

NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper



Jackie Medcalf recently made a presentation to the community regarding the northern site cleanup on the San Jacinto River Superfund site. STORY BELOW and PAGE 5.

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

EPA Evaluating Proposal for the San Jacinto River North Site Cleanup

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

The Texas Health and Environment Alliance (THEA) continues to be a thorn in the side of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over the cleanup of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site which continues to date.

Last Tuesday, July 30, the group met in Highlands, just miles from the site itself, to discuss successes and future work that needs to be done. Completion is on the horizon after decades of work to push the process along.

The contamination extended to both the northern and southern locations of the bridge over the San Jacinto River. The good



Community members listened intently as Medcalf offered a PowerPoint presentation detailing the proposed cleanup of the northern site of the San Jacinto River superfund site.

news is the southern portion of the cleanup is finally deemed complete.

"It's a big accomplishment," said Jackie Med-

calf, THEA founder and CEO.

Medcalf and THEA have been involved since 2011 pushing to hold the

EPA and the polluters accountable.

"Even though it's complete on the books, we still have some concerns," she

said. Contractors only dug out and remediated approximately 10 feet deep.

"Area residents are worried about what might be deeper. At the southern site, the agency has never required the parties to look below 10 feet so it's the unknown that people are concerned about," she said.

"Local knowledge is everything. It's one of the most important components of this process and the locals say that the site was contaminated deeper than 10 feet," she explained.

Those concerns, she said, came from people who worked on it or knew someone that worked there in the 1960s.

Continued. See SAN JACINTO RIVER, Page 7

Cloverleaf Back-To-School event: Supplies, haircuts & 911 Tips

By Allan Jamail

Cloverleaf, TX. ~ July 27, 2024 at the Grayson Senior Center area students received schools supplies, free haircuts and life saving instructions when using 911.

Shaundraya Oliver, Baldree Community Center Coordinator and staffer for Commissioner Adrian Garcia organized a back to school event along with free student haircuts, guest speakers, entertainers and vendors. Vendors had face painting, snow cones, popcorn, food and games for the students.

Olga Guillen, Community Health Coordinator and Karen Guevara with Harris County Public Health booth (ACCESS Harris County) provided valuable assistance information. ACCESS can help with education, job placement, health insurance, primary care physician, counseling, peer support, housing, transportation,



Sonya Clauson, Public Information Officer for Greater Harris County 9-1-1 Emergency Network explains the do's and don'ts of using the emergency number. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

food security and more. To learn more visit: ACCESSharriscounty.com

Sonya Clauson, Public Information Officer for Greater Harris County 9-1-1 Emergency Network. (GHC 9-1-1) She explained the 911 network and said GHC 9-1-1 is not a 9-1-1 call center, but is responsible for administering the 9-1-1 telecommunications

and technology for 49 cities and two counties—Harris and Fort Bend.

She said there are 37 different call centers in their territory. The average call volume is 10,000-11,000 calls a day with over 91% being from wireless phones.

Clauson explained the use of the 9-1-1 texting technology, and that it's recommended for when voice calls are not possible—for hearing impaired or for when it is not safe to make a voice call.

She demonstrated how important it is to remember descriptions of someone you're reporting to the 911 operator. Clauson had 4 volunteer students come forward and close their eyes and then asked each one to tell something they remembered about her. One remembered her hair color and one remembered her shirt color, while two

Continued. See CLOVERLEAF BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT, Page 6

Constable Jerry Garcia's 3rd Annual Back-To-School Event



Happy and smiling students Daleyza Pinto 6 years old (left) with sister Dariana Pinto 4 years old after receiving their backpacks and school supplies. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, TX. ~ On July 23, 2024 Pct. 2 Constable Jerry Garcia held his 3rd annual back-to-school event. This year's event almost doubles the turnout of participants from last year with over

500 participants. The turnout was so large students formed a long line to wait outside because Jacinto City's Town Center facility had reached maximum capacity.

Garcia's deputies handed out backpacks and school supplies to the stu-

dents. Parents said the help Constable Garcia provided was much needed with school supplies costing more and more each year.

In addition to the school

Continued. See JACINTO CITY BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT, Page 6

Frustration Grows in Channelview Neighborhood as Mile-long Trash and Storm Debris Pile Worsens

CHANNELVIEW — Neighbors are frustrated with an illegal dumping issue in one Channelview neighborhood.

Piles of tree debris and trash spanning a mile are on the median of Woodforest Boulevard from Sheldon to Dell Dale.

There's no exact timeline for how soon it will get picked up. County crews said they have been working day and night to clean up after Hurricane Beryl.

Neighbors say issues here on Woodforest Boulevard run deep.

"Disheartening and disappointing," concerned neighbor Louis Prendiz said.

For a mile, piles of storm debris can be seen



The median of Woodforest Boulevard, stretching from Sheldon to Dell Dale, is covered with piles of tree debris and trash spanning a mile.

with a mix of tossed-out furniture, tires, and trash.

"It really started to become very concerning after the hurricane," Prendiz said.

People are using the median on Woodforest as

their personal landfill.

Signs were put in place with fine warnings to deter people from using these medians as their dumping grounds, but they haven't stopped the issue.

"I haven't seen any police officer enforcing it or

anything... there is some trash actually right where the sign is," Prendiz said.

Harris County Precinct 2 commissioner Adrian Garcia says it's unacceptable that people are taking advantage of storm



An individual dumping trash on the median of Woodforest

recovery to dump heavy trash and junk on public right-aways.

Commissioner Garcia sent this statement:

"Taking advantage of storm recovery to dump heavy trash and junk on public right-of-ways is unacceptable. Harris County crews and debris contrac-

tors are working night and day to clean up after Beryl, so please be patient while waiting for them to arrive in your neighborhood. The Precincts have also opened sites across the county for verified Harris County residents to

Continued. See ILLEGAL DUMPING, Page 2

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Sheldon ISD staff kick off the start of the year with Annual Convocation



On August 7, 1,600 Sheldon ISD staff members participated in the district's annual Convocation with the theme Where Vision Becomes Legacy. The event provided an opportunity to showcase the

talents of student performance groups from King High School and Sheldon Lake Elementary as well as a performance from the Spark Plugs staff band. Members of the staff band volunteered to perform by

singing and playing a musical instrument. The first day of school is Monday, August 12. For information about starting school, go to www.sheldonisd.com.

Students Start kick off a Great Year in Sheldon ISD

On August 12, Sheldon ISD opened its doors to more than 11,000 students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grades. Sheldon Independent School District is a fast-growing school district situated in 53 square miles northeast of downtown Houston, Texas. The school district continues to grow in student enrollment faster than surrounding school districts. It's known for its rich history and innovative programs at every level from early learning to high school. SISD puts a focus on creating an environment where students can achieve and become who they desire to be.



Over the last 10 years, Sheldon ISD has continued to increase in student enrollment due to several active housing developments, new multifamily living and business development in the immediate area. Many young families are attracted to the af-

fordable housing and its proximity to downtown Houston. Thanks to the passage of the 2022 bond, two of Sheldon ISD's schools, Cravens Early Childhood Academy and Null Middle School opened their doors on August 12 with brand new additions to the building to support student enrollment growth.



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

Cravens Early Childhood Academy to host Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Ribbon Cutting
August 22, 2024
6:00 PM

You're invited!

Please join Sheldon ISD to celebrate the new building addition with a ribbon cutting ceremony at Stephanie Cravens Early Childhood Academy.

Campus Main Office
13210 Tidwell
Houston, TX

New Features Include:

- Additional 13,000 square feet addition to building
- 8 new classroom spaces to accommodate student enrollment growth
- Exhibit concept classrooms with thematic designs for young learners

Sheldon ISD's Cravens ECA will host a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Thursday, August 22 at 6 p.m. to showcase the new additions to the building. As part of the 2022 bond election, the district was able to construct new classrooms in an entirely new wing added to the building. The ribbon cutting will provide school tours and showcase the school's new classrooms that feature a museum exhibit concept. Both early childhood academies in Sheldon ISD feature the new exhibit concept classrooms that provide children with hands-on learning opportunities. From a market to farming, students are able to visually and physically enhance their classroom experiences in an environment that portrays real-life situations.

Channelview Neighbors Frustrated by Mile-Long Illegal Dumping on Woodforest Blvd median,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Pile of debris sitting in the median of Woodforest for days



A pick up truck can be seen illegally dumping all kinds of tree debris.

patient while waiting for them to arrive in your neighborhood. The Precincts have also opened sites across the county for verified Harris County residents to drop storm debris, so please make use of that option. To those who are dumping things like toilets and other junk unrelated to the storm, I want to remind them we have surveillance cameras, and we won't hesitate to pass the evidence of illegal dumping to law enforcement for prosecution."

Garcia's office says Precinct 2 has two designated storm debris drop-off sites at two parks, Fonteno Park and Doss Park.

Officials say residents will need to show proof that they live in the coun-

ty. Contractors can bring storm debris to the parks accompanied by a resident.

If you see someone partaking in illegal dumping, you're asked to call 311.

Precinct road and bridge contractors brought on by HC Engineering, are doing pick-ups in the unincorporated neighborhoods of Harris County.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB
By Charlotte Jackson 

Finally

Life has been rolling along for me. I am finally able to take a break, relax and think about what my future holds. Or so it seemed. A week ago, I was feeling great, looking forward to several major events to be held the week of August 12 – 18, and wham. Just like that I woke up coughing and with a runny nose. Like many people, I felt like it was just seasonal allergies and took some over the counter medicine and went to bed early on Monday. Tuesday seemed to be a little rough, but I still found strength to make it to work as well as to participate in two zoom meetings that evening.

As Wednesday rolled around, I started feeling a sensation in my ears and a tickle in my throat which eventually developed into an annoying cough. I woke up early to drive a friend to work and by the time I made it home, I headed for the bed. Unable to fall asleep and coughing just enough to hurt, I decided to drag myself into the office as I knew there was work to do and encouraging words to be spoken. As the day progressed, the coughing increased and no matter how much water I drank or how much I tried to concentrate on work, my mind seemed foggy. My body began aching and I was thankful I worked alone in my office.

As soon as I left work, I turned my heater on in my car, had the sunroof open and was freezing. I stopped to get something to drink and by the time I made it home, the cup was empty. I was feeling dehydrated and miserable. I was scheduled to be on another zoom call, and I have to say I was excited that there were technical issues and found myself in bed before 8 p.m. I never slept, as I was coughing all night long, I found myself making sure my Emergency Contact List was up to date with names and phone numbers. I started drinking a bottle of water every hour and I prayed my way through the night. The following morning, I was on the phone with my supervisor letting her know I was not able to come into the office. I started at 8:30 a.m., as soon as the doctor's office opened to get an appointment. They were telling me that the soonest appointment was three weeks away due to the new outbreaks of COVID. I told them I was willing to drive anywhere in Houston for an appointment.

They found one clinic with an opening at 9:45 a.m. Yet it was way across town. It did not matter to me how far, or how fast I was going to be driving. I knew I had to be seen. I got there at exactly 9:45 a.m. and by 9:50 a.m., I was diagnosed with COVID. Yes, it had FINALLY found me. All I could do was thank God for medical insurance and the ability to get to the doctor.

By the time I made it back to North Shore my four medicines were ready for pick up and my healing was FINALLY beginning. Please do not wait. If you are feeling ill, go to the doctor. Get diagnosed and get treated.

Back to School
Tips, Tricks and Advice

- Clean out your child's closet and donate clothes that no longer fit.
- Practice getting up early a week or two before school starts.
- Visit the school with your child during Meet the Teacher or Campus Orientation.
- Post a central calendar to keep track of family events and activities.
- Lay out clothes, pack lunches, and organize backpacks each school night.
- Encourage children to use both shoulder straps on a backpack, or consider a rolling backpack.
- Designate a quiet place for studying and a scheduled time for homework.
- Go through backpacks together as soon as your child gets home.
- Delegate chores ahead of time to keep the house running smoothly.

EPA Weighs Approval for San Jacinto River North Site Clean up,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in the 1960s. For now, however, the EPA says that testing will occur during the 5-year review period after the remedial action.

"Our immediate concern is the TxDOT bridge replacement because their plans show the support structures will go 100-feet below ground and it's going to be right on the edge of that southern impoundment. We're extremely concerned about what will be encountered for the bridge replacement," she said.

THEA has pushed for the EPA to coordinate with TxDOT and earlier this year at a community advisory meeting, for the first time, for them both to be at the same meeting.

"Since they will be working near a superfund site, they will have hazmat crews that will be present during their construction. In my opinion, it shouldn't be tax dollars that pay for waste pit contaminants that are encountered. It should be the responsible parties," Medcalf said.

She believes the northern site is moving in the right direction, but we're not comfortable enough with the 100 percent design to submit it.

"The timeline is a huge problem," she lamented. "They are going to be isolating the site with this double wall cofferdam structure that will be 30-feet wide. This is going to be a monstrous structure and the 7-year timeline stretches out the risks of that site getting hit with a

hurricane or flooding," she explained.

The original decision by the EPA was to get it done in 2.5 years and that could still happen, but it's up to the EPA to put their foot down to get it excavated as soon as possible, according to THEA.

"Our position is that the risk of year-round excavation is not as great as stretching it over a 7-year period," she said.

The threat is six inches of flooding over the threshold would cause the area to flood within two hours. Then the question is how to take care of the spillage.

"It's important for people to know that this 100 percent design is not final, and it has not been approved by the EPA, but it could be so that's why we're talking about it to let everyone know the ball is in the EPA court," she said.

The EPA could approve the design or take over the site with an independent contractor that will provide more trust and integrity than the responsible parties.

"It will mean that it's not a company hired by the polluter to clean it up," she said.

Medcalf said an EPA takeover would also mean an additional six month to one year delay which she said they were comfortable with considering the responsible parties have 700 days of delays.

"To agree to a shorter timeline and get it done with more integrity, a six-to-12-month delay is worth it," she said.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "What is Padparadscha?"



Padparadscha is an extremely rare variety of sapphire. In fact, it's the most rare, and most prized form of sapphire. It is also one of the most expensive gems in the world, with prices similar to those of emeralds and rubies. Padparadscha is also one of the hardest gems in the world, second only to diamond. As hardness is a factor that determines how long a gemstone will last, this trait makes padparadscha an excellent gem for jewelry.



The name padparadscha (sometimes spelled padparadsha) derives from the Sinhalese word padma radschen, meaning lotus blossom, as the stone is of a similar color to the lotus blossom. Most padparadscha gems are small, less than two carats in weight. However, a stone from Sri Lanka is on display at the American Museum of Natural History in New York that weights an incredible one hundred carats.

Padparadscha is a beautiful pinkish-orange color, however retailers sell rich orange colored sapphires as padparadscha. This is misleading, as true padparadscha displays a delicate mixture of orange and pink. Quality stones will have a uniform, pure pink/orange color and will be a lot more expensive. Padparadscha is the only variety of corundum other than ruby that is given its own name. Usually, different varieties of corundum are referred to as a particular color of sapphire.

Today, many padparadscha stones are heat treated, to enhance their color. Most are cut into oval or cushion cuts. Padparadscha is brittle, with an adamantine to vitreous luster. It is an extremely hard stone, rating a 9 on the hardness scale. Many knowledgeable sources argue that the only real padparadscha can be found in Sri Lanka. However, pinkish orange sapphires have also been found in Madagascar, at the Quy Chau mines in Vietnam, and in the Tunduru district of the Uмба Valley in north-east Tanzania. The padparadscha from Tanzania tends to be browner and is sometimes called African pad.

It has been said by some that: "Padparadscha is a gentle stone with enormous energy that is said to have many positive attributes. It is a stone that represents joy, vital energy and foresight. It can help the wearer make enormous changes, helping him come close to achieving his life goals. It removes the many resistances to change the wearer may have, replacing this resistance with clarity. With this newfound clarity, the wearer can achieve a much-needed calm. This calm helps him understand the root of his problems, allowing for a much needed change. With this calmness, it is also easier for the wearer to trust himself, which is freeing."

Thank you for reading the "Ask Diamond Jim" column and for supporting the North Channel Star Newspaper! Diamond Jim is a master jeweler, diamond dealer and precious metals broker. Pineforest Jewelry has been a proud member of the Independent Jewelers Organization (IJO) and the Retail Jewelers Organization (RJO) for many years. See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com. If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email jmills@pineforestjewelry.com.

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OPINION PAGE

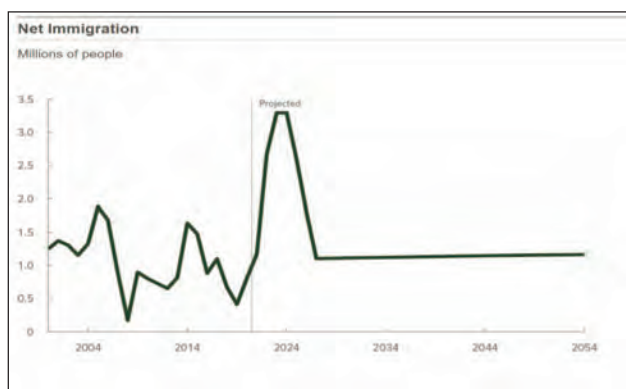
OPINION
By **BILL KING**



Spike in Immigration will reduce Federal Deficit by nearly \$1 Trillion

Polling consistently shows that Americans are concerned about the surge in immigrants entering the country in recent years. While there certainly are many legitimate reasons for those concerns, it is also true that a larger population drives higher economic growth. Higher growth also increases tax receipts for all levels of governments, including the federal government. Higher levels of an immigrant population will also increase government outlays. But according to a recent report by the Congressional Budget Office, the surge in immigration is going to result in almost a trillion dollars of more revenue for the federal government than it will cause in expenses.

The CBO projection is primarily based on its conclusion that the surge in immigration will result in a U.S. population that is nearly 9 million higher than its baseline projection. Its projections assume that increase took place/will take place during 2021-2026. It expects that immigration after 2026 will return to historical norms of slightly over one million new residents per year.1



The CBO's estimates are based on some assumptions which are questionable. First, the CBO assumes that about half of the new immigrants will be legally employed. There are significant restrictions on immigrants' ability to legally work while in the U.S. For example, those here claiming asylum, but whose case has not been adjudicated, are not allowed to work unless granted special permission. However, that permission is routinely granted after about six months. The CBO also estimated that the compliance rate of those working would be 85%. Clearly, the CBO's estimate that half of those eligible will go through this process and 85% would start having payroll taxes deducted from their paychecks, as opposed to working for cash in the underground economy, could be well off the mark.


It is also important to note that the CBO included a significant caveat, that while immigration will likely benefit the federal government's finances, it will likely take a toll on state and local budgets. Increased revenues to state and local governments are not as a direct effect as the effect on increased payroll taxes for the federal government. Also, the costs associated with a larger immigration population fall more heavily on state and local governments.

However, the important point the CBO report drives home is the link between population and economic growth. Those who long for a less crowded America must also recognize that fewer people also means fewer people buying groceries, eating out at restaurants, buying cars and building or renting homes. It means lower, perhaps even, negative economic growth. Slow or no economic growth will affect everyone and would have devastating impacts on federal budget, especially the entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare. So, be careful what you wish for.

Note 1 – The CBO return to normalcy in the immigration numbers could obviously be dramatically affected by the election results. If Trump is true to his promises, immigration could fall well below one million per year. One factor that has significantly reduced the number of people entering the country is that the Biden administration reversed its policy of allowing people to claim asylum between ports of entry in May 2023. Whether a Harris administration would allow asylum claims between ports of entry is an unknown at this point.

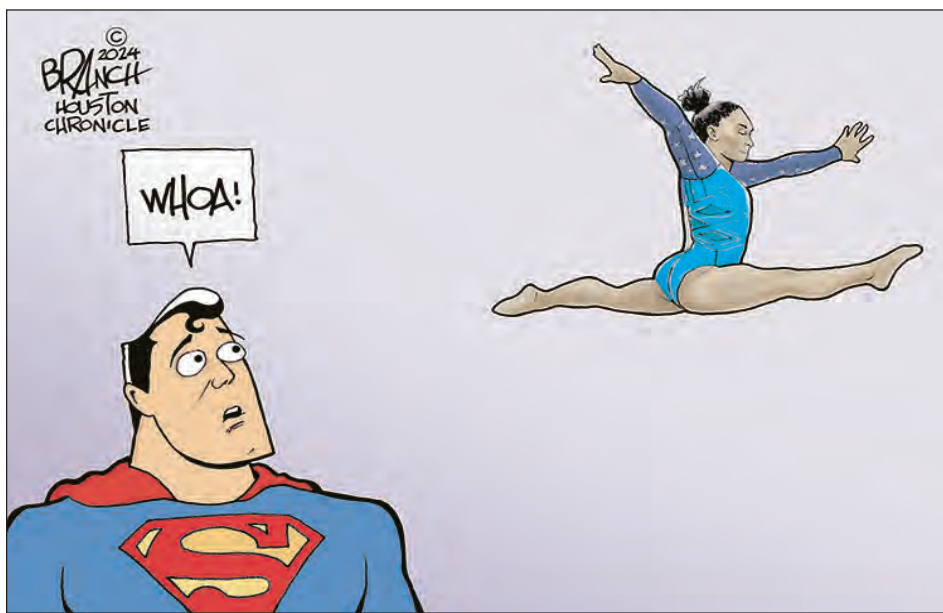
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Americanisms



“Barbeque may not be the road to world peace, but it’s a start.”
— Anthony Bourdain

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By **Gary Borders**



Pattern of Abuse at Texas Juvenile Facilities

A federal investigation into five state facilities concluded children in custody face excessive force, sexual abuse and a lack of vital services, The Dallas Morning News reported.

At a news conference last week, Kristen Clarke, assistant attorney general in the Justice Department's civil rights division, said children held in those facilities are not receiving the treatment and rehabilitation they are supposed to get.

“Our investigation provides reasonable cause to believe that, far from achieving those objectives, TJJD engaged in a pattern of abuse, deprivation of essential services and disability-related discrimination that seriously harms children and undermines their rehabilitation, all in violation of their rights,” Clarke said.

In response, the Texas Juvenile Justice Department said it had made “several significant improvements” in staffing, educational programs and mental health care. The Legislature appropriated more than \$1 billion last session to improve youth facilities.

The youth facilities are located in Gainesville, Edinburg, Brownwood, Giddings and Mart.

Investigators found evidence of physical and sexual abuse, according to the report.

TXDOT ADOPTS LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN
“Connecting Texas 2050” was adopted recently by the Texas Transportation Commission to help guide priorities in the next quarter-century. The plan establishes the vision, goals, objectives and strategic recommendations for the state's transportation system.

“With a growing population and new technologies changing how we move, these goals will help us plan for decades to come and connect future generations of Texans,” Marc Williams, TXDOT executive director, said.

The agency held a series of public meetings to gather input from the state's citizens. Among the priorities listed were safety, alternative modes of travel, public transportation options and maintaining the state's existing transportation infrastructure.

To learn more about the



plan, go to www.ConnectingTexas2050.com.

COURT: BUOYS CAN STAY IN RIO GRANDE UNTIL TRIAL

A full panel of the U.S. Fifth Circuit of Appeals ruled last week that a 1,000-foot-long barrier of buoys can stay in the Rio Grande until a full trial is held. The buoys, meant to deter illegal migrants, were placed on orders by Gov. Greg Abbott. Their legality was challenged by the federal government, which argues their placement violates federal treaties between the United States and Mexico.

At issue is whether this stretch of river is navigable, according to a report in the Texas Standard. A trial over the legal merits was slated to start in an Austin federal court this week.

FLESH-EATING BACTERIA ON RISE ALONG COAST

Authorities are warning of an outbreak of flesh-eating bacteria, with nearly a dozen people infected thus far, The News reported. Galveston County officials said 11 cases of vibrio infections have been reported this summer, compared to just two at this time last year.

The bacteria occur in coastal waters and are found in higher concentrations when water temperatures are warmer. It can be contracted when an open wound comes into contact with coastal waters, or from eating raw or undercooked shellfish.

“There's no need to panic,” Dr. Phillip Keiser, CEO of the Galveston County Health District, said in a statement. “Use common sense: avoid raw seafood, practice good hygiene, and stay informed to keep safe.”

The Centers for Disease Control estimates 80,000 cases of

vibrio occur in the U.S. each year.

PUC GETS 72 APPLICATIONS FOR ENERGY LOAN PROGRAM

The Public Utility Commission received 72 applications for loans available through the Texas Energy Fund, which if all granted would provide \$24.41 billion to finance 38,379 megawatts of power generation projects in the region served by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas.

“Texans have made it clear that they expect reliable electricity today and well into the future, and I am pleased to see industry leaders responding to that call and planning for major investments in dispatchable power for the state,” PUCT Chairman Thomas Gleeson said.

The program will provide low-interest loans to finance new construction or upgrades to existing power-generating facilities within the ERCOT region, which serves most of the state. Funding for the loan program was approved by Texas voters in a constitutional amendment election last November.

NINE TEXAS COURTHOUSES GET HISTORIC GRANT FUNDING

The Texas Historical Commission recently awarded more than \$46 million in preservation grants to historic courthouses in nine counties. Four grants for full restoration were awarded for courthouses in Comanche, Kimble, Van Zandt and Willacy counties.

Castro and Gonzales counties received planning grants that will create planning road maps for future restoration work. Donley, Duval and Refugio counties received emergency grants to address critical issues endangering these courthouse buildings and affecting their use.

THC has awarded more than \$400 million since the program's inception to restore courthouses in Texas.

“As part of our mission to save the real places that tell the real stories of Texas, we hope to work with even more counties in the future,” Joseph Bell, THC executive director, said.

WATER BOARD DETAILS HOW IT WILL SPEND \$1 BILLION

The Texas Water Development Board last week began detailing how it will divide \$1 billion in taxpayer approved funds for water infrastructure and supply projects throughout the state, The Tribune reported. Up to \$45 million will be reserved for towns with fewer than 1,000 residents, while about \$130 million will go to towns with 1,001 to 10,000 residents.

The board said it plans to spend up to \$450 million toward existing financial assistance programs, \$90 million on water loss and conservation programs, and \$15 million on awareness and educational programming.

“We have a whole lot more applications that are submitted than we have capacity in any given program year to provide financial assistance,” said Kathleen Ligon, interim assistant executive administrator at the Water Development Board.

The board has already received 68 requests for funding from this pot of money.

THE POSTSCRIPT
By **Carrie Classon**

Tiny Tent



I haven't gone camping in a tent in a long time.

I grew up camping and, for much of that time, it was in a tent. My parents would take my sister and me to the Boundary Waters between Minnesota and Canada for about a week. We'd paddle our canoes from one lake to the next. We'd listen to the loons at night. We'd build a fire. We'd eat dried food—which miraculously tasted better the farther we paddled from civilization. We'd drink water right out of the lake, before we needed expensive filters. We'd use the latrine deep in the woods. I still vividly remember the time I felt flies landing on my behind—only to look down into the latrine and see a whiskered woodchuck looking up at me!

When I was a teenager, I went camping with a group of girlfriends. We called ourselves the “Future Old Maids of America,” or FOMA for short, and had T-shirts made. (None of us remained very loyal to our cause.)

Much later, when I became a 50-year-old graduate student, I splurged on a nice one-person tent and a lightweight air mattress and a compact, fold-up chair. (I've noticed that with both camping gear and lingerie, the less material there is, the more it costs.) I loved camping in my tiny tent, as I drove from the Southwest to the Midwest and back, listening to coyotes and surviving the occasional thunderstorm.

So, when an opportunity to go tent camping came up, of course I was tempted.

My first cousins on my mother's side are having a reunion on Lake Ontario, east of Toronto. It's quite a way away, and my husband, Peter, and I had ruled it out because Peter has to attend an important condo board meeting that weekend.

I wasn't going to go without Peter, but several of my cousins had decided to go without their spouses and, as I got thinking about it, I wasn't sure how many more of these opportunities would happen in my lifetime. I am one of the youngest of my original 34 cousins on my mother's side. Several cousins have died, and none of them live close together. So this chance to drive to Canada and see a lot of my cousins in one place seemed like it might be important.

I wrote to my Canadian cousin, “Is it too late for me to tell you I'm coming?”

“Of course not!” she said.

I called up my sister. “Do you have room for me in your car?” I asked.

“Of course!” she said.

Her husband is a pastor and does not get much vacation, but my niece and nephew will be coming. And now, so will I. We will camp all the way up and stay in tents while we are there.

So I'm digging my fancy little tent out of the closet. I'm airing out my sleeping bag. I'm checking to see if my air mattress still holds air. I'm trying to remember how to assemble my complicated little chair. I'm pulling together all the things I will need in my tiny tent at night—a flashlight, a bottle of water, a puff jacket for the cold.

It will be fun to see all my cousins. I know that.

But, right now, I am looking forward to being in my tent again—sensing the changes in the weather, hearing the animals move around at night, feeling that I am entirely outdoors, with nothing but a thin layer of polyester between my tiny tent and the great open sky.

Till next time,
Carrie

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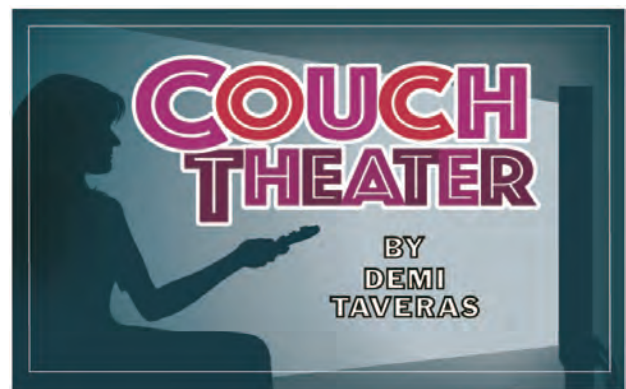
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Matt Damon, left, and Casey Affleck star in "The Instigators."

"The Instigators"

"THE INSTIGATORS" (R) — This new heist comedy film available now to stream stars none other than Matt Damon ("Drive-Away Dolls") and his best friend's little brother, Casey Affleck ("Oppenheimer"). It seems that the sexual harassment allegations surrounding Affleck during the #MeToo movement have become a thing of the past, as he begins to star in leading roles again. In this film, Affleck stars as Cobby, an ex-con with whom Rory (Damon) teams up for a once-in-a-lifetime score that will give Rory the money he needs to take care of his son. But with this being Rory's first heist, it's safe to say that nothing will go as planned. Luckily, he has Casey Affleck to show him the way, right? OK,

OK, putting my aversion for Affleck aside, if you do give this film a try, look out for Jack Harlow in his second film role ever. Acting seems to fit the rapper well. (Apple TV+) ***

"THE UNION" (PG-13) — Speaking of controversial actors from Massachusetts, this film dubbed as a "spy action comedy-thriller" stars Mark Wahlberg ("Arthur the King"). He portrays construction worker Mike, who runs into his high school sweetheart Roxanne (Halle Berry) at a bar in New Jersey. After a night of nostalgia and reminiscing together, Mike is appalled when he wakes up in London the following morning. Having drugged and brought him to the headquarters of her

organization, Roxanne reveals that she's a spy and that a list with the identities of every U.S. spy has been compromised by the enemy. So, she needs a "nobody" to train up in order to get the list back, and her old flame Mike is exactly that nobody. J.K. Simmons ("Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse"), Mike Colter ("Evil"), and Lorraine Bracco ("The Sopranos") co-star in the film, out on Aug. 16. (Netflix)

In Case You Missed It
"CIVIL WAR" (R) — This dystopian thriller from A24 became the second highest-grossing film in the production company's history, suggesting that viewers greatly resonated with its plot of a modern civil war taking the U.S. by storm. The film follows a handful of war photographers and journalists who are in the throes of a conflict between an authoritarian version of the U.S. government and the secessionist forces, led by states like Texas and California. Through the eyes of these journalists, who come from all walks of life, viewers get to see firsthand how exhilarating and traumatizing it is to not only see these heinous acts of war up close but to photograph them frequently. Beloved actress Kirsten Dunst ("The Power of the Dog") leads this film, and her co-stars include her husband Jesse Plemons ("Killers of the Flower Moon"), Wagner Moura ("Narcos"), Cailee Spaeny ("Priscilla"), and Stephen McKinley Henderson ("Beau Is Afraid"). Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

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FQ: Did Cameron Diaz completely retire from acting? The last thing I remember her in was the musical "Annie." Is she ever coming back? — E.M.

A: A-list actress Cameron Diaz announced her retirement from professional acting in 2018, four years after the movie "Annie" came out, which was sadly considered a box-office bomb. She devoted the next several years to life with her family and appeared not to have any plans to work in Hollywood again.

But in 2023, she returned with a new project, a film with Jamie Foxx (her co-star from "Annie") titled "Back in Action." While filming in Atlanta, Foxx collapsed on the set and endured a lengthy hospitalization. It was touch and go for a while, but Foxx fortunately survived. Filming resumed earlier this year, and "Back in Action" is scheduled to be released on Netflix in November.

Diaz is continuing to build her filmography with "Outcome," a film written by, directed by and starring Jonah Hill ("Moneyball"). She will follow this with voicing the role of Princess Fiona again in "Shrek 5." After that, Diaz might want to take another break, but if not, we'll be thrilled to see her back on the big and small screens.

Q: I recently watched the movie "Queenpins" on Netflix, starring Kristen Bell. Is the movie based on a true story, and was one of them really a former Olympian? — K.L.

A: Yes and no. "Queenpins," a buddy comedy that "takes coupon clipping to a criminal level," according to Entertainment Weekly, is loosely based on a scam started by three women in Arizona who sold counterfeit coupons to purchasers in bulk. The fraudulent coupons looked so authentic that cashiers would override their registers, allowing them to go through. The manufacturers apparently suffered losses of hundreds of millions of dollars, according to EW.

None of the characters in the movie were exactly based on the real-life perpetrators or those involved in the investigation. Kristen Bell and Kirby Howell-Baptiste, who both starred in the NBC comedy series "The Good Place," played the fictional characters of a former Olympic gold medalist



Cameron Diaz (Upcoming in "Back in Action" and "Shrek 5")

and a wannabe influencer, who both become counterfeiters. Singer-songwriter Bebe Rexha co-starred as a computer hacker, alongside Vince Vaughn ("Bad Monkey") who portrayed a postal officer.

Q: When is "Chicago Med" returning with new episodes? Are there any big changes in the cast? — F.W.

A: NBC's "Chicago Med" returns for its 10th season on Wednesdays beginning Sept. 25 at 8 p.m. ET, followed by "Chicago Fire" and "Chicago P.D." on the same night. Dominic Rains, who played Dr. Crockett Marcel, has exited the show after five seasons, paving the way for two new characters. Sarah Ramos ("Parenthood") and Darren Barneet ("Never Have I Ever") joined the medical team as physicians.

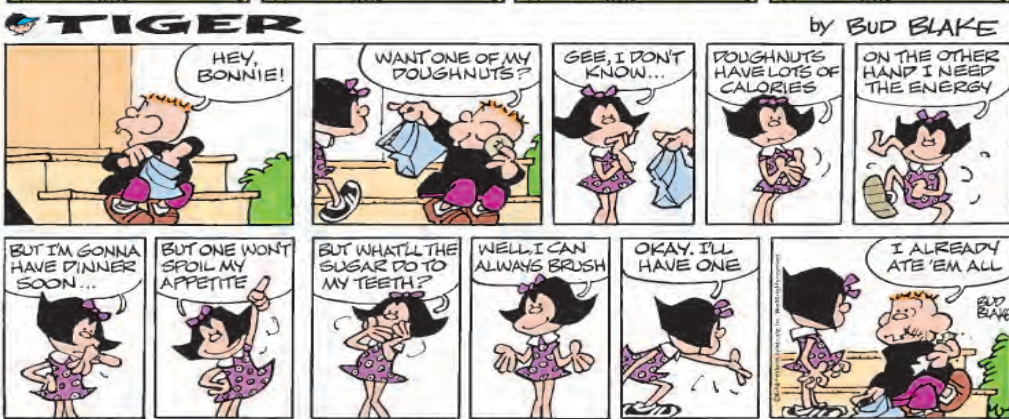
Meanwhile, season 12 of "Chicago P.D." will welcome Toya Turner ("New Amsterdam") as a new officer, and Dermot Mulroney ("My Best Friend's Wedding") will debut as the new chief on "Chicago Fire," following Eamonn Walker's departure last season.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. Grid with numbers 5, 9, 1, 8, 2, 7, 3, 6, 4, 5, 8, 9, 7, 8, 5, 6, 8, 7, 2, 6, 8, 3, 6, 5, 1, 3, 4, 3, 6, 5. Difficulty: Moderate, Challenging, HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS by Henry Boltinoff. Two panels of a man and a dog. Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Shingles are different. 2. Bowl is larger. 3. Doghouse opening is different. 4. Bottom of shirt is different. 5. Paw is moved. 6. Finger is moved.

August 12, 2024 Posting Date King Crossword. Grid with clues: ACROSS 1 Persian leader, 5 Kipling hero, 8 Dull sound of impact, 12 Earring site, 13 Enzyme suffix, 14 Bagel feature, 15 River to the Baltic, 16 Boom times, 17 Director, 18 Spanish explorer, 20 Some babies, 22 Contemplate anew, 26 Vatican VIPs, 29 Television, 30 Italian article, 31 Jazzy, 32 Automaton, for short, 33 Farmland unit, 34 Oklahoma city, 35 Weir, 36 Grove units, 37 Contemplate anew, 40 Eyebrow shape, 41 Excuses, 45 Pocket bread, 47 Passing craze, 49 Aloe —, 50 Scott Turow book, 51 German conjunction, 52 Black, in verse, for short, 53 Go by, 54 Nonclerical city, 55 Lairs, 7 Camper's din-nerware, 8 Daring swimwear, 9 Tabasco, for one, 10 Last (Abbr.), 11 "Gloria in Excelsis —", 19 Surprised cries, 21 Rowing need, 23 Model, Campbell, 24 Concerning, 25 Burnian turn-downs, 26 Bartlett, for one, 27 Shoppe descriptor, 28 Mollifies, 32 Timid, 33 Showed up, 35 Pol. party org., 36 Business card no., 38 Face-to-face exams, 39 — Warbucks, 42 Actress, Neuwirth, 43 Press, 44 Without, 45 Soda, 46 Chef Garten, 48 Santa — winds.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez. 10 questions: 1. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin prefix "audio-" mean in English? 2. TELEVISION: Gladys Kravitz is the annoying neighbor in which TV comedy? 3. ANATOMY: About how many taste buds does the average human tongue have? 4. GEOGRAPHY: The Brandenburg Gate is in which European capital city? 5. HISTORY: Who was the leader of the Soviet Union during WWII? 6. MOVIES: Which movie features the line "I'm the king of the world!?" 7. MYTHOLOGY: What is the name of the Egyptian sun god? 8. LITERATURE: "The Great Gatsby" is set in which U.S. city? 9. MONEY: What is the basic currency of Poland? 10. FOOD & DRINK: Which country is associated with the side dish kimchi? Solution time: 25 mins.

Back-to-School Event in Cloverleaf Provides Supplies, Free Haircuts and 911 Safety Training,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Harris County Public Health (HCPH) ACCESS Harris County booth provided valuable assistance information. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

wasn't able to provide anything about her.

Only contact 9-1-1 in an emergency situation. An emergency is any situation that requires immediate assistance from the police/sheriff, the fire department or emergency medical services. If you are ever in doubt of whether a situation is an emergency you should call 9-1-1. It's better to be safe and let the 9-1-1 call taker determine if you need emergency assistance.

EXAMPLES OF WHEN TO CALL 9-1-1 ~ Medical Emergencies, Crime in progress, Structural fire, Domestic violence, Burglary or theft in progress, Car accident with life threatening injuries, Suspicious activities and Anything else that seems like an emergency.

DO NOT CALL 9-1-1 ~ For information, When the power is out, To report a broken fire hydrant, When



Sonya Clauson, Public Information Officer with students explaining tips when calling 911. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

your water pipes burst, To get a ride for doctor's appointment, For paying tickets, For your pet, and To report potholes in the road.

Help 9-1-1 Help You ~ Every second counts in emergency. Don't hesitate to contact 9-1-1 first during an emergency for police, fire or medical assistance. Get to a safe location before calling. If you are calling to report a fire, exit the burning building before calling.

Stay calm and answer all questions about your emergency. State what help you need: police, fire

or EMS/medical. State your address; describe your location as completely as possible using cross streets or landmarks. Stay on the line — do not hang up until the operator says it's OK.

Guest speaker Sonya Ray who's a recipient of a proclamation from Mayor Sylvester Turner on August 24, 2021 proclaiming that day as Sonya Ray Day in Houston. Her business ELITE Professional Services helped sponsor the event, she annually has sponsors these events and Christmas toys drives for needy children.

Over 500 Attend Constable Jerry Garcia's Back-to-School Event in Jacinto City,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Constable Jerry Garcia with Nancy Acevedo holding 3 year old Leilani Santiago as they wait for Mathew Zapata 14 and Tristan Zapata 12 sitting next to Nancy to get their haircuts. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



Three of the ten beauticians giving students their free back to school haircuts. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



Students waiting in line outside Jacinto City's Town Center to get Constable Jerry Garcia's free backpacks, school supplies and free haircuts. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

supplies Garcia obtained volunteer help from area beauticians and barbers to provide free haircuts. (see photo) Everyone received a gift card for a free kolache at Mornings

Kolaches compliments of Oscar Salazar Jr. Beauticians and barbers who donated their services were: Gabby Acosta, Lissett Rodriguez, Hay-

ssel Salala, Myrian Velarde, Blanca Rodriguez, Brenda Loredo, Cynthia Mendez, Vicky Torres, Ana B. Tovar and Maria Tovar.

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Notice for Private Nonprofit Schools with students who reside in the Galena Park ISD attendance area.

Please be advised that Galena Park ISD will hold a Zoom meeting for administrators of all Private Nonprofit Schools that have students who reside in the Galena Park ISD attendance area. Information on program planning, availability, and eligibility criteria of Federal funds and services (Title I, II, III, IV, and Special Education programs) will be held on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, at 3:00 pm. For additional information about this meeting, please contact Amy Cole at 832-386-1028 or at acole@galenaparkisd.com.

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.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.0759 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 60.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.0759 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.0689 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.0723 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.0759 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. 60 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. 60 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. 60 exceeds the voter-approval rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60.

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. 60, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 22, 2024, AT 6:30 PM AT 7601 UVALDE ROAD, HOUSTON, TX 77049.

HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 60 SHALL TAKE ACTION ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE ON AUGUST 22, 2024, AT 6:30 PM., FOLLOWING THE HEARING TO BE HELD.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the voter-approval tax rate but not greater than the de minimis rate. However, the proposed tax rate exceeds the rate that allows voters to petition for an election under Section 26.075, Tax Code. If Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 adopts the proposed tax rate, the qualified voters of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 may petition Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 to require an election to be held to determine whether to reduce the proposed tax rate. If a majority of the voters reject the proposed tax rate, the tax rate of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 will be the voter-approval tax rate of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60.

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

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

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR the proposal: Dale Langdon
Daron McCaslin
James Collins
Alfred Adams
Don Nesbitt

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: None

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. 60 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 this year.

	2023	2024	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.0750	\$0.0759	Increase of 0.0009 per \$100, or 1.20%
Average homestead taxable value	\$207,568	\$223,135	Increase of 15,567, or 7.50%
Tax on average homestead	\$155.68	\$169.36	Increase of 13.68, or 8.79%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$5,023,593	\$5,673,028	Increase of 649,435, or 12.93%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact Coveler & Peeler, district counsel for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 at 713-984-8222 or adkins@coveler.com, or visit www.esd60.org for more information.

EPA Weighs Approval for San Jacinto River North Superfund Site Clean up,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

For now, however, the EPA says that testing will occur during the 5-year review period after the remedial action.

“Our immediate concern is the TxDOT bridge replacement because their plans show the support structures will go 100-feet below ground and it’s going to be right on the edge of that southern impoundment. We’re extremely concerned about what will be encountered for the bridge replacement,” she said.

THEA has pushed for the EPA to coordinate with TxDOT and earlier this year at a community advisory meeting, for the first time, for them both to be at the same meeting.

“Since they will be working near a superfund site, they will have hazmat crews that will be present during their construction. In my opinion, it shouldn’t be tax dollars that pay for waste pit contaminants that are encountered. It should be the responsible parties,” Medcalf said.

She believes the northern site is moving in the right direction, but we’re not comfortable enough with the 100 percent design to submit it.

“The timeline is a huge problem,” she lamented. “They are going to be isolating the site with this double wall cofferdam structure that will be 30-feet wide. This is going to be a monstrous structure and the 7-year timeline stretches out the risks of that site getting hit with a hurricane or flooding,” she explained.

The original decision by the EPA was to get it done in 2.5 years and that could still happen, but it’s up to the EPA to put their foot down to get it excavated as soon as possible, according to THEA.

“Our position is that the risk of year-round excavation is not as great as stretching it over a 7-year period,” she said.

The threat is that six inches of flooding over the threshold would cause the area to flood within two hours. Then the question is how to take care of

the spillage.

“It’s important for people to know that this 100 percent design is not final, and it has not been approved by the EPA, but it could be so that’s why we’re talking about it to let everyone know the ball is in the EPA court,” she said.

The EPA could approve the design, or take over the site with an independent contractor that will provide more trust and integrity than the responsible parties.

“It will mean that it’s not a company hired by the polluter to clean it up,” she said.

Medcalf said an EPA takeover would also mean an additional six month to one year delay which she said they were comfortable with considering the responsible parties have 700 days of delays.

“To agree to a shorter timeline and get it done with more integrity, a six-to-12-month delay is worth it,” she said.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Galena Park ISD will hold a public meeting at 4:30p.m., August 27, 2024 in 14705 Woodforest Boulevard, Administration Building, Houston, Texas 77015. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.83760/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	\$0.33431/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)
Approved by Local Voters	

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories.

Maintenance and operations	-3.36 % decrease
Debt Service	7.26 % increase
Total Expenditures	-2.01 % decrease

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$16,607,420,777	\$16,258,131,346
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$214,270,310	\$124,224,876
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$12,528,185,662	\$12,264,691,234
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$161,639,683	\$93,711,861

*Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.

** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.

*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$291,764,938

*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$0.83760	\$0.29431	\$1.13191	\$7,106	\$6,176
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0.87309	\$0.35770	\$1.23079	\$7,648	\$5,956
Proposed Rate	\$0.83760	\$0.33431	\$1.17191	\$7,463	\$6,153

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or bond.

The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$200,287	\$190,416
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$87,526	\$89,034
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.13191	\$1.17191
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$990.72	\$1,043.40
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$52.68

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.17191. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.17191.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment.

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$221,870,940
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$2,592,729

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

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

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



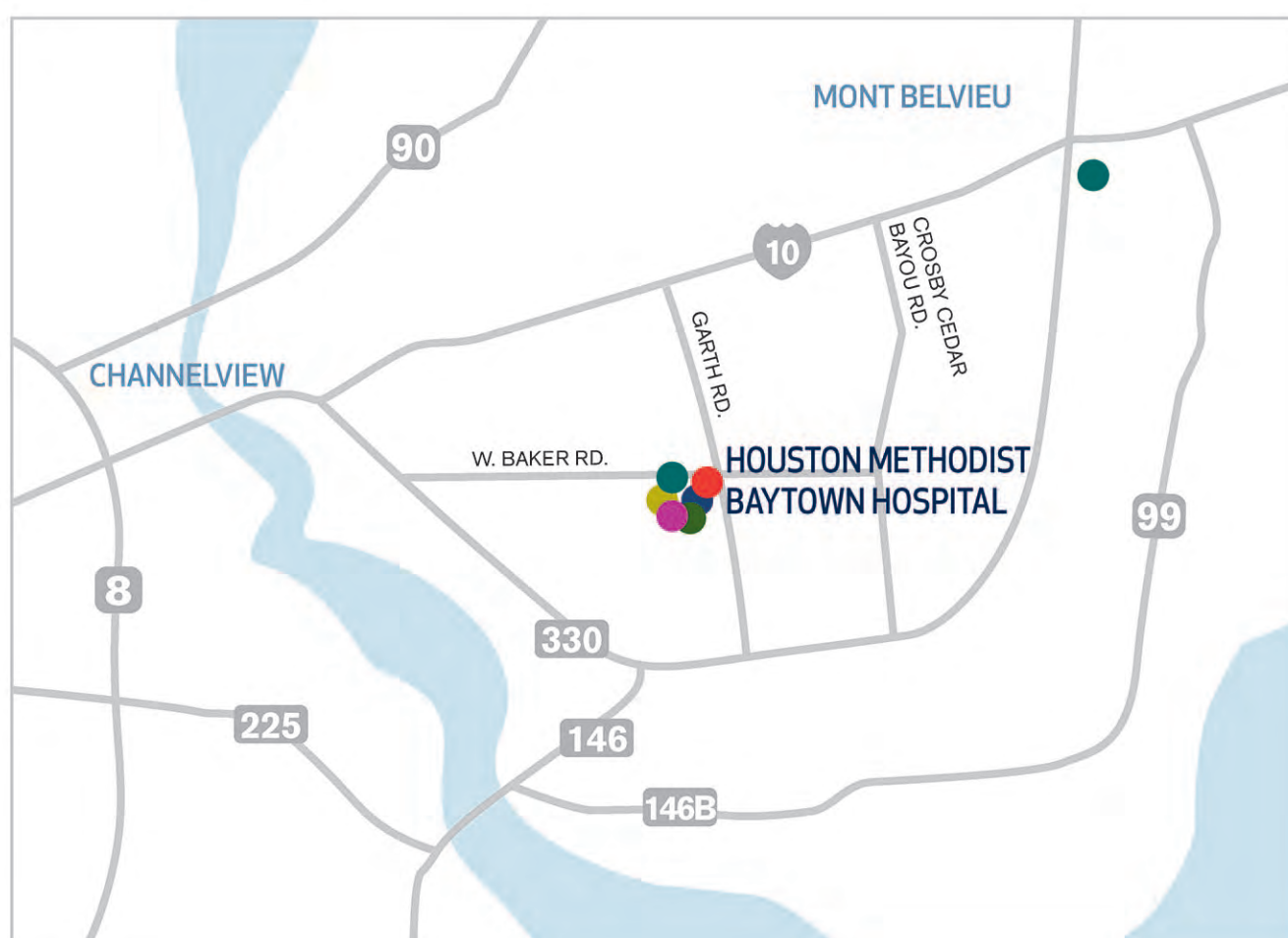
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