



SEE ARROW - Yellow Jacket #16 Hunter James Goes airborne to haul in a Kendall Combs 30 yd pass. (photo by Allan Jamail)

STORY BELOW and PAGE 2

NORTH CHANNEL STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
VOLUME 12, NO. 36 (#535) THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

Chamber Members Mixer Sept. 26

Business Mixer for Chamber Members, Thursday Sept. 26 from 5pm to 7pm at Courtyard by Marriott, 120 N. Redemption Square Road, 77044.

Chamber Luncheon Oct. 4

State of the Schools Luncheon, Friday Oct. 4 at 11:30am at San Jacinto College, 5800 Uvalde. Superintendents from Galena Park, Sheldon, and Channelview districts.

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.

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 PRECINCT 2

Fonteno Park
14350 Wallisville Road
Houston TX 77049

Doss Park
Doss Park Road
Houston TX 77038

For More Information, call 713-274-3880

PRECINCT 3

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.

NORTH CHANNEL CHAMBER LUNCHEON

Port of Houston remains Economic Engine for Gulf Coast

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Jordan Frisby knew he was in a friendly spot last Friday when he saw a ship in the seal of the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce. The director of technical and business analytics for the Port of Houston spoke to the membership last Friday reporting the critical progress of the near-by Port.

"The Port remains a huge economic engine for the area supporting and sustaining a lot of businesses throughout the region including all parts of the North Channel area," he told membership.

Frisby said the Port had recently conducted an economic impact study assessing the benefits that the Port brings to the region.



Jordan Frisby from the Port of Houston is joined by Bill Palko, left, and Margie Buentello, right. Jordan Frisby, director of technical and business analytics for the Port of Houston, reported to the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce on the progress at the Port of Houston.

"We're connected with over 1.5 million jobs in the state of Texas and 3.4 million throughout the entire country," he quoted the astounding numbers.

"That's including people on the waterfront, all the other jobs those people are supporting, as well as all the people whose jobs depend on the products that are imported and exported through our facilities," he added.

According to the same study, the economic impact in dollars is in excess of \$400 billion for Texas and over \$900 billion nationwide.

Frisby reminded chamber members that the greater Houston area had been dependent upon waterborne transportation

Continued. See PORT OF HOUSTON, Page 6

North Shore wallops Westfield 47 - 3

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. Friday, September 13, 2024 the North Shore Mustangs (NS Stangs) once again proved they're a powerhouse football team. Head Coach Willie Gaston had his Eastside Boys playing like they want another shot at the Texas State Championship title. The NS Stangs from start to finish dominated the Spring Westfield Mustangs winning 47-3.

It was another runaway game for the home team NS Stangs. Their season's first three opponents only made 16 points collectively because of the Eastside Boys relentlessly swarming defense. There were so many sacks made on defense I can't list them all.



#9 Quanel Farrakhan leaps over defensive players to score a NS Stangs TD on a 24 yd TD pass from QB Kaleb Bailey. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Their offense once again got off to a slow start scoring once in the first quarter the same as they did the week before and

the week before that they didn't score at all in the first quarter. Coach Gaston has repeatedly told the offensive he wants them to



#33 Lorenzo Lathan NS defensive back tackles Westfield's #23 Demonte Ford for a loss of yds. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

start fast and end fast; they're not starting off scoring fast as of now.

The NS Stangs offensive scorers are: Quanel

Farrakhan (2 TD's), Chris Thomas (1 TD), D'Andre Hardeman (1 TD), Avan

Continued. See NS CRUSHES WESTFIELD, Page 5

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH HONOREE - (1st of a series)

Celebrating Dr. Melissa Gonzalez

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. ~ September 15, 2024 is the beginning of the annual celebration for Hispanic Heritage Month to be observed from September 15th until October 15th.

What is Hispanic Heritage Month? According to the Hispanic Heritage Month official website, it is observed: "by celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America." For generations, Latinxs have contributed to the food, music, business, science, and culture that we know as American, and the 30 days that make up Hispanic Heritage Month each fall is just one opportunity to showcase these achievements.

My first 2024 Hispanic Heritage Month Honoree is Dr. Melissa N. Gonzalez, President of Lone Star College-Kingwood. I've known Melissa for going on twenty years, I first met her



Dr. Melissa N. Gonzalez, President of Lone Star College-Kingwood. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

when she was engaged to her husband and now Harris County's Sheriff Ed Gonzalez. When I began my interview with her for this article I've learned a lot about her that I didn't know before.

Dr. Gonzalez said, "I am excited and humbled to be featured in this article, which highlights my work and contributions to education, especially during the meaningful celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. It's an honor to be recognized, and I'm truly grateful for it."

Gonzalez has earned a Ph.D. (Doctor of Philoso-

phy) and she's been the President of Houston Community College-Kingwood since 2021. Dr. Gonzalez holds a bachelor's degree in business administration, an MBA and doctorate in international business management from the University of Texas-Pan American. She was formerly the President at Houston Community College-Southeast.

Prior to her position at HCC, Dr. Gonzalez was Vice Chancellor of Workforce and Economic Development at Lone Star College in Houston, Texas. She began her higher education career as an Associate Professor of Management at the University of Houston-Clear Lake and was also an adjunct professor at the University of Houston-Downtown.

As a child growing up in Alamo, Texas, in the Rio Grande Valley, Dr. Gonzalez faced a cycle of poverty too often encountered by Hispanic females. The cy

Continued. See HISPANIC HERITAGE, Page 3

GP Yellow Jackets Sting HISD Madison Marlins 36-8

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. September 12, 2024 at the GPISD Stadium the Galena Park Yellow Jackets playing in their first district game of the season easily won 38 ~ 8 over the visiting HISSD Madison Marlins. Coach Spiro Amarantos and his coaching staff were very visible and audibly noticeable throughout the game.

Dave Campbell's Texas Football 2024 magazine that's considered one of the state's most respected football predictors had the Marlins finishing the season in second place and the Jackets coming in fifth in a district of nine teams. The 10-5A District in Region 1 is comprised of all HISD teams except Galena Park.

Campbell's 2024 prediction for the first place team for that 10-5A District is Houston's Sterling Raid



Yellow Jackets offensive line opens a hole for #5 Cary Clay to score a TD. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Continued. See YELLOW JACKETS, Page 2

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Sheldon Hosts Annual Blue Card Luncheon

On September 10, Sheldon ISD hosted its second annual Blue Card Luncheon for Blue Card members. To be a Blue Card member, you must be a resident of Sheldon ISD and 65 years of age or older. Blue Card members receive a free luncheon each year and free entry to all home sporting events and fine arts performances.

At this year's luncheon, attendees heard a presentation from Superintendent

Dr. Demetrius McCall and enjoyed performances from King High School, King Middle School and Null Middle School fine arts students.

"The Blue Card program has been beneficial in many ways since it was created in 2021," explained Executive Director of Communications Emily Conklin, APR. "We are so thankful and appreciative of the support we receive from our Blue Card mem-

bers. Many members are grandparents within our school district and some are even King High School graduates."

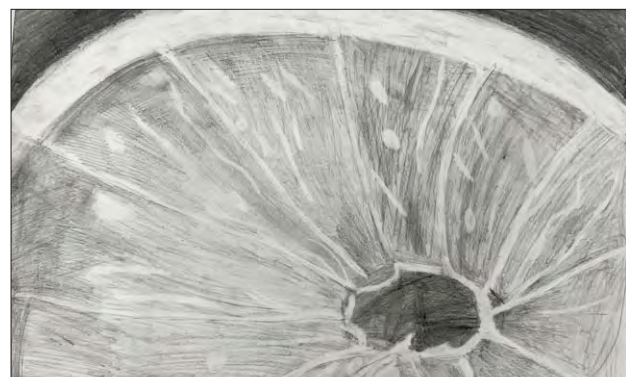
There are more than 150 Blue Card members in Sheldon ISD. To sign up for the program, Sheldon ISD residents over 65 years of age can visit the website at www.sheldonisd.com and click on Community from the menu.



Sheldon ISD Student Artwork selected for State Art Show



Isaac Wheeler, Grade 5, "The Art of the Champions" - Royalwood Elementary



Londynn Latigue, Grade 5, "Orange" - Sheldon Lake Elementary School

The Texas Art Education Association has selected six Sheldon ISD students' artwork to be represented at an upcoming administration and school board convention. The following student work will be featured in a State Art Show at the annual Texas Association of School Administrators/Texas Association of School Boards fall convention:

Recently, Sheldon ISD was selected as a TAEA District of Distinction and the number of work selected to be shown has doubled from last year.



Madison Pham, Grade 11, "Spider's Capture" - King High School



Allen Rangel, Kindergarten, "Giraffe" - Ms. Jennifer York - Sheldon Early Childhood Academy



Bianca Marin Franco, Grade 12, "Through It All" - King High School



Layla Rape, Grade 5, "The Real Queen of England" - Sheldon Elementary



SHELDON ISD COMMUNITY FALL FESTIVAL

Saturday, Oct. 26





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

Sign up! 

Scan Me!

Yellow Jackets Defy Preseason Predictions with Strong Defense and Ground Game,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ers. The Jackets will play them next Thursday at home at 7PM, it could decide the district's champion, and both teams are 1-0 in district play.

The Jackets defense in

this game showed to be solid and stingy; not giving up many yards or points. The offense is still lacking an effective and consistent passing game.

Their leading runners is

quarterback Kendall Combs, running backs Cary Clay and Andrew Cortes. Clay scored 3 TD's and Cortes scored 2.



Cary Clay, Jacket running back dives across the goal line on a 56 yard run TD play. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



2 Andrew Cortes, Yellow Jackets running back scores a on a 11 yard run. Photo by Allan Jamail



Galena Park Yellow Jacket Team Captains L-R: #18-Daylin Boyd, #77-Ruben Escobar, #5-Cary Clay, #16-Hunter James & #67-Marc Lopez (Photo by Linda Jamail)

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CHARLOTTE'S WEB
By Charlotte Jackson



Hispanic Heritage, Dr. Melissa Gonzalez

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Leaving an Impression

Last week, I attended a Homegoing Celebration of a classmate of mine. We had known each other for over fifty years. As I looked around the church, I saw former classmates, former neighbors, former church members, former coworkers, lots of family and even neighbors who had frequented the family restaurant. I saw family members, friends and what was felt the most was the love that John left behind.

As we heard from his pastor and his oldest son, we laughed, cried and cherished memories. As we looked around the church, there were generations of individuals who had met John. Their lives had been impacted by his.

While walking to the car, I overheard some men sharing that they knew him when he attended college. Another knew him from his service as a United States Marine. Several women were sharing about the love he had for his wife and his children. I overheard two men saying that they need to reevaluate their lives and make some choices that will improve the impression they leave on people.

Each of us is born with time to make impressions on others. We never know who is watching us or who is taking notes of how we live our lives. In my lifetime, I have seen families share with their children that all adults must be respected. I have sadly seen changes that children are taught that they are equal to adults. I have heard parents tell their children that they have the right to make their own choices. I have known parents who were very strict about the role models in their children's lives. And I have known countless adults who never even knew one parent, much less that parent's side of the family.

I have known families that made choices to work hard and follow the values and morals that they were raised with. I have unfortunately known families who seem to have no morals, much less values.

At one time, children would dare not call an adult by their first name. They were always Mr. Brown or Miss Smith. Then can the change where it was accepted to call them Mr. Bob or Miss Susan. Children were taught to respect adults, especially professionals. We were taught to respect an elected official because of the office they held. We were taught to always speak to someone when you walked into a room. If you were approaching a door, you held it open for others who were going to use it.

At some point, children were told they were equals to adults. I have seen children in elementary school demand that they are shown the same respect as adults. I have sadly seen too many adults discussing adult business in front of children. And then the world wonders why a child does not respect their coworker or the pastor? Those who enter into a career in law enforcement seem to change agencies often or change career paths after a short time.

We must set the example and leave an impression on the youth that they will understand that children must know their place in society. They need to learn to work hard and live a life that others will respect. We must leave an impression so that children will learn self-respect. We all need to do our part.

Her education was broken, however, by her parents' decision to invest in her education. After graduating from P.S.J.A. High School (Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD), where she played a clarinet in the band and tennis she found herself on the path to success. "I want others to know how important education is and how it can change one's life as it did mine," Gonzalez said.

While in graduate school, she began her teaching career as a GED instructor for a TEA Region VI program targeting single mothers in the Rio Grande Valley. Her passion for helping others fulfill their dreams and to change their lives had and has become a personal journey and mission. "A student once told me, because of me, they did not give up on their dream of finishing their degree, that meant so much to me," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said, "College wasn't always easy, but overcoming challenges, both academically and personally, helped me become more resilient and adaptable. Those experiences prepared me to face the unpredictable nature of life and work with confidence. While in school the best advice I ever received was, *do not be embarrassed to ask for help.*"

While a professor, Dr. Gonzalez pursued basic and applied research in the areas of cross-cultural management, management education, maquiladoras in Mexico (foreign companies operating in Mexico) and Hispanic career paths. Her articles have been accepted for presentation and/or publication at over thirty regional, national and international conferences. She has presented in hundreds of academic and community events in the subject of international business management, higher education, women's career paths and topics related to the Hispanic community.

She has a morning ritual of exercising and devotional time. "It is important to start the day off right with spiritual and physical activities. I enjoy running, cycling, studying the Bible and listening to Tejano music. My favorite food to eat is seafood and I like cooking Mexican food," she said.

Her favorite professional sports team is the Astros, Rockets and she loves the Dallas Cowboys. Her favorite college sports team is the Houston Cougar's teams.

Two of Dr. Gonzalez goals are; one is she's started working on a book about the love letters her dad sent to her mom while

he was serving in the U.S. Army. At the time, her mom was his fiancée, and the letters capture a unique and personal glimpse into her dad's experiences and the love they had for each other.

She said, "Another goal is to create more educational programs and opportunities for underserved communities. I want to help close the educational gap and provide more accessible pathways to higher education for students who face barriers."

In the community, Dr. Gonzalez serves on the Board of Directors of the Gulf Coast Workforce Board, Chair of the Greater East Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, Board member for Humble Area Assistance Ministries (HAAM), Advisory Council member for University of Houston-Downtown, College of Public Service, and University of Houston-Clear Lake, College of Education. She also serves on the board of HCA-Kingwood, Work Texas, and City of Houston-Mayor's Office of Adult Literacy.

Dr. Gonzalez has received numerous honors and recognitions for her service in education, some recent accomplishments include Woman of the Year in Education from Mujer Hispana 2024, 2024 Greater Houston Women Chamber of Commerce-Women in the Fast Lane of STEAM Honoree, 2023 Mission Northeast Community Leader, 2023 Family Time Women of Achievement, 2019 D'Mars Top 30 Women in Houston, one of Houston 50 Most Influential Women of 2017, Houston Women Magazine- 2017 Honoree for Education, Solo Mujeres and 2016 Women of Now Inductee.

The President of the Houston's Most Influential Women said, "We recognize deserving women who are successes in their professions and who possess a servant-spirit. Being selfless is something one cannot forget on the path to success. And we cannot forget that women, while they are achieving in their professional lives, also are wearing the important hats of being a wife, mother, caregiver, church member, and volunteer in their communities."

Dr. Gonzalez and her husband Edward, together have four beautiful daughters and two dogs.

She loves animals, they have two small ShihTzus doggies, and their names are Benji and Bellie. This next summer she's excited about her family going on their first cruise.

ASK DIAMOND JIM



Diamond Jim: How did the 'Tennis Bracelet' get its name?

Tennis season is behind us. Wimbledon and the women's U.S. Open are finished for the year. So, it's a perfect time to look at the tennis bracelet – a great piece of jewelry that comes with a great story.

At the 1987 U.S. Open, tennis star Chris Evert was playing in a hotly contested game. She suddenly stopped mid-match and asked the officials for a time out. The reason: The clasp on her diamond bracelet had broken and the bracelet had fallen off her wrist, and she wanted to find it before playing the next point. When asked about it in an interview, she called the missing piece of jewelry her "tennis bracelet," and so the iconic name was born.



Chris Evert sporting her diamond tennis bracelet at the 1989 U.S. Open. Photo by Adam Stoltman, © Corbis

The bracelet Evert was wearing during the match was a line bracelet set with diamonds made by noted jewelry designer George Bedewi. Traditionally featuring diamonds, this style of bracelet can also be set with colored stones or a combination of diamonds and colored stones. Thanks to Evert's incident that brought it into the national spotlight, sales of the bracelet exploded and became forever known as the tennis bracelet.

Considering Evert's famous mishap, you might be wondering if wearing a tennis bracelet during a match is a good idea. GIA experts offer a few suggestions so you can wear your bracelet without fear:

1. In addition to the clasp, add a safety catch on the side of the bracelet for added protection.
2. Have the tennis bracelet routinely checked by a jeweler to make sure the clasp, safety catch, and mountings are secure.
3. Keep the diamonds sparkling with periodic cleaning.

Nearly 30 years have passed since Evert's unforgettable on-court incident, and the tennis bracelet is still a fashion accessory for the sophisticated set. The tennis bracelet remains popular because it's an elegant piece of jewelry that comes with a fun story. Now you have some ideas to decorate your wrist. Pineforest Jewelry offers several genuine diamond tennis bracelets available in both mined and lab grown diamonds. Come see us for the best value anywhere in town!

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

FEMA Q&A

Q&A: FEMA Individual Assistance

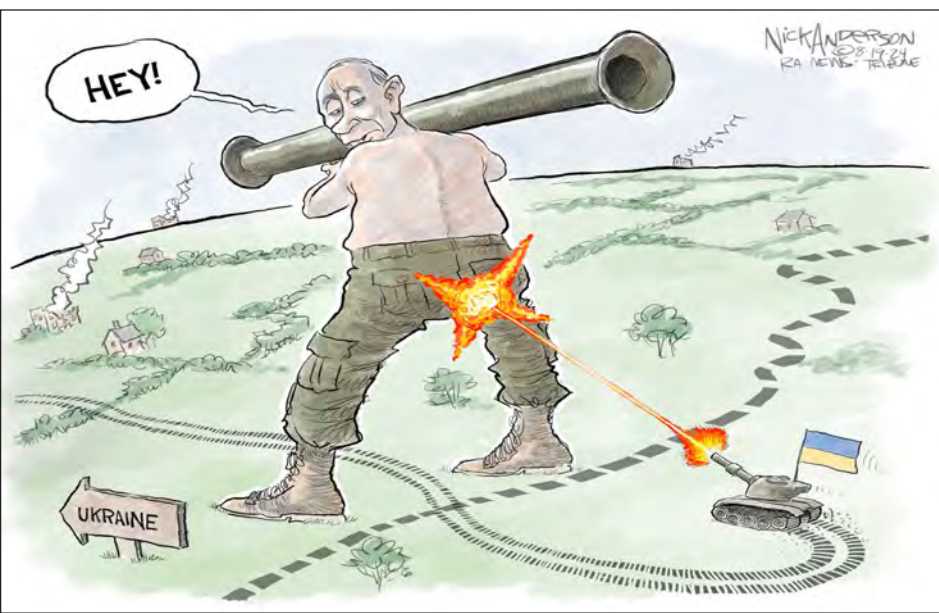
FEMA Individual Assistance can help Texans recover from Hurricane Beryl by providing funds for basic and critical needs. What kinds of help can FEMA provide? FEMA may provide Serious Needs Assistance, Displacement Assistance, Home Repair Assistance, Rental Assistance, Personal Property Assistance, Transportation Assistance, Medical and Dental Assistance, and Funeral Assistance for eligible applicants. FEMA assistance is not a substitute for insurance, nor can it duplicate funding received for same purposes. How can I apply for FEMA assistance? To apply, homeowners and renters can: Go online to DisasterAssistance.gov. Download the FEMA App for mobile devices. Call the FEMA helpline at 800-621-3362 between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. Help is available in most languages. If you use a relay service, such as video relay (VRS), captioned telephone or other service, give FEMA your number for that service. Visit any Disaster Recovery Center. For locations and hours, go online to fema.gov/drc.

FEMA said I'm "not approved." What can I do? If you disagree with the amount of assistance provided, you can appeal FEMA's decision and provide more information. However, many times, an application is determined to be "not approved" because of a missing document. Examples include: Proof of insurance coverage (Declaration Page.) Copy of your insurance settlement pertaining to damage caused by the storms. Proof of identity (U.S. passport, military I.D., Social Security card along with a federal or state I.D., a payroll stub that shows all or part of your Social Security number.) Proof of occupancy (lease or rental agreement, rent receipts, utility bills, motor vehicle registration, etc.) FEMA has provided more ways to meet this requirement. Proof of ownership (deed or title, mortgage documentation, homeowner's insurance policy, property tax bill or receipt, manufactured home certificate or title and home purchase contracts. FEMA has provided more ways to meet this requirement. Proof the damaged property was your primary residence when the disaster occurred. You may need to submit these forms of additional information to resume the application process.

If you have questions about FEMA's decision, you may: Visit DisasterAssistance.gov, Call the Disaster Assistance Helpline at 800-621-3362, open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. 7 days a week. Visit a Disaster Recovery Center near you open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday, closed Sunday. What does a FEMA inspector look for? After you apply for disaster assistance, FEMA may need to verify your disaster-caused damage through a home inspection. Below are some of the things an inspector will look for:

Is the exterior of the home structurally sound, including the doors, roof, and windows? Does the electricity, gas, heat, plumbing, sewer, and septic systems function properly? Is the inside of the house habitable and structurally sound, including the ceiling and floors? Is the home capable of being used for its intended purpose? Is there a safe access to and from the home? The inspector will verify your name, address, contact information, occupancy and ownership status, and insurance coverage. The inspector will walk through the home and note damage to the structure and to personal property caused by the disaster. In many cases, disaster-related damage may exist, yet the residents can still safely live in their home.

The inspection is only one of several criteria used to make a decision and an inspector does not decide whether you qualify for assistance. They will never ask for financial information or charge a fee. Why did my neighbor get more money than I received for repairs? Each case is different and every survivor has unique needs. There are numerous factors involved in this determination, including insurance status and the extent and type of damage documented. I'm a renter. Do I qualify for FEMA assistance? Renters whose property was destroyed or damaged by the disaster may be eligible to apply for federal assistance. FEMA grants can help pay for temporary housing. Renters may also qualify for grants to replace or repair necessary personal property, such as furniture, appliances, clothing, textbooks or school supplies, a personal or family computer, replacement or repair of tools and other job-related equipment required by the self-employed, primary vehicles, uninsured or out-of-pocket medical, dental, childcare, moving and storage expenses. I am not a U.S. citizen. Can my household qualify for FEMA assistance? To qualify for FEMA assistance, you or a member of your household must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national or qualified non-citizen. However, undocumented families with diverse immigration statuses need only one member of the family (including a minor child under 18) who is a United States citizen, non-citizen national or qualified non-citizen who possesses a Social Security number to apply. A qualified non-citizen includes the following: Legal permanent resident ("green card" holder.) An asylee, refugee, or a non-citizen whose deportation is being withheld. Non-citizen paroled into the U.S. for at least one year. Non-citizen granted conditional entry (per law in effect prior to April 1, 1980.) Cuban/Haitian entrant. Certain non-citizens subjected to extreme cruelty or who have been a victim of a severe form of human trafficking, including people with a "T" or "U" visa. Legal residents in accordance with the Compacts of Free Association with the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. Adults, including the undocumented, who do not qualify under one of the categories above can apply on behalf of a minor child who does qualify and has a Social Security number. The minor child must live with the parent or guardian applying on their behalf at the time of the disaster. The parent or guardian will not have to provide any information on their own immigration status or sign any documents regarding their status. If I disagree with FEMA's decision, how can I appeal? Every applicant has the right to appeal a FEMA decision. The appeal must be submitted within 60 days of the date of the decision letter. FEMA will provide an Appeal Request Form that may be used to provide additional information with your decision letter. The decision letter from FEMA will provide information on the types of documents or information that must be provided in an appeal. Your appeal may be submitted to FEMA in person at a Disaster Recovery Center, online at DisasterAssistance.gov, or by Mail or Fax. By mail: FEMA National Processing Service Center, P.O. Box 10055, Hyattsville, MD 20782-7055 By fax: 800-827-8112, Attention: FEMA FEMA cannot duplicate assistance provided to you by another source, such as insurance settlements or another program. However, if your decision letter states you are underinsured you may receive further assistance for unmet needs after insurance claims have been settled by submitting a copy of the insurance settlement or denial documents to FEMA.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



New Texas Laws now in Effect; SCOPE act challenged

NEW TEXAS LAWS NOW IN EFFECT

It took some time, but a set of new laws and rules passed by the Texas Legislature in 2023 went into effect on Sept. 1. Prominent among these are the SCOPE Act, or Securing Children Online Through Parental Empowerment Act, which tightens restrictions for online users younger than 18. Under the SCOPE Act, users must register their age on social media and other websites. Minors are prohibited from making purchases from those sites, which are also required to filter and block certain material. Examples include content that promotes suicide or bullying, as well as trafficking and other forms of exploitation. Violators could be fined up to \$10,000 per incident. One of the bill's co-authors defended its intent. "Testimony from parents and children in committee gave graphic examples underscoring how desperately we need to better protect kids online," state Rep. Shelby Slawson, R-Granbury, wrote. "The SCOPE Act will do just that." Others don't agree. The non-profit Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression sued the state on Aug. 16, challenging the government restrictions. "While these efforts to protect young people are well-intentioned, they lack perspective," the lawsuit states. Another measure that took effect Sept. 1 updates qualifications for family violence shelters that provide lodging and care for domestic abuse victims in order to receive state funding. Criteria now includes providing direct services, establishing a referral service for victims, and having been in operation at least a year.

ELIMINATING PROPERTY TAXES WOULD REQUIRE MASSIVE FUNDING Eliminating the state's property taxes is high on the wish list of some Republican lawmakers. They received a reality check last week when state budget officials said doing so would require the state to produce \$81 billion each year to cover the costs of public schools, as well as the revenue now received by cities, counties and special taxing districts through property taxes. The Texas Tribune reported that Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick directed the Legislative Budget Board to tally the costs of replacing property tax revenue, which funds teacher salaries, law enforcement and many other government functions. Eliminating the tax likely would require a massive increase in sales tax rates - something that appears highly unlikely. State Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston, is Patrick's chief lieutenant on property taxes. He noted \$81.5 billion is "a huge amount of money to be able to replicate." Lawmakers have worked to lower property tax bills the past few sessions by raising the homestead exemption and limiting how much school districts and local governments can collect. But without a state income tax, lawmakers are limited in how to completely replace property taxes with another form of revenue.



TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

PERRY JOINS PHELAN'S TEAM AS ADVISER Former Gov. Rick Perry has joined House Speaker Dade Phelan's office as a senior adviser, the Texas Standard reported. The embattled speaker, who survived a tough runoff race, now faces at least three Republican challengers to his speakership. "[Gov. Perry] understands every facet of the legislative process, and that will be a tremendous asset as we work to strengthen our state's economy, improve education and ensure every member's voice is heard in the Texas House this session," Phelan said in a statement. Phelan has been under fire for backing an ultimately unsuccessful attempt to impeach Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and for being perceived as not conservative enough by some of his Republican colleagues. Perry will serve as a volunteer adviser until the 89th Legislature begins in January.

SCHOOLS HIRING MORE UNCERTIFIED TEACHERS

Critical teaching shortages in Texas are compelling school districts to hire more teachers who have not received formal classroom training, The Texas Tribune reported. The number of uncertified teachers in the state's public schools has risen dramatically since the COVID-19 pandemic, which prompted many longtime educators to leave the profession for various reasons - health concerns, lack of resources, and feeling burned out. As a result, uncertified teachers, many of whom work in rural school districts, accounted for about 38% of newly hired instructors last year. Since 2015, school districts under the District of Innovation law have been able to hire people with different professional experience who then would work on getting certified through alternative certification programs. The last legislative session ended with no significant base funding increases, leaving many school districts with budget shortfalls, and making it even harder to fill teacher vacancies. "When you have a state where their coffers are full and local school districts where their coffers are empty, or in the process of being empty, you're going to have to have some state help to make sure that we're funding these types of programs," said Mark Henry, who served as Cy-Fair ISD's superintendent for more than a decade. According to the Texas Education Agency, the attrition rate among Texas teachers has increased since the start of the pandemic from 9% to 12%. Texas ranks 30th in the nation for average teacher pay - \$8,828 less than the national average, according to the National Education Association.

PAXTON SUING BEXAR COUNTY OVER MAIL VOTER PLAN

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is suing Bexar County over its plan to mail voter registration forms to unregistered residents en masse, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The Bexar County Commissioners Court approved the voter registration plan last week, defying Paxton's warning that he would take them to court. Paxton's suit argues that mail applications could entice felons and other ineligible people to register to vote. Commissioner Justin Rodriguez defended the plan. "From our perspective, this was never a Democrat or Republican endeavor," Rodriguez told the Statesman. "It was making sure we used the resources within the elections office to be innovative, to be proactive when it came to registering voters, and we felt pretty strongly that we're doing everything (as it is) allowed by the Elections Code." Paxton has warned repeatedly of potential voter fraud in November's general election. However, he has not provided evidence of widespread voter fraud in Texas, the Statesman reported.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Used Clothes



I wear used clothes. I remember going to clothing stores years ago and buying new clothes. But about the time I stopped wearing business suits and flying in airplanes for work, I started going to used clothing stores. Then I discovered online consignment stores and, since then, I've hardly bought a new item of clothing except socks and shoes and underwear. I like used clothes. Of course, I like the prices. I've always been frugal and when I see how much a pair of new jeans cost or a new dress, I am shocked. But buying used clothes also eliminates buyer's regret. If the jeans I bought refuse to stay on my hips, or the color of a top is brighter than I like, or my sister tells me I look like an automatic car wash in the new dress I bought for Christmas (and once you see a thing like that, it's hard to unsee), I can donate the clothes to another used clothing store and let them go on their merry way to the next customer, guilt-free. My mother tells me she wore almost exclusively hand-me-downs as a child, which is not surprising since she was the ninth of 11 children, and most of them were girls. She remembers when she got what she called her "Joyce coat," which delighted her to no end because, instead of coming from several sisters before her, this coat had been owned by only one person—a neighbor named Joyce—before my mother got it. There is a picture of her standing in front of the farmhouse wearing her Joyce coat, and she looks very pleased. I was much more spoiled and usually had new clothes as a child. I occasionally got hand-me-downs from a neighbor across the street who was the same age as me but much taller. Lynn was the youngest in her family and the only girl, so she had a lot of nice clothes that she quickly outgrew. I remember I got a beautiful green dress from Lynn that required about an hour to iron. My mother was grateful when I also outgrew it. These days, I occasionally wonder where my clothes came from. It sometimes feels wicked to imagine my clothes living on someone else's body. I imagine there are people who wouldn't like the idea, and that's why they buy new clothes. But I have lived in plenty of houses where other people have lived, so the idea that my clothes have had another life is not troubling. Still, it would be interesting to know the history of my clothes. They are usually in good shape and a lot of my used dresses still have the tags on and little bags of extra buttons, which I promptly lose. I wonder why a particular dress never worked out. I wonder if it was purchased for some occasion that never materialized. I wonder if that was disappointing. Maybe it was bought to wear when the owner lost 20 pounds that remained stubbornly where they were. I will never know. But at some point, someone decided it would be better to get a few pennies on the dollar than to keep it in their closet, and that is where every dress I own has come from. "Where have you been?" I want to ask. The dress remains mum. And that's OK. I imagine my dress had a very dull life, living in someone's closet, never being worn. It makes me want to put that dress on and make sure I have an especially good time while wearing it. Till next time, Carrie

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FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 3:

Texans head to Minnesota: Cowboys have big test against Ravens

Week 3 of the NFL season has the Texans playing their second road game in three weeks, while a lot of eyes will be focused on AT&T Stadium in Arlington when the Cowboys host the Baltimore Ravens in what should be the Game of the Week.

College action continues as conference play commences across the country. In the SEC, No. 7-ranked Tennessee visits No. 15-ranked Oklahoma in a key test for the Sooners, while No. 11-ranked USC heads to No. 17-ranked Michigan to take on a suspect Wolverine team in Big 10 play. Back in the good old days, these two teams would be meeting in the Rose Bowl as the Pac 12 would be facing the Big 10, but the good old days are long gone now with the expansion of the Big 12, Big 10 and SEC.

In the Big 12, No. 14-ranked Kansas State faces a tough road challenge against a BYU team that won its first two games of the season and could enter this one 3-0 if it defeated a struggling Wyoming team last Saturday. Also in the Big 12, No. 12-ranked Utah takes on No. 13-ranked Oklahoma State in Stillwater.

DeMeco Ryan's Texans got off to a nice start to the 2024 season with a 29-27 win at Indianapolis in Week 1. The offense looked solid behind QB C.J. Stroud (234 yards, 2 TDs, running back Joe Mixon (159 yards, 1 TD) and wide receivers Stefon Diggs (6 receptions, 100 yards, 2 TDs) and Nico Collins (8 receptions, 75 yards). The pass defense needs a little work as Colts QB Anthony Richardson passed for 212 yards and two scores against the Texans.

Things should improve this Sunday against a Vikings team that has Sam Darnold as its starting quarterback. Darnold did throw two TD passes in his teams 28-6 season-opening win against a woeful Giants team. The Vikings still have one of the game's best wide receivers in Justin Jefferson, so the Houston secondary will have its hands full if the former LSU star.

Speaking of stars, Dallas owner Jerry Jones made QB Dak Prescott the highest paid player in NFL history prior to Dallas' season-opening victory at Cleveland when he signed Prescott to a four-year, \$240 million contract (\$231 million which is guaranteed). Now, Prescott has to live up to that lofty number and he will become the center of attention in every game he plays going forward. The Ravens have a pretty fair QB in Lamar Jackson and Prescott's big pay day could serve as a motivating factor for Jackson when he takes on the Cowboys in Jerry World on Sunday at 3:25 on FOX, with seven-time Super Bowl winning QB Tom Brady providing color commentary.

Other key games in Week 3 has the Los Angeles Chargers visiting the Pittsburgh Steelers, the Eagles visiting New Orleans, San Francisco facing the Rams in an early-season NFC West showdown and Kansas City visiting Atlanta on Sunday Night Football. Week 3 concludes with two Monday Night games as Jacksonville visits Buffalo and Cincinnati hosts Washington.

Before we take a look at this weekend's games, let's review last week's record. A 10-2 week brought the season record to 18-6 (75%). Now, onto this weekend's games.

Now, onto this weekend's game.

NCAA

Utah at Oklahoma State

The Utes play their first Big 12 road game and it's going to be a tough one when they visit Stillwater to take on Oklahoma State on Saturday. This could very well be the first of two meetings between these two could very well meet again in the Big 12 title game on Dec. 7 in Arlington. Utah is led by QB Cam Rising (346 yards, 7 TDs), running back Micah Bernard (151 yards) and wide receiver Dijon Stanley (4 receptions, 155 yards, 2 TDs). Rising injured his hand two weeks ago in Utah's win over Baylor, but the injury is not considered serious, and he should be good to go on Saturday against the Cowboys. OSU is led by QB Alan Bowman (593 yards, 4 TDS), running back Ollie Gordon (153 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver Brennan Presley (16 receptions, 126 yards, 2 TDs). Two weeks ago, OSU overcame a 21-7 deficit at home and rallied to defeat Arkansas, 39-31 in double overtime. The Utes will discover that playing in Stillwater is no



walk in the park. My pick, Oklahoma State 33, Utah 30

Tennessee at Oklahoma – The Sooners host their first-ever SEC game and what a way to start play in their new conference than by a visit from No. 7-ranked Tennessee and the Vols high-powered offense. In their first two games of the season, the Vols have averaged 60 points a game and have a load of offensive talent, led by QB Nico lamaleava (525 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receiver Don'te Thompson (3 receptions, 105 yards, 2 TDs). They can also run it with Dylan Sampson (256 yards, 5 TDs). OU is led by QB Jackson Arnold (315 yards, 6 TDs) and wide receiver Deion Burks (15 receptions, 89 yards, 3 TDs). OU struggled two weeks ago at home against Houston and if they aren't focused for this one, it could be a forgettable SEC opener for Sooner fans. My pick, Tennessee 31, Oklahoma 20

USC at Michigan – No. 11-ranked USC visits No. 17-ranked Michigan in the Big 10 opener for both schools. The Trojans on their first two games of the year, while the defending national champs struggled in their first two contests, with a lackluster win over Fresno State before being dominated at home by Texas (31-12) two weeks ago. USC is led by QB Miller Moss (607 yards, 2 TDs), running back Woody Marks (173 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver Lake McRae (9 receptions, 137 yards). Michigan has issues at QB as Davis Warren (322 yards, 2 TDs, 3 interceptions) has struggled to make plays in the passing game. This is a Michigan team that is still trying to find itself and things won't get any easier for them on Saturday in the Big House. My pick, USC 27, Michigan 23

Kansas State at BYU – A tough road trip awaits the Wildcats, another Big 12 favorite, when they travel to Provo to take on a tough BYU team. Two weeks ago, the Cougars upset SMU in Dallas 18-15 to improve to 2-0 on the season. KSU will need to get young QB Avery Johnson (334 yards, 4 TDS) going early. Look for him to use his running ability to soften up the BYU defense. Running back DJ Giddens (238 yards) could also help control the clock and keep BYU QB Jake Retzlaff (550 yards, 4 TDs) on the sidelines. My pick, Kansas State 27, BYU 20

NFL

Houston at Minnesota – The Texans play their second road game in three weeks when they take on the Vikings. This will be a homecoming for Texans defensive end Danielle Hunter, who left the Vikings to sign with the Texans and the Texans will face two former teammates in linebacker Brian Cashman and defensive end Jonathan Grennard. It appears the Texans have upgraded at running back with Mixon and another big day from him could help Stroud have another big passing day. On defense, the Texans will need to slow down running back Aaron Jones (94 yards, 1 TD in season opener) and get after Darnold to force him into a turnover or two. The secondary will have its hands full with Jefferson (4 receptions, 59 yards, 1 TD), but look for them to improve from their Week 1 performance as the Texans pick up another big road win. My pick, Houston 24, Minnesota 18

Los Angeles Chargers at Pittsburgh – This should be a defensive battle as Jim Harbaugh's Chargers visit Mike Tomlin's Steelers on Sunday. Pittsburgh's defense was the difference in their 18-10 road win at Atlanta to weeks ago as the unit came up with two sacks and two interceptions. The Chargers also played solid on defense in their 22-10 over the Raiders. The offense got a spark from running back J.K. Dobbins, who rushed for 135 yards and a touchdown. Look for QB Justin Herbert (144 yards, 1 TD) to be tested by the Steeler defense on Sunday. My pick, Pittsburgh 17, Los Angeles Chargers 16

Philadelphia at New Orleans – The Eagles opened the season in Brazil with a 34-29 win over the Packers and the new addition to the offense,

former Giants running back Saquon Barkley was the difference maker with three TDs and 109 rushing yards. Barkley gives QB Jalen Hurts (275 yards, 2 TDs) one more weapon to turn to, which could be bad news for the rest of the NFC. The Saints opened the season by blowing out lowly Carolina, 47-10 as QB Derek Carr passed for 200 yards and 3 TDs, while running back Alvin Kamara picked up 83 yards on the ground and 1 score. Look for the Eagles array of offensive weapons be too much for the Saints on Sunday, especially on that fast turf in the Caesar's Super Dome. My pick, Philadelphia 33, New Orleans 24

Baltimore at Dallas – While Prescott and his new big contract was the big news coming out of Dallas in Week 1, the Cowboys defense was the real story in their 33-17 domination of Cleveland. The Dallas "D" recorded six sacks, two interceptions and the special teams added a score on a punt return for a touchdown. Prescott had a pedestrian day throwing for 179 yards and 1 TD. CeeDee Lamb, who also signed a new, big deal prior to the start of the season, chipped in with five receptions for 61 yards. But it was the Dallas defense that was the story, that and the horrible play of Browns QB Deshaun Watson. This week, the Ravens and Jackson (273 passing yards, 1 TD/122 rushing yards in 27-20 loss to KC) will give the Cowboys a much sterner test. Baltimore added former Titans running back Derek Henry (46 yards, 1 TD) to the offense and Jackson may have found his favorite new target in tight end Isaiah Lively (9 receptions, 111 yards, 1 TD). Prescott will need to step up his game if the Cowboys are to hold off the Ravens on Sunday. Something tells me he will. My pick, Dallas 31, Baltimore 26

Kansas City at Atlanta – Sunday Night Football gives us the Chiefs at the Falcons. The Chiefs got off to a nice start with a 27-20 home win over Baltimore, while Atlanta and their new QB Kirk Cousins (155 yards, 2 interceptions) got off to an awful start with an 18-10 loss at home to the Steelers. Falcons fans were hoping that Cousins was the missing link to take them to the next level, and one bad game should not have them giving up on the season just yet. Cousins has the talent to turn things around. He will need more help from running back Bijan Robinson (68 rushing yards, 5 receptions, 43 yards) to get the offense going. Going up against Patrick Mahomes (291 yards, 1 TD), running back Isiah Pacheco (45 yards, 1 TDS) and wide receivers Rashee Rice (7 receptions, 103 yards) and Xavier Worthy (2 receptions, 47 yards, 1 rushing TD) could be the spark Cousins needs. My pick, Atlanta 24, Kansas City 23

Jacksonville at Buffalo – The Jags visit the Bills in the first of two Monday Night Football games this week. The Jags blew a 10-point lead at Miami in their opener and lost, 20-17 on a late field goal, while Josh Allen (232 passing yards, 2 TDs/39 rushing yards, 2 TDs) led the Bills to a comeback win at home against the Cardinals. Look for Allen to have another big night as the Bills find a way on offense to get the job done. My pick, Buffalo 34, Jacksonville 27

Washington at Cincinnati – The second Monday Night game pits the Commanders against the Bengals who got off to a wretched start to the season by losing at home 16-10 to a New England team that won four games a year ago. Cinci QB Joe Burrow (166 yards) had a bad day and could not make any big plays. Look for him to turn things around and get star wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase (6 receptions, 62 yards) more involved in the offense. Washington looks like it has a star in the making in rookie QB Jayden Daniels (184 passing yards/88 rushing yards, 2 TDs). He played well in the Commander's 37-20 loss at Tampa Bay in Week 1. Look for the Bengals to get things going on offense in Week 3. My pick, Cincinnati 33, Washington 18

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Harris County Fresh Water Supply District No. 6 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on October 9, 2024 at 6:00 PM at 15902 Market Street, Channelview, Texas 77530. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners. 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.

For the proposal: Gary O'Brian Darrell Fry Carl Green Jerry Thayer

Against the proposal:

Present and not voting:

Absent: Edgar Granados

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
	Adopted	Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.192510/\$100	\$0.181930/\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$-0.010580
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		-5.50%
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$108,491	\$118,805
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$16,274	\$17,821
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$92,217	\$100,984
Tax on average residence homestead	\$177.52	\$183.72
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted(+/-)		\$6.20
and percentage of increase (+/-)		3.49%

If the proposed combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate requires or authorizes an election to approve or reduce the tax rate the Board of Directors of Harris County Fresh Water Supply District No. 6 proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of Operations & Maintenance.

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

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.

If you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact the tax office at 281-426-8156.

North Shore Crushes Westfield 47 - 3

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Brown (1 TD), Terence Blackshure (1 TD), kicker Jonathan Soto a 3 point field goal & 5 extra point kicks & La'Damian De-freeze 1 extra point kick.

Quarterback Caleb Bailey had a 67 percent pass completion record throwing for 106 yds one was a TD pass. The offense made 281 yds, 153 passing and 128 rushing. Quanell Farrakhan made 2 TD's one was on a 95 yd punt return to give the Stangs their first score in the game.

D'Andre Hardeman has become their main run-

ning back and no team yet can slow him down. A senior at 5'9" and 200 pounds is a power runner and doesn't go down easy, he fights and manages to break tackles picking up crucial yards and wears down the defense.

North Shore is undefeated with a 3-0 record and won't play this next week. Their next game is a home district game against Humble Wildcats also undefeated on Thursday, September 26th at 7PM. Linda Jamaill photographer and statistician.



#33 Lorenzo Lathan NS defensive back tackles Westfield's #23 Demonte Ford for a loss of yds. (Photo by Allan Jamaill)



North Shore team captains: LtoR: #3-Deon DeBlanc, #63-Derrick Hayes, #17-Kylan Darville and #21-Morris Taylor. (Photo by Linda Jamaill)



SCORES & SCHEDULES WEEK 3

LAST WEEK'S SCORES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
Aldine Eisenhower 24, West Fork 14
C. E. King 42, Spring DeKaney 0
Galena Park 36, Madison 8

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
Aldine 9, Northbrook 6 OT
Aldine Davis 31, Cypress Lakes 17
Baytown Lee 26, Baytown Sterling 17
Clear Brook 43, Goose Creek Memorial 20
Clear Creek 26, Channelview 25 OT
Deer Park 50, Barbers Hill 42 OT
Fort Bend Marshall 27, Crosby 14
Huffman Hargrave 61, Splendor 27
North Shore 47, Spring Westfield 3
West Brook 35, Aldine MacArthur 7

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
Houston Chavez at Baytown Sterling, 7 p.m., Stallworth Stadium in Baytown

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
Aldine, bye
Aldine Davis, bye
Aldine Eisenhower, bye
Aldine MacArthur, bye
C. E. King, bye
Channelview, bye
Crosby, bye
Foster at Barbers Hill, 7 p.m., Eagle Stadium in Mont Belvieu
Goose Creek Memorial, bye
Huffman Hargrave, bye
Iowa Colony at Baytown Lee, 7 p.m., Stallworth Stadium in Baytown
North Shore, bye

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
Galena Park at Houston Sterling, 6 p.m., Barnett Stadium in Houston

Port of Houston at Chamber Luncheon,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from the very beginning when the Allen brothers came up Buffalo Bayou to found the city of Houston.

"They might have come in a canoe or something similar. There was no ship channel, only Buffalo Bayou and the San Jacinto River and the average depth was reportedly a mere 10 feet deep," he said, prohibitive of any ocean-going or seabound vessels.

In the early years, he explained, the original Port of Houston was at the foot of Main Street in downtown Houston.

"There the cargo would be loaded and unloaded onto barges to go to Galveston and New Orleans for transit overseas," he said.

The shipping business increased rapidly, but Houston needed a deep-water channel and Congressman Tom Ball following his election went to work on the project. Ball was able to convince the federal government and the region to share in the cost of digging the 52-mile channel.

"In 1911, a campaign was launched to persuade Harris County voters to approve \$1.25 million in bonds to pay for the local share to dredge the waterway," the Port of Houston website said.

The Port of Houston was ceremonially opened on November 10, 1914, and has seen exponential growth since.

Frisby confessed to being an overachiever and liked the same for the Port.

"We are No. 1 in several categories including being the No. 1 U.S. port, higher than LA and New York, in terms of the volume of cargo that we handle. We're also extremely strong in the different petrochemical and oil and gas trades," he said. They also lead the nation in the export of propane, ethane, butane, plastics, and commodity grade plastics.

"We're the number one exporter of petroleum, petroleum products, and we're the number one container port on the US Gulf Coast. And we have the busiest deep-draft federal navigation channel out of any port complex in the nation," he said.

The Port also boasts the number one port for steel in the U.S. and have more than 8,000 deep-draft vessels that have arrived into the port complex in the last year.

"That's complemented by an estimated 200,000 barge transits per year," he said. Frisby noted that the heart of the energy complexes included some six refineries surrounded by dozens and dozens of chemical plants, third-party tanking, and many other related industries that feed off of each other.

"They are all connected with one of the densest pipeline networks in the nation. A pipeline map of the ship channel region looks like a plate of spaghetti going everywhere and all amounts to approximately 500 million barrels of liquid storage," he explained.

He estimated 70 per-

cent of the total volume handled on the channel was liquid petroleum-based cargo.

The dry bulk business is primarily grains, steel, cement, and steel. Frisby said the chief trade host is Latin America.

"We're the closest region to them and they also have a deficit in chemicals and refined products," he said.

Who receives all of those exports?

"If it's on the globe, you can put a pin in it for a Houston connection," he said.

In other chamber business, the leadership recognized businesses who had been members for five, 10, and 15 years and awarded them a framed certificate. Those celebrating five years included Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia, South Trust Bank, Navarro Insurance, Mike's Gates, Laquinta Houston East, HCA Houston Emergency Room, Harris County Transit, Anderson Center For The Arts, and Affordable Dentures and Implants.

Businesses celebrating 10 years included Southwest Galvanizing, Bryant's Termite and Pest Control, JSD Global, LLC, Harris County ESD #6, and Youth-Reach Houston.

Businesses celebrating 15 years included Candlewood Suites Houston-I-10 East, Karla G-Kidd, Greens Bayou Coalition, Everitt Industrial Supply, and Bill Palko.



Businesses celebrating five years of membership included Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia, South Trust Bank, Navarro Insurance, Mike's Gates, Laquinta Houston East, HCA Houston Emergency Room, Harris County Transit, Anderson Center For The Arts, and Affordable Dentures and Implants.



Businesses celebrating 10 years included Southwest Galvanizing, Bryant's Termite and Pest Control, JSD Global, LLC, Harris County ESD #6, and Youth-Reach Houston.



Businesses celebrating 15 years included Candlewood Suites Houston-I-10 East, Karla G-Kidd, Greens Bayou Coalition, Everitt Industrial Supply, and Bill Palko.

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Legal Notice

To All Interested persons, The City of Jacinto City has received Variance Hearing Applications for the following addresses:

1726 Jennifer Ln - DeSantiago, Artemio is wanting to proceed with construction of a new front porch that exceeds the Front Setback Lines by 7ft.

10822 East FWY - Relax Foot Massage Xi-is wanting to open a foot/relax massage business at this location.

The Board will hear the petition on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, Starting at 6:30 p.m. at the City Hall Annex, 10301 Market St. Any Interested person may attend.

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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, on Bid Forms provided, addressed to the Mayor and City Council of City of Jacinto City, Texas, Harris County, will be received at City Hall, 1301 Mercury Drive, Houston, Texas 77029 until 5:00 P.M., Thursday, October 24, 2024, and then publicly opened and read during the Thursday, October 24, 2024, City Council Meeting at 6:00 P.M. held at the Council Chambers, 10301 Market Street, Jacinto City, Texas 77029 for construction of the:

**City of Jacinto City Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements – 2024
CDBG-MIT PROJECT NO. 22-085-053-D306**

Scope of Work: Work on this project includes the replacement of two (2) final clarifiers; provide and install single drop aeration in existing aerobic digesters; provide and install three (3) PD blowers; provide and install a non-potable water system; construct a concrete dechlorination and flow measurement basin; construct modifications to existing chlorine contact basins; miscellaneous site piping; electrical and instrumentation; and SCADA.

The project to be constructed will be financed with assistance from the General Land Office (GLO) under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) program and is subject to all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations. Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing Davis-Bacon and Related Acts wage rate, as issued by the Department of Labor and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. Adherence to the City of Jacinto City Section 3 Policy is required for all contracts.

Accompany Bids with acceptable Cashier's or Certified Check in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total base bid amount bid, payable without recourse to the City, or a Bid Bond of like amount from an approved surety company, as a guarantee that bidder will enter into a contract.

Secure Plans and Specifications from LJA Engineering, Inc., at <https://bids.lja.com> for No Cost for an electronic copy for each set of documents. A printed set can be picked up at LJA Engineering, Inc., East Houston Office, 11821 East Freeway, Suite 360, Houston, TX 77029.

Examine documents at the East Houston office of LJA Engineering, Inc, Amtek Plan Room, Dodge Data & Analytics, AGC of Texas, Construct Connect and the City.

The City of Jacinto City reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by City of Jacinto City for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.

A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Thursday, October 3, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. at the City of Jacinto City Police Department, 10429 Market Street, Houston, Texas 77029, Second Floor Conference Room and virtually through Microsoft Teams. To join virtually, the link is: <https://shorturl.at/hC690> or join by phone by calling +1 346-202-6170 and entering Conference ID: 606 959 228#.

City of Jacinto City
Ana Diaz
Mayor

**Harris County Water Control Improvement District No. 21
Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate**

The Harris County Water Control Improvement District No. 21 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on October 7, 2024 at 5 p.m. at 15808 Avenue C, Channelview, TX. 77530. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

FOR the proposal: Jimmy L. Ramsey, Floyd A. Carroll, Wesley Hutchins, Brian Uhazie & Bill Hamblen
AGAINST the proposal: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: None

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	2023 Last Year \$0.28/\$100 Adopted	2024 This Year \$0.235/\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		(\$0.045/\$100) -16.07%
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)	\$ 156,732	\$ 169,628
Average appraised residence homestead value		
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	0% \$ 156,732	20% \$ 135,702
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 438.85	\$ 318.90
Tax on average residence homestead		
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		(\$119.95) -27.33%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

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.

Utility Tax Service, LLC
(713) 688-3865

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON TAX INCREASE**

A tax rate of \$0.603444 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of City of Jacinto City.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.603444 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.582938 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.605150 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 City of Jacinto City 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 City of Jacinto City 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 City of Jacinto City is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 26, 2024 AT 6:00 PM AT 10301 Market Street, Houston, Texas 77029.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, City of Jacinto City 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 City Council of City of Jacinto City 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:

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

FOR the proposal: Mayor, Ana Diaz Councilman, Jimmy Rivas
Councilman, Gregg Robinson Councilman, Allen Lee
Councilman, Mario Gonzales

AGAINST the proposal:

PRESENT and not voting:

ABSENT: Councilwoman, Carmela Garcia

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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 City of Jacinto City last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by City of Jacinto City this year.

	2023	2024	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.596874	\$0.603444	increase of 0.006570 per \$100, or 1.10%
Average homestead taxable value	\$171,171	\$181,988	increase of 6.32%
Tax on average homestead	\$1,021.68	\$1,098.20	increase of 76.52, or 7.49%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$4,153,071	\$4,330,586	increase of 177,515, or 4.27%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for City of Jacinto City at 713-274-8000 or Tax.office@tax.hctx.net, or visit www.hctx.net for more information.

**Water District
Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate**

Harris County Fresh Water Supply District No. 47 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on September 26, 2024 at 5 p.m., at 210 Brookview, Channelview, Texas. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even or decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Teas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://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.

FOR the proposal: Dennis Hamala, Jack Dautzat, Michael Oballe, Amy Miller
AGAINST the proposal: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: Joshua Shankle

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year \$0.7056/\$100 Adopted	This Year \$0.6625/\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-\$0.0431/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-6.10%
Average appraised value	\$154,775	\$170,613
General exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disable person's exemptions)	\$15,477	\$17,061
Average taxable value	\$139,298	\$153,552
Tax on average residence homestead	\$982.89	\$1,017.28
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		+\$34.39 +3.49%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

The Harris County Fresh Water Supply District No.47 proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of making bond payments and improvements to the system. 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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