

After a thriller upset
GP Coach Spiro
Amarantos
handshakes with
Sterling Coach Gary
Jessie.
GP 20 - Rangers 18
Photo by Linda
Jamail
SEE PHOTO BELOW
and STORY PAGE 7



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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

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CHANNEL CURRENTS



Ley YMCA National Night Out and Fall Festival Oct. 1st

You are invited to a National Night Out at the W.D.Ley YMCA, from 5pm to 8pm on Tuesday night, October 1st.

Festive Food, Kids Activities, Crafts, and a Vendor's Market.

Info brittany.haskins@ymcahouston.org.

15055 Wallisville Road, Channelview, TX.

Pct. 2 National Night Out Oct. 1st

You are invited to a National Night Out at the Flukinger Community Center, from 5pm to 8pm on Tuesday night, October 1st.

Festive Food, Kids Activities, Crafts, and a Vendor's Market.

16003 Lorenzo Street, Channelview, TX.

"National Night Out" "LA NOCHE DE LOS VECINOS" "America's Night Out" Against Crime

October 1, 2024

TUESDAY

6:00 P.M. TO 9 P.M.

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Give Neighborhood Crime & Drugs A GOING AWAY PARTY

County votes Tax Increase; \$2.67b Budget

By Tim Carlin

HARRIS COUNTY – Harris County raised property tax rates by 7 cents per \$100, and passed a \$2.67 billion budget, over District Attorney Kim Ogg's objections. Despite last minute pushback from District Attorney Kim Ogg and the panel's lone Republican, Harris County Commissioners Court passed its \$2.67 billion budget last Thursday with the increase.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey attempted, unsuccessfully, to add back \$6 million to the Harris County District Attorney's office's budget that was removed after the district attorney's office failed to comply with a requirement that departments propose spending plans

that include potential cuts equal to 5 percent of last year's budget.

Ogg and members of her top brass spoke before the court earlier Thursday, saying that without the \$6 million the office would need to layoff experienced employees.

Harris County Budget Director Daniel Ramos rebutted the claim, saying the district attorney's current budget would carry the office through the end of the year without issue.

To assuage Ogg's concerns, the court amended the budget by instructing the county's office of management and budget to work with the district attorney's office to ensure no layoffs take place between the start of the next fiscal year in October and the beginning of 2025 when a

new district attorney will take office.

Also in this year's budget is the start of a five-year plan to help offset any future structural deficits to the county's finances. Each year, the amount of deficit reductions will vary based on necessity, Ramos said.

This year the budget includes nearly \$26 million in deficit reductions.

Those reductions largely will come in the form of revenue enhancements, much of it in a direct transfer from the Harris County Toll Road Authority. The budget only includes \$1 million in cost-cutting measures to reduce the current deficit.

The budget office identified jail costs, indigent defense, natural disasters and health care costs as key factors his office had to

take into account when creating the fiscal 2025 spending plan.

Population growth in the county jail has caused \$85 million in additional spending, Ramos wrote. When the Texas Commission on Jail Standards began decreasing the Harris County Jail's bed capacity, more spending was needed to outsource inmates.

The county's indigent defense costs also have increased in recent years. Last year alone, Harris County spent more than \$100 million on court-appointed lawyers for people who cannot afford to pay for their own legal representation.

Three natural disasters – the May 2 flooding event, the May 16 Derecho and Hurricane Beryl – will require about \$50 million in

clean-up expenses. The county, however, is anticipating the Federal Emergency Management Agency to reimburse 70 percent of those costs.

The county also is budgeting for an increase in health care costs for its employees in the next fiscal year, anticipating a "substantial" rise in medical inflation.

Raising tax rates
In addition to the budget, Commissioners Court also approved the first overall property tax rate increase in six years.

The court formally increased the overall property tax rate to 60.4 cents per \$100 of assessed value, just more than 7 cents higher than the current

Continued. See COUNTY TAX INCREASE, Page 2

Studio Opening draws city-wide viewers

By Allan Jamail

Houston, Texas – September 14, 2024, The Silos at Sawyer Yards, 1502 Sawyer Street is home to Houston's artist Mei Hoffman. She's located in Suite 113 and if you visit her studio it'll be an experience you'll enjoy. She's an artist of Fine Art, created for aesthetic or intellectual purposes. Fine art is beautiful and can convey ideas, emotions and memories.

My wife Linda and I made it our goal to be the first to sign the studio's grand opening guest book. Our early arrival allowed us to visit with Mei so she could show us her paintings and describe her thoughts about painting them. They all were life-like and depicted many different subjects. Visitors would be able to resonate with most of them as they

Continued. See MORE PHOTOS on Page 2



Mei Hoffman (center) at her Art Studio's Grand Opening. One of four walls in her studio of Fine Art Paintings. Located at The Silos at Sawyer Yards, Suite 113, 1502 Sawyer Street, Houston. L - R: Wendy Reichert, Mei Hoffman & Patricia Hoffman (Photo by Allan Jamail)



Mei Hoffman with a self-portrait. In opening her own art studio she pursuing and fulfilling her lifelong dream. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



Susan and Sarah Hill, friends of the artist seen at right, commented on the amount of work on display, and had a hard time picking their favorites from the many choices.



First guests to arrive at the Grand Opening were Linda and Allan Jamail. Allan takes all the great sports photos for the newspapers, and now Art.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH HONOREE – (2nd of a series) Celebrating Sylvia Garcia

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX ~ September 23, 2024 is the second week of Hispanic Heritage Month to be observed 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 honoree this week is Congresswoman Sylvia R. Garcia whom I've known for about 45 years and watched her grow into becoming one of the nation's most influential congressional representatives'.

Just as her parents believed in her future, Congresswoman Garcia believes the children of Texas can



U.S. Congresswoman Sylvia R. Garcia

do anything. Garcia has dedicated her life to her community and to public service. As a social worker and legal aid lawyer early in her professional career, she protected our community's most vulnerable, old and young, and ensured no one was forgotten.

Congresswoman Sylvia R. Garcia is a native of Palito Blanco, a South Texas farming com-

Continued. See HISPANIC HERITAGE HONOREE, Page 3

YELLOW JACKETS WIN THRILLER 20-18 IN LAST 14 SECONDS



#16 Hunter James' Game Winning TD 23 yd pass catch in end zone with 14 seconds remaining in game from backup junior quarterback #12 Juan Soto. (Photo by Linda Jamail) SEE FULL GAME STORY ON PAGE 7.

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Sheldon ISD hosts Null Middle School Ribbon Cutting



On September 16, Sheldon ISD revealed the new 43,000 square feet addition of Null Middle School during a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. With performances from the Null band, cheerleaders, choir and dance team, the Sheldon ISD community gathered to celebrate the new addition to the school. The new space includes 20 new classrooms and was a part of the 2022 bond referendum to support student enrollment growth.

Superintendent's Scholar Squad Holds first meeting for New year



On September 17, members of the Superintendent's Scholar Squad held its first meeting at the NEY Administration Building. The Superintendent's Scholar Squad is a student advisory program and offers recommendations to support school system programs and initiatives. Members are Sheldon ISD elementary, middle and high school students who focus on continuous improvement throughout the district.

The group is made up of 13 members representing various schools in Sheldon ISD. During the first meeting, students got to know one another and learned more about the school district and their community. Together, the squad will determine a community service project in the Sheldon community and work on ways to make a difference for others. Students will meet monthly throughout the school year to provide feedback and assist in the Sheldon community.



County Tax Increase; \$2.67b Budget passed,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

levy.

For the owner of a \$274,000 home – the median home value in Harris County, according to the Harris Central Appraisal District – with the standard 20 percent homestead exemption, next year's tax bill will go up about \$162.

A state-imposed tax cap requires local governments to get voter approval before raising tax revenues by more than 3.5 percent. That cap, however, does not apply during declared disasters, which this year include the May derecho and Hurricane Beryl.

One part of the county's property tax rate, the Harris County Flood Control District levy, is contingent upon voter approval this November.

Commissioners Court is asking voters to approve a flood control rate of 3.78 cents per \$100 of assessed value – a 1.5-cent increase – to help modernize the county's flood mitigation system.

If approved, the increased tax rate would generate an additional \$100 million in revenue for the Flood Control District. That money would be used to improve flood mitigation and allow the county to operate on a 67-year rehabilitation and replacement schedule. The district currently operates on a 270-year rehab and replacement rate.

--Houston Landing



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SHELDON ISD COMMUNITY FALL FESTIVAL
Saturday, Oct. 26

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Trunk-or-Treat

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!

CHARLOTTE'S WEB
By Charlotte Jackson 

Living with Intentionality

Life is short. Life can be rough. Families are scattered across the city, state and often across America. Friends go off to college or to start a career in another state. Marriages, divorces, death, and other reasons move us from where we were raised. Yet, we still need contact with others. Thank goodness for telephones and email that help us keep in touch, but nothing replaces a hug.

I have truly been blessed with a large network of individuals who have touched my life over the years. Some of whom I see more often than biological family. I can always count on Cindy, someone I met in 1980 at the University of Texas, to send a text message every holiday. Or Sarah, who was my roommate at the Scottish Rite Dormitory, who sends an "end of the year" newsletter filling me in on her life for that year.

There is Kristal, who I met at North Shore Junior High in 1973. When my children were younger, they loved spending time with "Aunt Kristal" going out to eat and especially going to ride go-karts. Life has gotten busy and now I typically see her when I stop into her amazing store, Jubilee in the Heights. Yet, we talk at least twice a month about so many topics. The most pressing currently is to get out the vote. I met her the same time I met Tim. He entered the Catholic Seminary. He served at St. Andrew Catholic Church as a priest. He was assigned to a church that I thought was so far away. It was way out on Westheimer and Sam Houston Parkway. Yet we stayed in touch. My daughter accidentally slammed Tim's hand in the car door. He became active with environmental justice. He moved to Midtown. We meet several times a year at those places such as Star Pizza or Niko Niko's that are filled with so many memories of time spent over the years.

Another one of those friends who I do not see enough of, is Joe. We met in 1972. He would always invite me to church with him. He lives in Kingwood, and he retired from teaching choir after many years. He is more active today than ever. We keep in touch through social media and unfortunately, the last few times we have seen each other in person have been at funerals.

When I changed employers through the years, I have been blessed to keep in touch with many former coworkers. There are some who were always more like family than coworkers. And I have quite a few friends who I met while working for the Houston Rockets that I keep in touch with yet those who pray for me, text me and put dates on the calendar regularly, are the ones that I am most blessed by.

This past Saturday, a group of ten ladies met for brunch. We laughed, we had amazing food and we shared about how we all met. It was a group of ladies who may have never met had it not been for the love that each share for life. We had to put the date on the calendar weeks ago. We had a few ladies who could not attend at the last moment, but we enjoyed our morning. We must live intentionally. We must stay connected.

JC National Night Out 2023 Honorees Receive Ceremonial Certificates



CUTLINE: Jacinto City National Night Out 2023 Recipients' of Pct. 2 Adrian Garcia Ceremonial Certificates. NNO is a nationwide crime prevention program for citizens to come together to fight crime. Interested 2024 NNO sponsors contact Allan Jamail, 281-782-0401 / allanj211@aol.com L -R: Allan Jamail, host, Anali Gomez & Aldo Hernandez sponsors & Sandra Zamarripa, Community Liaison for Adrian Garcia, Commissioner Pct. 2 presenter of ceremonial certificates (8-28-24) (Photo by Linda Jamail)

Hispanic Heritage Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Congresswoman Sylvia R. Garcia on her Early life as a native of Palito Blanco, a South Texas farming community.

munity. The eighth of ten children, Congresswoman Garcia saw her parents struggle to raise her and her siblings. Congresswoman Garcia's parents taught her that with hard work and a good education she could accomplish anything. As a result of these lessons, Congresswoman Garcia dedicated herself to success at school. She earned a scholarship to Texas Woman's University in Denton, where she graduated with a degree in social work and political science. Congresswoman Garcia then received her Doctor of Jurisprudence from Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University in Houston, working several jobs to pay for her tuition.

Garcia continued her public service career by serving as Director and Presiding Judge of the Houston Municipal System for an unprecedented five terms under two mayors.

In 1998, she was elected Houston's City Controller, the second highest elected official in Houston city government and its chief financial officer. She quickly earned a reputation as the taxpayers' watchdog, fighting to protect the pocketbooks of working families and ensuring the City was transparent and accountable.

After two terms as Controller, Congresswoman Garcia broke barriers in Harris County, when she was elected to the Harris County Commissioner's Court. The first Hispanic and first woman to be elected in her own right to the office, she continued her advocacy for working families and made certain Harris County took care of its most defenseless, all while making certain Harris County led the way for new jobs and economic development.

Congresswoman Garcia was sworn in to the Texas State Senate on March 11, 2013, representing Senate District 6. She became the seventh woman and the third Hispanic woman to serve in the upper chambers after winning a special runoff election for the seat of the late Senator Mario Gallegos.

Over three terms in the Texas Senate, Congresswoman Garcia has been a fighter for her district and advocat-

ed for veterans, immigrant rights, women's health and access to healthcare. She has passed numerous bills including the Relationship Privacy Act which outlaws revenge pornography, the Truckers Against Trafficking Bill, which requires human trafficking training for commercial drivers, and the School Bus Safety Act, which requires school buses in Texas to have seat-belts.

In 2018, Congresswoman Garcia decided to take her fight to Washington. She ran to represent her community, country and family in Congress. On January 3, 2019 she was inaugurated to represent Texas Congressional District 29. She became the first Hispanic member of the Houston Congressional Delegation and one of the first two Latinas to represent the State of Texas in the U.S. Congress.

Congresswoman Garcia serves as the Vice Ranking Member of the House Financial Services Committee. During her first year in Congress, she played a critical role in the impeachment investigation against Donald Trump. On January 15, 2020, she was selected as one of seven impeachment managers tasked with making the case to the American people and the Senate for the removal of Donald Trump as President of the United States.

She is the first Hispanic and one of the first three women to ever serve as an impeachment manager in a presidential impeachment trial.

The most recent achievement Garcia made was in August when she was named/appointed Chief Deputy Whip in the U.S. House of Representatives. This new role puts her in a position to help Democrats organize members before big important votes. She'll work as go-between top leaders and rank-and-file members.

Congresswoman Garcia has been named "Humanitarian of the Year" by the National Conference of Communities and Justice and chosen as one of "Houston's 25 Power People" by Inside Houston magazine. She has been awarded the Hispanic Scouting Distinguished Citizen Award from the Sam Houston Area Boy Scouts of America, the Mexican American Legal Defense & Education Fund Matt Garcia Public Service Award and the Houston GLBT Political Caucus Eleanor Tinsley Award.

Active in the Houston community, Congresswoman Garcia has served on more than 25 community boards and commissions, including the San Jacinto Girl Scouts, the Houston Hispanic Forum, the American Leadership Forum, Battleship Texas and the Museum of Fine Arts - Houston.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: The Story behind 'Citrine'....?



Colored gemstone fans consider citrine to be at the top of their must-collect list. The sunny yellow stones are celebrated for their cheerful range of hues and exceptional clarity. These appealing traits are classic to the material's species - quartz. Quartz, as many rockhounds are well aware, is about the most abundant mineral on earth.

This pleasant gemstone has been beloved for centuries and took its pretty name from Old French, meaning lemon. How apt.

A Deeply Storied Past

The luminous stone harkens back to ancient China, we're told. They called it 'The Stone of Success', and because of that, Chinese people believed citrine should only be given to generous and worthy people. Citrine jewelry was revered by China's ancient emperors who said it had an ability to increase intellectual capabilities.

Modern Chinese students, it's said, keep citrine on hand to help them succeed in exams. Their professors have citrines nearby to aid their lecturing.

With a Mohs Scale hardness rating of 7, citrine resists scratching and is durable enough for day-to-day wear. Citrine is mainly produced in Brazil. Quantities can be found in Madagascar, Sri Lanka, Bolivia, Spain, Burma, Canada, and in the US, Colorado.

Available in large crystal sizes, this stone is ideal for many applications. If you look long enough, you'll discover gemstone artists using large citrine crystals for sculptural work, besides jewelry.

Big Discovery

How large does citrine get, you wonder? In 2010, possibly the largest citrine was unveiled in Malaga, Spain - and it weighed over 20,200 carats. It was actually found in Brazil, but it took on the Malaga moniker since it was shown for the first time to the international gemstone world in Malaga, Spain.



Thanks for the Color

Citrine owes its delightful tint to the presence of iron in the quartz. The greater the concentration of iron, the more intense the coloration. You'll see tones ranging from pale yellow - similar to lemonade, all the way to an intense reddish-brown - think strong Lipton tea.

The reddish-brown varieties display a range of tints. They are lesser known and offer intriguing options as a jewelry choice. Madeira Citrine, one such variety of citrine is rich and complex in its coloration. Gemstone fans who adore spessartites, padparadschas, and orange sapphire and zircon will take quickly to Madeira citrine.

Madeira for the Win

The sophisticated Madeira citrine tint was named after the Brazilian word meaning wood, or wood colored. But it is also associated with Madeira wine - that robust caramel colored Portuguese drink that originated in the Madeira Islands off the coast of Africa. That kind of citrine deserves a toast!

Caps



Museum visitors admiring the Malaga Citrine in Spain.

Madeira citrine can be found in Zambia, Brazil, Uruguay, and Madagascar. Before we had reliable gemstone testing, the variety was often mistaken for topaz.

Nowadays, Madeira citrine is considered one of the most coveted of citrine's varieties. While it can hold its own in the company of orange sapphire, zircon, spessartite garnet and the like, its affordable price points make it especially attractive. Madeira citrine's use in bridal jewelry and other special jewelry is affordable for the designer as well as the price conscious consumer. (Article courtesy of Southern Jewelry News)

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

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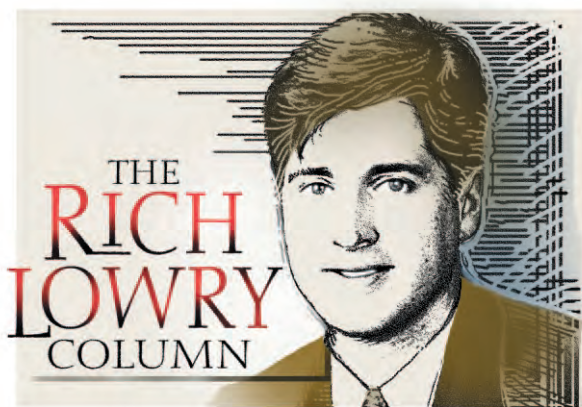
Axl and Izzy are both certified grief therapy dogs. You can follow them on Facebook and Instagram @GriefTherapyDood

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OPINION PAGE

OPINION



The real scandal in Springfield, Ohio

In what ranks as one of the most memorable debate moments in recent history, Donald Trump said that Haitian immigrants are eating people's pets in Springfield, Ohio.

No one has yet turned up evidence that this is true, although there is an audio recording of a man reporting that he witnessed four Haitian immigrants absconding with geese from a local pond.

Since everyone is always happy to see geese go someplace else, this call hasn't made much of an impression on the debate over Trump's comments, which, true to form, were the most incendiary thing he could say about Springfield.

Even if Tabby and Fido aren't on the menu in the small Ohio town, the fact remains that a place with a population of 60,000 has seen an influx of 15,000 to 20,000 Haitian immigrants since 2020, making the new arrivals a wildly disproportionate share of the population in short order.

Prior to this point, Springfield had nothing to do with Haiti, and looking at the map, a town located between Columbus and Dayton would be one of the least likely places to have anything to do with Haiti. It is very far from Little Haiti in Miami, and it had no pre-existing Haitian population or an infrastructure to provide services to Haitian Creole speakers.

No matter. Under the Biden administration's open-handed immigration policies, every place in the country has become subject to sudden, disruptive demographic change. We've seen it in big cities, where Democratic mayors have complained of the associated burdens, and now we are seeing it in a small city. To match in relative terms what's happened in Springfield, more than 2 million migrants would have had to arrive in New York City in the past several years.

Numbers matter. No one would care if there were 150 new Haitian migrants in Springfield since 2020, or 1,500. But 15,000 is a different proposition. Quantity, as they say, has a quality all of its own.

To be clear, Haitian immigrants (many permitted here legally under Biden policy) didn't begin showing up in Springfield hoping to filch unsuspecting domestic short hairs. Rather, they were looking for work in a city that was seeing something of an economic revival. That's all well and good, but people are more than cogs to be plugged into warehouses or manufacturing operations.

They come with families and with needs for housing, health care and education. They have pre-existing cultural predilections different from ours (Haiti and the United States are very different places), and if they don't speak the language, that makes everything even more difficult. Nor are resources unlimited. Health care facilities, schools and the housing stock have all been strained in Springfield.

The New York Times reports that consultations began to take three times as long at the local community health center. The head of the clinic told the paper: "We lost productivity. We had huge burnout of staff." It hired six Haitian Creole speakers, and annual spending on translation services increased from \$43,000 in 2020 to \$436,000.

The school district, according to the Times, has had to hire two dozen new English-as-a-second-language instructors and several interpreters.

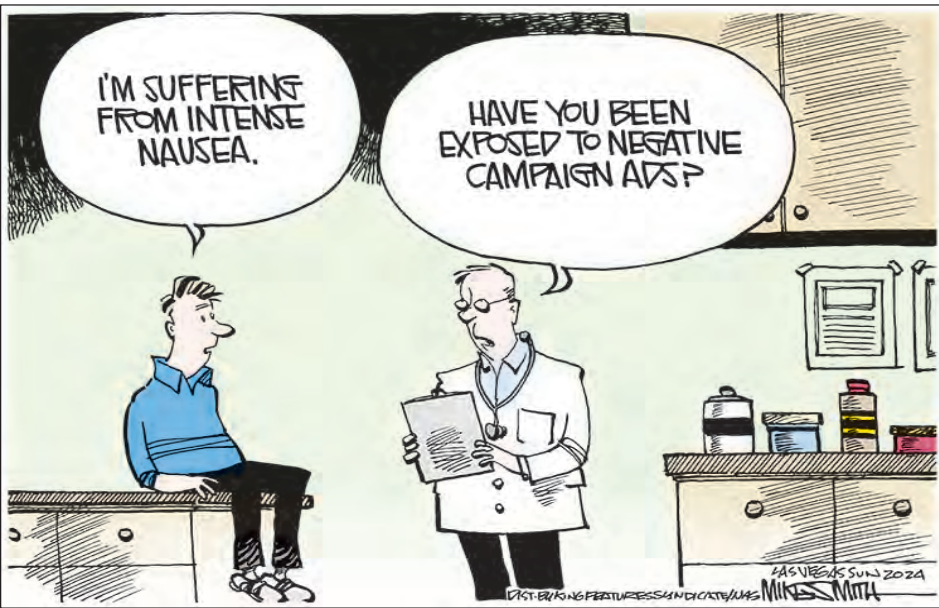
The city manager, Bryan Heck, wrote a letter to U.S. senators saying that the influx is "putting a significant strain on our resources and ability to provide ample housing for all of our residents." The Haitians also tend to be poor drivers. Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has pledged help from the state highway patrol.

News reports often dismiss the concerns of residents as ill-informed or xenophobic. Their complaints about the costs and disorder associated with the wave of immigration are legitimate, though, and the sense that the town has undergone a large-scale change that no one was consulted about is very real. Who signed up to become a laboratory for Biden's experiment in permitting Haitians to come to and stay in the United States?

The cats and dogs may be safe and sound, but all is not right in Springfield.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Border Patrol Faulted in Uvalde School Shooting

A 200-page report from the Department of Homeland Security faulted U.S. Border Patrol agents who rushed to the Uvalde school shooting in 2022, concluding they "failed to establish command and had inadequate training" in one of the deadliest classroom attacks.

The Dallas Morning News reported. A lone shooter killed 19 students and two teachers inside a classroom during a 70-minute standoff before a tactical team led by the Border Patrol went inside and killed him. "The failure of arriving law enforcement personnel to establish identifiable incident management or command and control protocols led to a disorganized response to the Robb Elementary School shooting," the report stated. "No law enforcement official ever clearly established command at the school during the incident, leading to delays, inaction, and potentially further loss of life." Two Uvalde school officers have been indicted for allegedly failing to act promptly and have pleaded not guilty. The victims' families have filed a \$500 million federal lawsuit against those who responded to the shooting.

VEHICLE INSPECTIONS END IN 2025

Texas car safety inspections will no longer be required in 2025, after HB 3297 passed the Legislature in 2023.

The Austin American-Statesman reported inspections end Jan. 1, though drivers living in and near major Texas cities will still be required to take their vehicles in for emission tests. Although actual inspection is ending, all noncommercial vehicles in Texas still will be charged a \$7.50 inspection fee when the vehicle is registered with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. Counties requiring emission tests to comply with federal clean-air requirements are Brazoria, Collin, Dallas, Denton, El Paso, Ellis, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Johnson, Kaufman, Montgomery, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, Travis and Williamson. Costs range from \$11.50 to \$35.50, depending on what tests are required. Diesel vehicles and motorcycles are exempt from emissions testing.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

DEER DISEASE THREATENS STATE'S BREEDING INDUSTRY

Texas deer breeders say their livelihoods are threatened by steps being taken by the state to limit chronic wasting disease, The Texas Tribune reported. The easily transmissible disease has been detected in Texas since 2012. As of August, 387 cases have been reported this year in 31 of the state's 254 counties. This includes cases in 34 captive breeding facilities. The disease gradually erodes a deer's neurological functions. It is not known to infect humans. "This disease is literally eating holes in the deer's brain," Kip Adams, a wildlife biologist with the National Deer Association, said. Breeders in areas where CWD has been reported can't sell or transport their deer outside the state-declared containment zone. Breeders have complained that having a facility inside a containment zone has hurt business. Breeders who have a deer with CWD are required to either euthanize their remaining deer herd or perform additional testing in order to segregate deer who test negative.

PUC SECURES REFUNDS, CREDITS

The Public Utility Commission has secured refunds and bill credits totaling \$502,982 for Texas electric, water and telecommunications customers for fiscal year 2024, which ended Aug. 31. Nearly 13,000 complaints were filed by consumers during the fiscal year. "Protecting consumers is the first commitment listed in our agency's mission statement, and our staff works every day to make sure Texas utility consumers are treated fairly and receive high quality service," Chris Burch, with the PUC, said. The bulk of refunds and credits were for electric customers. Customers who believe they were unfairly charged can file a complaint at puc.texas.gov/consumer/complaint.

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BITCOIN PLANT EXPANSION FACES BACKLASH IN NORTH TEXAS

A proposal to build a new 300-megawatt power plant next to two existing neighborhoods in Granbury drew about 150 angry residents to a public meeting hosted by the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality last week. Marathon Digital, a Florida-based cryptocurrency company, operates a 300-megawatt bitcoin mine on property owned by Constellation Energy, according to the San Antonio Express-News. Residents have complained about the constant noise coming from thousands of fans used to cool the banks of computers processing bitcoin transactions. Constellation hopes to erect eight new turbines powered by natural gas to generate additional electricity and has applied for air permits to release nearly 800,000 added tons of carbon dioxide each year.

Residents near the plant objected. "It's not right. Y'all moved in on top of us. We didn't move in on y'all," said Nick Browning, who lives about 800 feet from the property. Texas leads the nation in bitcoin mining, which is an electronic payment system that forgoes use of banks and credit card companies and requires vast amounts of computing power. TCEQ officials have not decided whether to grant a permit for a new plant. Constellation says the new plant would only operate about 40% of the year and "would be prohibited from directly serving industrial load," such as bitcoin. However, opponents say the new plant would allow existing plants to be used for more bitcoin mining than being done now.

TEXTING SCAMS TARGET TXXAG CUSTOMERS

Toll customers in Texas are being targeted by scammers claiming the customer has a balance due or past due, according to the Texas Department of Transportation. The agency is working to have fraudulent websites taken down. While Txxag does communicate with customers via email, text and phone, it does not send text messages concerning final payment reminders or past-due balances. Customers can report messages they believe to be fraudulent by calling 1-88-468-9824 or going online to Txxag.org. "Txxag takes customer account security and verification very seriously," the news release said. All customers are required to confirm their account information and verify their identity upon contacting Txxag.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Reputable Source



I have a problem with inspirational quotes.

"You are never too old to set a new goal or to dream another dream," is a quote attributed to C.S. Lewis. He didn't say it.

"It is never too late to be what you might have been" is something George Eliot is supposed to have said. She never said that, either.

I could keep on going, but it's a safe bet that, if you read it on Facebook and it is attributed to Mother Teresa, Einstein or Keanu Reeves, they almost certainly did not say it.

For the longest time, I'd hop on Facebook and debunk a quote and, while it was satisfying to let folks know that Einstein was much too busy making discoveries to say the things he supposedly had said, and Mother Teresa did not spend her time writing poetry, I don't think I made anyone any happier by pointing it out.

I thought it was important to set the record straight. But what I finally realized was that inspiration doesn't inspire us because it comes from a reputable source. The real reason the quotes incorrectly attributed to George Eliot and C.S. Lewis troubled me was because I worried they were incorrect in more ways than one.

George Eliot died at 61. C.S. Lewis was dead by 64. Maybe they didn't say it was never too late, or you were never too old because, in fact, it sometimes is too late, and maybe I am too old. This is the sort of thing I worry about, some of the time. I wonder if I might be showing up a little too late for some of my dreams.

I consider myself a very fortunate person. I've gotten to do so many interesting things in my life, and I spend every day doing things I genuinely enjoy. But sometimes, I look at the careers of people I admire, and I realize they didn't dither around as long as I did. They stuck with one thing from a very early age. While here I am, at 62, looking forward to a first novel that won't be published until I'm 63, and I wonder (because how could I not?) if I didn't get kind of a late jump on things.

Of course, none of us knows how much time we get. So many authors and artists I admire died very young. They made this huge splash, and their ripples are still being felt, but they didn't live long. I like to imagine that, since I eat a lot of broccoli and don't drink bourbon, I might squeeze out more than the expected number of years to write things and tell my stories. I like to think that the actuarial tables do not apply to me. But, of course, they do.

And, because they do, I will do what I can with whatever time I have left.

I'll do this because I believe with every fiber of my being that starting late is so much better than never starting at all. And I'll do it because knowing that life is short (no matter how long it is) provides my greatest incentive to make this time—now—matter.

And, honestly, I don't care how much or how little I am remembered after I die. I'd just as soon make room for new people to tell their stories when the time comes. My goal is to make meaning of life now. To be useful today. Maybe even offer a little inspiration—even if I am not the most reputable source.

Till next time, Carrie

EDITOR'S NOTE: Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5906 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.

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FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 4:

District play starts up for High School teams: #2 Georgia visits #4 Alabama in early season showdown

In college action, all eyes will be on Tuscaloosa when No. 2-ranked Georgia visits No. 4-ranked Alabama in a key early-season contest in the SEC. Two weeks ago, the Bulldogs struggled at one-win Kentucky and escaped with a 12-12 victory, while the Crimson Tide rolled on the road at Wisconsin with a 42-10 drubbing of the Badgers. That was an impressive road win for first-year Bama head coach Kalen DeBoer and had to assuage some Crimson Tide fence sitters who have a wary eye toward the man who replaced the legendary Nick Saban. So, far, so good for DeBoer in Tuscaloosa. Saturday will be his first real test.

In other key games this weekend, No. 25-ranked Texas A&M takes on Arkansas at AT&T Stadium in Arlington. Two weeks ago, the Aggies snapped a 10-game SEC game road losing streak with an impressive 33-20 win in the Swamp against Florida. Backup QB Marcel Reed filled in nicely for the injured Conner Weigman (shoulder) and might be the man to take over A&M offense. He's more mobile than Weigman and is a competent passer.

In the Big 12, No. 13-ranked Kansas State hosts No. 14-ranked Oklahoma State, while No. 17-ranked Notre Dame hosts No. 19-ranked Louisville in an important game for both team's CFP prospects.

In the NFL, Week 4 starts with Thursday Night Football as the Cowboys look to get back on track against a woeful Giants team in The Meadowlands. Two weeks ago, the Saints thoroughly embarrassed Jerry Jones' team with a 44-19 thrashing of the Pokes in their home opener. New Orleans rushed for 242 yards as Alvin Kamara accounted for four TDs (3 rushing, 1 receiving). If Dallas doesn't fix its run defense, it could be a long season for the Cowboys and head coach Mike McCarthy.

The Texans, who won their first two games of the season, host Jacksonville (0-2 after their first two) in a key AFC South contest at NRG Stadium. Kansas City visits the Chargers in a key AFC West game. Sunday Night Football features Buffalo at disappointing Baltimore (another 0-2 team after two weeks) and we get another doubleheader for Monday Night Football with Seattle visiting Detroit in the nightcap. The early game will feature Tennessee at Miami.

Before we take a look at this weekend's games, let's review last week's record. Another 8-4 week brought the season record to 26-10, (72%).

NCAA

Texas A&M vs. Arkansas - These two will meet for the last time at Jerry World before this series reverts to a home-and-home series in 2025. Two weeks ago, Mike Elko's team looked strong on both sides of the football with its dominating win at Florida. If Weigman (225 yards, 2 TDs) is unable to go, Reed (249 yards, 3 TDs) will be a capable replacement. The Ags also have a strong running game led by Le'Veon Moss (264 yards, 3 TDs) and Amari Daniels (163 yards, 2 TDs). The Hogs won two of their first three games, with the lone loss being a 39-33 triple OT loss at Oklahoma State. Arkansas is led by dual threat QB Taylor Green (806 passing yards, 3 TDs/245 rushing yards, 4 TDs), running back Ja'Quinden Jackson (397 yards, 6 TDs) and wide receiver Andrew Armstrong (18 receptions, 301 yards). This will be the biggest test yet for the Aggie defense. I think they pass. My pick, Texas A&M 31, Arkansas 23

Oklahoma State at Kansas St - A good one in the Big 12 as the offensive-minded Cowboys visit the defensive-minded Wildcats on Saturday. Both teams won their first three games and the Cowboys are loaded on offense behind QB Alan Bowman (989 yards, 9 TDs) running back Ollie Gordon (194 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receivers De'Zhaun Stribling (17 receptions, 295 yards, 2 TDs) and Brennan Presley (23 receptions, 172 yards, 3 TDs). That unit will be tested by a KSU defense that limited high-scoring Arizona to just seven points two weeks ago in a 31-7 Wildcat win. KSU has offensive weapons as well in QB Avery Johnson (490 passing yards, 6 TDs/157 rushing yards), running back DJ Gidden (324 yards, 1 TD), wide receiver Jayce Brown (9



KEENEY'S KORNER
By **MIKE KEENEY**

receptions, 148 yards) and tight end Brayden Loftin (6 receptions, 86 yards, 2 TDs). KSU is tough and home, which OSU will discover come Saturday. My pick, Kansas State 34, Oklahoma State 31

Louisville at Notre Dame - The surprising Louisville Cardinals visit Notre Dame on Saturday in a game both teams desperately need to win to keep their CFP hopes alive, especially ND. Three weeks ago, the Irish were stunned at home by Northern Illinois, 16-14, but rebounded with a 66-7 pasting on the road against Purdue. QB Riley Leonard (433 passing yards, 2 TDs/179 rushing yards, 4 TDs) played his best game thus far in a ND jersey and he will need a similar performance against the 'Ville. The Irish will also count on big-play running back Jeramiah Love (279 yards, 3 TDS) and wide receiver Beaux Collins (12 receptions, 116 yards) to make plays against the Cardinals. Louisville has a high-scoring offense as evidenced by averaging 55 points in their first two games. They are led by former Oregon and Texas Tech QB Tyler Shough (581 yards, 6 TDs), running back Isaac Brown (161 yards, 1 TD) and wide receiver Ja' Corey Brooks (13 receptions, 172 yards, 1 TD). ND head coach Marcus Freeman knows his team can afford another loss and he will have them pumped for this one on Saturday. My pick, Notre Dame 36, Louisville 31

Georgia at Alabama - What a conference opener for both teams as the No. 2-ranked Bulldogs visit the No. 4-ranked Crimson Tide in prime time on Saturday night on ABC. Both teams had an extra week to prepare for this game and that's good news for the Georgia offense which struggled at Kentucky two weeks ago and escaped with a 13-12 win. The 'Dawgs still have one of the best QBs in the country in Carson Beck (680 yards, 7 TDs) and he will need help from running back Trevor Etienne (157 yards) and wide receivers Dominic Lovett (12 receptions, 155 yards, 1 TD) and Arian Smith (11 receptions, 142 yards, 1 TD). The Georgia defense is its usual solid self, allowing just 24 points in its first three games, but it will get its biggest test against a 'Bama offense that features perhaps the best dual threat QB in the country in Jalen Milroe (595 passing yards, 8 TDs/156 rushing yards, 6 TDS). The Tide have also have a couple capable backs in Jam Miller (265 yards, 3 TDs) and Justice Haynes (160 yards, 2 TDs) and big-play wideouts in true freshman Ryan Williams (10 receptions, 225 yards, 4 TDS) and Germie Bernard (8 receptions, 125 yards, 1 TD). This should be a tight game, but I'm going with the home crowd to carry the Tide to the finish line and give DeBoer his biggest win to date at Alabama. My pick, Alabama 26, Georgia 23

NFL

Dallas at New York Giants - Week 4 of the NFL season begins with Thursday Night Football with the Cowboys taking on the Giants in an NFC East battle. Two weeks ago, Dallas was dominated at home by the Saints enroute to a 44-19 shellacking. The lack of a running game has already become an issue for Dallas. After two games, their leading rusher is Rico Dowdle with a paltry 56 yards. That won't get it done in the NFL. Without a running threat, defenses can concentrate on pressuring QB Dak Prescott (472 yards, 2 TDs/2 interceptions) and doubling big-play wide receiver Ceedee Lamb (9 receptions, 151 yards, 2 TDS). The good thing for Dallas is that they are playing an awful Giants team led by underperforming QB Daniel Jones (364 yards, 2 TDs/ 2 picks). NY does have a star in the making in rookie wideout Malik Nabers (15 receptions, 193 yards, 1 TD). The Dallas defense should get enough pressure on Jones to force a turnover or two and carry the Cowboys to a win, and perhaps, make Giants head coach Brian Daboll the first head coach to lose his job this season.

My pick, Dallas 31, New York Giants 13

Jacksonville at Houston - The Jaguars, who dropped their first two games, visit the Texans, winners of their first two, on Sunday at NRG Stadium. Jaguars QB Trevor Lawrence (382 yards, 1 TD) and the offense have struggled early, but there's too much talent on that side of the ball to keep them down all season. The Houston defense needs to stop running back Travis Etienne (96 yards, 2 TDs) and set its sights on Lawrence. Houston won a tough, 19-13 game two weeks ago against the Bears on Sunday Night Football as the defense came up with seven sacks and two interceptions. Look for Texans QB C.J. Stroud (494 yards, 3 TDs) to continue feeding talented wideouts Nice Collins (14 receptions, 252 yards, 1 TD) and Stefan Diggs (10 receptions, 70 yards, 2 TDS). Running back Joe Mixon (184 yards, 1 TD) sustained an ankle injury against the Bears and if he can't go, backup Cam Akers will get the brunt of the carries. Look for another all around effort by the Texans as they continue to look like one of the best teams in the AFC. My pick, Houston 34, Jacksonville 23

Kansas City at Los Angeles Chargers - A key early-season contest in the AFC West has the defending Super Bowl champs visiting one of the NFL's early-season surprises in the Chargers. First-year LA head coach Jim Harbaugh led his team to two wins to start the season behind QB Justin Herbert (274 yards, 3 TDs), running back J.K. Dobbins (266 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receiver Quinton Johnson (8 receptions, 89 yards, 2 TDs). LA has also played well on defense allowing just 13 points in their first two games. That unit will get its first real test when Patrick Mahomes (442 yards, 3 TDs) and the Chiefs come to town. KC has lost starting running back Isiah Pacheco for a minimum of eight weeks with a fractured fibula, so look for Mahomes to get struggling tight end Travis Kelce (4 receptions, 39 yards) going. Wide receiver Rashee Rice (12 receptions, 178 yards, 1 TD) has become Mahomes go-to guy, but don't count Kelce out just yet. Look for the Chargers to pull off the upset this week at SoFi Stadium thanks to its defense. My pick, Los Angeles Chargers 23, Kansas City 20

Buffalo at Baltimore - The hot Bills visit the struggling Ravens on Sunday Night Football. Baltimore lost its first two games, one at KC and one at home to the Raiders, while the Bills rolled to wins over the Cardinals and Dolphins. Buffalo QB Josh Allen (371 passing yards, 3 TDs/41 rushing yards, 2 TDs) is off to a fast start, as is running back James Cook (149 yards, 3 total TD). Allen has found a new go-to receiver in Khalil Shakir (8 receptions, 100 yards, 1 TD). The Ravens still have dual threat QB Lamar Jackson (520 passing yards, 2 TDs/167 rushing yards) and a new runner in Derek Henry (130 yards, 2 TDs). Tight end Isaiah Lively (11 receptions, 137 yards, 1 TD) and wide receiver Zay Flowers (13 receptions, 125 yards, 1 TD) are helping out Jackson, but the defense must step up its game. Something tells me they will on Sunday night. My pick, Baltimore 26, Buffalo 22

Seattle at Detroit - The second came of the Monday Night doubleheader should be a good one as Seattle visits Detroit. Offense should be the name of the game in this one as Geno Smith (498 yards, 2 TDs), DK Metcalf (13 receptions, 158 yards, 1 TD) and Jaxson Smith-Njigba (14 receptions, 136 yards) trade blows with Jared Goff (524 yards, 1 TD), David Montgomery (126 yards, 2 TDs), Jahmyr Gibbs (124 yards), Jameon Williamson (10 receptions, 200 yards, 1 TD) and Amon-Ra St. Brown (14 receptions, 132 yards). The Lions were upset at home two weeks ago by Tampa Bay, I don't expect that to happen on Monday night. My pick, Detroit 33, Seattle 26

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.154868 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of San Jacinto Community College District.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.154868 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.149818 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.158151 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 San Jacinto Community College District 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 San Jacinto Community College District 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 San Jacinto Community College District is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON October 7, 2024 AT 7:00 PM AT District Administration Building, Rm 104-4624 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, Texas 77504.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, San Jacinto Community College District 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 Trustees of San Jacinto Community College District 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: Marie Flickinger John Moon Jr.
Michelle Cantu-Wilson Dan Mims
Larry Wilson

AGAINST the proposal:

PRESENT and not voting:
ABSENT: Keith Sinor Erica Davis Rouse

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

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

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by San Jacinto Community College District last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence

homestead by San Jacinto Community College District this year.

	2023	2024	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.146195	\$0.154868	increase of \$0.008673 per \$100, or 5.93%
Average homestead taxable value	\$171,171	\$181,988	increase of \$10,817, or 6.32%
Tax on average homestead	\$250.24	\$281.84	increase of \$31.60, or 12.63%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$126,493,915	\$132,841,202	increase of \$6,347,287, or 5.02%

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



SCORES & SCHEDULES WEEK 4

LAST WEEK'S SCORES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
Baytown Sterling 56, Houston Chavez 0

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
Aldine, bye
Aldine Davis, bye
Aldine Eisenhower, bye
Aldine MacArthur, bye
Barbers Hill 49, Richmond Foster 7
C. E. King, bye
Channelview, bye

Crosby, bye
Goose Creek Memorial, bye
Huffman Hargrave, bye
Iowa Colony 63, Baytown Lee 14
North Shore, bye

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
Galena Park 20, Houston Sterling 18

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
C. E. King at Atascocita, 7 p.m., Turner Stadium in Humble
Crosby at Pasadena, 6:30 p.m., Veterans Memorial Stadium in Pasadena
Galveston Ball at Baytown Sterling, 6:30 p.m., Stallworth Stadium in Baytown
Humble at North Shore, 7 p.m., Galena Park ISD Stadium in Houston
Nimitz at Aldine MacArthur, 7 p.m., W. W. Thorne Stadium in Houston

Houston
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
Barbers Hill at Lufkin, 7 p.m., Abe Martin Stadium in Lufkin
Baytown Lee at Texas City, 7 p.m., Stingaree Stadium in Texas City
Eisenhower at Aldine Davis, 7 p.m., W. W. Thorne Stadium in Houston
Huffman Hargrave at Liberty, 7:30 p.m., Memorial Stadium in Liberty
Kingwood at Goose Creek Memorial, 7 p.m., Stallworth Stadium in Baytown
Milby at Galena Park, 7 p.m., Galena Park ISD Stadium (Homecoming) in Houston
Summer Creek at Channelview, 7 p.m., Ray Maddy Stadium in Channelview

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
Dekaney at Aldine, 6 p.m., Planet Ford Stadium in Spring

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

WATER DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The HARRIS COUNTY W.C.I.D. #36 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on October 8, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. at 903 Hollywood, Houston, TX 77015. 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: Gerardo Parra, Ronald S. Holder, Maria E. Koukoulakis, Tammy Eason
AGAINST the proposal: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: Eddie Cantu

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)	\$.23830/\$100	\$.23580/\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$.00250/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-1.04%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 120,463	\$ 128,561
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 24,093	\$ 25,712
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 96,370	\$ 102,849
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 229.64	\$ 242.51
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		\$ 12.87
and percentage of increase (+/-)		5.60%

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 board of directors proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of continued debt service.

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.

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011

WATER DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The HARRIS COUNTY F.W.S.D. #51 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on October 9, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. at 367 Queenstown Road, Houston, Texas 77015. Guests may attend the hearing by Zoom video conference at <https://zoom.us> or by Telephone at 346-248-7799, Meeting ID: 320 452 4804 Passcode: 382181. 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: Jerry Dominy, Mike Bilnoski, Cary Stephens, Les LeBleu and David Gray
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.

	Last Year	This Year
	Adopted	Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$.14000/\$100	\$.13000/\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$.01000/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-7.14%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 214,344	\$ 228,848
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 42,869	\$ 45,770
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 171,475	\$ 183,078
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 240.06	\$ 238.00
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		\$ -2.06
and percentage of increase (+/-)		-.85%

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.

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011

WATER DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The HARRIS COUNTY W.C.I.D. #84 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on October 8, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. at 15900 Bear Bayou Drive, Channelview, TX. 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: Tomas Fernandez, Mario Martinez, Bud Mills, Allen Hall, and Curtis Seale
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.

	Last Year	This Year
	Adopted	Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$.41000/\$100	\$.39500/\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$.01500/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-3.65%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 247,656	\$ 256,760
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 247,656	\$ 256,760
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,015.38	\$ 1,014.20
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		\$ -1.18
and percentage of increase (+/-)		-.11%

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.

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011



GALENA PARK Yellow Jackets Team Captains (9-13-24) L to R: #16 Hunter James, #67 Marc Lopez, #77 Reuben Escobar, #18 Daylin Boyd & #14 Samuel Marroquin. (Photo by Linda Jamail)

YELLOW JACKETS WIN THRILLER 20-18 IN LAST 14 SECONDS

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. At the GPISD stadium hosting Head Coach Spiro Amarantos and the Yellow Jackets varsity football team brought their "A - Game". It proved to be enough to upset the 10-5A District's #1 dominating Sterling Rangers 20 - 18. GP moves to #1 in the district.

What made this game so exciting is it was mainly a defensive battle (war). Both teams offense was overpowered by the others defense. Neither team was able to score in the first quarter. Jackets Cary Clay broke free in the second quarter on a 68 yd. TD run while the Rangers remained scoreless. At halftime the Jackets led 6 - 0.

In the third quarter the Rangers put six points on the board to tie the game; it remained tied until the fourth and final quarter. The Rangers went ahead 12 - 6 early in the fourth quarter.

Halfway into the fourth quarter the Jacket's Cary Clay made his second TD on a 11 yd run, and Juan Soto kicked the extra point to give the Jackets a 13 - 12 lead. Then the Rangers scored again making it Rangers 18 - Jackets 13.

Coach Amarantos added a new dimension to his offense in this game with much more passing plays than in several years before. This proved to be the difference in winning or losing the game.

With only 14 seconds left in the game, Jacket's backup junior quarterback Juan Soto threw a 23 yd strike to receiver Hunter James as he crossed the goal. The Jackets defense held the Rangers until the



#5 Cary Clay runs 68 yds. for a GP Jacket's TD. (Photo by ALLAN Jamail)

final seconds ticked off, winning 20 - 18.

The undefeated in district play #1 GP Yellow Jackets 2 - 0 next play at their homecoming game against the Houston, Milby Buffs on Friday, September 27th at 7 PM. The #6 Buffs that's 1 - 1 in district play. Linda Jamail statistician/photographer.

Mei's Studio Opening,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

did for me bringing memories of times past and current scenes I've seen.

The Silos at Sawyer Yards includes 97 workspaces for 100+ artists and contains galleries, office spaces, and retail establishments. You'll be able to see many different types/styles of art. Example, see above photo of Oluseyi Soyege's fabric collage painting.

Sawyer Yards was officially launched in 2005 with the conversion of a 75,000-square-foot warehouse surrounded by a still-thriving rail yard. The renovated building debuted as Winter Street Studios and received the first art studio ordinance granted in Houston. At that point, the vision to move forward and construct a dedicated creative community gained momentum. The immediate success of Winter Street Studios was quickly followed by the unique, architecturally sensitive conversions of five other studio complexes in the area.

These former warehouses and industrial spaces have been converted into hundreds of art studios, art galleries, fine dining establishments, fitness concepts, craft breweries, entertainment venues, and more. The Sawyer Yards campus focuses on all forms of creativity, with plentiful recurring and unique events year-round.

The fact that all of this creativity has been built on converted old rail yard space is truly impressive, and it's worth it alone to visit as a testament to Houston's innovative and resourceful art spirit. More



The viewing crowd included many folks from East Aldine, including Rocio Witte with husband and son, Patti Acosta, and Marina and Ken Sugg. They commented on the wealth of art to be seen at the Silos of Sawyer Yards.



Gil and Mei Hoffman welcome guests with Dr. Elizabeth Guy.



Mei chats with Alexis LaJeunesse about the many types of mediums she uses for her artwork.

than 300 established and emerging artists work at six different buildings, and you can meet them face to face.

Hoffman is extending her invitation to readers to come to The Silos on the second and third Saturday of the month to visit her studio (Suite 113) and the many other artists studios. Many of them open their doors and will be glad to discuss their art pieces

with you. No matter what your budget; from affordable mementos to expensive masterpieces, you may find a piece of art that appeals to you and you can take it home.

Mei and Gilbert Hoffman are the current owners of the North Channel Star, Northeast News, Star Courier and other publications that bring community news to their readers.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING:

Sheldon ISD will hold a public meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 in the Ney Administration Board Room, 11411 C.E. King Parkway, Houston, TX 77044. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Sheldon ISD's rating on the state's financial accountability system.



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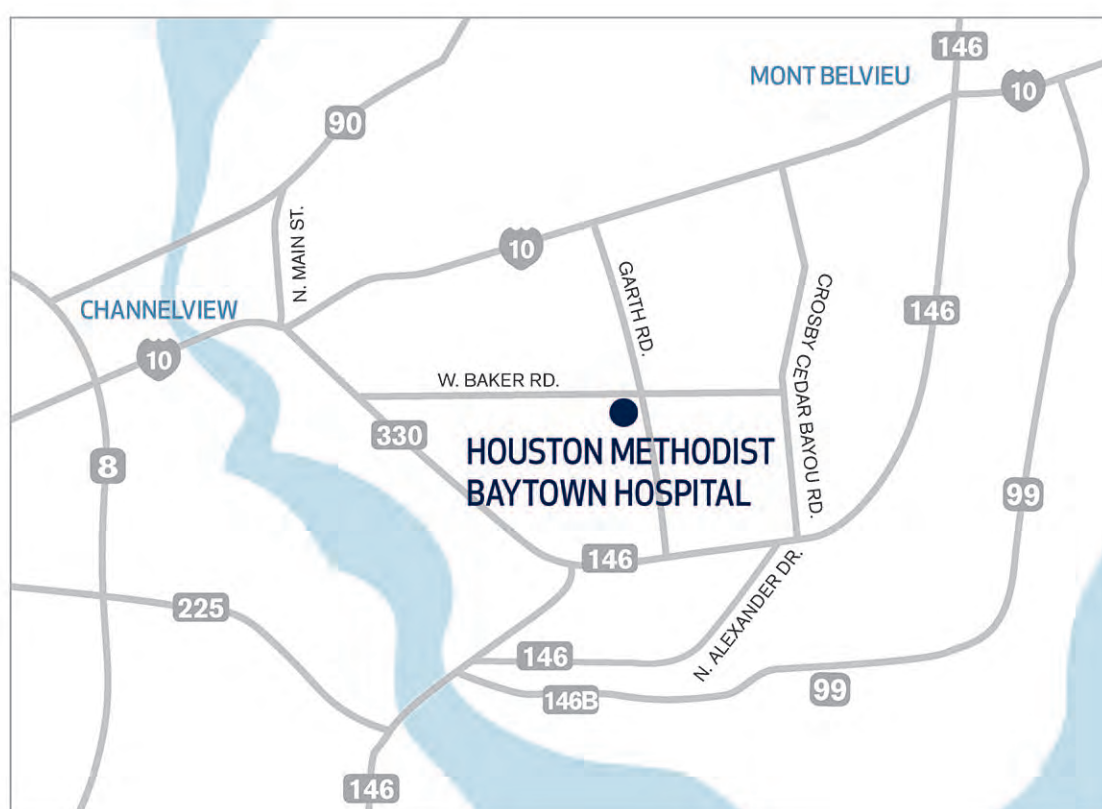
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