo by Linda Jamail)

In the second quarter NS broke open the game with three TD's. QB Kaleb Bailey ran 53 yds on a keeper for a TD, D'Andre Hardeman ran 84 yds for a TD and Charles Ross a defensive linebacker picked up a Deer fumble and ran 25 yds for a TD, Deion Deblanc scored on a 43 yd Bailey pass making the score NS 42 - 7. With five minutes remaining the Deer scored capping the score 42-14.

Mustang scorers: D'andre Hardeman - 2 TDs, QB Kaleb Bailey 2 TD's & 1 pass TD, Deion Deblanc 1pass TD. Jonathan Soto's perfect kicking made 6 extra points. He's not missed this season.

The offense made 402 yds to the Deer's 194. NS defense held the Deer to 35 rushing yds.

For the season NS offense has made 516 points, their defense has allowed only 154 points. Linda Jamail statistician

Continued. See MUSTANGS CONTINUE UNDEFEATED, Page 5

## Gun Buyback Event this Saturday Nov. 18

HARRIS COUNTY - The Harris County Sheriff's Office is partnering with the Office of Commissioner Lesley Briones, Precinct 4, to organize a gun buyback event. This event encourages residents to voluntarily turn in their firearms for gift cards just ahead of the holidays.

We hope to see everyone at the gun buyback event on Saturday, November 18, from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Westchase Park and Ride, 11050 Harwin Dr, Houston, TX, 77072.

This event is a proactive community safety initiative and can



have positive outcomes in preventing accidents and promoting responsible gun ownership. There is \$170,000 in gift cards to hand out to the community and those cards are ready for immediate use.

All weapons collected during this buy back event will be destroyed and will not be resold or

kept by the Sheriff's Office.

For those planning to turn in firearms next week, do not sell your firearms to solicitors who may be outside the event. You never know if that firearm ends up in the wrong hands. Let our professionally trained staff safely dispose of the firearms.

## GP/JC Rotary Chili Luncheon Raises Funds for Scholarships

By David Taylor

For more than a decade, the Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary Club has focused their fundraising efforts with the annual Million Dollar Chili Feast on scholarships for Galena Park High School seniors. Last Thursday, the area leaders continued that tradition with feisty bidding amidst a great deal of fun as the money flowed for GP's finest.

"Everything that we raise is devoted specifically to the scholarships," said GP/JC Rotary Club president Julien Guillory.

The timing for the chili feast is perfect during the fall season.

"Sometimes it works out it's cold and others it isn't, but the Rotarians and



Don Nichols and Bryan Clements look over the silent auction items at the Million Dollar Chili Feast at the Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary Club meeting last Thursday. The luncheon is one of the club's fundraisers for scholarships for GPHS graduates.

guests still open their wallets to give," Guillory said.

The club president said they average between 16-20 scholarships every year.

"We try to raise more money with additional

fundraisers that go to the scholarships as well," he said.

Continued. See GP/JC ROTARY LUNCHEON RAISES FUNDS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS, Page 5



## Sheldon ISD AP Scholars Surprised with Yard Signs

On November 3, Sheldon ISD administration surprised students with yard signs signifying their status as College Board AP Scholars. For 2023, Sheldon ISD has 25 AP Scholars and one AP Scholar with Honors, setting a new district record in total number of AP Scholars. To qualify as an AP Scholar, students must pass three advanced placement exams with a 3 or higher, earning college credit. To be eligible for an AP Scholar with Honors, a student must pass at least 4 advanced placement exams and maintain a cumulative average of at least a 3.25 on all exams taken.

Of the 26 students, three are from the STEM Academy and 23 are from the Early College High School. Across the world, less than five percent of all students taking advanced placement receive this honor and less than one percent receive the AP Scholar with Honors. Sheldon ISD's 2023 AP Scholars are listed below:

Angela Bonilla

Luis Cano  
Maya Clark  
Miriam Davilla  
Cienna Ferguson  
Priscila Gaona  
Erika Garcia  
Johana Godinez  
Joseph Hernandez  
Katherin Lejia  
Cristal Marquez  
David Martinez  
Mon-toya  
Jocelyn Mercado

Briseis Montelongo  
Emily Montelongo  
Galilea Nieves  
Valeria Reyes  
Angelina Rivera  
Alma Rodriguez  
Anahi Rojas  
Manuel Sorto  
Genesis Tome  
Guillermo Torres  
Jose Trujillo Jr  
Jonathan Trujillo  
Adam Vieyra



## 3 Seniors Sign NCAA Letters of Intent



On November 8, three senior athletes signed their NCAA Letters of Intent. Brooklyn Alexander and Kennedy Alexander will attend The University of Tulsa for a basketball scholarship. Also, softball player Jailyn LaTour signed with Limestone University. Sheldon ISD will be celebrating more soon-to-be collegiate athletes later this school year.

## 10 Sheldon ISD teachers presented Game Balls from College Football Playoff Foundation

Houston Loves Teachers and Sheldon ISD are recognizing 10 of our passionate educators by awarding them with Extra Yard for Teachers Game Balls for their invaluable dedication to the growth and development of our students and future leaders. The following educators were presented a Game Ball during the November 3 Panther football game:

Liz Boone, Band Director at C.E. King High School  
Paul Buxie, Social Studies Teacher at Null Middle School  
Dr. Stacy Cross, CTE Teacher at C.E. King High School  
Chris Jackson, English Teacher at C.E. King High School  
Kim Jennings, PreK Teacher at Cravens Early Childhood Academy  
Tolenia Lee, Math Teacher at Garrett Elementary School  
Jamal Lewis, Coach at C.E. King High School 9th Grade Campus  
Teresa Moreno, Bilingual Teacher at Royalwood Elementary School  
Nichole Spriggs, Science Teacher at Null Middle School  
Glenn Tillman, Special Education Teacher at C.E. King High School



## King HS Holds Ceremony to Honor Veterans



On November 10, King High School presented a Salute to Veterans to honor those who have served our country. During the presentation, students honored veterans in attendance, recognizing several employees across the school district who have served. Several student groups participated including the C.E. King Air Force JROTC Armed and Unarmed Drill Teams as well as members of the Panther band.

Additionally, Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Sandra Sanders was awarded the Geico Military Local Excellence Award. Sanders is an AFJROTC Cadet. She currently holds a 3.4 GPA, was awarded the Military Order of the World Wars Award, and Tuskegee Airmen Cadet Award. She is currently enrolled in Early College High School and will receive her Associates Degree in Behavioral Science at the end of this school year. Sandra has also been nominated for the Army National Guard Minuteman Scholarship, and if selected, she plans on pursuing a career as a Clinical Psychologist. This award is presented by KHOU and Geico Military to identify one cadet that exemplifies the JROTC pillars of Leadership, Community Involvement, and Discipline with the Local Excellence Award.

## Sheldon Recognizes Senior Fine Arts Students

At the November 3 football game, Sheldon ISD celebrated students enrolled in fine arts programs representing the Class of 2024. Congratulations to the Class of 2024.



COMMUNITY  
WIDE  
RUMMAGE  
SALE

 Sat, Nov. 18th  
8 AM To 1 PM

Get great deals on

- Household Goods
- Antiques
- Collectibles
- Nike & Jordan (1X through 6X Big and Tall clothing and large men's shoes)
- Toys
- Furniture
- Food Vendors

 (713) 481-9750

Cypress Gardens  
11511 Crosby Fwy.  
Houston, TX 77013

 @cypressgardensseniorliving  
 @cypressgardensactiveseniorliving





CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



## Caring for Neighbors

My week started off with a voicemail message from a panicked senior in the community who had left home early to run an errand; only to be called by a neighbor leaving for work who noticed a stranger attempting to get in her home. The neighbor first called her to be sure she was safe. She then immediately headed home to be sure there had not been a break-in. She was alarmed and thankful the stranger left her home but upset that something like this had happened in her home of more than fifty years.

After passing along the message from my voicemail to the Constable's Dispatchers, I called to be sure she was safe. I then explained about the RUOK? Program which Constable Eagleton's Office offers and she gladly signed up for a weekly phone call. She shared that she had been given an application earlier and had not filled it out but this was a sign that in today's world, can never have enough people looking out for each other.

I shared with her that I live on Woodforest Boulevard and too close to where there was a SWAT standoff on Saturday evening into the wee hours of Sunday. While I was safe and had made sure to call my mother as well as my son to let them know I was kay, it was a blessing to have so many people in the community checking on me while all of the area was blocked off and surrounded by law enforcement, news camera and neighbors.

One of the biggest blessing of living in East Harris County is that we do care for one another. Typically we know who our neighbors are and who we can call on in case of a need. Yet, I am reminded that there are still some people out here who may not have that connection. Perhaps there is a new neighbor, a senior adult or a young single parent who is struggling; what can we do to make them know that neighbors care? Perhaps this week is a great time to invite them to an upcoming event, maybe at your child's school or at your church. Maybe they have no local family and have no holiday plans, invite them to join you for an upcoming meal or to go to the Annual Thanksgiving Day Parade. Perhaps they would be interested in volunteering with you at an upcoming community event? Or maybe they would like you to share some history of the community as you drive them around to see different sites that we take for granted. Tell them the history of North Shore Rotary, of the various school districts in our area and tell them about some of the amazing people who have lived and still live here. Share with them that the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce is for those businesses in our area that are well established as well as those who are just getting started.

Life is too short not to care about neighbors. Let's make a promise to each other that we will be better to ourselves, our families, neighbors as well as strangers.

NORTH CHANNEL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

COMMERCIAL PRINTING

Commercial Printing

We specialize in 4 Color Brochures, Magazines, Sale Flyers, We print Newspapers, too.

Call for a Quote

GRAFIKSHOP

713-977-2555



Luis F. Garcia, CPA  
Attorney at Law

13364 Woodforest Blvd  
Houston, TX 77015

713-999-8006

E.luis@luisgarcialaw.com  
www.luisgarcialaw.com

NORTHSHORE VACUUM

Professional Floor & Carpet Cleaning



Rodrigo "Rodney" Sanchez

729 Uvalde Road  
Houston, TX 77015  
northshorevacuum729@gmail.com

713-451-3247

Stripping & Wax Floors / Carpet Cleaning / Shampooing Carpet

Call 713-266-3444 to Advertise  
YOUR Business in this Directory.  
5,000 readers Weekly

## Panthers impose will on Falcons in Neighborhood Rivalry, 70-21

By David Taylor

The first round of the state UIL football playoffs began with a neighborhood brawl between rivals C. E. King (8-3, 4-3) and Channelview (5-6, 4-2). It was a rematch of the first-round playoff last year between the two and the result was nearly the same. The Panthers got the best of the Falcons this year in a blow-out, 70-21 at Ray Maddy Stadium in Channelview. It's a slightly better result than the 70-14 shellacking from last year.

Despite their 4th place finish in district, King manhandled the third place Falcons from District 22-6A from the very beginning. King's three losses came in district from No. 1 state-ranked North Shore, No. 9 Summer Creek, and No. 20 Atascocita.

The Panthers had a slow start scoring once in the first quarter, but in the second quarter, they exploded for five touchdowns to earn a 42-7 lead at the half. Channelview managed to score in each of the final quarters, but King

tacked on two more touchdowns in both the third and fourth quarters to add to the blowout.

Panther senior quarterback Darius Clark-James earned 92 yards rushing and 224 passing yards for a total of 316 yards including one touchdown. Also adding rushing scores was freshman Keidryn Edmonds, sophomore Timothy Potts, junior Jerald Fransaw, and senior K'mard Kimble. Credit receiving touchdowns to senior Vincent Jones, junior Mekhi Emerenini, senior Kason Dobbins, and senior Rae'G Dailey.

Scoring for the Falcons came from senior David Watson, junior Traveon Jackson, and senior Tyrone Scyrus. All three Falcon scores came on the ground. Jackson led the Falcons with 130 yards on 19 carries.

While Channelview's season is over, the Panthers advance to the Area round to face Clear Falls (7-4). Game time is 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 17 at Challenger Stadium in League City.

## Chamber Golf Tourney Successful Despite Challenges

By David Taylor

Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet, nor hail shall keep the golfers in the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce from their appointed rounds.

Despite a steady sprinkle early in the day, golfers weren't deterred at the annual chamber golf tournament. The linksmen pressed on following a path-only rule for carts and finished the course.

"We actually had more for this year's tournament than we did last year and not one was a no-show because of the rain," said Margie Buentello, president and CEO for the chamber.

With a shotgun start at 8 a.m., golfers hit the course at Tour 18 in Humble and enjoyed the day.

"The path-only rule for carts slowed down the tournament, but not that much," she said.

Buentello also said it was the largest tournament participation for the chamber since pre-pandemic years.

"We were still able to have the helicopter ball drop and enjoy the day," she said.

Tournament winners were first place Smith Company with Tracy Marak, Peter Sperduti, BJ Kirkpatrick, and Caleb Asp. Team Major Jones took second with Allen Leavell, LeRoy Stampley, Jim Lee, and Major Jones. Third place winners were Community Cartopia with Steve Danniele, Dwight Hooks, and Danny Hanson.



First place winners for the tournament were Smith Company including players Tracy Marak, Peter Sperduti, BJ Kirkpatrick, and Caleb Asp.



Second place winners at the chamber tournament was Team Major Jones with team members Allen Leavell, LeRoy Stampley, Jim Lee, and Major Jones.



Third place winners were Community Cartopia with team members Steve Danniele, Dwight Hooks, and Danny Hanson.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

## Diamond Jim: “A Behind-the-scenes look at mined diamonds”

Millions of people buy diamonds every single year as gifts or even as investments, but now more than ever, consumers are focused on how to obtain quality, mined diamonds, and with good reason. Over the past several years, some have turned to other stones or even lab-grown diamonds instead of the beautiful, naturally occurring stone that has been a symbol of love for decades.

Fortunately, it's easier than ever to get high-quality, mined “natural” diamonds, but the key is to understand where to turn as you begin to shop.

**Where Do Mined Diamonds Come From?**

Diamonds are found close to the surface of the earth in a few key places. A little-known fact is that mining companies unearthing the diamonds are held to very strict standards around the world. Mining companies are required to create a positive impact on the environment and societies located around the mines. According to De Beers, nearly 76% of their mining sightholders undertake social initiatives outside of the mining process.

Those initiatives include a number of different programs including offering food and shelter to orphaned children and the homeless population, as well as scholarship funding for those who cannot afford an education at any level. For example, diamond manufacturer Shree Ramkrishna Exports is committed to sustainability, and they were the first to achieve a LEED Gold Green Building Certification.

They've since attained additional green certifications including an ISO 50001 and ISO 14001 environmental certification for their ongoing efforts to conserve energy.



**From the Mine to the Jeweler**

Once they're pulled from the earth, companies like De Beers hold Sights or events that allow them to market “rough” diamonds to sightholders. Typically, nearly 90% of diamonds are sold this way, and customers include some of the biggest diamantaires who work with the major diamond centers in the world today.

These kinds of events happen routinely, about ten times a year, in London. Customers usually inspect the rough diamonds, then decide whether they wish to make a purchase. Every diamond at these events, though, comes from De Beers Group's operations, all of which have been certified by the Responsible Jewelry Council Code of Practices. Moreover, they're compliant with today's Best Practice Principles that help guide the industry.

Often there are auctions, too, to help manufacturers and retailers meet their sourcing needs. In most cases, the manufacturers or retailers must be registered buyers, but because the industry is growing so quickly, big names like De Beers understand that this is the ideal way forward, serving as a catalyst for the diamond business today.

**The Benefits of Working with Pineforest Jewelry**

Diamond Jim of Pineforest Jewelry is a diamond dealer. He purchases our diamonds from a few very well respected diamond dealers or directly from known and certified sightholders in Antwerp, Belgium. The sightholders have had the rough diamonds cut and polished into masterpieces of diamond crystals. We then purchase those finished diamonds based upon the 4 C's...Cut, Color, Clarity, and finally Carat weight.


This offers our customers a huge advantage. We know exactly where our diamonds came from and that they're conflict free diamonds. As an active part of the Kimberley process, we help support the integrity of the diamond supply chain. You know you're getting the best when you work with us.

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


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

You've talked  
(and talked and talked and talked)  
about getting married




Finally, brother. Finally!



PineforestJewelry.com

1141 Uvalde • Houston, Texas 77015  
713.451.1321





★

OPINION

By BILL KING



## Democrats Should Propose Alternative Offsets

Last week, Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives passed a \$14.3 billion aid package to Israel, paired with a corresponding cut in the increased funding for the IRS included in the Inflation Control Act passed last year. The bill was almost unanimously opposed by Democrats, who lashed out at the new speaker and Republicans for holding aid to Israel hostage to providing tax cuts to the wealthy.

The bill, which will be dead on arrival at the U.S. Senate, was mostly partisan theatrics, with Republicans attempting to placate their base that is pro-Israel but hates more funding for the IRS. Democrats, however, played along with the theatrics when they could have begun a serious conversation about our national debt. After all, it did just exceed \$33 trillion and now equates to 123% of our gross domestic product. While that is down slightly from stratospheric levels at the height of the pandemic, these are levels we have not seen since WWII.

So, I am completely okay with members of Congress insisting that any new spending be offset by cutting spending somewhere else. However, I do not agree with the Republicans' proposal to reduce IRS enforcement which almost certainly make the deficit worse. I pay my taxes and I suspect that the vast majority of you do as well. When someone is not paying their taxes that means that you and I must pay more.

Many economists estimate that as much as 10% of our economy is conducted underground and is never taxed. Much of this is in the illicit drug and human trafficking trades. But there is also a large independent contractor community that largely does not pay the same income and payroll taxes that you and I do. At a GDP of about \$28 trillion, if the 10% estimates are accurate, that is \$2.8 trillion escaping taxation. The federal government collects about 20% for every dollar of GDP, so taxing the \$2.8 trillion in the underground economy could yield as much as \$500-600 billion annually. By the way, that would be enough to cut our current annual deficit in half.

But beyond those completely avoiding taxation in the shadows, there is plenty of other fudging that goes on in the preparation of tax returns. For many years, I practiced commercial litigation. In a number of cases, I had the opportunity to review tax returns of prominent and successful individuals as part of the discovery process. I saw all kinds of schemes to reduce their tax bills that would not stand up in an audit. I saw one case where a couple owned a vacation home in a family limited partnership and wrote off the expenses as if it was a business. I saw another where the owners of a private company wrote off all of the expenses of their corporate jet, yet the logs showed that it was routinely used for purely personal trips.

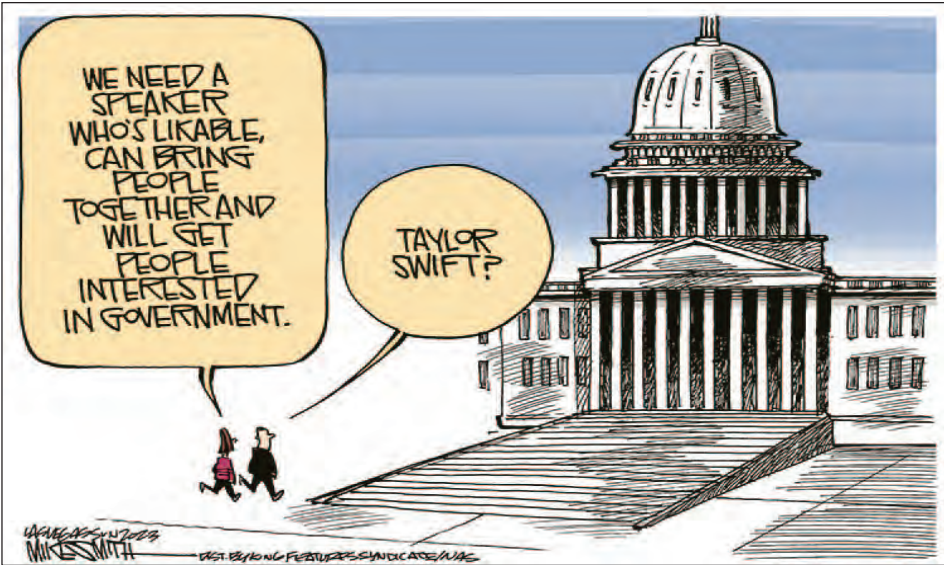
Those in the underground economy and those fudging their tax returns do so, and almost always get away with it, because the IRS is overwhelmed and only audits a tiny fraction, about .04% of returns filed. I am perfectly fine with Congress setting limits on the kinds of returns that can be audited – say only those over \$500,000 and those failing to report their income altogether. But to just say we are going to starve the IRS of resources so they cannot enforce our tax laws is self-defeating and grossly unfair to those of us who do pay our taxes.

And it's not like there aren't plenty of other places to cut or loopholes to plug — loopholes which ultimately have the same effect as spending. For example, the carried interest loophole, which allows private equity investors to treat an interest they receive for putting to together a deal as a capital gain instead of regular income, costs the federal government as much as \$18 billion annually – enough to fund the aid to Israel by itself.

Of course, the cost of the aid to Israel, even if you throw in the aid to Ukraine and some money for the southern border (all of which enjoy widespread, bi-partisan support), are a rounding error on our national debt and deficits going forward. The Congressional Budget Office's current baseline projections are that the federal government will run up another \$15 trillion in debt this decade, mostly driven by the rising costs of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. The entire package proposed by Biden for Israel, Ukraine, and the border is only about 7% of the deficit this year and .05% of the deficit projected for this decade.

Until we start talking about the fact that Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid are not sustainable in their current forms, any discussion about the national debt and deficits is mostly partisan noise. But you must start somewhere. So, let's hear it, Democrats. What is your alternative proposed offset to provide this aid to Israel and Ukraine and to strengthen our southern border?

**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.*



★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



## Legislature Gets to Work in Fourth Special Session

The Texas Legislature, conceived as a part-time body to meet every other year for 140 days, is now in its record fifth session (counting the regular session). When the impeachment trial of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is included, legislators have been in Austin pretty much the entire year, as the Texas Tribune noted. While legislators are paid just \$7,200 a year in salary, per diem payments – meant to cover their expenses while in Austin – have mounted. If the fourth special session goes a full 30 days, taxpayers will have spent \$4.8 million keeping lawmakers in Austin.

The Senate quickly passed measures last week allocating \$1.54 billion for segments of a border wall, a school finance bill that increases per-student funding, teacher retention bonuses for teachers and vouchers to parents who elect to send their children to private schools, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

Once again, the onus is on the House, which has been reluctant to pass a school choice bill. The measure, being strongly pushed by Gov. Greg Abbott, is largely opposed by Democratic members and rural Republican legislators. On Friday, the latest plan was approved by the House Select Committee.

### VOTER TURNOUT IN AMENDMENT ELECTION WAS 14.4%

Voter turnout in the Nov. 7 election reached 14.4% of registered voters. The good news is that is the highest turnout for a constitutional amendment election since 2005, according to the Texas Secretary of State's office. The bad news: well, it was just 14.4% of the electorate.

Voters approved all but one of the 14 propositions on the ballot, the lone loser being a bid to raise the mandatory retirement age for judges from 75 years to 79. Measures providing property tax relief and a boost in teacher retirement pay passed overwhelmingly.

Also receiving approval was Proposition 5, which establishes a \$3.9 billion permanent endowment for research in eligible universities. Those include Texas State University, the University of North Texas, Texas Tech University and the University of Houston.

"We feel like we won the Su-



per Bowl," Texas State University president Kelly Damp-housse told the Statesman.

### TEA RELEASES FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY RATINGS

The Texas Education Agency has released its 2022-2023 financial accountability ratings for Texas public schools, with 88% receiving a "Superior Achievement" rating. The rating system, established in 2001, "encourages school systems to improve financial resources to provide the maximum allocation possible for direct instructional purposes."

Only eight public schools and three charter schools received substandard achievement ratings. The eight public school districts receiving an "F" were Holliday, Ben Bolt-Palito Blanco, Keene, Priddy, Denver City, Tioga, Matagorda and Sunray ISDs. The three charter schools receiving an "F" were Education Center International Academy in Sunnyvale; St. Anthony School in Carrollton; and Texas Preparatory School.

### TEXAS MEDICAID RECIPIENTS WERE VICTIMS OF DATA BREACH

A data breach of a data file transfer company has exposed Texas Medicaid recipients, whose names and Social Security numbers were obtained in the hack. The breach occurred in late May when hackers obtained files being transferred using the MOVEit platform, The Dallas Morning News reported. A total of 67 million people in multiple countries had their personal information illegally obtained, including the Texas Medicaid recipients.

Anyone concerned about being affected by the hack can call UMass Chan, which was providing services directly to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, to find out. That number is 855-457-6006.

### MILLIONS OFFERED FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY FORESTS

Texas A&M Forest Service is offering \$16.65 million in grant funding to boost urban and community forest initiatives in communities throughout the state.

"The initiatives supported by this grant funding will prioritize communities and neighborhoods in areas of greatest need based on environmental and social data," said Gretchen Riley of the forest service. "By focusing on these areas, we can ensure that the benefits of urban forestry are distributed where they can make the most impact."

The funding comes from the federal Inflation Reduction Act. It is intended to help the state "expand its urban forest canopy, improve air and water quality, reduce energy consumption and enhance the health and well-being of residents," according to the news release.

Grant applications will be accepted from Dec. 11 through Feb. 16, 2024. More information can be found at this link: <https://texasforestinfo.tamu.edu/CFG/>

### OCTOBER RAIN REDUCES DROUGHT CONDITIONS

About half the state received above-normal precipitation in October, which reduced drought conditions to 65%, down 16 percentage points, according to Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board. Central Texas and much of Deep East Texas have the most severe drought conditions, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

"El Niño conditions, warmer-than-average sea surface temperatures in the eastern Equatorial Pacific, are in place and expected to persist into next year. El Niño typically brings Texas wetter and cooler-than-normal conditions during fall and winter. Those conditions are at least partially responsible for the improvements we saw in October," Wentzel wrote.

### TEXAS ROAD FATALITY STREAK SURPASSES 23 YEARS

On an average day for more than two decades, a dozen people have been killed on Texas roadways. That streak nearly ended in February on a day when Texas experienced just one traffic fatality, according to the Texas Department of Transportation. The streak of daily deaths on Texas highways has continued since Nov. 7, 2000, despite the state investing \$17 billion in safety improvements through its 10-year plan.

"Each life lost means a family, neighborhood and community are impacted for a lifetime, and we take safety very seriously as we work to end this horrible streak," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "But it's going to take all of us working together to get this done."

Among those safety changes are wider pavement striping, rumble strips on centerlines to alert drivers when they cross over, and roundabout intersections. Drivers can make a difference as well by not operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs and fastening their seatbelts. TxDOT reports 48% of deaths on Texas roads come from people not buckling up.

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

## Dietary Choices

I just spent a wonderful long weekend with my sister and her son, Beau, "up north" at my parents' cabin.

Stubby the red squirrel is doing well. Since the tragic loss of the end of his tail (and his subsequent unofficial adoption by my mother), he has flourished. The end of his tail, while still cut off at a sharp angle, has sprouted an impressive line of dark fur, and he looks dapper, sitting on the railing, shaking his tail and showing off his new plumage.

Mom still dutifully feeds him every day, usually bird food, although he recently had some leftover pasta shells, which he seemed to enjoy very much. Even without my mother's offerings, he is kept busy this time of year with pine cones and acorns and the many other good things there are to be found in the forest.

My mother is an intrepid gardener, braving the cold temperatures, lack of sun and marauding forest wildlife to keep the flowers in her many flowerpots growing and beautiful for much of the year. It is a neverending job, as the deer and, more recently, the wild turkeys love the tasty treats she has cultivated and placed around the house like a free salad bar. A pack of turkeys decimated her begonias earlier in the fall. She sent me a photo of her begonias, pre- and post-turkey invasion, and it was not a pretty sight.

My sister brought the family dog, Mabel, who gets along well with my parents' cat, Katie, and Mabel kept the turkeys and deer at bay. But that didn't mean we were free of animal drama.

My nephew and my dad went down to haul in the dock before the lake froze. My sister and mother and I followed them down to the water's edge, where we discovered the site of a recent raccoon feast.

"They must have been eating crayfish," my father guessed when he saw the enormous pile of fragrant poop at the end of the dock.

"Oh, no!" I yelled, because—at that moment—Mabel discovered the pile of poop and was eating it as quickly as she could.

Mabel was immediately banished to the house (with very stinky breath) while the dock was hauled in and, sometime in there, a door was left open just long enough for Katie the cat to escape, kill a songbird and bite off its head.

"Katie!" my mother scolded. "That was very, very bad!" Katie looked mighty pleased with herself, and Mabel looked a little relieved because—although she hadn't gotten to eat as much raccoon poop as she thought she was entitled to—at least she was no longer the pet in the most trouble.

That night, we went out to dinner. My sister and nephew and father all had big burgers with bacon and ham and cheese or some combination of all three. I don't eat meat, and I haven't for most of my life, but I don't care what anyone else eats.

Beau, looking at his gigantic burger, told me, "I think we killed enough animals to make up for any that you saved!"

I tried to tell him that I don't make dietary choices for anyone but myself. But then I realized this was not quite true.

Because I did not agree with the dietary choices of Katie, eating songbirds' heads, or Mabel, eating raccoon poop off the dock, or even those turkeys, eating my mother's begonias.

I make a lot of judgments, all the time. And some of them I'm sticking with.

Till next time,  
Carrie

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

Star ★ Courier

USPS 244-500

Barbers Hill ★ Dayton PRESS

NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

Editor & Publisher.....Gilbert Hoffman

Associate Publisher.....Mei-Ing Liu Hoffman

Assignment Editor.....Julietta Paita

Website Editor.....Kristan Hoffman

Marketing Executive.....Willie Glasgow

Production Manager.....Gerardo Hernandez

Entered as Periodicals Class at Highlands Post Office, Highlands, TX 77562. Under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Published 50 weeks per year, on Thursday, by Grafikpress Corp., 5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057. Opinions in this paper are those of the authors, and not necessarily this newspaper's. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to [grafikstar@aol.com](mailto:grafikstar@aol.com).

GRAFIKPRESS is publisher of community newspapers, including Highlands STAR-Crosby COURIER, Barbers Hill Dayton PRESS, Northeast NEWS, North Forest NEWS, North Channel STAR. Combined circulation of these newspapers exceeds 20,000. Readership exceeds 50,000 according to industry standards. We also print dozens of school, ethnic, and government publications on contract. Call for information to 713-977-2555.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In-county, \$28.00 per year. Out of county, \$35.00 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Star-Courier, P. O. Box 405, Highlands, TX 77562

News and Ad Phones....713-266-3444

FAX Line....713-977-1188

email: [grafikstar@aol.com](mailto:grafikstar@aol.com)

Member Texas Press Association



# Mustangs Continue Undefeated,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and photographer. North Shore with a 11-0 record hosts the League City Clear Springs Chargers with a 7 – 4 record at the GPISD stadium Friday, November 17, 2023 at 7PM. North Shore 42, Deer Park 14

The Deer hung tough for a half against the No. 1 team in the state at Galena Park ISD Stadium. North Shore (11-0) broke

Scoring by quarter:					
	1	2	3	4	Final
North Shore	0	14	21	7	42
Deer Park	7	0	0	7	14



#9 NS Kaleb Bailey scores in torrential rain on a 53 yd. quarterback keeper run for a TD.(Photo by ALLAN Jamail)

open a 14-7 game to advance in the playoffs for the 24th consecutive year. Kaleb Bailey rushed for two touchdowns and passed to Deion Delbanc for another, while D'Andre Hardeman closed the first half with a touchdown and added a long one for 28-14 lead in the third quarter. Both teams took advantage of turnovers, one setting up a 7-0 lead for Deer Park (9-2), which made its

fifth consecutive postseason appearance. A state finalist last year, District 21-6A champion North Shore meets 23-6A co-champion Shadow Creek (9-1) or Clear Springs (6-4) in the second round. The Mustangs have two regular season victories against the Sharks and have won their last eight meetings against the Chargers, three in the playoffs.



#28 Mustang's D'Andre Hardeman 18 yd run TD.(Photo by Allan Jamail)



#3 Deion Deblanc scores on a 43 yd TD pass from Kaleb Bailey.(Photo by Allan Jamail)

# GPHS Girls Volleyball Winning Season 16 Wins – 2 Losses

By Allan Jamail

October 31, 2023 the GPISD Galena Park Lady Jackets volleyball team had a victorious season of 16 district wins and only 2 losses with a 26-14 overall record. They lost in the first round of the 5A Bi-District, UIL-Texas-Volleyball State Playoffs against the Lamar CISD Randle Lady Lions at Houston's Butler Sports Complex. The Lions then lost to Friendswood in the next playoff round.

Head Coach Mary DeFiore and her assistants did an excellent job with a team of all juniors except Senior Judith Torres. After the hard fought game Torres received hugs as tears were shed amongst the players for not only losing the game but because of not having Torres return next season. Expect another winning season next year when DeFiore takes the experienced juniors to compete in the highly competitive District 5A matches.



#22 Emma Colon (junior) Lady Jacket spikes volleyball for a point.(Photo by Allan Jamail ).



2023 Galena Park HS Lady Jackets Volleyball Team: Kneeling L-R: Taylor Horton, Lily Lopez, Judith Torres (senior), Rebecca Torres, Ximena Tamez. Standing L-R: Ximena Jauregui, Doc Jess Pfannsteil, KiJaih Jalloh, Asst. Coach Lydia Baggett, Abigail Berrones, Abigail Esqueda, Camila Esquivel, Jada Bryant, Emma Colon, Julissa Montano, Italia Estrada, Asst. Coach Catherine Swanson, Elizabeth Gonzalez, Head Coach Mary DeFiore.(Photo by Linda Jamail)

# GP/JC Rotary Chili Luncheon Raises Funds for Scholarships,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Most scholarships, he said, average in the \$1,000 range but not always. “There are different types of scholarship so each one is different. We have scholarships specifically for the culinary arts program, some that are specific to Rotarians honoring members, and others depending on the money we raised through the year,” Guillory said. Some scholarships could be as much as \$2,500. Students can apply for the scholarships through their counselor who then submits the applications to the GP/JC Rotary club. Students are selected based on certain criteria. Guillory began in Rotary in the early 2000s and took a slight hiatus when he became an educator. “This is my second year as president for the Rotary,” which is a rare feat. The club came through the pandemic and is growing. “We add new members to the club each year. We are now in the Top 4 percent of the fastest growing clubs in Rotary International,” he said. The club has in-person and virtual meetings the dates of which can be found on their website at <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/3929>. “Keep supporting Galena Park Jacinto City Rotary and if you want to be a member, just let us know,” Guillory said. The club will present the scholarships to the students during their April meetings. “That way we can get those out to them as soon as we can so the kids have the money to use for the following academic year,” he said.



GP/JC Rotary Club president Julien Guillory presents service awards to GPHS principal Dr. Kimberly Martin and to Chef Lester Charles and the GPHS Culinary Arts program.



Students from the Galena Park High School Culinary Arts program assisted Rotarians with the Chili Feast last Thursday.

North Shore Rotary Club member B. R. Hendrix raises his paddle to bid during the auction at the annual Million Dollar Chili Feast at the Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary Club meeting last Thursday.



# Runoff in Mayoral Race,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

known Whitmire since high school. Senator Whitmire was thankful to all and his visibly enthusiastic demeanor fired up the crowd with the same enthusiasm who often chanted, “Whitmire for mayor”. His speech emphasized the need for Houstonians to respect everyone in Houston’s diverse population and the need for them to come together to work on solving problems in their communities that’s been neglected. He’ll prioritize safer and healthier neighborhoods working to rid them of crime and unhealthy public nuisances. The Senator said, “I believe in the power of prayer, throughout these months of campaigning I was told many times by well wishers they were praying for me. Prayers work, negative campaigning does not.” As the saying goes, when a person starts throwing mud, it’s a sure sign they’re losing ground. Writer Allan Jamail said, “I’ve known John for fifty years as we both were elected public servants in 1973. He was elected to the Texas House and I was elected as a councilman of Jacinto City. Through the fifty years we’ve grown to know each other and develop a trusting relationship.” “Whitmire’s a no nonsense “public servant”. He literally takes the words “public servant” to heart. I don’t know of any other elected official who’s as relentless and more determined to help anyone regardless of the person’s standing of importance in relation to others within our society.”

“As a former mayor and labor leader I’ve watched John maneuver legislation through the house and senate that greatly benefited blue collar working men and women of my city. That’s one reason he’s gotten the endorsement of the largest amount of organized labor unions in this election. As a former Chief of Police I can say he got many bills passed which was helpful in fighting crime and protecting both the communities and law enforcement officers. He gets things done and doesn’t run to the nearest camera or microphone to brag about them.” “I’ve worked with Whitmire’s staff on important issues and they’ve performed with the same sincerity and dedication to the public as he does. Most importantly they respect him and want their work with the public to reflect the same high standards he sets for himself.” “I’ve known Sheila Jackson Lee for about 20 years, she’s a hard working demanding individual who can sometimes go to the brink of being overbearing to others. Sometimes she expects more from others than they’re capable of doing, but she gets results and it goes without question she’s helped many in dire need” Jamail said. Houston voters overwhelming approved both A & B propositions. According to unofficial results posted by the Secretary of State’s Office Texas voters approved all but one of the 14 constitutional amendments on the ballot (#13 failed),. For complete election results visit: [harrisvotes.com](https://harrisvotes.com)



★

SPORTS PAGE

★

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 12

Eagles, Chief meet in rematch of SB 56 on MNF: Texans look to ride Stroud’s hot hand at Arizona

The folks at ESPN must be in hog heaven over this week’s Monday Night Football game. Joe and Troy and the gang get the pleasure of calling “The Game” of the year when the Philadelphia Eagles visit the Kansas City Chiefs on Monday Night Football in a rematch of their classic encounter in Super Bowl 56.

We all remember how that game went as Philly QB Jalen Hurts (374 total yards, four TDs, 3 rushing, 1 passing) and KC QB Patrick Mahomes (182 yards passing, 3 TDs) put on a show for the ages. The Chiefs won their second Lombardi Trophy in four years on Harrison Butker’s 27-yard field goal with eight seconds left in the game.

It was one of the better Super Bowls ever played and Monday night’s contest should be another good one and both teams will have an extra week to prepare as both enjoyed their byes last weekend. Mahomes (2,442 yards, 17 TDs) and Hurts (2,347 passing yards, 15 TDs/316 rushing yards, 7 TDs) are again having outstanding seasons, and should be ready to put on a show for a national TV audience heading into the Thanksgiving weekend.

While the national spotlight will be on that game, locally Texans fans are still raving about the performance rookie quarterback C.J. Stroud put on two weeks ago to rally his team to an exciting 39-37 win over Tampa Bay at NRG Stadium. Stroud, the No. 2 overall pick in the 2023 NFL Draft, set an NFL rookie passing record by throwing for 470 yards and five touchdowns. He threw the game winner to fellow rookie Tank Dell with six seconds left in the game. Stroud drove his team 75 yards in 7 plays with just 40 seconds left in the game to produce the game-winning points.

This week, Stroud and the Texans host Arizona and take on a one-win Cardinals team that should have Kyler Murray back at quarterback. Murray has missed the first nine weeks of the season recovering from a knee injury he suffered last December. This is a game the Texans should win, and they can’t afford to look past the lowly Cardinals. Dallas did it in Week 3 and it cost them a victory. Other interesting matchups in Week 11 features the red hot Cincinnati Bengals visiting the equally hot Baltimore Ravens in a



key AFC North contest. The Steelers will visit the Browns in another big AFC North contest, while Dallas, coming off a 28-23 loss at Philadelphia two weeks ago, hits the road again to take on the struggling Carolina Panthers and No. 1 overall pick Bryce Young. Cowboy fans are hoping their team learned in that loss to Arizona that they can’t take any team for granted, especially on the road.

Jacksonville entertains Tennessee, while Tampa Bay plays at San Francisco and newly-acquired defensive end Chase Young (the 49ers acquired Young in a trade with the Commanders on Oct. 31). SF fans are hoping Young helps stabilize a struggling SF defense.

The Sunday Night Football matchup pits Minnesota at Denver. The college schedule is pretty bland as most of the big national rivalries will be played Thanksgiving weekend. No. 7-ranked Texas plays at Iowa State in a game UT needs to win to stay alive in the Big 12 title chase, while No. 19 UCLA takes on crosstown rival USC. No. 1-ranked Georgia has a tough test at No. 14 Tennessee and Kansas State and Kansas take on one another for bragging rights in the Sunflower State.

Before we take a look at this weekend’s games, let’s review last week’s record. A 9-3 week brought the season record to 72-38 (65%). Now, onto this weekend’s game.

NCAA

**Texas at Iowa State:** Sometimes it helps to be lucky, and was that ever the case two weeks ago when Texas stopped Kansas State at its four-yard line to preserve a 33-30 overtime win in Austin. Kansas State could have kicked the tying field goal to force a second OT, but head coach Chris Klieman decided to go for the win and UT fans were glad he did. This week,

Steve Sarkisian’s team will face a tough Iowa State team on the road in what will probably be chilly conditions. The UT offense is playing well with backup Maalik Murphy (465 yards, 3 TDs) under center and if starter Quinn Ewers is back, that should only help the ‘Horns. Look for a big day from running back Jonathon Brooks (1,035 yards, 8 TDs) and wide receivers Xavier Worthy (49 receptions, 620 yards, 4 TDs) and Adonal Mitchell (37 receptions, 576 yards, 8 TDS) as Texas looks to punch its tickets to the Big 12 title game.

**UCLA at USC:** Chip Kelly’s Bruins will look to continue USC’s late-season woes when they take on the Trojans in the LA Coliseum on Saturday. The Bruins will be led by QB Dante Moore (1,344 yards, 10 TDs) and running back Carson Steele (711 yards, 6 TDs) and will look to pile on a woeful USC defense that gave up 52 points at home to Washington two weeks ago. USC is potent on offense led by QB Caleb Williams (2,958 yards, 28 TDs/149 rushing yards, 10 TDs), running back MarShawn Lloyd (766 yards, 8 TDS) and wide receiver Tahj Washington (43 receptions, 833 yards, 6 TDs). Look for another high-scoring affair with Williams being the difference maker on Saturday. My pick, USC 43, UCLA 40

**Kansas State at Kansas:** Kansas has a good shot to enter this game with an 8-2 record (they hosted Texas Tech last week and the Red Raiders are not a good road team) when they face their in-state rival Kansas St. The Jayhawks can put points on the board led by QB Jason Bean (1,418 yards, 10 TDs) and running back Devin Neal (828 yards, 9 TDs). The offense will get tested by a tough KSU defense that has a penchant for forcing turnovers. The Wildcats play hard. They overcame a 20-point fourth-quarter deficit at Texas two weeks

ago to tie the game and send it to OT. KSU is led by QB Will Howard (1,955 yards, 18 TDs). Look for the Jayhawks magical season to continue as they win another big one on Saturday. My pick, Kansas 31, Kansas State 27

**Georgia at Tennessee:** The big one in the SEC pits the No. 1-ranked Bulldogs against the No. 14-ranked Volunteers in Knoxville. Two weeks ago, Kirby Smart’s Dawgs survived a home scare against Missouri, 30-21. This could be a tough road test for first-year starting QB Carson Beck (2,716 yards, 16 TDs). How he handles the big crowd in Knoxville will be interesting. He will get help from running back Daijun Edwards (632 yards, 8 TDs) and wide receiver Dominic Lovett (39 receptions, 398 yards, 2 TDs). The Georgia defense will get tested by Vols QB Joe Milton III (2,017 yards, 15 TDs), running back Jaylen Wright (826 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver Squirrel White (46 receptions, 557 yards, 2 TDs). Look for Georgia’s big-game experience, and defense, to be the difference maker in this one. My pick, Georgia 26, Tennessee 23

NFL

**Cincinnati at Baltimore:** Two of the NFL’s hottest teams meet in Baltimore on Sunday in what should be a highly-competitive game. The Bengals have won five of their last six games heading into last Sunday’s home game against Houston, while the Ravens have won four straight heading into last Sunday’s game against Cleveland. The Ravens have averaged 35 points and have allowed just 12 in their last three games. QB Lamar Jackson (1,954 passing yards, 9 TDs/440 rushing yards, 5 TDs), running back Gus Edwards (478 yards, 7 TDs) and tight end Mark Andrews (41 receptions, 477 yards, 6 TDs) are rolling. The Bengals are led by QB Joe Burrow (1,861 yards, 12 TDs), running back Joe Mixon (490 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receivers Ja’Marr Chase (64 receptions, 697 yards, 4 TDs) and Tee Higgins (27 receptions, 328 yards, 2 TDs). Look for the Ravens defense to be the difference maker late in this one as Baltimore continues its roll. My pick, Baltimore 24, Cincinnati 18

**Arizona at Houston:** Look for another big day from Stroud (2,270 yards, 14 TDs) and wide receivers Nico Collins (36 receptions, 631 yards, 4 TDs) and Tank Dell (25 receptions, 454 yards, 4 TDs) as the Texans look to remain in the AFC Wild Card race. Head coach DeMeco Ryans know his team can’t

look past the Cardinals, especially is dual-threat QB Kyler Murray returns from an injury that has sidelined him most of the season. The Texans will take care of business and look forward to hosting AFC South leader Jacksonville on Nov. 26. My pick, Houston 32, Arizona 13

**Dallas at Carolina:** The Cowboys head to Charlotte to face a Panthers team that lost seven of their first eight games. As stated earlier, the Cowboys can’t play down to the Panthers or it could cost them and they have little room for error from here on out. Dak Prescott (2,011 yards, 13 TDS) needs to take the starch out of Carolina early with strikes to CeeDee Lamb (57 receptions, 824 yards, 3 TDs) and tight end Jake Ferguson (32 receptions, 328 yards, 3 TDs). If they are successful throwing the ball, that should open up the running game for Tony Pollard (474 yards, 3 TDs). Look for Micah Parsons and the Dallas defense to pressure rookie QB Bryce Young (1,375 yards, 8 TDs/7 interceptions) early and often as the Cowboys take care of business and head home for their Thanksgiving Day game against Washington. My pick, Dallas 33, Carolina 13

**Pittsburgh at Cleveland:** This should be a defensive struggle as both teams have issues on offense. These are two of the best defenses in the NFL so the team that makes the fewest mistakes will come out on top. The Steelers offense has been pedestrian, but they have won five of their first eight games. QB Kenny Pickett (1,490 yards, 6 TDs) and wide receiver George Pickens (30 receptions, 521 yards, 3 TDs) need to make some plays downfield against a Browns defense that has 27 sacks (led by Myles Garrett’s 9.5) in its first eight games. The Steelers defense has recorded 19. It appears Deshaun Watson (920 yards, 6 TDs in four games) is back for the Browns. He will look to make plays downfield to Amari Cooper (35 receptions, 617 yards, 2 TDs). Look for the Cleveland defense and home field advantage to be the difference maker in this one as the Browns pick up a big win on Sunday. My pick, Cleveland 17, Pittsburgh 13

**Tennessee at Jacksonville:** The Jags will look to keep rolling when they host the best up Titans on Sunday. Jacksonville had a five-game winning streak heading into last Sunday’s home game against the 49ers. QB Trevor Lawrence (1,935 yards, 9 TDs), running back Travis Etienne (583 yards, 8 total TDs) and wide receiver Christian Kirk (43 receptions, 520 yards, 3 TDs) should continue the good times for Jag fans as they roll to an

easy win. My pick, Jacksonville 31, Tennessee 14

**Tampa Bay at San Francisco:** The 49ers host the struggling Bucs on Sunday looking to get things back on track. SF entered its bye week riding a three-game losing streak and had a tough road game at Jacksonville last Sunday. Look for Brock Purdy (2,033 yards, 12 TDs), Christian McCaffrey (652 rushing yards, 9 TDs/32 receptions, 292 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receiver Brandon Aiyuk (35 receptions, 620 yards, 2 TDs) to get better against a TB team that was riding a four-game losing streak heading into last Sunday’s game against Tennessee. My pick, San Francisco 34, Tampa Bay 16

**Minnesota at Denver:** This is kind of a stinker for the Sunday Night Football crew, but it is what it is. The Vikings won a big road game two weeks ago at Atlanta behind newly-acquired QB Josh Dobbs (158 yards, 2 passing TDs, 1 rushing TD) who was picked up to replace injured starter Kirk Cousins. The Vikings are a gritty bunch and will face a Denver team that could be putting things together behind QB Russell Wilson (1,613 yards, 16 TDs). Look for the Denver defense to get after Dobbs and force a turnover or two as the Broncos look to make a run for an AFC Wild Card slot. My pick, Denver 23, Minnesota 20

**Philadelphia at Kansas City:** This should be a fun game to watch on Monday night. It pits two high-scoring offenses and two better than average defenses. Philly is led by QB Jalen Hurts (2,247 passing yards, 15 TDs/316 rushing yards, 7 TDs), running back D’Andre Swift (614 yards, 3 TDs) and big-play wide receivers A.J. Brown (67 receptions, 1,005 yards, 6 TDs) and DeVonta Smith (42 receptions, 533 yards, 4 TDs). The defense can get after the QB (30 sacks), but they will have their hands full against Mahomes (2,442 yards, 17 TDs), running back Isiah Pacheco (525 yards, 3 TDs) and big-play tight end Travis Kelce (57 receptions, 597 yards, 4 TDs). The Chiefs defeated Miami 21-14 in Frankfurt, Germany two weeks ago and Mahomes said after the game that the offense will work out its kinks. Head coach Andy Reid had two weeks to work out the kinks and I have a feeling the veteran head coach will have a new wrinkle or two for the Eagles come Monday night. Look for another tight, high-scoring game with Mahomes making one or two more plays than does Hurt on Monday Night Football. My pick, Kansas City 34, Philadelphia 31

CLASSIFIED ADS

Call 713-266-3444

Your AD will reach up to 40,000 readers in our FIVE newspapers, with a combined circulation of 20,000 copies. Get ACTION on your AD. Rates start at only \$18 for 20 words. A bargain!

Consumer Cellular®

EXACT SAME COVERAGE UP TO HALF THE COST.

855-821-6277

© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change. Half the cost savings based on cost of Consumer Cellular's single-line, 5GB data plan with unlimited talk and text compared to lowest cost, single-line post-paid unlimited talk, text and data plans offered by T-Mobile and Verizon, May 2023.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

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

- RFP# 2324-006 – Tiny Home – Base Model

Bids will be received until 9:00 a.m., Monday, November 27, 2023, at the Channelview ISD’s E-bidding website. Please visit the electronic bidding website at <https://cvsid.ionwave.net>

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

44-2T

SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money

Business Directory

SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money



281-428-1187  
1-800-345-8471  
Sales & Repair Service  
Baytown, Texas  
John Henderson  
628 Cedar Bayou Rd.



SMALL ADS BRING BIG RESULTS  
Ask about our Business Directory Package  
13 Weeks + Story + Display for \$260  
Ask about our Ribbon Cutting Package  
Photo + Story + Web for \$260  
713-266-3444

WESTON COTTEN, ATTORNEY  
HIGHLANDS  
281-421-4050 1500 E. Wallisville Rd.

NOT CERTIFIED BY THE TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

Star  Courier  
Your Hometown Newspaper  
News tips and Ad Inquiries:  
713-266-3444

To advertise in the Business Directory, please call 713-266-3444 for details



# 2023 North Shore High Varsity Cheerleaders



Front row: L- R: Courtney Powers (Cheer Coach), Taleah Jenkins (very up front) Journey Foreman, Arianna Stephens (Captain), Aliyah Young, Nora Argueta, Jaela Payne, Ki'Mora Jenkins, Shariah Anderson, Zoe Polk, Montserrat Gonzalez. (Photo by Linda Jamail)

# 2023 North Shore High Trainers & Ball Runner



L – R: Head Ball Runner Jose Guillen. Trainers: Arely Peña, Savea Booker, Samantha Flores, Marbell Briseño, Joshua Eaden, Melissa Garza, Gai'La Tezeno, Bianca Ponce & Mustang Mascot Jennifer Motta. (Photo by Linda Jamail)

# HOLIDAY TREATS

## For you and for Gifting

Sunshine Citrus

Grove Navel

Petite Sweet Navel

Tangerine

Petite Navel

ONLY \$23.99

Special limited-time offer!

SAVE 37%

Reg. Price \$37.99

Healthy & Delicious!

Picked Fresh from the Grove

4 Award-Winning Varieties

JUICY! Delivered Fresh to Your Door

Hale Groves Box of Sunshine Citrus

Plump and perfect, our fresh and juicy oranges are the perfect way to get your "C" on! Twelve plump, delicious oranges in 4 favorite varieties, handpicked to order, shipped straight to you.

• 3 Grove Navels Juicy, tangy-sweet, and seedless: the world's #1 orange!

• 3 Honey-Sweet Tangerines Heavenly sweet and easy to peel. Kids love them!

• 3 Petite Golden Navels Snack-sized versions of the beloved classic.

• 3 Petite Red Navels Gorgeous red flesh with berry undertones.

Call 1-855-626-1978 to order item 492X or Visit [HaleGroves.com/H4YN18](https://HaleGroves.com/H4YN18)

Order Item #492X, mention Code H492X for your \$24 savings.

Only \$23.99\* (reg. \$37.99), plus \$7.99 shipping & handling. Satisfaction completely guaranteed. This gift ships in December at the peak of freshness. Order by Dec. 17, 2023 for GUARANTEED Christmas delivery. AZ, CA, TX & LA order by Dec. 14, 2023.

Hale Groves

Call now and SAVE 37%!

IC: H4YN18

PERFECTION IS EFFORTLESS

Omaha Steaks are hand-selected for unmatched quality, naturally aged for maximum tenderness, and flash-frozen to lock in that unforgettable flavor. All you have to do is thaw, cook, and Mmmmm.

Butcher's Deluxe Package

4 Butcher's Cut Top Sirloins (5 oz.)

4 Air-Chilled Boneless Chicken Breasts (4 oz.)

4 Boneless Pork Chops (5 oz.)

4 Individual Scalloped Potatoes (3.8 oz.)

4 Caramel Apple Tartlets (4 oz.)

1 Omaha Steaks Seasoning (3 oz.)

8 FREE PureGround™ Filet Mignon Burgers (6 oz.)

74222VS2 separately \$824.94

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE

\$99.99

Limited Time: Get 8 FREE Burgers

Order Now!

OmahaSteaks.com/Deluxe8207 | 1.844.380.9586

Ask for your 8 FREE burgers with offer 74222VS2

OMAHA STEAKS

SINCE 1917

Winter Favorites Assortment

NOW ONLY \$19.99

plus \$5.99 shipping

SAVE 39%

from \$32.99

4 Varieties, Perfect for Sharing!

Full of Vitamins C & A

Brighten Someone's Winter!

4 Petite Varieties • Big Flavor

Proof that good things can come in small packages, these petite fruits hold big flavor! Made for snacking, this mix of mini citrus and orchard fruit is handpicked and rushed right to your door.

• 2 Rio Ruby™ Red Grapefruit Fragrant, juicy & flavor packed.

• 2 Navel Oranges Seedless with bright, sparkling flavor.

• 2 King Comic Pears Juicy, sweet pears with creamy, velvety texture.

• 2 Fuji Apples Crisp, juicy and extra-sweet.

1-833-435-1661

Visit [PittmanDavis.com/P4YH22](https://PittmanDavis.com/P4YH22)

Order Item #PGB23 mention Code P4YH22

Only \$19.99 (reg. \$32.99), plus \$5.99 shipping. Satisfaction completely guaranteed. Order by December 15, 2023 for GUARANTEED Christmas delivery.

Call Now or go Online and SAVE 39%

Pittman & Davis

Call Now or go Online and SAVE 39%

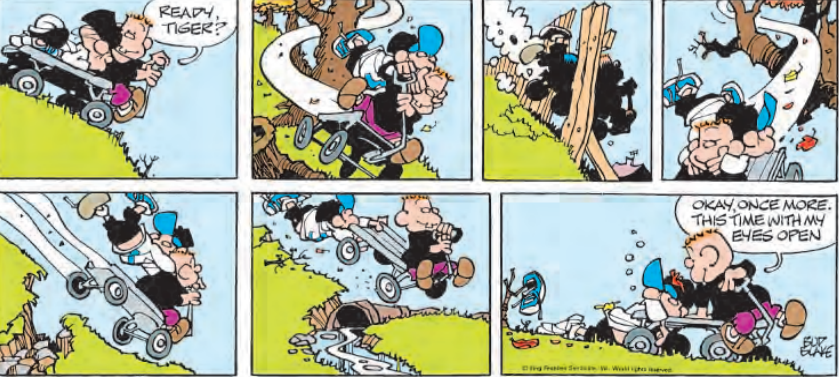
IC: P4YH22

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Amber Waves



## TIGER



## The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

2			3					7
	8	7			4	1		
4				6		3		
	1	3	8				5	
		7			9			6
5			7		2			
1			9					5
		2	6		1	8		
	8			4				9

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

© 2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Hair is different. 2. Oven window is missing. 3. Puddle is smaller. 4. Arm moved. 5. Hand is smaller. 6. Spatula is different.

© 2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

## King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Mausoleum

5 "Born Free" lioness

9 Branch

12 Ornamental jug

13 Jupiter counterpart

14 Sheepish remark

15 Famed diarist

17 Squeak stopper

18 Historic times

19 Grown-up

21 Town square

24 Tizzy

25 Occupy the throne

26 Imaginary

30 Right angle

31 Count with an orchestra

32 Smile center

33 Bloated, in a way

35 Computer brand

36 Literary Jane

37 Puccini work

38 Curry spice

40 Roundish do

42 Palindromic constellation

43 Yearly charge

48 Up to

49 Oboe insert

50 Cupid's realm

51 Compass dir.

DOWN

1 Earl Grey, e.g.

2 Have

3 Gents

4 Light wind

5 Poet Pound

6 Meadows

7 Day light

8 With suspicion, as a look

9 Complete reversal

10 Banister

11 Beer ingredient

16 Monk's title

20 Cato's 502

21 Get ready, briefly

22 Humdinger

23 Like the Supremes and the Pointer Sisters

24 Use scissors

26 Lose color

27 Tempe sch.

28 Addict

29 Zhivago's love

31 Novelist Malamud

34 Memo letters

35 Lunar program

37 Mouths (Lat.)

38 Felines

39 "The Haj" author

40 From the start

41 Elmer of cartoons

44 "The Matrix" role

45 Dandy guy

46 Actress Mendes

47 Moray, for one

King Crossword

Solution time: 23 mins

Answers

1. Gale.; 2. Four; California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.; 3. The Holy Grail.; 4. "Desperate Housewives"; 5. Quid pro quo.; 6. Satifish.; 7. China.; 8. Eight minutes.; 9. Rhode Island.; 10. Canker sore.

Trivia Test Answers



## FOOTBALL SCORES & SCHEDULES

### LAST WEEK'S SCORES

6A D1 PLAYOFFS  
Galena Park North Shore 42, Deer Park 14  
The Woodlands 35, Spring 0  
Spring Westfield 35, Conroe 20

6A D2 PLAYOFFS  
Willis 62, Aldine Nimitz 34  
Conroe Oakridge 29, Spring DeKaney 28  
Sheldon C.E. King 70, Channelview 21

5A D1 PLAYOFFS  
Barbers Hill 43, McKinney North 21

### THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

6A D1 PLAYOFFS  
Galena Park North Shore (11-0) vs. Clear Springs (7-4), 7 p.m., Friday at Galena Park ISD Stadium in Houston, Texas  
Spring Westfield (9-2) vs. Klein Cain (8-3) 7 p.m., Friday at Tomball ISD Stadium in Tomball, Texas

6A D2 PLAYOFFS  
Sheldon C. E. King (8-3) vs. Clear Falls (7-4) 7 p.m., Friday at Challenger-Columbia Stadium in Webster, Texas

5A D1 PLAYOFFS  
Barbers Hill (9-2) vs. Richland (11-0) 7 p.m., Friday at Memorial Stadium in Hutto, Texas

Keep East Aldine Clean & Green!



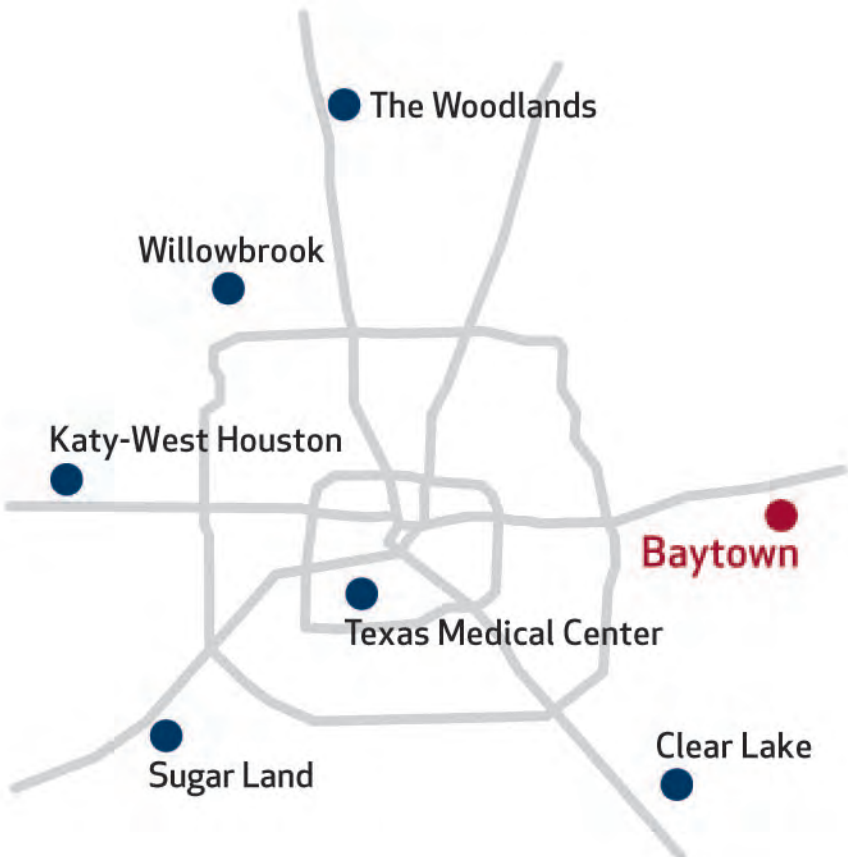




# THERE'S A BETTER APPROACH TO CANCER CARE in Baytown

At Houston Methodist Neal Cancer Center, we treat every aspect of your cancer. Leading oncologists work with our specialists across disciplines to minimize cancer's effects on major organs. One comprehensive team — dedicated to your individual care — uses the latest research, treatments and technology to stop your cancer. From infusion and clinical trials to surgery and reconstruction, our innovative care is available in Baytown.

**That's the difference between practicing medicine and leading it.**



HOUSTON  
**Methodist**<sup>®</sup>  
NEAL CANCER CENTER

281.428.2273  
[houstonmethodist.org/cancer-baytown](http://houstonmethodist.org/cancer-baytown)

