



Jonathan Delacruz, Cindy Proctor, Danna and Dr. Donald Nino. Hugo and Susie Reyna place their bets on the 21-table, hoping to raise more money. STORY BELOW and PAGE 6.

NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
VOLUME 12, NO. 32 (#531) THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2024 www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

Harris County Debris Drop-Off

Residential debris drop-off sites are now open for Harris County residents to take their vegetative, construction, and demolition debris free of charge. A monitor will be on site verifying Harris County residency.

7am to 7pm Daily

Crosby Sports Complex

6800 Miller Wilson Road
Crosby, TX 77532

IT May Park

2100 Wolf Road
Huffman, TX 77336

Lindsay/Lyons Park

2310 Atascocita Road
Humble, TX 77396

For more information, call
713-274-3100.

Pedestrian's Death brought Sidewalk Improvements on Dell Dale Street

By Allan Jamail
A Personal Account

Channelview, TX. ~ Tuesday, August 13, 2024 Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia and the parents of Jaqueline Gonzalez a pedestrian fatality had a ribbon cutting ceremony for a sidewalk project on Dell Dale Street.

I spoke to Gerardo and Susana Gonzalez the parents of Jaqueline after the event and they thanked me for representing the North Channel Star with coverage of the ribbon cutting. Mr. Gonzalez grabbed and shook my hand as he gave me his address and asked if I would bring him some newspapers so he could provide them to their family and friends.

Our conversation was



Dell Dale Street sidewalk ribbon cutting, Gerardo & Susana Gonzalez parents of the late Jaqueline Gonzalez cutting the ribbon. She was killed crossing the street to get on a sidewalk. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Front L - R: Senator Carol Alvarado, Gerardo & Susana Gonzalez, Commissioner Adrian Garcia, County Engineer Milton Rahman & Victor Saienni, Bear Services Inc. (the sidewalk contractor). In the back, Tory Miles, CVISD Superintendent & Judge Lucia Bates. Robert Gamino, Project Manager (present but not in the photo).

difficult at times as he emotionally described the events of that tragic December 2022 night which took the life of their beautiful 25 year old daughter two years ago.

He said it was about 9:30 at night when Jaqueline left their home to walk to a nearby convenient store.

He said he was told by one of Harris County's deputies investigating the accident that his daughter was walking north on the east side of Dell Dale where there was part of a sidewalk. And in the 2000 block his daughter decided to cross over to the west side sidewalk because the sidewalk she was walking on did not continue and was impassable.

Continued. See SIDEWALK PROJECT, Page 7

Butterfly Release a Tribute to SJ Lee; Daughter Erica to run for her seat



North Channel area participants releasing their Butterflies outside the Pleasantville Community Center in Memory of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee.

L - R: Yuroba Harris, Chief District Director of Congressional District 18, Erica Lee Carter (Sheila's daughter) RC Carter (Erica's son) & Jaxon Shelly, Boy Scout & Violinist. (Photo by Linda Jamail)

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. ~ On August 4, 2024 elected officials, family members and friends of the late Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee gathered to pay their respect to her by having a real live butterfly release.

Attendees upon their

arrival were greeted by Bianca Montgomery the community center's receptionist who directed them to the center's auditorium.

Community Leader Deborah Adams called the event to order and introduced State Representative Harold Dutton to be the emcee.

Dutton introduced Reverend DeAndre Bell to begin the program with a prayer.

Jaxon Shelly a young Boy Scout and inspiring musician provided entertainment by playing his violin. Afterwards he re

Continued. See BUTTERFLY TRIBUTE; ERICA TO RUN, Page 3

Galena Park residents hear of Air Quality report after ITC Fire

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

A devastating fire at the Intercontinental Terminals Company, LLC (ITC) in Deer Park on Sunday, March 17, 2019, became the catalyst for an Austin newspaper to investigate the lingering effects on the community including Galena Park. On Saturday August 10th, they returned to Galena Park, to host an informational event to arm residents with knowledge on how to handle a repeat event. The meeting was jointly hosted by the Air Alliance Houston, Galena Park Library, and the Texas Tribune.

The Deer Park fire began in Tank 80-8, an 80,000 barrel aboveground atmospheric storage tank that held a blend of naphtha and butane product, a highly flammable liquid, according to the U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board investigation report released on July 6, 2023.

The report said ITC was unable to isolate or stop the release and the fire intensified and spread to the other 14 tanks located in the same area burning for three days until it was extinguished on Wednesday, March 20, 2019. The effects of the fire and breach of the containment wall caused the shutdown of a seven-mile stretch of the Houston Ship Channel, several waterfront parks in Harris County and the City of LaPorte, and a plume of smoke forcing several shelter-in-place orders because of benzene-related air quality concerns.

Area school districts including Deer Park,



Juan Flores, Air Alliance Houston's community air monitoring program manager speaking at the meeting (Photo By David Taylor).

La Porte, Pasadena, Channelview, Galena Park, and Sheldon cancelled classes and outdoor activities for part of the week out of an abundance of caution.

Damages from the fire exceeded \$150 million, according to USCSHIB.

The Texas Tribune followed up the fire with investigative reporting by Alejandra Martinez.

"Today is for your questions and to be able to get information that you, your family, and your community needs," said Matt

Continued. See GALENA PARK AIR QUALITY, Page 5

A successful Casino Night Raises Thousands for Foundation's William C. Palko Scholarships; Chamber Crowd enjoys games, food

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Inside the Jacinto City Town Center, there was a celebration and a lot of laughter as members of the North Channel Chamber of Commerce and their friends enjoyed a Casino Night to raise money for local scholarships. Before the laughter came, there was some blood, sweat, tears and hard work involved to make the night possible and give hope to students seeking a better life through education.

"This event is the annual Casino Night fundraiser, and the funds that we raise, and proceeds go to the (Education) Foundation to fund the annual William C. Palko scholar-



Chamber members paused from a heated game during last Friday night's Casino Night at the Jacinto City Town Center. From left, Jim Wadzinski, Darnald Kimbale, Jr., his mom Debra Kimbale Williams, Bill Palko, and dealer Kim with Casino Parties and More.

ship," said Margie Buentello, president and CEO of the chamber. The scholarship, she said, is given to a graduate of either North Shore, Galena Park, Channelview, or C. E. King High School and who plans on

attending San Jacinto College North in the fall.

The scholarship began several years before COVID hit. Originally, the \$5,000 scholarship was meant for one student, however, Buentello said



Chamber staff members Yesenia Doyal, Bianca Vega, and Margie Buentello greeted the chamber members and their guests at the annual Casino Night party held last Friday at Jacinto City Town Center.

they have raised enough money to offer as many as three scholarships each year depending on the budget and receipts.

"The first year, I remember we didn't have the money we have now. We

had board members, after interviewing the student's seeking scholarships, take money out of their own pockets to help make up the difference," she said.

She also pointed out that 100 percent of the

funds are given back to the community.

Now, area companies also pitch in to help fund the scholarships meted out to area students.

Bill Palko, who serves as chairman of the board for the chamber this year, said all proceeds raised here, stay here.

The scholarship began many years ago but wasn't named for Palko and went away for some reason.

"When I became involved with the foundation, I wanted to start it back up again," he said. Now there is an endowment that continues to grow and during the pandemic year, despite not

Continued. See ANNUAL CASINO NIGHT 2024, Page 6

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Panthers Compete in World Softball Series



Congratulations to C.E. King High School senior, Cassidy Cantera, and 2024 graduate, Jailyn Latour, for competing in the 2024 Nike RBI Softball World Series in Vero Beach. Way to represent our Panther Pride.

KHS Graduate Receives Nursing Pin



CONGRATULATIONS

Former KNIT student Emily Villanueva

C.E. King class of 2021



On Thursday, August 8, C.E. King High School hosted the San Jacinto College North's Associate Degree Nursing Program Graduation and Pinning. King Nurses in Training student and KHS Class of 2021 Emily Villanueva walked across the stage to receive her pin. Her family and teachers looked on as she stood on the platform, taking the Nightingale Pledge along with 20 other graduates in her nursing school cohort. The KNIT program is a partnership between King High School and San Jacinto College and exposes high school students to the rigorous coursework and first-hand clinical experience required of those seeking to become nurses.

Sheldon ISD Welcomes Students on First Day of School



Monday, August 12 marked the first day of school for the 2024-25 school year. The district expects more than 11,000 students enrolled this year. Excitement is building for the year with the new additions to Cravens Early Childhood Academy and Null Middle School. Ground will break this fall for the new 9th and 10th Grade Campus. These projects are part of the bond referendum passed by the community in 2022. For more information, including the academic calendar, please go to www.sheldonisd.com.

You can read the North Channel Star current and back issues on our website: www.northchannelstar.com

GALENA PARK ISD NEWS

Galena Park ISD and TASB's 2024 Media Honor Roll



By Dr. Tommie L. Smith

Nate Griffin, Sports Analyst for KRIV-TV and Fox 26 Morning News; Allan J-mail, freelance writer and contributor to North Channel Star; Randy McIlvoy, Emmy Award-Winning Sports Anchor and Reporter with KPRC's Click 2 Houston; Bob Slovak, with ABC 13's Eyewitness News Sports Team; and David Taylor, also with North Channel Star were named

to the Texas Association of School Boards' (TASB's) 2024 Media Honor Roll by Galena Park ISD. The Media Honor Roll recognizes media representatives statewide for fair and balanced reporting of news about public schools. Media from newspapers, radio and television stations, and digital publications across the state were honored. These media representative's efforts to get to know the superintendent, board

president, and the District's mission and goals; report school news in a fair, accurate, and balanced manner; give a high profile to positive news about schools; visit the schools; and maintain a policy of no surprises by sharing information with school officials remain an integral part of Galena Park ISD's educational community.

Photo Credit: Christopher Gause

The 2024-2025 Galena Park ISD Board of Trustees Officers



Left to Right: Board Member Amanda Erebia, Board Vice President Ramon Garza, Board Secretary Linda Clark Sherrard, Board President Norma Hernandez, and School Superintendent Dr. John Moore. (Photo Credit: Christopher Gause)

By Dr. Tommie L. Smith

At the June 10th Board of Trustees meeting, the Board elected new officers for the 2024-2025 school year and recognized them in their new roles. Norma Hernandez, who previously served as the Board's Vice

president, was elected President. Ramon Garza was elected Vice President, and Linda Clark Sherrard was chosen Secretary for the upcoming school year.

The Superintendent and the Galena Park ISD Board of Trustees function as a "Team of Eight." The Board

is responsible for creating policy for the District, adopting the budget, and setting goals and priorities. It is the responsibility of the superintendent and staff to lead the District and ensure the board-adopted policies are implemented.

A Student's Extension of Service



By Dr. Tommie L. Smith

Jacoby Johnson, Cobb Sixth Grade Campus student, embarked on a life-changing journey this summer that extended his heart and hands to an international community. Jacoby joined a medical outreach mission to Guyana to make a tangible difference in the lives of people far beyond his hometown. As a member of the Specialist Medical Out-

reach Team with Youth on a Mission Church of God, Ja'Colby helped to provide medical assistance to over 200 residents of Guyana. The team checked blood pressure, completed dental extractions, and distributed eyeglasses. Jacoby witnessed firsthand the challenges faced by communities with limited access to healthcare and the impact that even small acts of kindness can have. Jacoby returned home with a renewed

sense of purpose and a broader perspective on the world. His journey to Guyana provided immediate aid to those in need and planted the seeds for a lifelong commitment to service. Jacoby's story is a testament to the power of empathy and action, proving that no matter how young, anyone can make a significant difference in the world.

Photo Credit: Christopher Gause

CHARLOTTE'S WEB
By Charlotte Jackson



Butterfly Tribute; Erica to Run,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Opinions vs. Relationships

Opinions vs. Relationships
Last week was rough. By Tuesday, I was at a breaking point. I had talked with approximately three hundred community members and the things that they shared had broke my heart. There was someone who had to move her mother out of her the home she had lived in for over sixty years, after she found out about years of abuse from the stepfather. There was another person who lost a child who was incarcerated. There was another neighbor who had been terrified by stray dogs. There were friends attacking my beliefs on social media. There was a friend dealing with her child being sentenced to life in prison. Another friend was preparing to send her only child off to college.

As these stories were shared, there were at least two different opinions about the subject. So, who was right and who was wrong?

By the end of the week, I had to remind myself that even if I disagree with someone, that does not make them an enemy. When I shared a thought on social media, one person that I love, and respect immediately attacked me and my opinion. I prayed about it and not only removed it from MY page but offered an apology to anyone I had offended. I then had someone respond that I needed to learn that it was MY page, and they did not have the right to voice their opinion, except on their page. I had many others agree with me that it was better to remove it and not offend others. They agreed that being friends with someone meant that you accepted their opinion and valued the friendship much more than losing it over an opinion.

Some topics are very cut and dry. Or so they seem. Is the life of an inmate as important as the life of someone who has never even been stopped by the police? Even if abuse has been happening for decades, once you are made aware of it, do you let it continue? Or do you help that victim get help?

For someone with several children, sending one off to college may not seem to be important. Yet for a mother who left an abusive relationship and has made every decision based on whether her child would be safe, it is much more challenging. She has the right to her feelings.

With everything going on and with the various opinions that are held, it is more important than ever to ask yourself, does their opinion matter enough to argue? I have asked for years if everyone in my contact list looks like me, thinks like me and shares the same values, who influences who? While our opinions matter, relationships matter more. One of the most important things I learned from my dad was that we can agree to disagree and still love and respect each other. Stand for what you believe in yet ask yourself if the relationship is worth losing over an opinion.

ceived a well deserved ovation, the audience clapped long and loud for his outstanding performance.

Dutton then introduced Ms. Yuroba Harris, Chief District Director for the 18th Congressional District, she expressed how much she missed Jackson Lee and said “she made us become better in our jobs; she always strived to make people’s lives better. She showed us where we could see for ourselves how our hard work made people’s lives better.”

Erica Lee Carter (Sheila’s daughter) spoke and thanked the more than one hundred participants who came to honor her mother that afternoon. She led the group outdoors to begin the butterfly release. Participants were given live butterflies, when they released them everyone marveled while watching them fly and sore away into the air. SEE PHOTO

Ms. Kay Joshua, recited a beautiful tribute to Congresswoman Lee written by Dwantrina Russell entitled, The Meaning of the Butterfly release. READ BELOW.

Pastor Timothy Criswell of the Fifth Ward Missionary Baptist closed the indoor event with a prayer.

THE MEANING OF THE BUTTERFLY RELEASE:

The butterfly, with its delicate wings and colorful flight, is a powerful symbol of transformation and the ever-changing journey of life. It reminds us of the beauty in transition, moving gracefully from one

phase to the next, just as it evolves from a caterpillar to a magnificent creature of the sky. This metamorphosis reflects our own potential for growth and renewal. In life, we are often called to dance like the butterfly—a dance that represents movement from where we are towards where we are meant to be. It’s a joyful yet profound reminder that change is an integral part of our existence, leading us closer to our ultimate purpose. As stated in II Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new. This passage echoes the same theme of transformation and rebirth.

Today we honor the life of a remarkable woman the Honorable Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee who embodied these virtues—who fought tirelessly against injustice and made impactful changes in her community. Just as the butterfly’s wings cause ripples beyond what we can see, her legacy continues to touch lives and inspire others. As we release these butterflies today, let their flight remind us that while she may no longer be with us in this world, her spirit moves freely into its next journey. She lives on through each act of kindness and every stand for justice that she inspired. Let her transformation be our hope and her joy be our guide. May her legacy flutter endlessly in our hearts. Written by: Dwantrina Russell

Erica Lee Carter files for her Mother’s Seat in Congress



Erica Lee Carter (PHOTO by Allan Jamail)

Since the Buttery Fly release event on August 4th Erica Lee Carter, the late U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee’s daughter, announced she will run to serve out the remainder of her mother’s term in Congress.

When asked if she would seek the position to fill out her mother’s remaining term which ends in January 2025 she said, “After careful consideration, the answer is YES,” Lee Carter said.

“My mom was the ultimate finisher,” she said. “She would stay until the latest hour at her D.C. Congressional office, she supported community events late into the evening, made calls doing the ‘people’s business’ until wee hours of the morning, closed every important meeting with an ask, solution or next step and never took ‘no’ as a final answer.”

Erica said, “I cared for her until the end and if the people of the 18th Congressional District entrust me with their vote, then It is my desire to finish the 118th Session in the way that she would have, by

supporting justice, equality, healthcare, human rights and economic opportunity for all.

I call on all Harris County Democrats to unite to ensure that the people of the 18th Congressional District regain their vote on critical national issues. Together, we will finish for my Mom, The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee”

Texas Governor Greg Abbott set a special election Nov. 5 to fill the remainder of the seat’s term. Candidates have until Aug. 22 to file their bid for the election.

News journalist Allan Jamail said “I’ve known Erica for twenty years, I first met her in Boston in 2004 the night Senator Barack Obama gave the Keynote Speech at the Democratic Party’s National Convention. Since then we’ve become good friends and as friends we’ve enjoyed each other’s company. She invited my wife Linda and me to her wedding and to her twins christening. She’s a caring person just like her mom, smart, well educated and has what it takes to serve out her mother’s term.”

ASK DIAMOND JIM



Diamond Jim: “The Rising Costs of Doing Business?”

When you see small businesses raising their prices today and over the coming months, it’s not being done to make more money. It’s being done to stay open, keep their employees working, and to continue to serve their customers and their communities.

When you consider that, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), approximately 20% of new businesses fail within their first two years, 45% within their first five years, and 65% within their first 10 years, it’s a wonder that small businesses survive at all considering our current economic climate. Only 25% of new businesses survive for 15 years or more. Pineforest Jewelry has been here serving you for nearly 40 years.

Please, continue to shop local and support small businesses during these very difficult times. We humbly appreciate every customer who walks through the doors at Pineforest Jewelry. YOU are the reason we are here and in business. YOU are the reason that our employees have a career. And, YOU are the reason we are able to help the local economy and our local communities. For every visit that you make to our store, I say “Thank You So Very Much”.

From: Diamond Jim Mills

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.

DENTAL Insurance
Great coverage for retirees.




Get your **FREE** Information Kit
It's easy! Call today
1-866-603-1174
Dental50Plus.com/Starcourier
Physicians Mutual Insurance Company

Products/features not available in all states. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. To find a network provider, go to physiciansmutual.com/FindDental. This specific offer not available in CO, NJ, NY, VA - call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for a similar offer in your state. Certificate C254/B465, C250A/B438 (ID: C254ID; PA: C254PA); Insurance Policy P54B/449, P55B/439 (GA: P54GA; OK: P54OK; TN: P54TN); 6347

inogen
PORTABLE OXYGEN FOR YOUR ON-THE-GO LIFESTYLE


Call us toll-free at
1-855-944-6046

CLAIM YOUR **14-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL!**




*14 day risk-free trial. Return within 14 days of purchase for a full refund of purchase price. ©2024 Inogen, Inc. All rights reserved. Inogen, Inc. is a trademark of Inogen, Inc. The usage of any Inogen Inc. trademarks is strictly prohibited without the prior consent of Inogen, Inc. All other trademarks are trademarks of their respective owners or holders.

Reversible studs



They work equally well in either lobe!

PineforestJewelry.com
1141 Uvalde • Houston, Texas 77015
713.451.1321



Dealing with the loss of a loved one is never easy, but maybe these guys can help!

We're the only funeral home in the Houston area providing full-time, certified therapy dogs for the comfort of our families and guests



Axl and Izzy are both certified grief therapy dogs. You can follow them on Facebook and Instagram @GriefTherapyDood

CARTER • CONLEY FUNERAL HOME
FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED FOR OVER 30 YEARS

13701 Corpus Christi St. Houston, TX 77015 • (713) 455-5100
www.carterconleyfh.com

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

OPINION PAGE

OPINION

By DYLAN BADDOUR Houston Landing

Hurricane Beryl was a Warning Shot for Houston

When Hurricane Beryl entered the Gulf of Mexico, the city of Houston had little reason to believe it was about to take its first direct hit from a tropical cyclone in decades.

Initial forecasts predicted the storm would make landfall in northern Mexico, hundreds of miles away. Instead it veered sharply north and hit an unfortunate bullseye.

The category 1 storm flooded hundreds of homes and knocked out power for millions of people in the muggy former swamplands of the nation's energy capital, throwing the city into days of chaos and highlighting the vulnerability of the fourth-largest U.S. city.

For Matt Lanza, a meteorologist and managing editor of Space City Weather, it raised a disturbing prospect: What if this mild hurricane had been stronger?

"It's really uncomfortable to think about," Lanza said. "That is a scenario that is extremely plausible; it's not far-fetched."

If a category 3 or 4 storm followed the same path as Beryl, Lanza said, it could drastically change the face of Houston. This week's experience suggests the city is ill-prepared to handle such a disaster.

"It could be like New Orleans after [Hurricane] Katrina, where much of the city is uninhabitable for a period of weeks to months," Lanza said. "So what is our plan for that? I don't know that we necessarily have one."

The last category 4 storm to hit Houston was Hurricane Carla in 1961, when less than a million people lived in the city and air conditioning was still novel. The last category 3 was Hurricane Alicia in 1983. Hurricane Ike, a category 2, landed east of Houston in 2008, striking the city with its weaker western flank.

Most damage in recent memory has come from tropical storms bringing much more rain than wind, like Tropical Storm Allison in 2001. Hurricane Harvey hit the middle Texas coast as a category 4 in August 2017 and reached Houston as a stagnant tropical storm with modest wind—but with the heaviest rainfall ever recorded in the United States, inundating the city with over 50 inches of precipitation.

When Beryl hit on Monday, it was wind, rather than rain, that wrecked the city's electrical infrastructure, apparently catching the local power company, CenterPoint Energy, off guard. Four days later, CenterPoint was still working to restore power to hundreds of thousands of customers.

"A cat 1 hurricane shouldn't knock out your power system," said Kerry Emanuel, a veteran hurricane researcher and professor emeritus at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "I think you've got a problem with the power company, frankly." Hurricanes are expected to intensify, he said, as greenhouse gas emissions warm the atmosphere and ocean, supercharging evaporation and heat transfer in a warmer atmosphere that already holds more moisture.

"A demonstrable greenhouse gas effect is the proportion of hurricanes that turn out cat 3 or 4," Emanuel said.

When Hurricane Beryl formed in the Atlantic in early July, hundreds of miles from the Texas coast, it reached category 4 status—the earliest category 4 storm on record. Record warm temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean this year have led to predictions of a highly active hurricane season.

Beryl was the second time this summer that storms caused widespread, prolonged power outages in Houston, after a rare inland windstorm in May blasted through the city, blowing out skyscraper windows. The last decade also saw severe, widespread flooding in Houston in 2015, 2016, and 2017, plus a crippling ice storm in 2021 and severe drought in 2023 that ravaged underground plumbing.

This year's hurricane season has only just begun. Atlantic storms typically grow more powerful through the summer, peaking in September.

"Houstonians are understandably exhausted from dealing with such events regularly, but it's crucial that we remain prepared for more," said state Senator Carol Alvarado, a Democrat who represents much of east Houston. "We must focus on increasing state aid for both preventative measures and reactive relief efforts."

These storms harm economic prosperity and social mobility, said Robert Bullard, a professor of urban planning and environmental policy at Texas Southern University in Houston and a member of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council.

Less affluent communities typically bear the brunt of storm damage costs, Bullard said, because their infrastructure is lacking compared to wealthier neighborhoods. In the 20th century, he said, racial segregation forced Black families to live in low-lying areas that repeatedly flood.

In America, most middle-income family wealth is embedded in home ownership, Bullard said. When stormwaters swamp a house, the financial damage can last for generations. "This repeated disaster impacts on the communities over decades, it creates a theft of wealth accumulation," said Bullard, who lost his car to Hurricane Alicia in Houston in 1983. "It's stealing their inheritance, and it means that the amount of equity funding for the next generation is diminished."

Houston is taking steps to harden its defenses.

Offshore, federal authorities are advancing plans to build an enormous, \$57 billion system of barriers and gates, which has been called the largest civil engineering project in U.S. history and is expected to take 20 years to construct.

That project is designed to prevent a worst-case scenario—a major hurricane shooting straight into Galveston Bay, sending a storm surge up the Houston Ship Channel and into the massive waterside complexes of refineries and petrochemical plants that constitute the heart of the U.S. energy sector.

In the city, authorities have recently spent hundreds of millions of dollars widening bayous, the natural waterways that flow across Houston, which nonetheless overflowed during Beryl. Authorities also bought out thousands of homes in the flood plains. But many thousands more remain.

Jim Blackburn, co-director of Rice University's Severe Storm Prediction, Education, & Evacuation from Disasters Center, said the city should fundamentally change its development pattern to mitigate recurring storm damage. "We ought to be very slow to rebuild in the same areas that flood over," Blackburn said. "That's not a popular position, but I think it's a very important one."

Blackburn, a veteran environmental lawyer, was surprised at the amount of damage done to Houston's power system by Beryl's 90 mile-per-hour winds and by the length of the ongoing effort to restore electricity. "I cannot imagine what 150-mile-per-hour winds might have done to this community; that's what I'm horrified of. What's a cat 4 or cat 5 going to do to us?" Blackburn said. "They will be coming."

But fundamentally reformatting Houston is easier said than done. It means backtracking, to some extent, on decades of booming development driven by the hubris of the energy age.

Greater Houston started out as a smattering of settlements between swamps and bayous on the edge of a prairie. Until the mid-20th century, there was "more appreciation for the vulnerability of the city" and "greater recognition of the city's ecological and environmental infrastructure," said Jonathan Levy, a professor of U.S. history at the University of Chicago who grew up in Houston's flood-prone Meyerland neighborhood.

But that changed after World War II, when a period of rapid expansion brought an "increasing ignorance of these realities," said Levy, who has written about Houston's environmental struggle. The oil and gas industry was revolutionizing the world, headquartered largely in Houston, where it powered the massive expansion of concrete freeways, whole landscapes of suburban sprawl, and an enormous, low-density city premised on private automobiles. At the same time, the growing global oil industry was increasing the greenhouse gas emissions that intensify tropical storms.

"When it comes to the politics of climate change, if you don't have a plan for Houston, you don't really have a plan," Levy said. "It's hard to imagine an energy transition occurring without the energy industry in Houston participating."

As for the city, the transformation would entail making space for the water, pulling back from the edges of the bayous to create a giant network of wide greenways through the metro area.

"Limiting building, condemning property and compensating homeowners to bring the logic of that ecological infrastructure back to life," Levy said. "If you can't do that, I don't really see there being any answer."

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.



THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Blessed with Cousins



I have been blessed with many cousins.

My two cousins closest in age were both boys, Brian and Dane. We went camping and hiking together and stayed in the cabin up north. We all remember the day we made tea from red sumac berries, and—after we'd drunk about a gallon each—my Uncle Mike told us, "You know that stuff is a laxative, don't you?" (For the record, it is not.)

We are still close, although I marvel at how similar we seemed when we were young, and how serious and reliable they now seem compared to me.

My mother had 10 siblings, and she was the third from the youngest, so most of my cousins are older than me. I remember my older cousins listening to the Beatles behind closed bedroom doors. I stood in the hallway and listened to the music seeping out from under the door and knew I could never be that cool.

I remember my cousin, Jill, ironing her Gunne Sax dress on grandma's ironing board. Jill was beautiful, and she dyed her hair black. She had a marvelous loud laugh and was the only person I knew with long fingernails. I felt lucky to be around her. Then, just to make the whole thing more amazing, Jill's handsome boyfriend (who was a musician, naturally!) would drive up to the farmhouse in his VW Bug. I knew my older cousins were all smarter and funnier and much more sophisticated than I could ever be.

I still feel that way. I just spent a long weekend up in rural Ontario with a number of my first cousins and a few of their children thrown in for good measure. It was a wonderful time, and I was reminded again of how blessed I am with cousins.

Most of the time was spent just sitting and admiring the beautiful scenery and telling stories—lots and lots of stories. And I was amazed how few of these stories I remembered.

I didn't know what my uncles did for a living or who my aunts dated when they were young. I didn't know how late it was when everyone in my family finally got indoor plumbing or how early my aunts were in studying things in college that women at the time rarely did.

I remembered the conservative pastor's wife who changed her name from Alice to Twyla when she discovered her birth mother. But I had no idea, after she became a widow, that she took to making corn wine or that she broke her arm when she fell off a table at the VFW.

I knew about grandpa's once-a-year fishing trip with his brother, Evald, but I didn't know where they stayed or how they drove to the Mille Lacs Reservation in northern Minnesota to buy the northerns they claimed to catch. I didn't remember much about my great-aunts and great-uncles and, honestly, I still don't. But I got a glimpse because of my cousins.

One of my cousins was recently diagnosed with ALS, and died. His sisters came to this cousins' reunion. It was a long trip for all of them. But I'm sure they felt—more acutely than I—how short this time is that we have with family, how precious the opportunities are to remember and share.

"She fell off the table?" one of my cousins said in disbelief. "What was Twyla doing on the table at the VFW?"

Nobody knew. But we all laughed until tears ran down our faces. And I now have something new to remember.

Till next time, Carrie

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Pandemic Relief Funds for Schools About to End

Texas public schools received more than \$19 billion in pandemic relief funds over the last four years, but that pipeline of cash will largely end on Sept. 30, The Texas Tribune reported.

That means many Texas schools already struggling with budget deficits will begin the school year with even more serious deficits, especially since the Texas Legislature has not increased base per-student pay since 2019 — a year before the pandemic began.

Congress passed the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief package in 2020 to help schools deal with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused enrollment declines, teachers exiting the profession and falling test scores. That funding is about to end, with essentially nothing to take its place for many school districts already at the maximum allowed property tax rate.

"It's not about making up ESSER, because we all know that was one-time funding," said La Joya ISD Superintendent Marcey Sorensen. "I just would ask, without getting political whatsoever, that everybody just look in the mirror and say, OK, if we really haven't provided additional funding since 2019, maybe it's time that we just give school districts a little bit more of what they need, knowing that kids have different needs now."

A recent survey conducted by the Texas Association of School Business Officials concluded that out of 313 school districts across the state, nearly 80% reported deficit budgets or a lack of resources as one of their top challenges.

ABBOTT ORDERS HOSPITALS TO REPORT IMMIGRANT CARE DATA

All Texas hospitals enrolled in Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program have been ordered by Gov. Greg Abbott to report costs incurred by treating undocumented immigrants, the Austin American-Statesman reported. In a news release outlining his executive order, Abbott blamed the Biden administration's border security policies for health care



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

costs related to those immigrants.

"Texans should not have to shoulder the burden of financially supporting medical care for illegal immigrants," Abbott said.

Some Democratic lawmakers criticized the order.

State Rep. Gene Wu, D-Austin, posted on X: "Texas has the HIGHEST uninsured healthcare in the nation. Texas has the WORST mental health care in the nation. Texas has one of the worst (mortality) and infant mortality rates in America. But these are the Republicans priorities."

FIVE MORE COUNTIES ADDED TO DISASTER LIST

In the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl, five more Texas counties have been added to the federal disaster list, the governor's office announced.

The counties of Austin, Bowie, Shelby, Trinity and Waller have been added to the list, which already included Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Montgomery, Matagorda, Nacogdoches, Orange, Polk, Walker, San Jacinto and Wharton counties.

Texas can apply for FEMA disaster assistance at disasterassistance.gov or by calling 800-621-3362.

CARBON MONOXIDE POISONINGS SPIKE IN WAKE OF STORM

Carbon monoxide poisonings rose dramatically in the wake of Hurricane Beryl, with about 400 people ending up in Texas emergency rooms since the storm struck on July 8, the Texas Standard reported. That

is the highest number reported since the 2021 winter storm, the Texas Standard reported. Two people died of CO poisoning in Harris County.

CO poisonings caused by widespread power outages are growing more common as climate change causes more extreme weather events, according to scientists.

"Whether you want to blame it on this, that or the other, I don't care. The world is changing. The climate is changing," said Dr. David Perisse, Houston's chief medical officer.

SCHOOL ABOUT TO START; WATCH FOR THE KIDDOES

With school about to start, drivers are urged to stay alert and exercise caution in school zones, the Texas Department of Public Transportation advised. School zones can be chaotic, and 748 crashes were reported inside them last year. In addition, 2,523 collisions involving school buses occurred in Texas last year, killing 11 people and injuring 63.

TxDOT has launched its "Be Safe. Drive Smart Back-to-School" campaign in hopes of reducing crashes. The most common causes of crashes are preventable, such as speeding, distracted driving and failure to yield the right of way. Among the tips offered by TxDOT:

- Be aware. Traffic patterns around schools may have changed since last school year.
- Stay alert and put your phone away. Using a handheld electronic device while driving in an active school zone is against the law.
- Stop and yield the right of way to a pedestrian, bicyclist, or other vulnerable road user in a crosswalk. The Lisa Torry Smith Act of 2021 enhanced the penalties for failing to follow the law and protect people in crosswalks. Seriously injuring someone who is lawfully in a crosswalk is now a state jail felony.
- Obey school zone speed limit signs. Remember, traffic fines increase in school zones.
- Know where to go. Drop off and pick up your kids in your school's designated areas, not the middle of the street.
- Be on the lookout. Keep an eye on children gathered at bus stops.
- Watch for children who might dart across the street or between vehicles.

YUP, IT'S HOT IN TEXAS

Exactly how hot is it in the Lone Star State as a heat dome covers much of Texas during these dog days of August? According to the Statesman, our state has the fourth-highest average temperature so far this year, coming in at 65.8 degrees. That might not seem all that hot, but keep in mind it includes temps recorded in January averaged in with that summer heat.

Topping the list of hottest states is Florida, followed by Hawaii and Louisiana, according to data compiled by The Blogger. After Texas comes Georgia, Mississippi and Alabama. Surprisingly, Arizona — even with triple-digit temperatures recorded regularly around Phoenix — is tied for ninth place.

Advertisement for Star Courier newspaper, including contact information for the Barbers Hill, Dayton, and North Channel editions, and listing the staff members: Gilbert Hoffman (Editor & Publisher), Mei-Ing Liu Hoffman (Associate Publisher), David Taylor (Managing Editor), Julieta Paita (Assignment Editor), Kristan Hoffman (Website Editor), and Gerardo Hernandez (Production Manager).

Residents Learn about Galena Park Air Quality,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Juan Flores speaking at the meeting held at the Galena Park Library (Photo by David Taylor)

Ewalt, director of events and live journalism for The Texas Tribune.

The meeting featured Juan Flores, Air Alliance Houston's community air monitoring program manager; Dr. Inyang Uwak, research and policy director at the environmental nonprofit Air Alliance Houston; Natalie Johnson, environmental toxicologist at the Texas A&M University School of Public Health; Erandi Treviño, coalition organizer for the environmental nonprofit Healthy Port Communities Coalition; and Yvette Arellano, founder of Fenceline Watch, an environmental watchdog organization.

"Today's community engagement is an extension of the journalism that our newsroom has done in the area, and it's wanting to provide a space so that residents can ask vulnerable questions and access information related to air quality in the area, whether it's tools to be able to monitor air quality, to how to make their voices heard and how to protect themselves from exposure," Ewalt said.

Martinez said this was a follow-up on two years of reporting beginning with

an investigation that the Texas Tribune did in partnership with Public Health Watch looking at post air pollution after the ITC fire.

"Many of you were probably here and have lived in the Houston area remember the big black smoke plume that took over the skyline after the fire," she said.

Martinez said their investigation found that weeks after the fire was extinguished, there were still alarming levels of benzene in the air.

They have since done a collaborative story with freelancer Wendy Selena Perez looking at the state's air quality monitoring system and the inadequacies that come with it.

Flores, a Galena Park resident, knows the devastating effects of the air we breathe. He was diagnosed with a precursor for cancer at a young age but continues to live in Galena Park despite the risk.

"This is my neighborhood where I grew up. I want to make it better," he said. "One day I might have to move, but while I'm here, I want to make the best of it and let people know what's going on

because a lot of them don't know and I'm not the only one suffering with this out here."

Flores said education was the key and he wants to do that as much as possible.

He became the Community Air Monitor Program Manager for Air Alliance Houston and led the session on air monitoring.

"I have multiple air monitors at my home now and have put up a little over 60 air monitors across Houston the last few years," he said. The monitors are set up in homes and businesses giving access to anyone the data showing what's going on in their community.

Flores explained how to implement the Community Air Monitoring Program (CAMP) in his sessions.

Martinez said the sessions and conversations held at the Galena Park Library were not about politicians, lawmakers, or leaders talking at residents, but rather more intimate conversations in a smaller setting that allowed concerns and vulnerabilities.



NEKANE General Studies

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

REGISTER FOR FALL TAKE 2 CLASSES

CLASSES START SEPT. 3

SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

Enroll today at sanjac.edu



An Equal Opportunity Institution

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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!

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Apron bow is missing; 2. Faucet is different; 3. Water drop from dish is moved; 4. Cabinet is wider; 5. Doormat is moved; 6. Glove is longer.

August 19, 2024 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

- Apt. coolers
- Fishing rod
- Choir voice
- New Deal agcy.
- "Zounds!"
- Chiefs coach Andy
- Boring types
- Tear
- Bad habit
- Woodland walks
- Computer problem
- Swedish auto
- Spartan queen
- Dijon products
- Tokyo's historic name
- Quick looks
- Hasten
- Sends on, as an email
- Kick back
- Bee's home
- Comic Hedberg
- Suitor
- Shakespeare villain
- Reedy
- Birds of prey
- Queue
- Yankee nickname
- Debtor's letters
- Makes a choice
- Emmy winner Alan
- Record holder?
- Onion relative
- Fork part
- Probability
- Kudrow of "Friends"
- Millinery
- Staff symbol
- Decorate anew
- Soft leather
- Requests
- TV mogul Griffin
- Art of speaking
- Platter
- Third son
- Ache
- Bellyaches
- Latvia's capital
- Tribute maker
- Normandy battle site
- Use an egg-beater
- "— She Sweet"
- Sport shirt brand
- Cote cry
- Internet address
- Scooby- —
- Heat source

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY:** Where is the Parthenon located?
- TELEVISION:** What game are the younger characters in "Stranger Things" playing at the start of the series?
- MOVIES:** Who was the first African American actor to win the Academy Award for Best Actor?
- LITERATURE:** What is floo powder used for in the "Harry Potter" book series?
- U.S. CITIES:** Which U.S. city's nickname is Beantown?
- AD SLOGANS:** Which ride-share company's slogan is "Move the way you want"?
- ART:** Which artist painted a work titled "The Potato Eaters"?
- MUSIC:** Who wrote the song "God Bless America"?
- HISTORY:** Who became U.S. president after Abraham Lincoln was assassinated?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM:** Which animal can hold its breath for up to five minutes underwater?

Answers

- Athens, Greece;
- Dungeons & Dragons;
- Sidney Poitier; "Lilies of the Field";
- Rapid transportation;
- Boston;
- Uber;
- Vincent van Gogh;
- Irving Berlin;
- Andrew Johnson;
- Hippopotamus.

King Crossword

Solution time: 26 mins.

The NCA Chamber Foundation Held Their 2024 Casino Night ,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Brandon Baird, Marissa Thomas, Yazmin Mendoza, Maria Barcnas, Carolina Martinez, and Anthony Martinez gathered around the table to place their bets for more scholarship money for deserving high school graduates. The event was held at the Jacinto City Town Center. (Photo by David Taylor)



Melissa Quinteros, Cheri Melcher, Bella and Bob Dion try the roulette table at the Casino Night in Jacinto City Town Center sponsored by the North Channel Chamber of Commerce. Money raised at the event goes to scholarships for area high school graduates. (Photo by David Taylor)

having the event, there was enough to still give the William C. Palko scholarship to a deserving student.

“Everybody needs to know that the scholarship is \$5,000 the single scholarship, but because of the endowment fund and what we raise here, we’re actually very glad and proud that we’re able to give the \$5,000 scholarship and usually one or two additional scholars at \$1,500 to \$2,000 depending on the need,” he said.

A full house on Friday night, Palko said he felt like they would net between \$8,000 to \$10,000 and because of it, they will be able to give more than the \$5,000 scholarship.

His goal is to ultimately reach at least three \$5,000 scholarships.

Palko was born and raised in North Shore, graduated from North Shore High School, served four years in the Army and came back home here.

“Thirteen days after I got out of the Army, I went full time as a student to San Jac North, obtained an Associate of Arts in business administration, went to the University of



Danna and Dr. Donald Niño were out enjoying the evening supporting the chamber and their fundraiser. (Photo by David Taylor)



Hunter Taylor and Nicole Peake spend the night at the tables enjoying the fun at the annual Casino Night. (Photo by David Taylor)

Houson and graduated there with a BBA in accounting,” he said.

He still lives in North Shore where he raised both of his kids. Both of them graduated from North Shore and attended San Jac North, his son earning an AA in General Studies, and his daughter attended Texas Tech and took summer classes at San Jac. He also pointed out that his wife Debbie attended San Jac while he was serving in the Army.

“It’s our life. We love this area and it’s our community and we’re going to stay here,” he said.

Jim Wadzinski is president of the foundation board when they decided to name the scholarship after Palko.

“It was unanimous,” he said. “No other name was

even considered because he believes in giving back to the community,” Wadzinski said.

Palko also serves on the YMCA board, North Shore Rotary, and the chamber.

“He is always the first to open his wallet for everything in the community,” Wadzinski said.

It was an honor that brought tears to the eyes of Palko.

“That’s why he deserves it so much because he doesn’t do it with any expectation,” Wadzinski said. “And it’s nice for him to be able to enjoy the award while he’s still living. It’s uplifting because he can feel that emotion when he gets to present that scholarship every year to a deserving student.”



Jennifer Calhoun, Kay Sosa, Trudi Griffith, Sharon Wilson, and Mohamed Awad spent time at the 21-table. Chamber members and their guests enjoyed raising money for scholarships to be presented to high school graduates next year. (Photo by David Taylor)



Debbie Palko, left, and Julie Fallin celebrate a win at the casino tables last Friday night at the annual Casino Night sponsored by the NC Chamber. The event was held at the Jacinto City Town Center. (Photo by David Taylor)

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!

Donate Your Vehicle

Call (855) 833-2924 to donate your car, truck, boat, RV, and more today!

1. Contact Us
Call (855) 833-2924

2. Schedule Pickup
We'll pick up your vehicle for FREE - at a time and place convenient for you.

3. Receive Top Tax Deduction
You may qualify for a tax deduction.

- Support Veteran Nonprofits.
- Free Pickup & Towing.
- Top Tax Deduction.

Donate Your Vehicle Today
855-833-2924

While we appreciate every donation, in some cases, we find that we are unable to accept certain vehicles, watercraft, and/or recreational vehicles due to the prohibitive costs of acquisition. If you have any questions, please give us a call at (855) 833-2924.

SERVICES SERVICES SERVICES SERVICES

MISS TWIBBETT'S PLACE
JOELLEN BALL 713/202-4285
Pet Sitting 24 Hours a Day
7 Days a Week in My Home

20-4T

SERVICES SERVICES SERVICES

Mobile Home Title Services

Need assistance with a Mobile, Modular or Manufactured home title, bond or appraisal?

HOUSTON
AUTO APPRAISERS

www.texasmobilehometitle.com
281-424-6466 Roy Theophilus Bent, Jr.

LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, Southern Storage 16955 Avenue A, Channelview, TX 77530 (281) 452-2272 will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. The Auction will take place online at www.StorageTreasures.com. The bidding will begin at 8AM, August 23, 2024 and will end on September 2, 2024 at 9PM. Jeff Thornton Hall Unit 43- Toys, wood, storage boxes, tools, ladder, household items; Paul Hopkins Units 3, 12, 24, 48- Tires, tools with hard cases, bikes and parts, woods, pressure washer, speakers, barrel, garden tools and lawn mowers, auto part, storage boxes; Leanne Bell Unit 54- Storage boxes, display cabinet, dryer, computer monitor, kitchen stove, household items.

30-2T

SERVICES SERVICES SERVICES SERVICES

MOBILE MECHANIC+

IMPORT or DOMESTIC CARS & TRUCKS SINCE 1981
24 HOURS, 7 DAYS A WEEK

- General Repairs
- Computer Equipped Cars & Trucks
- Electrical Specialists
- Fuel Injection/Diesel • Engine Repairs
- A/C • Brakes • Tune-Ups
- Industrial Machinery & Motorized Equipment & Refrigerated Trucks
- Transmissions
- Pre-Buy Inspection for Cars - Trucks - RVs & SUV's
- Repair of Recreational Vehicles & Big Trucks & Buses

713-465-7300

www.mobilemechanicofhouston.com
3515 Hillcroft
House Calls By Professional Mechanics

Sidewalk Project Honors Memory of Jaqueline Gonzalez,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mr. Gonzalez said according to the driver's statement Jaqueline suddenly stepped out in front of his SUV, it was dark and he couldn't stop in time to avoid hitting her with the fatal blow from his vehicle.

"I like how it is now because it looks better for the community. Now, it's safe for walking and I hope this will prevent what happened to my daughter from happening to someone else," Mr. Gonzalez said.

Susana Gonzalez said, "There was no sidewalk, so my daughter decided to cross the street to get over to where there was a side-

walk, but it was very dark, the car who hit her didn't see her." So she went to Commissioner Adrian Garcia for help after authorities determined poor lighting also played a factor in the crash.

"There is no lighting in the roadway," Sgt. Dasha-na Cheek with Harris County Sheriff's Office at the time said in his accident report. Cheek said the driver stopped and even tried to perform CPR on the woman before first responders from nearby CVFD on Dell Dale showed up and rushed her to a hospital. It was at the hospital that she was



Jaqueline Gonzalez

pronounced dead.

Other deputies on the scene said the driver did not show any signs of intoxication.

Before cutting the ribbon Commissioner Adrian Garcia said, "I'm very honored to have the opportunity to

show the Gonzalez family that the life of their daughter and the loss of their daughter will not be in vain, and we'll always have something here to remind us of her."

He continued, "This sidewalk improvement is Phase 1... Phase 2 and Phase 3 is to be completed soon, it will include better street lighting and a traffic signal to improve safety. This is an upcoming vibrant community and it's time the county does its part to make sure it has the same upscale living conditions as any other community."



Commissioner Adrian Garcia (right) consoles Gerardo & Susana Gonzalez regarding the death of their daughter Jaqueline Gonzalez. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

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

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.0500 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.0488 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.0516 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2024 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 12 from the same properties in both the 2023 tax year and the 2024 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 12 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 12 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 3, 2024 AT 6:00 PM AT 911 Hollywood Street, Houston, Harris County, Texas 77015.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, Harris County Emergency Services District No. 12 is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Board of Commissioners of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 12 at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

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

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

FOR the proposal: President, W. B. Anders Vice President, B. O. Clements
Secretary, K. R. Wimbley Treasurer, D. W. Proctor
Assistant Secretary, D. J. Nichols

AGAINST the proposal:

PRESENT and not voting:

ABSENT:

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

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

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

	2023	2024	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.0500	\$0.0500	increase of \$0.0000 per \$100, or 0.00%
Average homestead taxable value	\$195,852	\$209,745	increase of \$13,893, or 7.09%
Tax on average homestead	\$97.93	\$104.87	increase of \$6.94, or 7.09%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$2,208,499	\$2,267,126	increase of \$58,627, or 2.65%

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.0500 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 50.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.0500 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.0497 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.0514 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2024 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 50 from the same properties in both the 2023 tax year and the 2024 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 50 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 50 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 3, 2024 AT 5:00 PM AT 1210 Dell Dale Avenue, Channelview, Harris County, Texas.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, Harris County Emergency Services District No. 50 is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Board of Commissioners of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 50 at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

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

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

FOR the proposal: President, J. E. Owens Vice President, M. Burr
Secretary, B. Biggers Treasurer, R. Ballew
Assistant Secretary, A. Cedillo

AGAINST the proposal:

PRESENT and not voting:

ABSENT:

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

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

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 50 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 50 this year.

	2023	2024	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.0470	\$0.0500	increase of \$0.0030 per \$100, or 6.38%
Average homestead taxable value	\$170,986	\$183,056	increase of \$12,070, or 7.06%
Tax on average homestead	\$80.36	\$91.53	increase of \$11.17, or 13.90%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$4,014,756	\$4,064,437	increase of \$49,681, or 1.24%

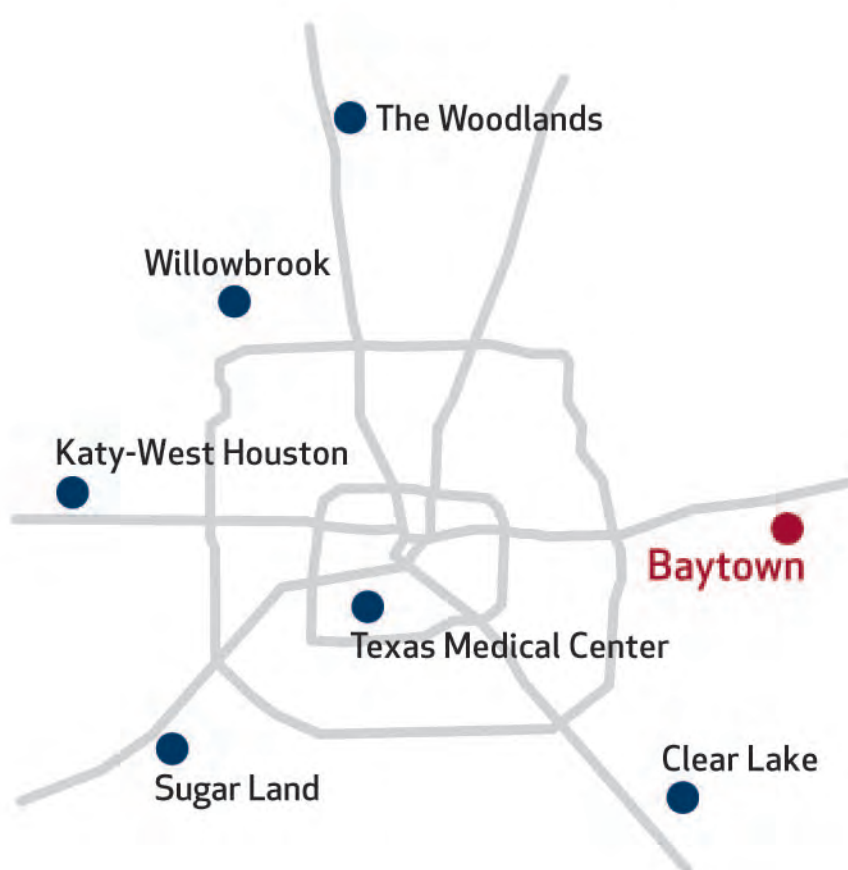
For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 50 at 713-274-8000 or Tax.office@tax.hctx.net, or visit www.hctx.net for more information.



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[®]
NEAL CANCER CENTER

281.428.2273
houstonmethodist.org/cancer-baytown

