



Quannel Farrakhan #9 wide receiver strides across the goal on a 66 yards pass/run play from QB Kaleb Bailey. (photo by Allan Jamail)

STORY BELOW
and PAGE 3

NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
VOLUME 12, NO. 35 (#534) THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024 www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

Mei Hoffman opens new Art Studio Saturday Sept. 14

Mei Hoffman will open her new Art Studio and Gallery, Saturday Sept. 14 from 12 noon to 6pm at the Silos at Sawyer Yards, Studio #113, 1502 Sawyer Street Between I-10 and Washington Street. Exit Taylor Street exit on I-10. PUBLIC INVITED. ART ON DISPLAY. Details on Page 2.

Rotary Washer Tourney set for Sept. 14

Highlands Rotary Club will hold their annual 3-Hole Washer Board Charity Tournament on Saturday, September 14, 2023 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.

The Tournament starts at 1:00pm Sharp, at Charlie's Ice House, 906 N. Main Street in Highlands.

All teams must register and sign in no later than 12:30pm the day of the tournament.

TEAMS: 2 person teams, \$50 per team entry, Double Elimination rules. Awards and Prize Money for the top 3 teams, \$150, \$100, and \$50.

SPONSORSHIPS: Board Sponsors at \$100 and \$200; T-Shirt Sponsors at \$150 and \$250; Major Sponsor available at \$500 with benefits.

Event includes a Raffle for a Liquor Wagon.

Contact Gay Lynn Prescott Milliron gaylynn@yourtxhome.com or Denise Smith nicy1616@gmail.com or Patricia Scott plscott1957@gmail.com to enter or for info.

Proceeds benefit the Rotary Foundation and Polio Plus.

Chamber Golf Tournament Oct 9

2024 Dr. Gerald Cobb Golf Tournament, Wednesday Oct. 9th at Tour 18. Shotgun start at 8am.

Sponsorships available, \$3500 to \$100. Contact info@ncachamber.com or 713-450-3600.

North Shore Rotary supports San Jacinto College scholarships, Youth-Reach, and Operation Turkey

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Danna Nino called it one of the things the North Shore Rotary Club does best—hand out checks to area charities. Nino, who became president of the club in July, has already been giving out money to organizations and last Thursday, the club included San Jacinto College, Operation Turkey, and Youth-Reach Houston in their benevolence.

The money was raised by the club at their annual Crawfish Boil and Fish Fry fundraiser back in April which Nino said netted over \$300,000.

Each incoming president leads the fundraiser for their year as president. The event attracts several thousand supporters who



North Shore Rotary President Danna Nino presents a check for \$27,000 to officials from San Jacinto College at their meeting last Thursday. The check is for scholarships that will be distributed among the early college high school program, the RN/BSN program, vocational students, and other nursing program scholarships. From left, NS Rotary President Danna Nino; SJC District Trustee Dan Mims, SJC North Provost Dr. Alexander Okwonna, SJC Liberal Arts Dean Shawn Silman, SJC Administration Dean Minelia 'Mini' Izaguirre, and SJC Vice Chancellor Strategic Initiatives Dr. Allatia Harris. (Photo by David Taylor)

participate in the live and silent auctions and await the announcement of the winner of the raffle, this year a choice between a Toyota Rav4 or Toyota Tundra pickup truck, furnished by Community Toyota of Baytown.

The club showed their continued support for three organizations that have a direct effect on the community.

"Today we're giving San Jacinto College North \$27,000 for scholarships," Nino announced. "It's broken down into four different groups," she told the North Channel Star.

Approximately \$2,400 is being set aside for the new RN/BSN program helping nurses achieve the new bachelor's degree offered at the campus. Another \$8,000 will go to other nursing program scholarships.

"We are also giving \$10,000 to the MECA program which is basically the dual credit program at the high schools," she said. The Modified Early College Academy is a two-year program allowing high school juniors to

Continued. See NORTH SHORE ROTARY, Page 2

NS Mustangs Cruise past Crowley Eagles 28-13

By Allan Jamail

Fort Worth, Texas ~ Friday, September 6, 2024 at the Crowley ISD multipurpose stadium after a three hour road trip, Head Coach Willie Gaston and his galloping North Shore Mustangs (Stangs) football team cooped-up the home team Eagles and won 28-13.

The Eagles with home field advantage had a big turnout of fan support but still could not dent the steel curtain of the East-side Boys defense. Once again the lean and mean Eastside Boys swarming defense put on a performance any college coach would love to have.

Crowley Eagles Head Coach Carlos Lynn in his second season at Crowley is no stranger to winning championship games. His Cedar Hill football team won a state championship before he came to Crowley, but this Friday's game his team wasn't good enough to take down the Stangs.

The first quarter went to a 7-7 tie, the second and third quarter it was only the Stangs who put points on the board. Crowley benefited from the Stangs penalties and scored 6 points in the final quarter.

Gaston once again after



Charles Ross #18 North Shore linebacker sacks #0 Eagles QB Caleb Williams for loss of yards. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

having a comfortable third quarter lead put in his backup players to finish the game... by-the-way those backup players could be starters too in my opinion.

D'Andre Hardeman once again showed his running back skills rushing for 118 yards and a touchdown. Chris Thomas was another key back, rushing for 47 yards and a touchdown.

North Shore was moving up and down the field at will and finished the game with 524 total yards. Mustang scorers were:

D'Andre Hardeman (1 TD run), Chris Thomas (1 TD run), Kendrick Deblanc (1 80 yd pass/run TD), Quannel Farrakhan (1 66 yd pass/run TD) & Kicker Jonathan Soto was perfect with four extra point kicks, Kaleb Bailey threw 2 TD passes.

Coach Gaston still hasn't stopped the team from making costly penalties, this game they had nine and 15 last week. Starting quarterback Kaleb Bailey threw two in

Continued. See MUSTANGS CRUISE PAST EAGLES, Page 3



Chris Thomas #2 sprints 37 yards untouched across the goal for a Mustang's score. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

GP Yellow Jackets lose to Sterling Rangers 35-7

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park ISD Stadium - Houston, TX. - at 7pm September 6, 2024 the Galena Park Yellow Jackets under Head Coach Spiro Amarantos once again couldn't get their offense or defense playing consistently enough to pull out a win. It's their second consecutive home game loss of this season losing against the visiting Goose

Creek ISD Baytown Ross Sterling Rangers 37-13.

The Jackets offense this season has only made 20 points in their first 2 games while their defense has given up 72 points. The coaches and players must be frustrated because they're putting in the weekly practice time but coming up without a win or

Continued. See YELLOW JACKETS LOSE, Page 3

Gov. Abbott touts removal of 1 million voters from rolls

AUSTIN - According to a statement from Governor Abbott's office, more than 1 million ineligible voters have been stricken from rolls by his government.

Texas has removed more than 1 million people from the state's voter rolls, including people who have moved out-of-state, have died, or are noncitizens.

"Illegal voting in Texas will never be tolerated. We will continue to active-

ly safeguard Texans' sacred right to vote while also aggressively protecting our elections from illegal voting," Gov. Greg Abbott said, touting a 2021 legislative overhaul of election laws.

However, some election experts point out both federal and state law already required voter roll maintenance and that this is a routine process.

"Year after year, people are taken off the voting

rolls for all manner of innocuous reasons," said Sarah Xiyi Chen, an attorney at the Texas Civil Rights Project.

Some watchdog groups are questioning whether the state is mistakenly removing voters it considers "noncitizens." In 2019, the state flagged 95,000 voters identified as such. Many of them turned out to be naturalized citizens, and the secretary of state at the time resigned, The

Texas Tribune reported.

The law that took effect in 2021 set new rules and penalties for assisting voters. The measure made it a felony for local officials to proactively distribute applications for mail-in ballots, gave partisan poll watchers increased autonomy inside polling places, and banned local attempts to expand voting hours and drive-through voting, among other practices.

STUDIO opening



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SHELDON ISD NEWS

Panther football kicks off Home Season with Senior Night

King High School opened its home season on August 30 with Senior Night for all senior athletic trainers, cheerleaders and football players. Although the Panthers fell short to Westfield, fans are looking forward to a great season. Panther Stadium will host several events at the home games including Homecoming on October 4 and Pink Out on October 11. November 8 will be the next Senior Night recognizing the Class of 2025 involved in fine arts programs.



Sheldon to Host Sheldon Shuffle 5K race and Fun Run

Lace up your running sneakers and get ready to run in the annual Sheldon Shuffle. This 5K race and fun run will take place on Saturday, October 26 at Panther Stadium. The cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Proceeds benefit the Sheldon Education Foundation who raises funds for innovative teaching grants for Sheldon ISD educators. To sign up for the race, visit www.sheldonisd.com. Immediately following the race the third annual Sheldon Community Fall Festival will be held in the King High School gymnasium. Join in the fun for bounce houses, resources by community partners and more.

Sheldon ISD to host Groundbreaking Ceremony for 9th and 10th Grade Campus

Sheldon ISD will host a Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new 9th and 10th Grade Campus on Tuesday, September 24 from 9-10 a.m. at the site of the new facility located adjacent to King High School off the Beltway 8. The new school will open in the 2026-27 school year and is part of the 2022 Bond Referendum.

C.E. King FFA announces Annual Livestock Show Jan. 16-18, 2025

The King High School FFA program will host their annual Livestock Show on January 16 and 17, 2025. The auction will be held January 18. To find out how you can support the students, contact amandalangley@sheldonisd.com or robynjones@sheldonisd.com.



SHELDON ISD COMMUNITY FALL FESTIVAL
Saturday, Oct. 26

Festival 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
11433 East Sam Houston Parkway North, Houston, TX 77044

Refreshment Concessions
Carnival Games
Hay Rides
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Bounce Houses
Pumpkin Patch

Sheldon Shuffle 5K Starts 7:30 a.m.
Check in 6:45 a.m.
5K Race Starts 7:45 a.m.

Race starts at Panther Stadium
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Sign Up! 

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Prekindergarten in Sheldon ISD is for every 4 year old



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Sheldon ISD residents 4 years old by September 1, 2024 can register for Pre-K today!

New exhibit theme classrooms at both Early Childhood Academies.

Enroll Now

NS Rotary Club Distributes Over \$300,000 to Local Charities After Successful Fundraiser,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Curt Williams of Youth-Reach Houston (far right) receives a check from North Shore Rotary Club for hurricane recovery and towards their annual budget. From left, Youth-Reach Houston representatives Judah Williams, David Williams, NS Rotary Club President Danna Nino, and YR Founder Curt Williams. (Photo by David Taylor)

earn an associate degree simultaneously while attending high school. At the end of the two years, they achieve an associate degree.

The club also gave \$6,600 in scholarship money reserved for other vocational programs.

Another check was doled out to Operation Turkey.

"The club continues to support us, and we appreciate the \$3,000 check," said Bob Gebhardt, past district governor for Rotary District 5890.

"Last year we fed 11,500 people in their homes on Thanksgiving Day. We do a tailgate on Wednesday where we smoke approximately 600 turkeys then we take them apart and put together the packaged meals," he said.

On Thursday morning, Gebhardt explained they have volunteers who come to pick up the meals and deliver them to shut-ins all over Harris County.

"I know we send a lot of meals over to you on this side of town. I want to thank the Channelview High School Interact Club who sends us about 50 kids to volunteer," Gebhardt said.

One good turn deserves another. While Gebhardt was at the front receiving a check, he pulled out a check for \$2,000 to give to the NS Rotary Club, a grant from District 5890 for hurricane relief funds.

"The District set aside \$30,000, we received about \$25,000 from Rotary International Disaster Fund, and about another \$12,000 for Rotary Clubs throughout the state of Texas to help take care of issues from Beryl. Your club applied for the maximum grant of \$2,000 and we offer that to you today," he said.



Past Rotary District Governor Bob Gebhardt receives a check from North Shore Rotary President Danna Nino for \$3,000 for Operation Turkey. Rotarians help with Operation Turkey which prepares and delivers free Thanksgiving meals to families in need in Houston and the surrounding area including the eastside. (Photo by David Taylor)

Bill Palko, past district governor and NS Rotary club sergeant at arms, said they money would be used for Precinct 2 homebound seniors.

"A lot of them lost their food due to the loss of power during the hurricane. We're going to replace that food, buy it, bag it, and deliver it in sacks to the seniors in the next few weeks," Palko said.

Every year, Youth-Reach Houston has a line item of \$5,000 donated to them from the Rotary Club to help the charity with their mission of assisting troubled young men. This year, the amount was a bit of a surprise.

"We are adding an additional \$10,000 because they suffered more than \$300,000 in damages to their facility and property," Nino said.

Founder and Director Curt Williams was appreciative.

"When you pay for property insurance on a commercial level campus as large as what we have out there, there's just no way

to avoid getting slapped by that deductible," Williams said.

He reported that one building was crushed by a tree and probably can't be rebuilt. Another building sheltering the boys fell on that home. They also suffered water damage inside properties and tree damage throughout the property.

Once added up, the damages were more than \$300,000 and they were facing a \$94,000 deductible.

"It might have seemed like a tall mountain to climb, but, you know, with the community we have and praying, putting it before the Lord, He took care of it," Williams said giving thanks to God.

The club will host their annual golf tournament on October 24 and the community is invited to participate and support the club.

For more information on how to join the club or support their efforts, visit their website at <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/3942>.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB
By Charlotte Jackson 

Such an Honor

As I prepared for this week, my mind reflected how blessed I am. It is such an honor to not only live in the same community for the past fifty-two years, but to be able to serve in it as well. It seems like only yesterday that my family relocated to the Houston area. I remember the conversations that my parents had. They knew even back in 1971, that they wanted my brother and me to attend a smaller school district than Houston ISD. My mother wanted to be able to be involved in PTA as well as local organizations. My dad wanted to be close to his job that he did not have to spend hours on the road each day.

It did not take long for my mom to get involved at St Andrews Catholic Church. She was welcomed by amazing women, such as Marie Whiteside, Josie Philpot, and Frances Hernandez. They invited her to serve with organizations such as Catholic Daughters, the Women's Club, and it did not take long for her to serve in various levels of organizations. Within a few years, she met other area residents such as Bob Seale, Barbara O'Brien, Frances Hernandez, and Barbara Bowes. These individuals moved forward to help establish the first Bike-a-Thon to raise money for the American Cancer Society as well as to help establish North Channel Assistance Ministries.

Even today, I meet people who my mother's life has impacted.

When people mention my mother who will celebrate her 84th birthday this Friday, one of the things they always mention is that she is like the "Energizer Bunny", full of energy. Ready to serve others and help in any way possible.

She was raised by her immigrant grandparents who arrived from Hungary and had a love and respect for America. They would never have questioned the laws of America or shown any disrespect for the nation. I remember being around my great-grandmother and she loved America, as it was a melting pot for people seeking a new opportunity to serve others and be a blessing.

Shortly after we moved to North Shore my mother heard of the Mayor's Daily Telephone Assurance Program and quickly volunteered. She was matched up with an older lady who lived out in the southwest side of Houston and my mom would call her weekly to visit over the phone. After Mrs. Bozoleni passed away, my mother was matched up with Mrs. Ruth Jackson who hailed from The Fifth Ward. Their connection became more than a few phones a week, they became family. Mrs. Jackson lived on Farmer Street and as my mom would travel to Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church, she would swing by and pick up Mrs. Jackson. Even today, I meet people who remember seeing my mother in Fifth Ward in the 1970's with Mrs. Jackson. She was serving not only Mrs. Jackson but making new friends.

As I prepared for my week, serving as the Program Coordinator of Constable Eagleton's RUOK? Program where I am blessed to talk to close to six hundred Seniors weekly. Anyone who has known me any length of time, knows I love these elders as if they were family. I take my position seriously to not only make a difference but also to honor my mother, Pat Oldham. Happy Birthday Mom!

GP Yellow Jackets Lose,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

even a near win. The next opponent for the GP team will be against the Madison Marlins playing Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 7PM at the GPISD Stadium. Madison has also lost their first two games.

The Jackets barely slipped by Madison when the teams last played back in September of 2021, winning by one point, 42 - 41.

This Thursday's game will be one both teams will want to win in order to turn their losing season around. This will be the first district game of the season.

Will Galena Park have another victory up their sleeve, or will Madison turn the tables on them? We'll have the answer soon enough.

Mustangs cruise over Eagles,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Kendrick Deblanc # 4 wide receiver scores for Mustangs on a 80 yard pass/run play from QB Kaleb Bailey. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



North Shore's Head Coach Willie Gaston shakes Crowley's Head Coach Carlos Lynn's hand after the game. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

terceptions and the team committed five turnovers. North Shore 2-0 will host their first conference game against the Spring ISD Westfield Mustangs 1-1 Friday, September 13th at 7PM at the GPISD stadium. Westfield lost last week in a low scoring 14-7 game to Fort Bend Hightower.

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OPINION PAGE

OPINION

By Dylan Baddour
Houston Landing

Hurricane BERYL was a warning shot for Houston

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

Initial forecasts predicted the storm would make landfall in northern Mexico, hundreds of miles away. Instead it veered sharply north and hit an unfortunate bullseye. Its center passed just west of Houston, dragging the hurricane's violent eastern edge directly over the city's core.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

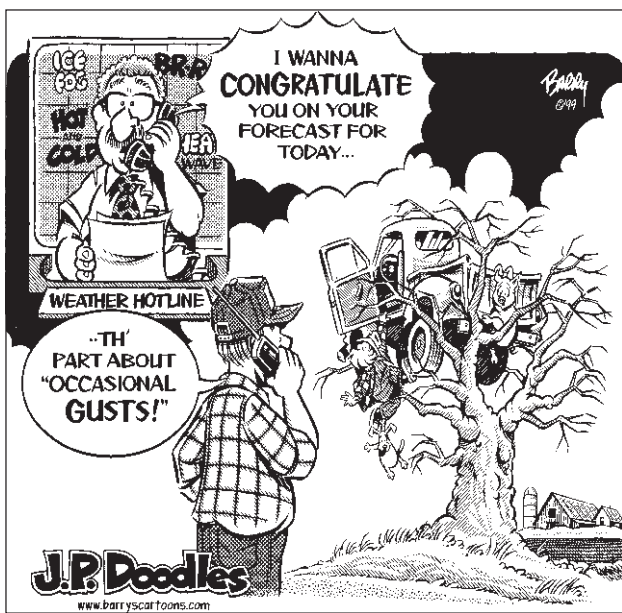
This year's hurricane season has only just begun. Atlantic storms typically grow more powerful through the summer, peaking in September.

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

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

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

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



equity funding for the next generation is diminished." Houston is taking steps to harden its defenses.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

STATE NEEDS THOUSANDS OF NEW HOMES

A 26-page report from the Texas Comptroller concludes that the state needs 306,000 additional homes, a shortage that has sent housing costs soaring, The Texas Tribune reported. Homebuilding hasn't kept up with the booming economy as millions of new residents have moved here over the past decade, leaving more than half of the state's homeowners and renters struggling to find and keep affordable housing.

"Is it a crisis today? I wouldn't call it a crisis," Comptroller Glenn Hegar told The Tribune. "But if we don't find some more solutions, we're going to be in a crisis."

Gov. Greg Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dade Phelan have each indicated that addressing the state's housing affordability issues will be on lawmakers' agenda when they return in January for the next legislative session.

One suggestion drawing attention is reducing minimum lot size requirements. A bill to do so passed the Texas Senate last year but died in the Texas House.

Median home prices in Texas rose nearly 40% from 2019 to 2023, the comptroller's report indicated. Nearly 2 out of 5 Texas households are paying more than 30% of their income on housing. Texas is one of the toughest states for extremely low-income renters, with a shortage of nearly 700,000 units, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

RECORD TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT ANNOUNCED

The state plans to spend a record \$148 billion for transportation infrastructure over the next decade, the Texas Department of Transportation and Abbott announced. That includes more than \$104 billion in a 10-year transportation plan to improve safety, address congestion and connectivity, and maintain roadways. It also includes more than \$43 billion for development and routine maintenance — a \$5.6 billion increase from the previous year.

"With a booming population and economy, TxDOT is meeting the moment with a record investment in our state roadway system to ensure Texas remains the preferred destination for families and businesses," said Texas Transportation Commission Chairman J. Bruce Bugg Jr.

Many of the projects in the 2025 Unified Transportation Program are roadways noted on the state's most congested roadways list. TxDOT is overseeing a record number of active projects this year.

REGULATORS APPROVE \$5.4 BILLION IN GAS PLANT LOANS

The Public Utilities Commission has picked 17 companies to move forward with natural gas power plants financed with low-cost state loans, The Dallas Morning News reported. PUC commissioners approved \$5.4 billion in proposals for plants capable of generating enough electricity to power 2.4 million homes.

The current \$5 billion fund is expected to double to \$10 billion as state leaders seek to address the power blackouts of the 2021 winter storm that killed more than 200 Texans.

PUC Executive Director Connie Corona said regulators favored power plant construction proposals that can be completed quickly, are spread throughout the state, and reduce strain on Texas' electricity transmission network, The News reported.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Scary Movies



I have never been able to watch scary movies.

My mother will remind you (if she gets the chance) that I can't even watch embarrassing television programs, which is, frankly, embarrassing. I would watch that terrible moment when Lucy was about to get caught doing something embarrassing by her employer, Mr. Mooney, on "The Lucy Show" reruns, and I would have to leave the room in a hurry—making excuses about how I suddenly needed to help set the table. The truth was, I just couldn't stand to watch Lucy get caught.

Scary movies, of course, are much worse. If getting caught by Mr. Mooney was bad, imagine getting caught by a maniacal murderer or flocks of birds or a shark. As a result, I've never seen the scary movies everyone else has seen. I've seen photos from the movies, and I know the general plotlines, but when it comes to sitting down and watching the shark attack someone, I haven't been able to do it. Until recently.

Recently, I've seen a few scary movies, and it's not because I've become any braver. It's because my husband, Peter, has started signing out DVDs from the library with what is called "optional commentary." The movie plays but, while all the scary stuff is happening, the director—and sometimes an actor who was in the movie, or an historian or a film editor—jabbers away on top of the dialogue and the music, explaining how all the effects in the movie were made.

You might think this would be very annoying—particularly if I hadn't seen the movie without all the jabbering beforehand. Instead, I find it enormously comforting.

I watch the movie, miss some of the dialogue (but not too much), and the scary music is covered up by cheerful folks talking about how they made it so scary. I love hearing how all those terrifying birds were enticed into flying after the children in "The Birds" (they put snacks in the children's hair!) I am delighted to hear the mechanical shark in "Jaws" was named Bruce, purportedly after Steven Spielberg's lawyer, and he broke down all the time and caused so much trouble that Spielberg feared that his career might be over. I even enjoyed hearing how the shower scene in "Psycho" was made and how the film, made in black and white, used chocolate syrup for the blood that circled down the drain after the murder—a murder that is never actually even seen, but seems so real with that terribly scary music playing.

I've been able to sit through all of this, almost like a normal person, just because I am reassured every minute that Janet Leigh was safe, no children were pecked by birds, and that terrible shark was, in fact, a very troublesome mechanical device named for a lawyer.

The whole experience makes me feel like I'm about six, and I wonder why I require so much reassurance. But I suspect I've always felt a little too responsible for the fate of others, even if (especially if) there is nothing I can do to change the outcome.

It's good for me to see, in every case, it's just ordinary people doing an extraordinarily good job of tapping into these primal fears of things that fly down from the sky and swim up from the depths and come after us when we least expect. It helps me to understand that I do the same thing in my own life, artfully fabricating fears of unlikely things, and doing an excellent job of scaring myself.

Till next time, Carrie

Advertisement for Star Courier newspaper, including contact information for Barbers Hill, Dayton, and North Channel stars, and subscription rates.

FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 2: Texans host Bears on SNF Football: No. 1 Georgia, No. 4 'Bama face early road tests

The Texans will be in the national spotlight when they host the Chicago Bears on NBC's Sunday Night Football.

NRG Stadium should be rocking as DeMeco Ryan's team makes its home debut against an up and coming Bears team that features the No. 1 overall draft pick in quarterback Caleb Williams.

Williams, 8-1-, 215 pounds, appears to be the real deal and folks in the Windy City are excited about the Bears for the first time in a number of years. The Bears front office surrounded Williams with a lot of offensive talent in the offseason, signing former Eagles running back De'Andre Swift, former chargers wide receiver Keenan Allen and drafting Washington Huskie star wide receiver Rome Odunze. The Bears also return big-play wide receiver D.J. Moore. The key to the Bears reaching the playoffs will be how well the offensive line does of protecting Williams, the 2022 Heisman Trophy winner out of USC.

The Texans dynamic defensive end duo of Will Anderson Jr. and Danielle Hunter should give the Bears offensive line a good test on Sunday night. The Texans have a load of talent on offense themselves in QB C.J. Stroud, running back Joe Mixon, and the wideout trio of Nico Collins, Stefon Diggs and Tank Dell. This should be a good one for the hometown fans to watch on Sunday night.

Other key games in Week 2 will feature the Bills paying a visit to the Dolphins in an early-season AFC East showdown on Thursday Night Football on Amazon Prime. The Cowboys open their home schedule when the Saints pay a visit Sunday at noon, while Week 2 concludes on Monday Night Football with the Eagles hosting the Falcons.

In college action, there's a big game in the Big 12 as No. 21-ranked Arizona visits No. 18-ranked Kansas State. No. 1-ranked Georgia and No. 4-ranked Alabama each face tough road tests as the Bulldogs head to Kentucky to take on a dangerous Wildcats team, while the Crimson Tide heads to the Midwest to take on Wisconsin. Both teams will have bye weeks after their respective games this weekend to rest up for their showdown in Tuscaloosa on Sept. 28 in prime time on ABC.

In high school action, Aldine ISD's five varsity teams will play their final non-district games of the season as District 14-6A play begins the weekend of Sept. 26-27.

Before we take a look at this weekend's games, let's review the record after one week of picks. We got off to a solid start to the season with an 8-4 record (66 percent).

Now, onto this weekend's games.

NCAA

Arizona at Kansas State - Arizona and Kansas State meet in a battle of the Wildcats as 'Zona plays its first Big 12 game it travels to Manhattan to face a stout Kansas State team that's tough at home. The KSU defense will be in for a big early-season test against an Arizona team that put up 61 points in their season-opening win over New Mexico. QB Noah Fifta passed for 422 yards and 4 TDs, and his go-to target was talented wide receiver Taitaioa McMillan, who grabbed 10 passes for 304 yards and four TDs. Not a bad start to the season. 'Zona also has a capable running back Jacory Croskey-Merritt (106 yards, 1 TD). KSU opened with a 41-6 spanking of Tennessee-Martin and will rely on second-year QB Avery Johnson (153 passing yards, 2 TDs) and running back DJ Giddens (124 yards). Kansas State is tough to beat at home, which Arizona will learn come Saturday. Welcome to the Big 12, Arizona! My pick, Kansas State 31, Arizona 28

Georgia at Kentucky - Kirby Smart's No. 1-ranked Bulldogs opened the season in fine fashion with a 34-3 throttling of No. 14-ranked Clemson in Atlanta. QB Carson Beck passed for 278 yards and two TDs, while running back Nate Frazier chipped in with 83 yards and a TD. Kentucky won a weather-delayed meeting with



Southern Miss, 31-0 as QB Brock Vandagriff passed for 169 yards and 3 TDs. Look for the Georgia defense to make it a long day for Vandagriff and the Wildcats as the Bulldogs take care of business and then get a week off before their early-season showdown with 'Bama.

Alabama at Wisconsin - Speaking of Alabama, the No. 4-ranked Crimson Tide opened the Kalen DeBoer era in grand fashion with a 63-0 route of Western Kentucky. QB Jalen Milroe accounted for five touchdowns, three passing and two rushing, while sensational freshman wide receiver Ryan Williams had his coming out party with two receptions for 139, both catches went for long-distance TDs. Wisconsin was not very impressive in its 28-14 home win over Western Michigan and the Badgers will need to step up their game if they hope to pull off the upset. Wisconsin will need a big game from QB Tyler Van Dyke (198 passing yards) and running back Chez Mellusi (74 yards, 1 TD) come Saturday. Look for the Badgers to play better against a top five ranked team, but look for Milroe and the 'Bama defense to be the difference makers on Saturday in Madison. My pick, Alabama 33, Wisconsin 16

NFL

Buffalo at Miami - A key early-season meeting between two teams predicted to battle for the AFC East title is set for Thursday Night Football when the Bills head to South Beach to take on the Dolphins. A year ago, Josh Allen and Co. beat the Dolphins twice to win the division and Miami head coach Mike McDaniels knows if his team is to supplant Buffalo atop the division, they will need to beat the Bills, especially at home. Allen lost his top two wide receivers when Diggs was traded to the Texans and Gabe Davis signed with Jacksonville. Look for Allen to rely on second-year tight end Dalton Kincaid in the passing game and count on running back James Cook to make plays on the ground. The Dolphins will air it out with QB Tua Tagovailoa, and wide receivers Tyreek Hill and Jalen Waddle. Look for the Dolphins to send the Bills a message that the AFC East runs through South Beach this year. My pick, Miami 31, Buffalo 23

New Orleans at Dallas - The Cowboys will be coming off a tough road game at Cleveland to open the season and want to give their fans, and owner Jerry Jones, something to smile about when they host the Saints on Sunday. Look for QB Dak Prescott and wide receiver CeeDee Lamb and tight end Jake Ferguson to attack the Saints secondary. Dallas has a suspect running game, so the offense will run through Prescott until either Ezekiel Elliott, Rico Dowdle or newly-signed Dalvin Cooks takes over at running back. The Saints will rely on QB Derek Carr (3,878 yards, 25 TDs), running back Alvin Kamara (694 rushing yards, 5 TDs/75 receptions, 464 yards, 1 TD) and wide receiver Chris Olave (87 receptions, 1,123 yards, 3 TDs). Look for Dallas linebacker Micah Parsons to harass Carr all afternoon as the Cowboys win their home opener. My pick, Dallas 33, New Orleans 17

Chicago at Houston - This should be a fun game to watch as two of the up-and-coming teams in the NFL meet on Sunday Night Football in Houston. Stroud will be out to prove he's the better QB than the rookie Williams and guys like Mixon, Diggs, Collins, Dell and tight end Dalton Schultz will be happy to help out their second-year gunslinger. Look for Williams to make some plays, he too has a load of weapons of which to rely on, but look for the Houston pass rush, especially Anderson and Hunter, to keep Williams in the pocket and shut down his running lanes. Cornerback Derek Stingley Jr. will shut down

his side, which means rookie corner Kamari Lassister could see a lot of action come his way Sunday night. The crowd could also play a big factor as Texans fans are stoked for what lies ahead this season. They won't leave disappointed. My pick, Houston 34, Chicago 20

Atlanta at Philadelphia - The new look Falcons head to the City of Brotherly Love to face an Eagles team that will be out to make up for last year's late season collapse. Optimism is high in Hotlanta with the signing of former Vikings QB Kirk Cousins (2,331 yards, 18 TDs in just eight games), who should be a huge upgrade at the most important position in the sport. Cousins has some talent with which to work in second-year running back Bijan Robinson (976 rushing yards, 4 TDs/58 receptions, 487 yards, 4 TDs), wide receiver Drake London (69 receptions, 905 yards, 2 TDs) and tight end Kyle Pitts. London and Pitts should flourish with Cousins under center. The Eagles have a lot of offensive weapons as well with QB Jalen Hurts, running back Saquon Barkley, wide receivers A.J. Brown and DeVonta Smith and tight end Dallas Godert. Look for the Eagles to roll in their home opener. My pick, Philadelphia 36, Atlanta 21



SCORES & SCHEDULES WEEK 2

LAST WEEK'S SCORES

THURSDAY NIGHT
Aldine 14, North Forest 7
Strake Jesuit 32, Aldine Davis 15

FRIDAY NIGHT
Aldine Eisenhower 30, Clear Brook 7
Barbers Hill 21, Manvel 13
Baytown Lee 31, Goose Creek Memorial 14
Baytown Sterling 40, Galena Park 10
C. E. King 28, Dickinson 14
Huffman Hargrave 34, Furr 6
Iowa Colony 24, Crosby 0
Kingwood Park 30, Dayton 10
North Shore 28, Fort Worth Crowley 13

SATURDAY NIGHT
Aldine MacArthur 14, Channelview 13
Aldine Nimitz 54, Cypress Ridge 20

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Thursday, September 12
C. E. King at Spring DeKaney, 7 p.m., Planet Ford Stadium in Spring
West Fork at Aldine Eisenhower, 7 p.m., W. W. Thorne Stadium in Houston
Madison at Galena Park, 7 p.m., Galena Park ISD Stadium in Houston

Friday, September 13
Aldine at Northbrook, 7 p.m., Tully Stadium in Houston
Aldine MacArthur at West Brook, 7 p.m., Beaumont ISD Memorial Stadium in Beaumont
Barbers Hill at Deer Park, 7 p.m., Abshier Stadium in Deer Park
Baytown Sterling at Baytown Lee, 7 p.m., Stallworth Stadium in Baytown
Clear Creek at Channelview, 7 p.m., Ray Maddy Stadium in Channelview
Cypress Lakes at Aldine Davis, 7 p.m., W. W. Thorne Stadium in Houston
Fort Bend Marshall at Crosby, 7 p.m., Cougar Stadium in Crosby
Goose Creek Memorial at Clear Brook, 7 p.m., Veterans Memorial Stadium in League City
Splendora at Huffman Hargrave, 7:30 p.m., Falcon Stadium in Huffman
Spring Westfield at North Shore, 7 p.m., Galena Park ISD Stadium in Houston

Galena Park Fire Department receives new rescue equipment

GALENA PARK, Texas — The Galena Park Fire Department in Harris County received a \$17,160 grant through the Texas A&M Forest Service Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program. The grant was used to purchase tools to be used at emergency scenes where extrication is needed.



The new equipment is portable and allows the department to better access people trapped in vehicle accidents.

As a member agency of the Texas A&M

University System, Texas A&M Forest Service administers the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program and is committed to protecting lives, property and natural resources. The Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program is funded by the Texas Legislature and provides cost-share funding to rural

volunteer fire departments for the acquisition of firefighting vehicles, fire and rescue equipment, protective clothing, dry hydrants, computer systems and firefighter training.

For more information on programs offered by Texas A&M Forest Service, visit texasfd.com.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.030000 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.030000 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.029234 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.030258 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. 6 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. 6 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 23, 2024 AT 5:30 PM AT 332 Freeport St., Houston, Texas 77015.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Board of Commissioners of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

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

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

FOR the proposal: Commissioner Danny Naramore
Commissioner Margie Buentello
Commissioner Vinh Lam

Commissioner Robert Hamilton
Commissioner Mickey Berguin

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. 6 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence

homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 this year.

	2023	2024	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.030000	\$0.030000	increase of 0.000000 per \$100, or 0.00%
Average homestead taxable value	\$199,956	\$213,929	increase of 13,973, or 6.99%
Tax on average homestead	\$59.99	\$64.18	increase of 4.19, or 6.98%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$1,357,201	\$1,396,930	increase of 39,729, or 2.93%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 at 713-274-8000 or Tax.office@tax.hctx.net, or visit www.hctx.net for more information.

THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF JACINTO CITY WILL MEET IN A SPECIAL SESSION ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT 10301 MARKET STREET FOR THE PURPOSE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025.

The proposed budget will raise more revenue from property taxes than last year's budget by an amount of \$ 194,971, which is a 4.7 percent increase from last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$ 32,167.19

Property Tax Rate Comparison	2023-2024	2024-2025
Property Tax Rate	0.596874/100	0.603444/100
No-New-Revenue Tax Rate	\$0.576422/\$100	0.582938/100
No-New-Revenue Maintenance & Operations Tax Rate	\$0.576422/\$100	0.582938/100
Voter-Approval Tax Rate	\$0.596875/\$100	0.603445/100
De minimis rate	\$0.648853/\$100	0.652711/100

Total debt obligation for CITY OF JACINTOCITY secured by property taxes:
\$ 0.0

During the 2023-2024 Budget year, \$ 2,500.00 projected for advertising and \$ 700.00 has been spent as of 7/31/2023. The 2024-2025 Budget Proposal includes \$ 2000.00 for advertising.

Jacinto City did not budget for or spend funds on lobbying efforts in the 2023-2024 budget and there is no such funding proposed for the 2024-2025 budget.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS ENCOURAGED

Christal Rodriguez, City Secretary

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Joey King stars in 'Uglies.'

'Trap'

'TRAP' (PG-13) — Director M. Night Shyamalan's latest feature is now available to rent, after a stint in the theaters that brought in \$72.2 million. Led by Josh Hartnett ('The Bear'), the film follows firefighter Cooper Adams and his teenage daughter, Riley, as they attend a pop star's concert. At the venue, a huge police presence surrounds each exit, and Cooper learns from a vendor that they were put in place by the FBI to secretly catch a serial killer named the Butcher, who plans to be in attendance. Realizing that this is a trap set for himself, Cooper must employ his Butcher tactics to evade the police and get his daughter out of the concert without getting detected. (Amazon Prime Video)

Me 4") leads this sci-fi film based on the novel by Scott Westerfeld. Viewers get to experience a post-apocalyptic dystopian world where everyone is considered "an ugly" until they undergo cosmetic surgery at the age of 16 to become "a Pretty." After surgery, Pretties are then allowed to cross a river to a section of the city where they get to lead a fun-filled, vibrant life. But when an eager Tally Youngblood (King) decides to sneakily cross the river before her surgery, suspicions arise that this pretty life isn't at all what it seems. Keith Powers ("The Perfect Find"), Chase Stokes ("Outer Banks"), and Laverne Cox ("The Blacklist") co-star in the film, premiering Sept. 13. (Netflix)

'HOW TO DIE ALONE' (TV-MA) — If you're looking for a new sitcom-style series, look no further than this

eight-episode comedy series starring Natasha Rothwell ("The White Lotus"). Rothwell plays a lowly JFK Airport employee named Mel, who is desperately missing a certain spark in her life. Her life is characterized by loneliness, fear, and a lack of motivation... until she has a near-death experience that completely shifts her outlook on the remainder of her life. Now armored with more gusto than ever, Mel begins to take flight and live life according to her terms. The first four episodes premiere Sept. 13. (Hulu)

'FIGHT NIGHT: THE MILLION DOLLAR HEIST' (TV-MA) — Based on the true-crime podcast of the same name, this series with an all-star cast is out now to stream! On a fateful night in 1970, Muhammad Ali plans to make his return to boxing. And after Ali's fight against Jerry Quarry, Chicken Man (Kevin Hart) will host an after-party to celebrate Ali's win. But little do they know that a heist has been in the works to take place that very same night. When Chicken Man is suspected of facilitating the robbery, he must work alongside Detective J.D. Hudson (Don Cheadle) to clear his name. Check out the rest of the cast: Taraji P. Henson ("The Color Purple"), Terrence Howard ("The Best Man: Final Chapters"), Samuel L. Jackson ("Argyle"), Chloe Bailey ("Swarm"), and Lori Harvey in her first starring role. (Peacock)

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HOLLYWOOD by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Somehow we knew when we saw Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce together at the Super Bowl back in February, we'd see him in a lot more places than just football fields. He's already in commercials for Subway and State Farm, and now the Kansas City Chiefs tight end will lead the action-comedy film "Loose Cannons," as one of two loose cannons who are forced to partner up after their precincts merge. It's described as "Lethal Weapon" meets "Bad Boys" and "Rush Hour." Kelce will also host Amazon Prime's reboot of "Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader?" — renamed to "Are You Smarter than a Celebrity?" But first, we'll see if he has any acting talent in Ryan Murphy's upcoming FX horror show "Grotesquerie," where he will star opposite Niecy Nash and Courtney B. Vance. It premieres Sept. 25. When will he ever find the time for football and Swift, with her schedule?



Travis Kelce (Upcoming in 'Grotesquerie')

Margot Robbie's completed her first film post-"Barbie," titled "A Big Bold Beautiful Journey," which co-stars Colin Farrell. The film is scheduled to open in May 2025.

Meanwhile, Farrell currently stars in the HBO spin-off series of "The Batman," titled "The Penguin." The first episode premieres on Sept. 19. He will also lead an upcoming Netflix psychological thriller, titled "The Ballad of a Small Player," along with Tilda Swinton.

Could it actually be possible that Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck went into their recent ill-fated marriage without a prenuptial agreement in place? I thought they had better business minds and were less naive than that. That's like a trapeze artist flying without a net... especially with their love history!

If you liked "The Greatest Showman," which starred Hugh Jackman, Zendaya and Zac Efron and earned \$462 million worldwide, get ready for another go-round because Disney's adapting the hit film into a big, splashy Broadway musical! The front runner for Jackman's role is 39-year-old Jeremy Jordan, a Broadway actor who

recorded demos of Jackman's songs for the songwriters during preproduction. But he ended up losing the second male lead role to Efron. He starred in NBC's Marilyn Monroe series "Smash" (2013) and the CW series "Supergirl" (2015-2021).

In England, actors have usually claimed that they were retiring from filmmaking, until the press they got from their threat made producers line up to hire them. Michael Caine announced that after "The Great Escaper," he would be retiring, and he has since stuck to his word. But Nicolas Cage cleverly announced that he may have three or four more lead roles in him. Director David O. Russell has taken the bait and cast Cage to play football coach and sports commentator John Madden, who died Dec. 28, 2021, at 85.

The catch is that the film is about Madden's NFL video game, which became one of the most successful franchises of all time. Although Hugh Jackman was considered for the role pre-"Deadpool & Wolverine," Nic knew how to tip the scales. Pretty Cagey of him, don't you think?!

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves

Comic strip by Dave T. Phipps with four panels of a classroom scene.

Comic strip 'TIGER' by Bud Blake with four panels of a tiger and a boy.

Comic strip 'The Spats' with four panels of a boy and a girl.

Comic strip by Jeff Pickering with three panels of a man and a cat.

Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle with a 9x9 grid and difficulty indicators.

HOCUS-FOCUS by Henry Boltinoff with two panels of a boy and a girl.

September 9, 2024 Posting Date King Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with ACROSS and DOWN clues and a solution key.

Trivia Test Answers: 1. Genovia; 2. Mount Kilimanjaro; 3. The Inca civilization; 4. Baltimore, Maryland; 5. Portland, Oregon; 6. March 14 (3.14); 7. The 1979 Iranian Revolution; 8. Mercury; 9. 96.5%; 10. Rick Astley.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez with 10 questions and answers.



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Our Houston Methodist primary care doctors in Baytown and Mont Belvieu provide personalized care for you and your family, including physicals, immunizations and preventive health services.

Many of our practices:

- Provide in-person and virtual visits with online scheduling
- Offer same-day sick visits
- Are conveniently located close to work or home
- Accept most major insurance plans

Your health and safety are our priority. We are taking every necessary precaution to keep you safe.



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