



David Brady, a Channelview HS graduate, spoke to the Chamber about "Texans Raving Fans" From left, Bill Palko, Dr Allatia Harris, Brady, Margie Buentello, and Lon Squyres. STORY BELOW and PAGE 2

NORTH CHANNEL STAR

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CHANNEL CURRENTS

2024 Football Schedules

Thursday, August 29
Aldine Eisenhower at Beaumont Westbrook, 7 p.m., Beaumont ISD Stadium in Beaumont
Fort Bend Kempner at Aldine, 7 p.m., W. W. Thorne Stadium in Houston
Porter at Galena Park, 7 p.m., Galena Park ISD Stadium in Houston
South Houston at Baytown Lee, 7 p.m., Stallworth Stadium in Baytown

Friday, August 30
Aldine Davis at Willis, 7 p.m., Berton A. Yates Stadium in Willis
Channelview at Pasadena Memorial, 7 p.m., Veterans Memorial Stadium in Pasadena
Crosby at Dayton, 7 p.m., Bronco Stadium in Dayton
Dallas South Oak Cliff at North Shore, 7 p.m., Galena Park ISD Stadium in Houston
Goose Creek Memorial at Baytown Sterling, 7 p.m., Stallworth Stadium
La Marque at Huffman Hargrave, 7:30 p.m., Falcon Stadium in Huffman
Morton Ranch at Aldine Nimitz, 7 p.m., W. W. Thorne Stadium in Houston
New Caney at Barbers Hill, 7 p.m., Eagle Stadium in Mont Belvieu
Spring Westfield at C. E. King, 7 p.m., Sheldon ISD Panther Stadium in Houston

Saturday, August 31
Cypress Ridge at Aldine MacArthur, 6 p.m., W. W. Thorne Stadium in Houston

CenterPoint Warns Outages May Occur While Working on Resiliency Initiative

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Fed up with CenterPoint, many customers and community leaders have expressed their exasperation with the unfulfilled promises to be better. So was Governor Greg Abbott. In a meeting with the governor, Jason Wells, president and CEO for

CenterPoint, promised to build the "most resilient coastal grid anywhere in the country because that is what the state of Texas and our customers in the Greater Houston area deserve."

Abbott gave Wells an Aug. 31 deadline to get the job done and meet an accelerated timeline. With it comes more outages, some

lasting as much as four to eight hours as crews and contractors begin work on their Greater Houston Resiliency Initiative following substantial damage by Hurricane Beryl.

"While we cannot erase the frustrations and difficulty so many of our customers endured, I, and my entire leadership team, will not make any excu-

es," Wells told Abbott in a letter to the governor. "We will improve. We will act with a sense of urgency."

Lawmakers also wanted to see immediate action when Wells faced the House of Representatives Committee on State Affairs.

"CenterPoint's lack of preparedness and response to Hurricane Beryl

is extremely troubling and raises many questions about their priorities," said State Rep. Ana Hernandez, vice chair of the committee in a statement to the North Channel Star. "We owe it to our constituents to seek answers, hold CenterPoint accountable,

Continued. See OUTAGES MAY OCCUR, Page 3

Rep. Ana Hernandez & Port Houston Give Backpacks for Whittier Students

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, Texas on August 19, 2024 at the HISD John Greenleaf Whittier Elementary School located at 10511 LaCrosse, District 143 State Representative Ana Hernandez and Monica Glover with the Port of Houston made available free backpacks for students.

Ana Hernandez, State Representative said, "I was excited to have partnered with the Port of Houston to donate backpacks to the students at Whittier Elementary. Supporting their education is vital to building a brighter future, and I was proud to contribute to their successful start to the school year."

Whittier Principal Ms. Yamel Melchor said, "Whittier Elementary School is appreciative of



State Representative Ana Hernandez, Whittier staff and elementary students displaying backpack gifts. Back row adults, L-R: Patricia Ortiz, Assistant Principal; Yamel Melchor, Principal; Representative Ana Hernandez; Melissa Trevino, Counselor. Monica Glover Senior Manager, Government Relations with the Port of Houston not present. Front row students, L-R: Santiago Gonzalez; Brianna Rodriguez, Oliver Ortiz, Amalia Martinez-Chacon, Natalie Chairez, Armando Arredondo, Emmanuel Gonzalez (Photo by Allan Jamail)

the partnership with State Representative Ana Hernandez and the Port of Houston. We are grateful for the donation of student backpacks that will benefit our students."

I first met Ms. Melchor in 2021 immediately after she was named by HISD as principal for Whittier. She not only deeply cares for the education of her students but she cares for their safety. She has a tight security policy regarding parents or guardians when picking up the students after or during school.

Principal Melchor was Whittier's Assistant Principal in 2020. She has been recognized with several awards, including First Year Assistant Principal of the Year and Tier II Excellence in Leadership.

Continued. See WHITTIER STUDENTS BENEFITED, Page 3

CenterPoint Continues with 16 Community Open House Events: Next Meetings in Dayton, Baytown, Houston

HOUSTON, TX — As CenterPoint continues efforts to improve customer service in response to outage after Hurricane Beryl, they want to hear from you.

As part of its Greater Houston Resiliency Initiative, CenterPoint is holding 16 Community Open House events in 12 area counties over the next six weeks.

"We have heard the calls for change, and we are taking action now," said CenterPoint President and CEO Jason Wells. "As part of our commitment to improving, we are encouraging all of our customers to share their experiences during Hurricane Beryl, as well as their ideas for how we can do better."

The events are being



held to give customers a chance to provide feedback concerning the company's response to Hurricane Beryl. CenterPoint team members will also share details and answer questions about the 40 actions they're taking to improve future storm response.

The actions include:
•Installing stronger and more storm-resil-

ient poles: CenterPoint is replacing approximately 1,000 wooden poles by August 31 with stronger fiberglass poles that can withstand winds up to 132 mph.

•Trimming or removing vegetation from power lines: CenterPoint

Continued. See CENTERPOINT CONTINUES, Page 6

"Voice of Texans" Announcer Shares Wisdom with Chamber

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Following his graduation from Channelview High School and Sam Houston State University, David Brady carved out a career that led him to leadership roles in distinguished organizations such as the Houston Zoo, Houston Rockets, Houston Astros, and the Houston Texans to name a few. Along the way, he built a reputation for having a niche at being able to drive revenue and build brands wherever he landed.

On Friday, Aug. 2, David shared some of that wisdom with



David Brady shared principles on how to run a business like a sports team with the members of the North Channel Area Chamber Of Commerce last Friday at the Town Center in Jacinto City. (Photo by David Taylor)

Continued. See DAVID BRADY SHARES LEADERSHIP, Page 2

Coaches at Rotary Luncheon



The North Shore Rotary Club hosted the area football coaches at their luncheon on Aug. 15, 2024, at the Hampton Inn. The head coaches are, from left, George Young, C. E. King; Spiro Amarantos, Galena Park; Willie Gaston, North Shore; and Averion Hurts, Sr., Channelview High School. At right, NS Rotary Club President Danna Nino. (Photo by David Taylor)

SHELDON ISD NEWS

King High School hosts Legacy Rising Community Rally to kick off football season

On August 21, King High School hosted the first Panthers: Legacy Rising Fall Sport Community Pep Rally. The event featured performances from the Panther band, cheerleaders and Pantherettes.

The Panthers first home football game is Friday, August 30 at Panther Stadium.



David Brady Shares Leadership Insights,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Brady speaks with chamber members on how to better their business using the principles he espoused during his presentation on Friday, August 2 at the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon in Jacinto City. (Photo by D.Taylor)

members of the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon hosted by the City of Jacinto City.

Brady grew up in Channelview and he lived on South Brentwood Street. His family moved there in 1939. Brady has also devoted time to the Houston Dynamo, and nonprofits like the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and the American Red Cross during Hurricane Harvey.

During his nine-year tenure at the Houston Zoo, he spearheaded initiatives that significantly increased annual attendance from 1.5 million to over 2.5 million. He is best known for his highly successful creation of the annual Zoo Lights festival each year.

Brady also worked as an executive in the Houston Texans organization and for the past 18 seasons has been the 'Voice of Texans Game-day' as the public address announcer for Texans home games.

He took his successful career and parleyed it into a new business as Brady Strategic Partners specializing in executive coaching and strategic planning for small and mid-size organizations.

"I spent the first part of my career in sports before pivoting to nonprofit and then some other ventures," he told the chamber.

He spoke on how to treat a business like sports teams treat their franchises and how they perform on the field can be impactful to your own business.

"Look at some of the things that sports teams do really well that you don't know they're doing because you're just watching the games and the matches. A lot of businesses should be doing the same including collaboration, strategic planning, and ongoing development.

"It's not hard to imagine

your business as a team. For example, head coaches are like business owners, presidents and CEOs. Your managers are like assistant coaches and staff. Your employees are like players. For our conversation today, our customers or clients are fans," he explained.

In earlier days, baseball teams did spring training because players did nothing during off-season to stay in shape. These days, Brady described it, they come back to work on strategy, do SWOT analysis, and mentorship. SWOT analysis is a framework for identifying and analyzing an organization's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

"How many times do we get in an organization and our team members don't collaborate with each other, don't look at succession planning, right? That's one of the biggest mistakes companies make, those that I deal with is they don't look at succession planning, and succession planning doesn't need to be you're the next person. You're in line for this job, but it's about development. It's about training. It's about preparing multiple people in your organization for that role," he explained.

The other thing that sports teams do in training and development is they do performance reviews. "They can do it on a very consistent basis. If you watch the Texans game, you'll see the players come over to the bench. They've got their Microsoft Surface out going through plays. They're looking at what they could have done differently, what they could have done better. They're learning at half time to talk about what they could have done differently and what they should be doing next. They're constantly doing this," Brady told members.

He also said a business

should capitalize on adaptability.

"How do you adapt when a hurricane comes in knocks out power for four or five days? How do you adapt for your customers?" he asked.

He also recommended recognition programs.

"It's a perfect example to me of how sports teams are finding new ways to celebrate success. Normally, the MVP gets the trophy at the end of the Super Bowl at the end of the game and that's who gets interviewed. The University of Miami wanted to celebrate as many players as they could, so they came up with a 'turnover chain.' When a player on Miami's team recovers a fumble, intercepts a pass, recovers a kickoff, they wear the 'turnover chain.' The TV coverage gets focused on them," he said.

Celebrate the company or organizations victories with an email to recognize employees, recognize birthdays and anniversaries, and post them on all your social media.

Lastly, he said to connect with customers or clients.

"One of the things your business should be doing is getting lots of feedback, and you should be reflecting on what you've done to help you prepare to move forward. One of the great things that Texans have done under Cal McNair since he became owner is they created the Houston Texans Fan Council," Brady shared.

The fans are able to look at all issues facing the team.

"The new logo evolution that the Texans made this year came out of the Fan Council, and some of the things I do on the PA have been suggestions from the Fan Council," he said.

He encouraged chamber members to create raving fans with their business and adopt some of those principles sports teams use.

Cravens ECA celebrates new wing with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



On August 22, Sheldon ISD administration celebrated the opening of a new building addition at Cravens Early Childhood Academy. The new addition was a part of the 2022 bond referendum and includes an additional 13,000 square feet to the existing building. The new space supports the student enrollment growth the early childhood academy is experiencing. With eight additional classrooms, the rooms have transformed for students to receive hands-on learning through museum-concept experiences.

"Our students and their futures are worth all the time and dedication spent on this project," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Demetrius McCall. "These exhibit concept rooms provide our youngest learners with an opportunity to travel to spaces that create excitement, build their vocabulary and give them a chance to discover what they want to be when they grow up."

The room was filled with cheers and excitement as the ribbon was cut. Staff provided tours of



the new wing featuring the new classrooms that are revitalizing the education Sheldon ISD is providing students.



CHARLOTTE'S WEB
By Charlotte Jackson



Blessed to be Blessing

How often do we recite every terrible thing that we have experienced? Someone asks you how you have been doing and you start telling them all the obstacles you have had in your path. Yet, why do we do this? Why do we not tell them about how despite the obstacles, which have made us stronger, do we know share about how God continues to be right on time?

On Sunday, Pastor Juanita shared that she was in line at a local pharmacy to pick up several medications for family members, when she overheard the staff discussing medications with the younger man in front of her in line. Not only was the employee being loud about the prices of the medications but was naming off the medications loud enough for others in line to hear. From all the years of being in ministry she recognized the shame and embarrassment that was showing on the customer's face. She started praying and her a still quiet voice telling her to pay for them. As she paid attention to the amounts, she realized that it was quite a bit of money, and the young man told the employee to one prescription back. Then, he told him to put the other one back and suddenly Juanita moved forward to speak to the young man.

She asked him if she could pay for the medications. Embarrassed, he said no, that he would get them later. Yet she reached out, touched his arm, and explained that God told her to pay for them now. While she talked with him, the employee started looking for any available discounts and by the time the customer agreed to let her pay, the total had been reduced to seventy-five dollars. The young man told her that he did not know how he could repay her. She smiled and told him to just be kind to someone else.

That message alone was priceless, yet later in the day, I was given an opportunity to bless several people based on the sermon. Throughout the afternoon, I "bumped" into several people who needed a word of encouragement. One was a young man from another country, here on a work visa. He needed to find some information and did not know where to look. I gave him my contact information and told him to send me an email with what he needed, and I would find the resources for him. The next was a forty-year-old who was ready to walk away from her five teenagers and "live her best life." I shared with her that her best life was happening now. I explained that while the children are still at home, she can help mold and influence them, yet once they are on their own, she may not have those opportunities. Another was a young man whose car broke down and since he had several days until payday, no supportive family or friends who could drive him and no funds to get an Uber or Lyft, he was going to have to "call off" work for three days. I offered to provide a way to work, and he kept telling me he did not have the money to repay me for my time and gas. I reminded him that I did not ask for money, but that I wanted to be a blessing. He asked how could I repay him and my response was to simply be a blessing to someone else.

Outages May Occur while Working on Resiliency Initiative,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and take meaningful action."

During a hearing of the Committee on State Affairs in Austin, Wells testified before the committee and answered lawmaker's questions.

Lon Squyres, city manager for Jacinto City, testified before the committee at the invitation of Hernandez and outlined his disappointments including poor communication.

"What little bit we got in the way of briefings was literally a daily telephone call, not a Zoom meeting, not a Teams meeting, no videos, no explanations, other than a very crude, archaic phone call," he said. "We had very little chance for a Q and A or anything else."

Squyres learned at the meeting that as his crews were out on the streets of Jacinto City collecting and picking up trees, limbs, and debris, he was actually subsidizing CenterPoint Energy.

"Yes, I'm going to get 75 percent of that back from FEMA, but 25 percent of it is coming out of my (city's) pocket," he told the committee. "A lot of those trees were left behind in those right of ways, after they were cut off the lines by CenterPoint or some other contractor. So again, I'm subsidizing CenterPoint."

Squyres also mentioned a serious issue with the nursing home in their city that is home to approximately 160 residents.

"By law, and this is something we really would love to see some legislative help on, they have to have a generator. All that generator must do is run what they deem to be called emergency equipment. Typically, that's an oxygen concentrator for a few liters of oxygen for older people. They were cooking for 150-200 people out on the front porch to keep from generating heat," he explained.

"HVAC systems on generators capable of doing their job must be mandatory. The same thing can be said for senior residence buildings. We have an apartment building that houses three stories, 200 units, and upstairs you have people in wheelchairs, on walkers and you can't get those people down in a power outage. It's a life safety issue to try and get them all down three flights of stairs," he said.

Squyres also complained about not being on

the list for rapid deployment by CenterPoint for additional generators.

Wells outlined approximately 45 different changes the company would make in an action plan detailed for the governor, many of which were to be completed by an Aug. 31 deadline.

Of the three pillars of the plan, the first was resiliency investments.

"By accelerating adoption of latest construction standards, retrofitting existing assets on an accelerated basis and using predictive modeling and AI and other advanced technologies, we will harden our distribution system and speed restoration. We will also take action to protect our electrical assets by nearly doubling the size of our vegetation management crews and targeting higher risk vegetation to address the number one cause of damage and outages in Hurricane Beryl," he said.

The second pillar was what he described as a Best-in-Class Customer Communications.

"To ensure our customers have the information they need, when they need it, we will launch a new and more customer-oriented outage tracker (completed on August 1). This online tool will provide better and more complete information during storms and is designed to handle increased demand during such events. We will also hire a chief communications officer as part of our commitment to overhauling our public communications program and approach," he explained.

Lastly, was strengthened partnerships.

"Effective emergency preparedness and response requires close coordination with government officials. We will hire a seasoned emergency response leader to help the company rapidly accelerate its planning capabilities and to develop close community partnerships to ease the burden of storm events on our more vulnerable communities."

Hernandez pledged to use the upcoming legislative session to address the issues.

"We will address utility deficiencies in vegetation management, service tracking, and mobile generators, and find solutions that ensure the safety of our communities and provide reliable power for our homes," she said.

ASK DIAMOND JIM



Diamond Jim: "An 'Epic' 2,492 Carat Diamond was found in Botswana!"

Lucara Diamond Corp. announced the recovery of a 2,492 carat diamond from its Karowe Diamond Mine in Botswana.

The find is "one of the largest rough diamonds ever unearthed," according to a press release from the company. It was detected and recovered by the company's Mega Diamond Recovery X-ray Transmission technology, installed in 2017 to identify and preserve large, high-value diamonds.



"This find not only showcases the remarkable potential of our Karowe Mine, but also upholds our strategic investment in cutting-edge XRT technology," said William Lamb, president and CEO of Lucara. "The ability to recover such a massive, high-quality stone intact demonstrates the effectiveness of our approach to diamond recovery and our commitment to maximizing value for our shareholders and stakeholders."

The stone was recovered from the processing of EM/PK(S) kimberlite, the dominant ore type that Lucara will continue to target during the first years of the Company's underground mining operations.

This discovery underscores Karowe's reputation as a world-class asset and reaffirms Lucara's position as a leading producer of large, exceptional diamonds. This latest recovery joins an impressive roster of other significant finds from the mine, including the 1,758 carat Sewelô and the 1,109 carat Lesedi La Rona.

Botswana's diamond industry delivers wide-ranging socio-economic benefits to the country that extend well beyond the mining sector. Its influence supports national development by funding critical areas such as education and healthcare.

This discovery symbolizes Botswana's continued ascent as a global leader in diamond production. It represents not only the unparalleled wealth found in Botswana's soil, but also the remarkable progress the nation has made in developing its diamond industry for the benefit of its citizens.

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

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

If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email jmills@pineforestjewelry.com.

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Whittler Students Benefited with Free Backpacks,

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Melchor began her educational journey with HISD in 2006 as a bilingual teacher at Cage Elementary School. After seven years as a teacher, she served as a teacher specialist and instructional specialist at Whittier. She earned her bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies from the University of Houston and her master's degree in educational administration from the University of Texas-Austin.



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OPINION PAGE

OPINION

By Brandon Herrera
U.S. Term Limits Organization

Why Not Congressional Term Limits Like Presidential limits?

Why Not Term Limits for Congress?

On February 27th, Americans across the nation celebrated National Term Limits Day. National Term Limits Day celebrates the ratification of the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, setting a limit of two four-year terms for American presidents.

Until Franklin Roosevelt, no president had served more than two elected terms in office. It was a tradition established by George Washington. Two presidents prior to FDR had sought to do so - Ulysses S. Grant and Woodrow Wilson - and had failed in even securing their party's nomination.

After his presidency, there were widespread calls to establish a constitutional amendment to set term limits for the president. Roosevelt's successor, Harry Truman, who was an advocate of term limits for both the presidency and Congress, supported this initiative.

Harry Truman, who was president when the 22nd Amendment was ratified, believed two terms were enough for any occupant in the White House. Because he had served all but 82 days of two full terms, he opted not to run again in 1952.

Since then, terms limits has become the most popular, bipartisan issue in our country. A recent Pew Research poll showed 87% of Americans regardless of political affiliation support congressional term limits.

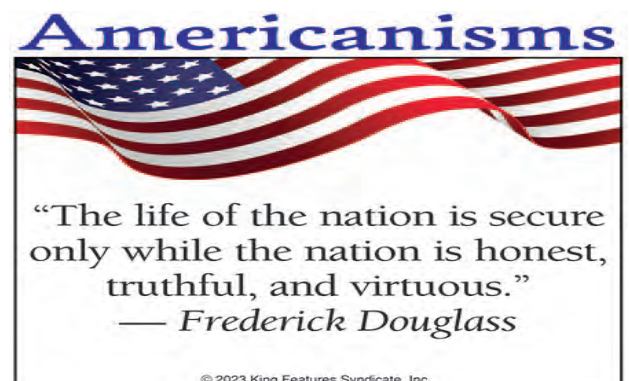
So, if Congress won't pass term limits what can be done? Just like presidential terms, the states can take the initiative - calling for a convention to adopt a congressional term limits amendment.

Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and West Virginia - have called for a limited convention to propose a congressional term limits amendment to the Constitution.

Term limits would return accountability to the people and take away the power of the special interests in Washington. It's time: we need term limits for Congress.

Brandon Herrera is the Texas State Chair for U.S. Term limits

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.



THE POSTSCRIPT
By Carrie Classon

Wearing a Scarf



I've been waiting a long time for my book, "Loon Point," to sell.

If I'm honest, it hasn't been that long. It's been five months, and that seems like a long time.

I talk to my old friend, Andrew, all the time about trying to get this book sold. Andrew told me that, if he ever sold a book, he'd ride around New York City in a red convertible wearing a long white silk scarf.

"New York is not a great climate for convertibles," I pointed out. "And the subway is much faster."

"I don't care. That's what I'd do."

"Plus, I've never seen you wear a scarf."

Andrew insisted he would wear one, so I bought him a scarf for his birthday. It was not white or silk. It was a soft wool plaid and much more practical.

But last week, I got some good news. "Loon Point" has finally found a publisher. It's a nice, big publisher with plenty of resources, and I'm very happy.

"Yup. Eighteen months. I think that's pretty standard."

Since I spent only 50 days writing the book, it does seem slow. But I know that good things are worth waiting for, and this process of finding an agent and then having my agent find a publisher has taught me a lot.

There were times when I thought nothing at all was going to happen. I thought this book would go nowhere and never be in readers' hands. I occasionally even thought that the whole idea of becoming a fiction writer for the first time—at my age—was a little silly.

But these moods didn't last long because, even when no one seemed the least bit interested in my book, I was having a good time.

I was writing this column every week. I was writing more stories. And I was watching my old brain pick up new skills. I could look at something I'd written even six months earlier and see that I was better than I had been. It was a joyful thing.

My new editor just sent me a long questionnaire to fill out. They want to know what I'd like the cover to look like, and whether there will be questions for the readers at the end, and what sorts of accents the person reading the audiobook should have.

As it is, I'm looking forward to learning how this whole thing works. I want to see how the sausage is made. I want to see how these editors and designers and directors and marketers do what they do so well. I want to work with a whole bunch of people who know a whole lot more than I do, and to keep learning.

My agent told me I should get the final contract next week. I told Andrew we needed to celebrate. I might even wear a scarf.

Till next time, Carrie

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Heat-related Deaths in Texas Likely Undercounted

As Texans endure the dog days of summer, experts say deaths related to heat in Texas and nationwide are likely undercounted, the Texas Standard reported.

With climate change causing warmer days and nights, last year was the hottest on record in Texas. Though this summer has not been quite as brutal, those working outside are still at considerable risk.

In 2023, 365 people in Texas died directly from heat, and heat was named a contributing factor in another 197 deaths. Accounting for heat's role in a death is challenging, however.

"The health impacts (of heat) are a little bit more subtle," said cardiologist Sameed Khatana, assistant professor of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. "They can be delayed. And trying to tease apart whether a death or an adverse health effect occurred due to the temperature is quite challenging."

Heat has been called "the most dangerous phenomenon that workers face," according to the Texas Standard story.

OVERCROWDING, UNDERSTAFFING FORCE JAILS TO MOVE INMATES

Jails both large and small are struggling to properly house incarcerated people, and millions in tax dollars are being spent to transport inmates to other jails, sometimes in other states, The Texas Tribune reported.

The number of Texas inmates housed outside the county where they were arrested more than doubled from 2019 to 2024, from 2,078 to 4,358. In June 2024, 41% of Texas county jails housed inmates elsewhere, according to the Texas Commission on Jail Standards.

"Counties are having to think outside the box," said Ricky Armstrong, assistant director of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards. "We know there are some counties housing people out of state. It's not something we recommend or encourage, but we see that as a necessary evil."

Among the factors increasing the number of inmates



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

held elsewhere: a law limiting who can be released from jail while awaiting trial; an overburdened mental health system; and a difficulty in finding jailers.

While law enforcement officials advocate for increased jail space to ease the problem, civil rights advocates and defense attorneys say the state should invest more in mental health services and alternatives to jail.

"We are addicted to carceral solutions," Krish Gundu, co-founder of the Texas Jail Project, which advocates for people in Texas county jails, told The Tribune. "If we really cared about not having these people in jails, you'd look at why they are ending up in jail and solve the problem at the root."

PAXTON THREATENS TO SUE OVER STATE FAIR GUN POLICY

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton says he will sue the City of Dallas if it does not change a new gun policy. The city plans to ban licensed gun holders from bringing weapons to the State Fair of Texas unless they are active police officers or qualified retired officers.

A letter from the AG's office to the city of Dallas said the new policy violates state law, which says cities and other entities cannot ban handguns on government property unless there is a legal exception, such as for schools.

More than 70 Texas lawmakers issued a letter last week urging the fair to rescind

its new policy, saying "gun-free zones are a magnet for crime because they present less of a threat to those who seek to do evil," The News reported.

Meanwhile, the Houston Chronicle reported Paxton will work at a food bank as part of a plea deal he made in March with prosecutors to close the securities fraud case against him. He is required to complete 100 hours of community service and pay about \$300,000 in restitution to the victims.

A COOLER AND WETTER JULY FOR MOST OF THE STATE

The drought situation in Texas continues to ease, thanks in part to a wetter and cooler July, according to Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board. At the end of July, 20% of the state was in drought, down five percentage points from the end of June.

"Precipitation varied considerably, with large areas of Central and East Texas getting twice their normal rainfall, while parts of West Texas and the Panhandle got less than 25 percent of normal," Wentzel wrote.

The return of the La Niña weather system is likely to bring warmer and drier temperatures to the state this winter, according to Wentzel. Much of the drought area that remains in Texas is in the Big Bend area, as well as in the Hill Country west of San Antonio.

TWDB ADOPTS THE FIRST STATE FLOOD PLAN

The state now has its first comprehensive statewide assessment of flood risk after the water development board voted to adopt the 2024 State Flood Plan.

"Adopting the first-ever state flood plan is a monumental achievement for Texas," said TWDB Chairwoman Brooke Paup.

The plan presents about 4,600 plans and projects from 15 regional flood planning entities. Approximately one in every six people in Texas lives or works in known flood hazard areas.

TWDB will produce a new state flood plan every five years.

FRAUDULENT BANKING WEBSITE REPORTED

The Texas Department of Banking is warning consumers to be aware of a fraudulent banking website purporting to offer online and in-person banking services. A fake bank calling itself "All Finance Bank of Texas," claiming to be located in Houston, and a website, allfinanbnktxus, are not known to be associated with a known bank.

"No bank doing business under the name All Finance Bank of Texas has been authorized to provide banking services in Texas, nor is any bank by that name supervised by the Department of Banking, the FDIC, the Federal Reserve, or other U.S. regulatory authorities," TDB said in a news release.

Anyone with information or questions about the purported bank are urged to call TDB at 877-276-5554.

Advertisement for Star Courier newspaper, including contact information and subscription rates.

FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 1: Labor Day Weekend loaded with key college matchups

The holiday day weekend will be the official start of the 2024 college football season. While a handful of games were played last Saturday, Week 1 offers a host of intriguing matchups for the first weekend of the season. The 2024 season will also usher in a new College Football Playoff (CFP) format as 12 teams will qualify for the post-season tournament (up from four). The season will culminate on Monday, Jan. 20 with the CFP National Championship game slated for Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

The top four seeded teams in the CFP poll will receive first-round byes, while the remaining eight teams will be seeded 5-12. The higher seeds will host first-round games the weekend of Dec. 2-21 at their home stadiums, or a designated stadium near their respective campuses. The Quarterfinals will be held Dec. 31-Jan. 1 at the Fiesta Bowl (Dec. 31), the Peach Bowl (Jan. 1), the Rose Bowl (Jan. 1) and the Sugar Bowl (Jan. 1). The Semifinals will be held Jan. 9-10 at the Orange Bowl (Jan. 9) and the Cotton Bowl (Jan. 10).

The first round games will be held on ABC/ESPN and TNT Sports, while the Quarterfinals, Semifinals and National Championship games will be held on ESPN.

The Labor Day Weekend schedule is loaded as No. 1-ranked Georgia faces Clemson in Atlanta (The Bulldogs would love to start and finish their season at Atlanta, and might very well do so). No. 8-ranked Penn State faces a tough road opener at West Virginia, while No. 4-ranked Texas opens the season in Austin against Colorado State, hoping to land a second straight CFP spot. Texas and Oklahoma are now members of the SEC and will learn that maybe, just maybe, the grass isn't greener away from the Big 12.

Speaking of the Big 12, the Willie Fritz era begins at the University of Houston as the Cougars will host UNLV on Saturday.

Also in the Lone Star State on Saturday, No. 7-ranked Notre Dame pays a visit to College Station to take on No. 20-ranked Texas A&M and new head coach Mike Elko.

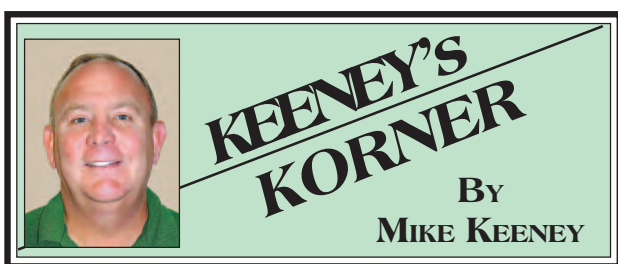
Other top matchups in Week 1 have Miami facing off against Florida in a battle of Sunshine State and the Labor Day Weekend concludes on Labor Day with No. 13-ranked LSU taking on No. 23-ranked USC in Las Vegas.

It should be a fun weekend of viewing.

So, without further ado, let's take a look at this weekend's games.

NCAA

TCU at Stanford – The long Labor Day Weekend football fest kicks off on Friday night when the TCU Horned Frogs head west to take on Stanford. After finishing 13-2 and playing for the national championship following the 2022 season, TCU fell off to a 5-7 record last year. Dykes has reshuffled his roster with a number of new players from the NCAA Portal and is



hoping sophomore QB Josh Hoover (2,206 yards, 15 TDs) is ready for bigger and better things in 2024. Look for the Frogs to get off to a good start as they pick up a win against the a Cardinal team that finished 3-9 last year. My pick, TCU 33, Stanford 20

Clemson vs. Georgia – This should be a good one to start a long Saturday of quality games. This one starts at noon and features No. 1-ranked Georgia against the Clemson team that wants to get back in the CFP picture. Dabo Swiney's team finished a respectable 9-4 a year ago, but they haven't been in the CFP since 2019. That can't be sitting well with Tiger fans. This game features two of the country's top QBs in Clemson's Cade Klubnik (2,844 yards, 19 TDs/4 rushing TDs) and Heisman Trophy contender Carson Beck (3,941 yards, 24 TDs). I think Clemson hangs with the 'Dawgs, but look for Georgia's defense to be the difference maker late as Kirby Smart's team picks up a big season-opening win. My pick, Georgia 31, Clemson 16

Penn State at West Virginia – No. 8-ranked Penn State heads to the hills to face a dangerous West Virginia team that was the surprise of the Big 12 a year ago with its 9-4 finish. PSU has CFP hopes and has a veteran QB returning in Drew Allar (2,631 yards, 25 TDs) and a two-headed running game led by Kaytron Allen (902 yards, 7 TDs) and Nicholas Singleton (752 yards, 10 TDs). The Mountaineers also have a solid signal caller back in Garrett Green (2,406 yards, 16 TDs) and a solid back in C.J. Donaldson (798 yards, 11 TDs). If the Nittany Lions are going to be serious CFP contenders, winning a tough road game to start the season could be a huge for its momentum. My pick, Penn State 27, West Virginia 23

Colorado State at Texas – Steve Sarkisian begins his fourth season at the 40 Acres and he and many Orange bloods believe this could be a special team. Texas is coming off a 12-2 season, a Big 12 title and a spot in the CFP. UT returns a solid nucleus on both sides of the football, led by QB Quin Ewers (3,479 yards, 22 TDs in 12 games), four of five offensive line starters and playmakers galore on the defense. UT suffered a big blow in pre-season camp when running back C.J. Baxter was lost for the season with a knee injury. Texas will pin its hopes on speedy sophomore Jadon Blue (398 yards, 4 total TDs and a Klein ISD product). Texas has a new set of receivers in Alabama transfer Isaiah Bond (48 receptions, 668 yards, 4 TDs) and UH transfer Matthew Golden. This will be a good test for the UT secondary as CSU QB Brayden Fowler-Nicolosi (3,460 yards, 22 TDs) can fling it all over the place. Look for the more physical 'Horns to wear down CSU in the Austin heat. My

pick, Texas 41, Colorado State 20

Miami at Florida – This Battle for the Sunshine State pits two teams that are looking to rebound from subpar seasons. Miami finished 7-6 a year ago, while Florida finished 5-7. The heat is on for both teams' head coaches. Miami will be led by Washington State transfer QB Cam Wards (3,736 yards, 25 TDs), while Florida will pin it hopes on Graham Mertz (2,903 yards, 20 TDs) and running back Montrell Johnson (817 yards, 6 TDs). Gator head coach Bill Napier knows he must win and win now, so look for the Gators to pick up a solid first win of the season. My pick, Florida 26, Miami 23

Notre Dame at Texas A&M – A good one for Saturday evening as the No. 7-ranked Fighting Irish head into College Station to take on No. 20-ranked A&M and new head coach Mike Elko. This should be a defensive battle as ND (10-3 a year ago) returns nine defensive starters and the Aggies have one of the best defensive lines in the country. ND will be led by QB Riley Leonard (1,102 yards, 3 TDs/352 rushing yards, 4 TDs in seven games). Riley played for Elko last year at Duke, so you can be sure the new Aggie head man knows a thing or two about the new Irish QB. A&M is hoping for a big year from their QB, Conner Weigman (979 yards, 8 TDs in just 4 games), who missed much of the 2023 season with a foot injury. The Aggies also suffered a loss at running back when starter Amari Daniels suffered a season-ending injury in camp. Rueben Owens (385 yards, 3 TDs) and LeVeon Moss (484 yards, 5 TDs) will be called on to pick up the slack in the running game. Weigman has a solid go-to guy in wide receiver Moose Muhammad II (27 receptions, 345 yards, 2 TDs). This should be a low-scoring game and I'm going with the better of the two defenses in this one, which means a big season-opening road win for Notre Dame. My pick, Notre Dame 20, Texas A&M 17

USC vs. LSU – This is a good one to finish off the Labor Day Weekend Football Fest. This should be a high-scoring game as the Trojans will start Miller Moss at QB (681 yards, 7 TDs). Moss stepped in for Caleb Williams in the Holiday Bowl and tossed six TD passes to earn MVP game honors. The Tigers are also starting over at QB as Heisman Trophy winner Jayden Daniels has moved on to the NFL. Head coach Brian Kelly (10-3 a year ago) will put his faith in backup Garrett Nussmeier (591 yards, 4 TDs). Look for running back Logan Diggs (653 yards, 7 TDs) to have a coming out season, while on defense linebacker Harold Perkins (5.5 sacks) will look to hound Miller all night long. My pick, LSU 30, USC 26

FOOTBALL SEASON PREVIEW: Texas, OU move up in class as they enter SEC: Texans hope for 'Super' second season under Ryans

The 2024 college and pro football seasons are right around the corner, and the operative word for both is change.

In the college game, Texas and Oklahoma will begin their first seasons in the SEC after leaving the Big 12 for greener, and I mean greener as in a lot of money, pastures. UT's and OU's arrival brings the SEC to 16 teams. It will be interesting to see how the Longhorns and Sooners fare against the likes of perennial national powers Alabama and Georgia, along with solid programs such as LSU, Tennessee and an up and coming one in Missouri. UT's arrival to the SEC will bring back the annual Texas-Texas A&M rivalry, which is good for the state and good for college football. The last time the 'Horns and Aggies met on the gridiron was in 2011, when Jason Tucker's last-second field goal at Kyle Field produced a 27-25 Texas victory.

The two will meet on Nov. 30 in College Station.

While the SEC has expanded to 16 teams, the Big 12 will also feature a 16-team conference with the addition of Arizona, Arizona State, Colorado and Utah. The Big 10 will be the largest conference in the country with 18 teams as USC, UCLA, Oregon and Washington join the likes of defending national champion Michigan and Ohio State that will form a league that will stretch from the West Coast, the Pacific Northwest to the Midwest and East. Talk about travel headaches!

And while the conference landscapes have taken on a drastic change in three of the four major conferences, so to has the College Football Playoffs. Starting this year, 12 teams will make up the CFP field, with the winners of the ACC, Big 12, Big 10 and SEC earning automatic bids, while the fifth bid will go to the highest ranked Power 5 conference winner. The remaining seven seeds will be determined by the CFP committee. Look for the SEC and Big 10 to have a chance to have as many as three teams make up this year's inaugural 12-team field.

The top four seeds will earn first-round byes. The fifth seed will host the 12th seed on its home field, while the sixth seed hosts the 11th, the seventh seeds hosts the 10th and the eighth seeds hosts the ninth seed.

The first round will be played Dec 20-21. The quarterfinals will be the Fiesta Bowl (Dec. 31), the Peach Bowl (Jan. 1), the Rose Bowl (Jan. 1) and the Sugar Bowl (Jan. 1). The Orange Bowl (Jan. 9) and the Cotton Bowl (Jan. 10) will host the semifinals. The CFP National Title game will be on Monday, Jan. 20 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta.

While the new CFP format and the changes in three of the major conferences will be the big story this year, Alabama fans have a huge void to fill as legendary head coach Nick Saban announced his retirement in January. Saban won six national titles as the Crimson Tide's head coach (he won seven overall by winning it all at LSU). Saban built an amazing program and former Washington head coach Kalen DeBoer has the unenviable task of filling Saban's shoes. DeBoer is a solid coach, as evidenced by the 25-3 record he amassed in two years as the Washington Huskies head coach. Last year, he led the Huskies to the CFP title game, where his team fell to Michigan. Saban left DeBoer plenty of talent, especially quarterback Jalen Milroe (2,834 passing yards, 23 TDs/531 rushing yards, 12 TDs).

Folks in Austin are excited about Steve Sarkisian's fourth year as the Longhorns head coach. Sark led UT to the Big 12 title a year ago, a 12-2 record and a spot in the CFP playoffs, where they fell to Washington. Texas returns eight offensive and five defensive starters (four of the five offensive line starters return). UT will rely heavily on QB Quin Ewers (3,479 yards, 22 TDs) and wide receivers Isaiah Bond (48 receptions, 668 yards, 4 TDs), a transfer from Alabama, and UH transfer Matthew Golden. The Texas offense suffered a big loss when running back C.J. Baxter sustained a season-ending knee injury in pre-season practice. But UT is high on backup RB Jayden Blue (398 yards, 4 total TDs) who has blazing speed.

Bama returns nine offensive and eight defensive starters, but will field an inexperienced secondary. Milroe will be called on to carry the offensive load while new faces on offense settle in.

Georgia, which enters the season as the No. 1-ranked team in the country, will be looking for its third national title in four years. The Bulldogs return 16 starters, most notably QB Carson Beck (3,931 yards, 24 TDs). Since 2021, head coach Kirby Smart has led the 'Dawgs to a 42-2 record and you had better believe his team will play with a huge chip on its shoulder after being snubbed for a CFP spot a year ago.

Texas A&M will welcome a new head coach in Mike Elko, who comes over from Duke where he forged a 16-9 record. Elko was former head coach Jimbo Fisher's defensive Coordinator in Aggiedland and should be a big asset on that side of the ball. Aggies are

hoping QB Conner Weigman stays healthy. The five-star recruit from Bridgeland played just four games a year ago after suffering an ankle injury against Auburn. If he remains healthy, the Ags could be a dark horse in the SEC.

In the Big 12, the University of Houston will welcome a new head coach in Willie Fritz, who comes over from Tulane where he resurrected that program. UH fans hope he will work his magic once again in Htown.

The Big 12 should be a three-team race between Oklahoma State, Kansas State and newcomer Utah. Texas Tech returns a strong core, but must prove it can win on the road, which has been a problem for Joey McGuire's team.

OSU finished 10-4 a year ago and returns QB Alan Bowman (who is playing his seventh season of college football). Bowman passed for 3,460 yards and 15 TDS (with 14 interceptions), but the Cowboys bell cow is running back Ollie Gordon (1,732 yards, 21 TDs/39 receptions, 330 yards, 1 TD).

KSU hopes sophomore QB Avery Johnson (479 passing yards, 5 TDs/296 rushing yards, 7 TDs. Utah gets QB Cameron Rising back, which is bad news for the Big 12. In 2022, Rising passed for 3,034 yards and 26 TDs and ran for another 465 yards and 6 scores. He missed the entire 2023 season with a knee injury and he's back, he could be the best offensive player in his new conference.

The Big 10 should come down to Ohio State and Washington. Michigan lost a load of talent and its head coach Jim Harbaugh, who bolted Ann Arbor for the Los Angeles Chargers.

Look for Notre Dame to land a CFP spot. Third-year head coach Marcus Freeman led the Irish to a 10-3 record last year and welcomed in transfer QB Riley Leonard (1,102 passing yards, 3 TDs/352 rushing yards, 4 TDs in just seven games) from Duke. Freeman has stockpiled a lot of talent in South Bend and it could pay off big time in 2024.

In the NFL, Texans fans are excited for what head coach DeMeco Ryans can accomplish in his second year as the teams head coach. In year 1, Ryans led the Texans to the AFC South title, a Wild Card win over the Browns and an 11-8 record. The Texans went from a three-win team in 2022, to 11 wins a year ago thanks to Ryans and rookie QB sensation C.J. Stroud (4,109 yards, 23 TDs in 15 games). General Manager Nick Caserio brought in more weapons for Stroud by trading for former Cincinnati running back Joe Mixon (1,034 yards, 9 TDs/52 receptions, 376 yards, 3 TDS) and former Buffalo wide receiver Stefon Diggs (107 receptions, 1,183 yards, 8 TDs). The Texans could have the best three wideouts in the NFL with Diggs, Nico Collins (80 receptions, 1,297 yards, 8 TDs) and Tank Dell (47 receptions, 709 yards, 7 TDs in 11 games). Caserio also shored up the defense with the signing of former Minnesota defensive end Danielle Hunter (16.5 sacks). He and Will Anderson (7 sacks), the Defensive Rookie of the Year, should give the Texans' opponents fits off of the edge.

Jacksonville should contend with the Texans in the AFC South. QB Trevor Lawrence (4,016 yards, 21 TDs/14 interceptions) signed a huge contract in the offseason and now must live up to it. We shall see.

The road through the AFC, though, still goes through Kansas City, which won its second straight Super Bowl a year ago and has appeared in four of the last five big games. As long as Patrick Mahomes (4,183 yards, 27 TDs), tight end Travis Kelce (93 receptions, 984 yards, 5 TDs) and head coach Andy Reid are around, the Chiefs are still the team to beat in the AFC.

Look for Cincinnati and QB Joe Burrow (2,309 yards, 15 TDs in 10 games) and wide receiver Ja'Mar Chase (100 receptions, 1,216 yards, 7 TDs) and Baltimore to duke it out in the NFC North, which might be the toughest division in the NFL. Cleveland and Pittsburgh will also be in the hunt. Baltimore QB Lamar Jackson (3,678 passing yards, 24 TDs/821 rushing yards, 5 TDs) must prove he can get his team to the big game, and the addition of running back Derek Henry from Tennessee (1,167 yards, 12 TDs) should be a big boon to the Jackson and the offense.

The AFC East should be interesting. Buffalo lost its two wide receivers in Diggs and Gabe Davis, but returns star QB Josh Allen (4,306 passing yards, 29 TDs/524 rushing yards, 15 TDs), while the Dolphins should have one of the top offenses in the league led by QB Tua Tagovailoa (4,624 yards, 29 TDs), running back Raheem Mostert (1,012 yards, 21 total TDs) and big-play wide receivers Tyreek Hill (119 receptions, 1,799 yards, 13 TDs) and Jalen Waddle (72 receptions, 1,014 yards, 4 TDs).

The AFC East will look much different now that New England head coach Bill Belichick has parted ways with the Pats. Belichick won six Super Bowls as he teamed with Tom Brady and won 333 games. Maybe he sits out a year and returns, say in Dallas in 2025?

In the NFL, the 49ers are the reigning conference champs and look loaded once again led by QB Brock Purdy (4,280 yards, 31 TDs), running back Christian McCaffrey (1,459 rushing yards, 14 TDs/67 receptions, 564 yards, 7 TDs) and tight end George Kittle (65 receptions, 1,020 yards, 6 TDs). If disgruntled wide receiver Brandon Aiyuk (75 receptions, 1,342 yards, 7 TDs) remains with the team (he's asked for a trade), SF should be the team to beat once again the NFC.

Dallas finished 12-5 a year ago, but were embarrassed at home in the first round of the playoffs by Green Bay. QB Dak Prescott (4,516 yards, 36 TDs) had one of his best seasons, but Dallas lost starting running back Tony Pollard to Tennessee and star wide receiver CeeDee Lamb (135 receptions, 1,749 yards, 12 TDs) wants a new contract and held out of training camp. Cowboy fans hope owner Jerry Jones comes to his senses and pays him what he's worth.

The Eagles lost six of their last seven games a year ago, but shored up the running game with the signing of former Giants running back Saquon Barkley (962 yards, 10 total TDs). He should make a nice one-two punch with QB Jalen Hurts (3,858 yards, 23 TDs/605 rushing yards, 12 TDs), along with big-play wide receivers A.J. Brown (106 receptions, 1,456 yards, 7 TDs) and DeVonta Smith (81 receptions, 1,006 yards, 7 TDs).

Look for Detroit and Green Bay to battle it out for the NFC North title. The Lions finished 12-5 a year ago and are loaded on offense led by QB Jared Goff (4,575 yards, 30 TDs), running backs David Montgomery (1,015 yards, 13 TDs) and Jahmyr Gibbs (945 yards, 10 TDs) and wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown (119 yards, 1,515 yards, 10 TDs). The Packers rallied in the second half of the season to earn a playoff spot thanks to QB Jordan Love (4,159 yards , 32 TDs) and improved on offense by signing running back Josh Jacobs (805 yards, 6 TDs).

The AFC South should be interesting. Atlanta improved by signing former Vikings QB Kirk Cousins and they are hoping second-year running back Bijan Robinson (976 rushing yards, 4 TDs/58 receptions, 487 yards, 4 TDs) has a breakout season. TB won the division a year ago behind QB Baker Mayfield (4,044 yards, 28 TDs) and big-play wide receiver Mike Evans (79 receptions, 1,255 yards, 13 TDs).

The 2024 season will feature seven new head coaches as Harbaugh takes over the Chargers, Raheem Morris takes over the Falcons, Dave Canales is the new head coach in Carolina, Jerod Mayo replaces Belichick in New England, Mike McDonald is the new head man in Seattle, Brian Callahan is in charge in Tennessee and Dan Quinn is the new head coach in Washington.

Super Bowl 59 will be played on Sunday, Feb. 9 in New Orleans at the Caesars Superdome.

So, here is one man's picks for the upcoming college and pro seasons:

COLLEGE

- BIG 12**
- OKLAHOMA STATE OVER UTAH**
- BIG 10**
- OHIO STATE OVER WASHINGTON**
- ACC**
- CLEMSON OVER SMU**
- SEC**
- GEORGIA OVER ALABAMA**
- CFP PLAYOFF TEAMS**
- GEORGIA, ALABAMA, NOTRE DAME, CLEMSON, OKLAHOMA STATE, OHIO STATE, LSU, TEXAS, MISSOURI, WASHINGTON, MISSISSIPPI AND PENN STATE**
- CFP TITLE GAME**
- GEORGIA OVER NOTRE DAME**

NFL

- AFC SOUTH**
- HOUSTON**
- AFC NORTH**
- CINCINNATI**
- AFC EAST**
- MIAMI**
- AFC WEST**
- KANSAS CITY**
- AFC WILD CARD TEAMS**
- JACKSONVILLE, BALTIMORE, AND NEW YORK JETS**
- AFC TITLE GAME**
- KANSAS CITY OVER HOUSTON**
- NFC EAST**
- PHILADELPHIA**
- NFC SOUTH**
- ATLANTA**
- NFC NORTH**
- GREEN BAY**
- NFC WEST**
- SAN FRANCISCO**
- NFC WILD CARD TEAMS**
- DALLAS, LOS ANGELES RAMS AND DETROIT**
- NFC TITLE GAME**
- GREEN BAY OVER SAN FRANCISCO**

- SUPER BOWL 58**
- KANSAS CITY OVER GREEN BAY**

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NORTH CHANNEL 2024 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

C. E. KING HIGH SCHOOL PANTHERS

DATE	DAY	OPPONENT	STADIUM	TIME
Aug. 30	Friday	Spring Westfield	Panther	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 6	Friday	Dickinson	Panther	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 12	Thursday	Spring Dekaney	Planet Ford	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 20		BYE		7:00 p.m.
Sept. 26	Thursday	Atascocita*	Turner	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 4	Friday	GC Memorial*	Stallworth	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 11	Friday	Summer Creek*	Panther	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 17	Thursday	Humble*	Turner	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 25	Friday	Kingwood*	Panther	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 1	Friday	North Shore*	Galena Park ISD	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 8	Friday	Channelview*	Panther	7:00 p.m.

*district

GALENA PARK HIGH SCHOOL YELLOW JACKETS

DATE	DAY	OPPONENT	STADIUM	TIME
Aug. 29	Thursday	Porter	Galena Park ISD	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 6	Friday	Sterling	Galena Park ISD	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 12	Thursday	Madison*	Galena Park ISD	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 21	Saturday	Houston Sterling*	Barnett Stadium	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 27	Friday	Houston Milby*	Galena Park ISD	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 3	Thursday	Spring Woods*	Tully Stadium	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 11	Friday	Houston Waltrip*	Galena Park ISD	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 19	Saturday	Houston Sharpstown	Butler Stadium	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 25		BYE		
Oct. 31	Friday	Westbury*	Galena Park ISD	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 9	Saturday	Houston Austin*	Barnett Stadium	7:00 p.m.

*district

CHANNELVIEW HIGH SCHOOL FALCONS

DATE	DAY	OPPONENT	STADIUM	TIME
Aug. 30	Friday	Pasadena Memorial	Veterans Memorial	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 7	Saturday	Aldine MacArthur	W. W. Thorne	6:00 p.m.
Sept. 13	Friday	Clear Creek	Ray Maddy	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 20		BYE		7:00 p.m.
Sept. 27	Friday	Summer Creek*	Ray Maddy	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 5	Saturday	Humble*	Turner	6:00 p.m.
Oct. 11	Friday	Kingwood*	Ray Maddy	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 17	Thursday	North Shore*	Galena Park ISD	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 25	Friday	GC Memorial*	Ray Maddy	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 1	Friday	Atascocita*	Ray Maddy	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 8	Friday	C. E. King*	Panther	7:00 p.m.

*district

NORTH SHORE SR. HIGH SCHOOL MUSTANGS

DATE	DAY	OPPONENT	STADIUM	TIME
Aug. 30	Friday	Dallas South Oak Cliff	Galena Park ISD	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 6	Friday	Fort Worth Crowley	Crowley ISD	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 13	Friday	Spring Westfield	Galena Park ISD	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 20		BYE		7:00 p.m.
Sept. 26	Thursday	Humble*	Galena Park ISD	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 3	Thursday	Kingwood*	Turner	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 10	Thursday	GC Memorial*	Galena Park ISD	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 17	Thursday	Channelview*	Galena Park ISD	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 25	Friday	Atascocita*	Turner	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 1	Friday	C. E. King*	Galena Park ISD	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 8	Friday	Summer Creek*	Turner	7:00 p.m.

*district

CenterPoint Open Houses,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

has doubled its vegetation management workforce in order to remove higher-risk vegetation near power lines by August 31.

•Installing automated devices: CenterPoint will install approximately 300 automated devices, known as trip savers. These devices mean that fewer customers experience outages, and quicker restoration times for those who do. The devices automatically re-ener-

gize the line in certain outages to help keep the power on for customers.

CenterPoint has taken a lot of heat for its storm preparedness and response after Beryl left over two million customers without power for days and in some cases weeks.

Several people died of hyperthermia because they had no power. CenterPoint is also the target of a state investigation as well as nu-

merous lawsuits.

CenterPoint Community Open House schedule

- Wednesday, September 4, 4 P.M. - 7 P.M.: Dayton Community Center at 801 S. Cleveland St., in Dayton (**Liberty County**)
- Thursday, September 5, 4 P.M. - 7 P.M.: West Side Complex Building at 8138 FM 3246 in Baytown (**Chambers County**)
- Saturday, September 7,

10 A.M. - 1 P.M.: Wright Cuney Recreation Center at 718 41st St in Galveston (**Galveston County**)

- Wednesday, September 11, 4 P.M. - 7 P.M.: Knights of Columbus Hall at 1310 Hwy 90 West in Sealy (**Austin County**)
- Thursday, September 12, 4 P.M. - 7 P.M.: Eagle Lake Community Center at 100 N. Walnut Ave. in Eagle Lake (**Colorado County**)

- Saturday, September 14, 10 A.M. - 1 P.M.: Missouri City Landmark Community Center at 100 Louisiana St. in Missouri City (**Fort Bend County**)
- Saturday, September 14, 10 A.M. - 1 P.M.: Dow Academic Center at 500 College Blvd in Lake Jackson (**Brazoria County**)
- Wednesday, September 18, 4 P.M. - 7 P.M.: Bayland Community Center at 6400 Bissonnet St. in Houston

- Wednesday, September 25, 4 P.M. - 7 P.M.: Magnolia Event Center at 11659 FM1488 in Magnolia (**Montgomery County**)
- Saturday, September 28, 10 A.M. - 1 P.M.: George H.W. Bush Community Center at 6827 Cypresswood Dr. in Spring

Customers can also view the schedule for future open houses by visiting www.CenterPointEnergy.com/OpenHouses.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

(City of Jacinto City)

The City of Jacinto City is pleased to invite proposals for the provisions of *Disaster Debris Management Program Services* and for *Disaster Debris Management Monitoring Services* to support our recovery from DR-4781, DR-4798 and any other disaster event within the next two years. RFP's available via city website www.jacintocity-tx.gov under the tab Public Notice or at city Hall, 1301 Mercury Dr. Jacinto City, TX 77029. Please submit 2 copies, plus 1 original of your proposal of services and a statement of qualifications for one or both proposed services to: Attn: Christal Rodriguez, 1301 Mercury Dr. Jacinto City, TX 77029. Proposals must be received by Jacinto City no later than 5:00pm Central Time Zone on Thursday, September 26, 2024, to be considered. The City of Jacinto City reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals and may award one or more contracts to one or more service provider(s). Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area firms are encouraged to submit proposals. The City of Jacinto City is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por petición.

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PET MATTERS
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Summer Pet Care; Beat the Heat



Chief Richard Wagner, Galena Park Chief of Police with the Department's Mascot "Lena" short for Galena. He's warning against animal cruelty. Photo by Allan Jamail



Dog or cats suffering from a heat stroke will pant when breathing, have excessive drooling, has a fast heart beat. Read treatment below.

Texas passed the Safe Outdoor Dogs Act which establishes new rules around tying and chaining dogs outdoors. The main changes include:

All dogs must be kept on a leash or have a physical barrier separating them from the public when outside of their owner's property.

Dogs cannot be tied unattended outdoors with a restraint less than 10 feet long.

The leash must be attached to a proper collar or harness, not directly around the dog's neck. Tied up dogs must have access to drinkable water and adequate shelter from the sun, heat or freezing temperatures.

Under the new law owners are now barred from tying up their dogs outside with chains or weighed-down restraints. The length of an outdoor restraint must be 10 feet long or five times the dog's length from nose to tail.

Tying up a dog outside is prohibited when a heat advisory or hurricane, tropical storm, or severe thunderstorm warning has been issued. Tying dogs outdoors is banned when the temperature drops below 32°F for more than 4 consecutive hours.

These new rules aim to prevent inhumane treatment and dangerous conditions for outdoor dogs in Texas. Violations are punishable under the state's animal cruelty laws.

CITIES & COUNTIES LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO ENFORCE

The new dog and cat laws in Texas will be enforced by local governments and law enforcement agencies and their officers. Cities and counties may appoint animal control officers to enforce animal-related laws and respond to complaints from the public. Law enforcement agencies can enforce laws relating to dangerous dogs and dog attacks.

Penalties for violating the new dog and cat laws include fines, seizure of the animal and even criminal charges and someone found guilty of animal cruelty could face jail time.

I dedicate this article to Susan Lynn Hoffman, the daughter of the North Channel Star Editor and Publisher Gilbert Hoffman. She died unexpectedly last year at the age of 64, from Cardiac Arrest suffered during a scheduled heart procedure.

Susan's interests included taking care for every conceivable stray animal she encountered.

She cared for many stray animals, including cats, dogs, and birds. She kept some, but found

foster homes when possible. She supported animal shelters and encouraged others to

do the same. She and I both love dogs and cats, we both have this in common.

As a patrolman before I became chief of police-city marshal I had the city's first official K-9 dog that was used on patrol in a police unit. My German Shepherd's name was Susan but called Susie for short. Susie helped me one night apprehend a criminal who broke into the office of the Houston Wiper & Mill Supply Co. When out at night patrolling Susie always gave me a sense of security, I kept her window down, when stopping a vehicle as I talked to a driver she would bark loud and the driver knew my K-9 was watching and nearby.

The public plays a role too by reporting violations. Call your local law enforcement agency any time you suspect an animal's basic needs are not being met. Phone numbers to keep in your cell phone for reporting any crime: Houston Police - 713-884-3131, Harris County Sheriff Office 713-221-6000, Jacinto City Police - 713-672-2455, Galena Park Police - 713-675-3471, Constable Pct. 2 Jerry Garcia - 713-477-4070, Constable Pct. 3 Sherman Eagleton - 713-274-2500.

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX. ~ August 20, 2024 at the Galena Park police station Chief Richard Wagner said with the August heat wave and the heat-index soaring into triple digits pet owners must take extra precautions with their pets.

Wager said, "Some people take good care of their pets while at home indoors but then without thinking they'll take their dogs out for a walk not realizing the hot pavement is well over 150 degrees on their paws. This is animal cruelty even though it's unintentional." Dog owners sometime fail to realize the pavement temperatures is as hot on the dog's paws exactly as it would be on their own bare feet. A good walking leash length in order to keep control of a dog is from four to six feet and not over ten feet.

HEAT STROKE SYMPTOMS & TREATMENT

Texas law requires fresh cool water be made available to outdoor pets to prevent them from overheating and having a heat stroke and providing for their pets some shaded shelter out of the blazing hot sun.

Dogs or cats suffering from a heat stroke may have some of these symptoms; they'll lie down, pant when breathing, have excessive drooling, has a fast heart beat. **FIRST AID TREATMENT:** Immediately cool down the pet by wetting it with cool water but not ice water, put a fan on it and take it to a veterinarian.

Wagner said patrol officers are on watch for outside pets being placed on a short leash less than 10 feet long that the Texas Leash Law requires. Also for anything that appears to be inflicting the mistreatment of a dog or cat.

Recently the Texas Legislators amended existing laws and or created new laws.

ALL DOGS & CATS REQUIRED TO BE REGISTERED & LICENSED IN THEIR CITY EVERY 6 MONTHS

New Texas law related to the registration and licensing of dogs went into effect in Texas. According to the Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 828, all dogs and cats must be registered with the local animal services agency by the time the animal is four months old.

Pet owners must now renew their pet's registration every six months rather than annually. This change aims to encourage more frequent veterinary visits and ensure vaccinations stay up-to-date. Failure to register or renew a pet's license may result in late fees or civil penalties. However, some municipalities are using positive reinforcement by offering registration discounts for micro chipped pets.

TEXAS LAW MANDATES ALL DOGS & CATS MUST BE VACCINATED

In Texas, all dogs and cats over 3 months of age must be vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian. The rabies vaccine must be administered every 1 or 3 years depending on the type of vaccine used.

Failure to vaccinate dogs against rabies may result in fines and owners can face criminal charges for allowing unvaccinated dogs to expose others to rabies. The city may also impose quarantines on dogs without proof of rabies vaccination.

TYING OUTDOOR DOGS / 10 FOOT RULE / DOG CHAINING IS ILLEGAL



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

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

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.0300 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.0283 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.0298 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.0353 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. 2 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. 2 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 exceeds the voter-approval rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2.

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

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 10, 2024, AT 12:00 PM AT 14418 Beaumont Highway, Houston, TX 77049.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the voter-approval tax rate but not greater than the de minimis rate and does not exceed the rate that allows voters to petition for an election under Section 26.075, Tax Code. If Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 adopts the proposed tax rate, the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 is not required to hold an election so that voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate and the qualified voters of the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 may not petition the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 to require an election to be held to determine whether to reduce the proposed tax rate.

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

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

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

AGAINST the proposal:
PRESENT and not voting:
ABSENT:

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

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

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

	2023	2024	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.0300	\$0.0300	increase of 0.0000 per \$100, or 0.00%
Average homestead taxable value	\$196,111	\$211,596	increase of \$15,485 or 7.90%
Tax on average homestead	\$58.83	\$63.48	increase of \$4.65, or 7.90%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$1,974,525	\$2,148,692	increase of \$174,167, or 8.82%

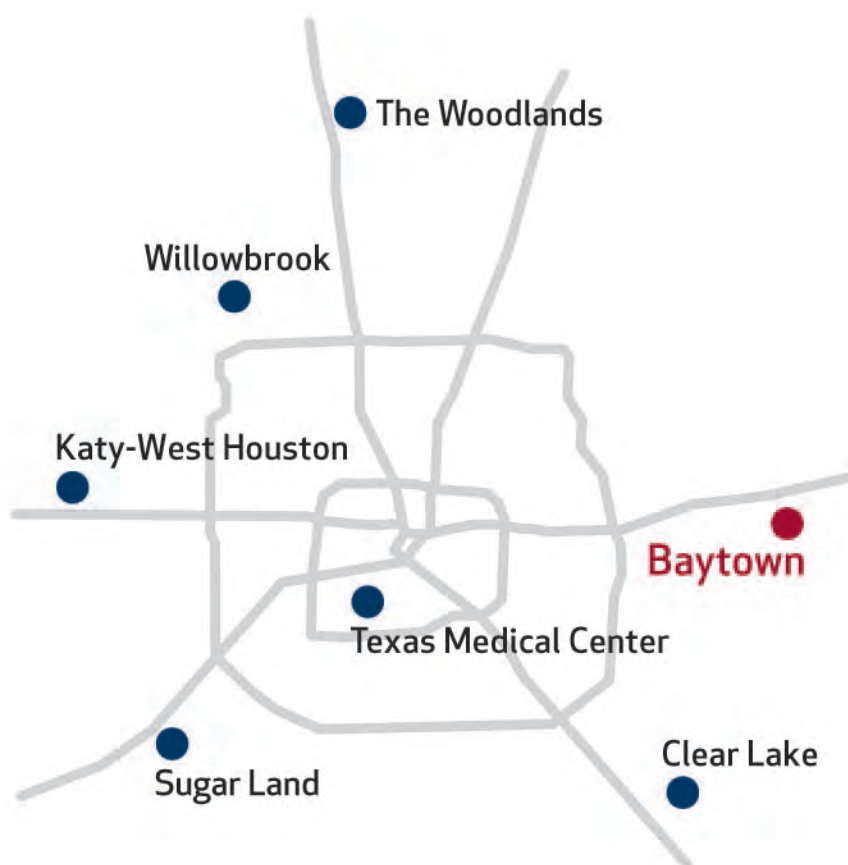
For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 2 at 713-274-8000 or Tax.office@tax.hctx.net, or visit www.hctx.net for more information.



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