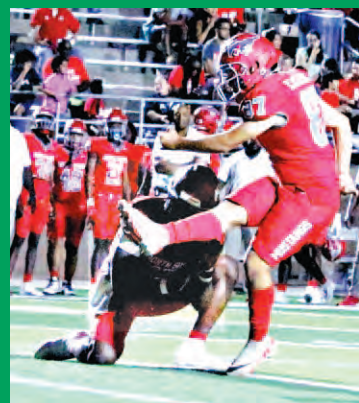


#87 Jorge Campos, Sophomore kicker makes his first extra point kick as a varsity player. Campos elevated from junior varsity to replace injured starting kicker Jonathan Soto. Photo by Allan Jamail SEE PHOTO BELOW and STORY PAGE 5



NORTH CHANNEL STAR

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CHANNEL CURRENTS

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@ncchamber.com or 713-450-3600.

THEA review of latest Waste Pits proposal finds remedy "Insufficient"

THEA Tells EPA Latest San Jacinto River Plan Inconsistent And Insufficient
By Jackie Young Medcalf



THEA has reviewed the proposed plan to clean up the Northern Pit of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site and warned the EPA that it contains a number of problems. This proposal was developed by the two companies responsible for the site and was supposed to outline its final plan to remove tons of contaminated material from the remaining pit. However,

our review found a number of places where the plan doesn't meet the EPA's requirements and contains sections that are vague and lack necessary details. The EPA will consider the plan and comments in deciding whether to allow the responsible party companies to continue to lead the cleanup or to remove them and take the project over.

The following summary of the THEA letter to EPA indicates the type and extent of problems found in the review: THEA is writing to provide our comments on the 100% Remedial Design for the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site (San Jacinto Site). The comments reflected in this letter and in our design review

view are rooted in genuine community input, local knowledge, THEA's expertise, and our experience engaging with this Superfund process for over a decade. THEA holds the position that the 100% design package, as prepared by the Responsible Parties (RPs), does not meet the standards expected of a complete remedial design plan. We believe this design package fails to completely address the concerns outlined by the EPA in the agency's 2024 Notification of Serious Deficiency. There are numerous inconsistencies within the document, along with plans that defer critical specifications and procedures to the remedial contractor. In our opinion, this renders the design incomplete and unprepared for contractor bidding or successful remedial action.

Through our review of the extensive 100% design documentation, several key themes emerged that require immediate attention.
1. Inconsistencies with
Continued. See WASTE PITS PROPOSAL INSUFFICIENT, Page 3

Hispanic Heritage Month Honoree Pablo Picasso 3rd of a series



Pablo Ruiz Picasso (25 October 1881 – 8 April 1973) was a Spanish painter, sculptor, printmaker, ceramicist, and theatre designer who spent most of his adult life

Continued. See PABLO PICASSO HISPANIC HERITAGE, Page 6

Yellow Jackets Battle back in a Tough Homecoming Clash and Retain 1st Place

Galena Park Yellow Jackets Edges Milby Buffs 46-38 to Stay Unbeaten

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. – GPISD Stadium – On September 27, 2024 at the Galena Park Yellow Jackets Homecoming Game they came-from-behind and remained undefeated in district 5A-1 Region III District 10 and in 1st place, Jackets 46 – Milby Buffs 38. Head Coach Spiro Amarantos and his Fighting Jackets rewarded the loud and proud fans with another come-from-behind 4th quarter breath-taking win. Last week the Jackets had an upset win over #1 Houston Sterling, 20-18 with 14 seconds in the game, this too was a thriller. In that game they came-from-behind again with 40 seconds to pull out their season's 3-0 district win. Milby scored first and led 6-0 at the end of the first quarter. As halftime close Milby led 26-13. At the end of the third quarter the Jackets were down by five. Milby 32 – GP 27. In the final quarter GP scored 3 TD's and ended the game on top 46 – 38. Coach Amarantos must control his Jackets

Continued. See YELLOW JACKETS TRILLER WIN, Page 5



GP running back #5 Cory Clay outruns Buff defenders 42 yards for a TD. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



The 2024 GPHS HOMECOMING KING & QUEEN: L – R: Gael Sandoval & Camila Esquivel & Principal Juan Ramirez. (Photo by Linda Jamail)

Mustangs Cage Wildcats 42-0

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. GPISD Stadium ~ September 26, 2024 the North Shore Mustangs playing without Head Coach Willie Gaston because of a UIL game suspension easily shutout the visiting Humble Wildcats 42 – 0. The Eastside Boys offense started fast and ended fast scoring two touchdowns (TD) in the first quarter and scoring in each remaining quarter. The Wildcats offense was never a threat to the stampeding Mustang's defense. Stangs defense in four games has only allowed two TD's. Senior defensive stand-out linebacker Charles Ross continues to make sacks in every game. In the second quarter he stripped the ball causing a fumble while sacking the quarterback and ran it back 31 yds for a TD. Multiple players gave solid performances to lead North Shore to victory, but



#28 D'Andre Hardeman running back follows his blocker for a NS TD. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

perhaps none more so impressive than junior quarterback Kaleb Bailey. He threw for 155 yards and a (TD) while completing 84.6% of his passes, and ran for a TD. Running back

D'Andre Hardeman continues to be the go to player on the ground game with TD runs in all four

Continued. See NS MUSTANGS DOMINATE WILDCATS, Page 5

GP Girls Volleyball Yellow Jackets Dominate Carnegie Rhinos

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX. Thursday, September 24, 2024: The Galena Park Varsity Fighting Girls Yellow Jackets volleyball team under Head Coach Mary DeFiore takes 1st place in district. Going into the game the GP girls were tied for first place with the Carnegie Rhinos but not for long. They were able to win first place by shutting the Rhinos out in three games. One of several top performing Jackets is Senior Camila Esquivel, she and her teammates won the 3 games with scores of 25-17 / 25-16 & 25-21. Coach DeFiore watched intensely and constantly gave instructions to her team to help insure to remove any doubt which team on the court should be number one. Her game strategy continues to prove successful with each team they play. On September 28th they shutout the Houston Austin Mustangs 25-17 / 25-7 / & 25-7. As of September 30th the 1st place Jackets have a 15 game win streak and are 10-0 in district



#25 Sr. Camila Esquivel spikes ball for a GP Girls Yellow Jacket kill (point). See her stats below. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Continued. See GP GIRLS VOLLEYBALL, Page 7

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Sheldon ISD Breaks Ground on New 9th and 10th Grade Campus

On Tuesday, September 24, Sheldon ISD broke ground on its new 9th and 10th Grade Campus. The event was filled with performances from the King High School band and choir, as well as the AFJROTC, King 9th Grade Campus Cheerleaders and the Pantherettes. The ceremony included student speakers that are current 8th graders that will be two of the first to attend school in the new building.

The school is a part of the 2022 bond referendum. The new building will replace the current 9th Grade Campus and is adjacent to the current King High School. The campus will house approximately 2,200 freshman and sophomore students and King High School will house juniors and seniors. The school will feature four career academy centers, will have an entire wing



dedicated to career and technical education, fine arts spaces for theater, art, choir, dance and cheer and a state-of-the-art library.

Once this new building opens in the 2026-27 school year, the current 9th Grade Campus will revert back to its original purpose as a community center. This center will serve as a building for our community with a mobile health unit in partnership with Harris County Public Health as well as opportunities for adult and community education courses.

“This new 9th and 10th Grade Campus opens a fresh chapter in our Sheldon ISD legacy,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Demetrius McCall. “We are grateful that our supportive community is a part of this journey with us.”

King High School Choir Makes School History

The King High School choir has set new records for the school with 25 students earning a seat in the Region 33 Choir. The school brought 59 students total to the Texas All State District Auditions and Region 33 is considered one of the larger regions in the state with larger chorale groups.

The following students have passed the District Round:

- Soprano 1**
Arielle Monuma-Antoine - 4
Abigail Brittain
Sofia De La Fuente
- Soprano 2**
Gabriella Trevino -2

- Jazlyn Lastrappe -5
Gisselle Contreras -8
- Alto 1**
Layla Trevino - 10
Cesilia Ramirez -6
- Alto 2**
Alexis Torres -6

- Deshawnika Telfor -9
Haleigh Gipson
Aileen Martinez
- Tenor 1**
Donovan Davis
Parker Ledesma
John Adams

- Tenor 2**
Nicholas Monetlongo -4
Franklin Richardson
- Bass 1**
Rafael Baez
Elias Ramirez

- Giovanni Silva -5
Jonathan Pachuca
- Bass 2**
Thomas Reyes
Torrey Barlow
Luis Perez



Jose Lopez Umanzor
These students will be performing in one of the three choirs (Tenor-Bass, Treble and Mixed) at the Region 33 Choir Concert November 9 at 5:30 p.m. at Dekaney High School. Additionally, they will advance to Region Auditions on October 21. At Region auditions, the 25 students will be competing against 40 other students of their voice section to earn one of the 16 seats in the Region Mixed Choir and the ability to move on to Pre-Area Auditions. Pictured are the 59 Panther choir students attending the audition. Congratulations

GREETINGS FROM GUANGZHOU

By Kristan Hoffman & Family



Greetings from Guangzhou

By Kristan Hoffman and family

Ni hao! That means “hello,” from southeast China!

On August 1, our little family of four relocated from Ohio all the way across the globe to Guangzhou. We will be living here for the next three years, due to my husband’s work.

Before this assignment I knew basically nothing about Guangzhou (which can be pronounced like “Gwong Joe”). But after four months of fast-tracked preparations and moving, I now know a lot more, and I keep learning new things every day!

The climate here is similar to Houston’s: hot,

muggy, and buggy. To work up a good sweat, you need only to step outside your door. That’s because the city is located about an hour’s drive from the coast, and along the same latitude as the middle of Mexico.

For roughly 2,000 years, Guangzhou has been an important port and trading hub, even anchoring the infamous Silk Road. Together with the nearby cities of Hong Kong, Macau, and Shenzhen, it makes up the largest urban area in the world. Roughly 86 million people! 27 million of those belong to greater Guangzhou.

Hearing those numbers, I expected the city to feel crowded and noisy, but our neighborhood is not at all. We live in Zhujiang New Town, which was designed by the local government to serve as a new cultural and commercial center. The area features gleaming skyscrapers and high-rise apartments, as well as ancient city gates and historical buildings, all bordered by generous sidewalks, and lush with flowers and greenery. Many consulates and corporate offices are located here, which creates a very foreigner-friendly environment.

Even within our “expat bubble,” many aspects of living in China are wildly different from the United States. First and foremost, the language. Mandarin is the official language of China, although here in Guangzhou, the Cantonese dialect is also widely spoken. My kids and I know some Mandarin, because my mom is from Taiwan, but still the learning curve has been steep. My hope is that by the time we leave in a few years, we can be conversationally fluent.

Another big difference is that nearly everything in China is done by app. Whether you are paying your utility bills or ordering takeout, riding the subway or hailing a Didi (their version of Uber), you need only your phone. Cash is technically usable, but in reality, almost all payments are processed via QR codes within China’s most famous app, WeChat.

On the one hand, this hyper-digitalization is super convenient; on the other, it’s a bit tricky when you are unable to read the local language. Thankfully nowadays there are apps for that too! We can take photos or screenshots of the Chinese characters, then run them through translators.



Anyway, after a few weeks, we are mostly settled in, but still learning our way around our new home city. We are also very much looking forward to exploring other cities and countries on this side of the world while it’s more convenient. These three years could be the greatest adventure our family will ever have together!

Iris’s Insights:

I love China but... Cincinnati will always be my home. I miss being closer to my family and my friends. China is an amazing place to be, because of the art, the food, the shops — just to name a few. And my school is amazing too. But it will never replace the old! And I hope my friends will notice how much I miss them.

So there are ups and downs to living abroad but... it’s really cool.

Reed’s Report:

P.E. is my favorite class because I play games with my friends.



CHARLOTTE'S WEB
By Charlotte Jackson 

Disagreements

As a child, I was taught to try to work out disagreements between me and the other person. If for some reason we could not work it out, we went to an adult. Often, the adult would contact another adult to resolve the issue. They would explain to us how we needed to apologize and work together despite any differences. Rarely did we have to discuss the disagreement again.

It was rare that in a school environment the administrators had to call in law enforcement to resolve issues. Somehow, our society has evolved to a point that many want to disagree, argue, and too often get violent. It has become necessary for public schools to have School Resource Officers assigned at most campuses.

For many individuals and businesses, disagreements are not discussed, someone just files charges and the issue are pushed to the local courts. Yet often those cases could have been handled much quicker by talking about the issue, offering a list of resources to help overcome the difference and the two sides can work out their differences.

We have seen violence escalate to the point that our nation loses too many people to gun violence daily. Couples have a disagreement and too often one is injured, and the other one goes to prison. Their families as well as children are left trying to pick up the pieces. Agencies and organizations are there to try to meet the needs, yet too often it causes many more problems than if the original two adults had just talked it out, perhaps with a professional.

Some people would much rather argue their differences than work for a resolution. This has been seen time and time again in the news. It is truly sad that we now have several generations that want to blow out someone else's candle to try to make their own shine brighter. Instead of letting the world know what they want to do better; too often we see politicians pointing out their opponents' weaknesses. We even see businesses putting down the quality of a competitor's product instead of just do int the best they can and drawing in new customers.

I have witnessed neighbors upset about the lawn decorations of their neighbors. Yet they have never taken the time to meet the neighbor, understand their culture of even ask why they choose to celebrate one tradition over another. One person took it to their Homeowners Association to complain about inflatables in the neighbor's yard instead of even talking with the neighbor. Had they met the neighbor, they might have learned there was a terminally ill child in the home with an immune disorder that prevents them from being outdoors, going to Fall Festivals or even going door to door for Halloween. My point is that there are always three sides to every disagreement. My side, your side, and the resolution.

I have had many neighbors tell me about adults, especially public officials who should be setting examples for others to be ridiculing others on social media. I always feel like election time brings out the worst in people. Be an adult and talk with those who have differing opinions. Do not spend the time criticizing someone with a difference opinion. Reach out and sit down with a non-biased observer and try to resolve the differences. This will set a much better example for the children who will be community leaders in the future.

THEA: Waste Pits proposal is "Insufficient",

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Record of Decision (ROD): Certain aspects of the design do not satisfy the requirements established in the ROD, including the Remedial Action Objectives (RAOs). Specifically, while Monitored Natural Recovery (MNR) was selected for the Sand Separation Area (SSA) in the ROD, increased concentrations of dioxins were discovered during the design investigation. It is common practice, and was observed at the Northern Impoundment, for plans to adjust to encompass additional contamination found during the design investigations. Additionally at the SSA, a mix of erosional and depositional environments were identified post-ROD.

Therefore, the plan should be adjusted to reflect these findings, particularly in relation to RAO #4, which mandates the reduction of exposure to dioxins by remediating affected media to appropriate cleanup levels. Further inconsistencies of concern are related (but not limited) to sampling and the seasonal excavation approach. The seasonal excavation approach is not supported by the local communities and defies the 27 month timeline in the 2017 ROD.

2. Contaminants of Concern (COCs):

There are significant concerns regarding the concentrations of dioxins, the adequacy of sampling, and the presence of PCBs at the Site. These issues must be thoroughly addressed to ensure the protection of the health of the community and the environment.

3. Worker and Community Safety:

The design raises concerns for the safety of site workers and the surrounding communities. These include potential risks associated with transportation, pollution, and the release of contaminants during remedial activities. Specific, enforceable safety measures must be included in the design to mitigate these risks.

4. Determination Ahead of Remedial Action (RA):

Considerable details are being left to the remedial contractor to decide, which should be determined now to ensure consistency and thoroughness in the RA. This includes, but is not limited to, the design and implementation of measurement systems, sampling procedures, and data handling protocols. Such elements should not be left open to interpretation during the RA.

5. Integrity Concerns:

We have serious concerns about the integrity of the project and its components during the RA, particularly in light of the site's exposure to severe weather conditions and its location within a tidally influenced river. Local residents are immensely concerned about the barrier wall (BMP) designed to an elevation below major

storms experienced locally.

The San Jacinto Site is at one of the most dynamic sections of the river and it is imperative that worst case storm and flood scenarios are fully considered.

6. Biddability Issues:

The design, as it stands, appears unready for construction bids. The lack of detail and the deferral of significant decisions to the remedial contractor create uncertainty that could negatively impact the bidding process and the overall success of the remediation.

7. Additional Information Needed:

Several sections of the design lack sufficient questions or leave critical questions unanswered. Two specific topics raised by community members were the Texas Department of Transportation bridge replacement and water management in flood/high-water scenarios.

8. Compliance and Accountability:

The design must include clear "checks and balances" to ensure compliance with EPA standards throughout the RA process. Includes concerns and needs for consultation/approval from EPA and necessary testing.

During our review, we noted the RPs' use of Lavaca Bay as a comparison site for the SSA MNR.

However, Lavaca Bay's monitoring protocol, while effective for that site, may not be suitable for the SSA. Lavaca Bay has been closed to the public since 1988, whereas the SSA is located in a river subject to barge traffic, tidal influences, and flooding, which could contribute to greater dispersion of contaminants. Additionally, the RAOs for the San Jacinto Site focus on the remediation of affected media, while the RAOs for Lavaca Bay are primarily concerned with reducing surface sediment mercury levels. Given these differences, the plan for the SSA should be reevaluated and adjusted accordingly.

The San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site has made considerable progress through the Superfund process over the past decade. Our communities are eager for this progress to continue, as the risk to public health and the environment remains as long as the San Jacinto Site is present in the river. We strongly urge the EPA to address these critical issues to ensure a safe and complete remediation of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. We look forward to your response and to a continued effort to protect the health of our communities and the environment.

Sincerely,
Jackie Medcalf
THEA Founder | CEO
| Executive Director

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim:



"The Engagement ring is the Promise... the wedding band is the Fulfillment"

Ever wondered about the historical significance of wedding bands, engagement rings, and their placement? While Pineforest Jewelry offers a diverse range of exquisite engagement rings, understanding the history and meaning behind wearing them is equally important. Join us as we delve into this timeless debate.

Origins and Traditions
From ancient cultures to contemporary times, the order of wearing these rings varies. Traditionally, many believed in wearing the wedding band closer to the heart, emphasizing its profound importance over the engagement ring.

At Pineforest Jewelry, we understand that traditions are just as important as the ring itself. This is why our expert consultation services, backed by years of industry knowledge, are always available to answer such queries. You can even explore more on our "Ask Diamond Jim" blog series, where our co-founder, Diamond Jim, shares insights into such rich traditions.

Engagement rings are a symbol of promise, while the wedding ring signifies its fulfillment. Many choose to wear the wedding ring below the engagement ring to signify that the promise has been sealed and is now closer to the heart. Whether you're looking for an engagement ring or a wedding band, Pineforest Jewelry offers pieces that perfectly embody these sentiments.

Practicality and Comfort
Just as everyone has a unique love story, comfort levels differ. Some designs and combinations sit better in a specific order. We pride ourselves in offering custom designs tailored to individual preferences, ensuring the utmost comfort and style.

Today, many modern couples opt for what feels right to them rather than following tradition. The beauty of it? Pineforest Jewelry supports every unique choice. With a range of stunning fashion jewelry alongside traditional pieces, we ensure every couple finds their perfect match.

Wearing Rings Separately
Some individuals, for various reasons, wear their rings separately. Maybe on different fingers or even hands. While it's essential to find what resonates with your style, remember our jewelry repair services are always here to ensure your precious pieces remain in pristine condition.

Fusion rings, merging the engagement and wedding bands, have gained traction lately. While it's a fresh take on the age-old tradition, Pineforest Jewelry is ever ready to help you create your dream piece that reflects both commitments seamlessly.

Consulting With a Jeweler
Emphasizing the importance of personalized service, Pineforest Jewelry is committed to building strong relationships with clients. Always consider consulting with us when deciding on ring placement or if the rings weren't designed as a set.

Choosing the placement of your rings is deeply personal. It's about what resonates with you and the memories attached to each piece. At Pineforest Jewelry, we always prioritize your preferences and the significance each ring holds for you.

We'd love to hear your stories! How do you wear your rings? Share your thoughts, photos, and experiences with us. And if you're ever curious about jewelry, don't hesitate to [Ask Diamond Jim on our blog!](#)

Ready to [explore exquisite jewelry](#) that tells a story? From engagement rings to unique pieces, Pineforest Jewelry has something for everyone. Dive in, create your dream piece, and let us be a part of your journey.

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

OPINION

By BILL KING



Harris County has Raised Property Taxes by nearly 30% in the last two years

It has been widely reported by the local media that Harris County Commissioners' Court increased taxes by 8% at their meeting on September 19.

However, the County's public tax notices clearly show that for the increase for the average homeowner will be at least 15% and may be as high as 19%. While this increase is jaw-dropping, it is made even more egregious because it comes on the heels of a nearly 12% increase last year, making the increase over the last two years 29.5%. These increases will result in the County and its related entities receiving nearly \$900 million more in tax revenue than just two years ago.

The Tax Setting Process

First, it is important to remember that your tax bill is a function of two factors: the tax rate and the taxable appraised value of your property. If either of those goes up or down, so will your tax bill.

When elected officials set their tax rates in the fall of each year, the appraisal district has provided them with an estimate for the likely increase in the appraised values for that year. That estimated increase in the appraised value for the average taxpayer's home is included in the required tax notices. So, when elected officials set tax rates for the year, they know what the likely effect will be on their residents' tax bills.

Officials like to talk about tax rates but ignore appraised values, which for many years have been steadily moving higher. This allows elected officials to claim that they are holding taxes steady or, in this case, mislead taxpayers that an increase is not as dramatic as it actually is.

The 2024 Tax Increases

The Commissioners' Court sets the tax rates for the Harris County along with the Harris County Flood Control District, the Harris County Hospital District and the Port Authority. Because these are separate legal entities, they must publish separate public notices regarding their tax rates.

So, let's look at happened at each of these entities in the tax setting process over the last two years.

In both of these tax years, the Harris County Appraisal District (HCAD) notified Commissioners' Court in advance of setting the tax rate, that appraised values would be increasing. The projected increase in 2023 was 9.3% and 4.48% in 2024. So, Commissioners knew that even if they did not increase the tax rate at all, property owners' tax bills would still go up by those amounts.

Here are the tax rates set by Commissioners' Court this year and the effect they had on the average homeowner according to the official public tax notices.

For the County, the Commissioners' Court approved an increase in the tax rate of just over 10%. When the 10% tax rate increase is combined with the 4.48% valuation increase, the result is that the average homeowner's County tax bill will increase by 15%.

(Note: All of the tables included in this post are screenshots taken from the public tax rate notices the County is required to publish. Each screenshot has a hyperlink to the corresponding notice in which it appeared.)

For the Harris County Hospital District, the Commissioners' Court approved a 13.98% tax rate increase. When the 13.98% tax rate increase is combined with the 4.48% valuation increase, the result is that the average homeowner's Hospital District tax bill will increase by 19.09%.

For the Port Authority, the Commissioners' Court approved a 7.14% increase in the tax rate. When the 7.14% tax rate increase is combined with the 4.48% valuation increase, the result is that the average homeowner's Port Authority tax bill will increase by 11.96%.

In addition, the Commissioners' Court has also asked voters to approve a massive 65% increase in the property taxes for the Flood Control District.

If voters approve the increase for the Flood Control District, the total tax bill for all four entities for the average homeowner will jump from \$1,159 last year to \$1,379 this year, a 19% increase.

The 2023 Tax Increase

As I mentioned previously, this increase comes on top of another large increase in the tax bills last year. However, the math last year was different.

Last year, there were small increases in the tax rates for the County and the Flood Control District with small offsetting reductions in the tax rates for the Hospital District and the Port Authority. But HCAD projected at the time that the value of the average home would increase by 9.3%. As a result, the Commissioners' Court knew that if they held the tax rate close to even, taxpayers would be paying about 9% more. The end result was an overall 9.7% increase last year.

When added together, the taxes for the average homeowner will increase in just two years by 29.5% (\$1062 \$1,379).

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, from the beginning of 2023 through the first quarter of 2024 (their last published data), average wages for Harris County were only up by 3.9%. So, Harris County taxes over the last two years have grown more than the rate seven times higher than Harris County's residents' wages.

The increase in Harris County taxes is five times the rate of inflation for our region over the last two years.

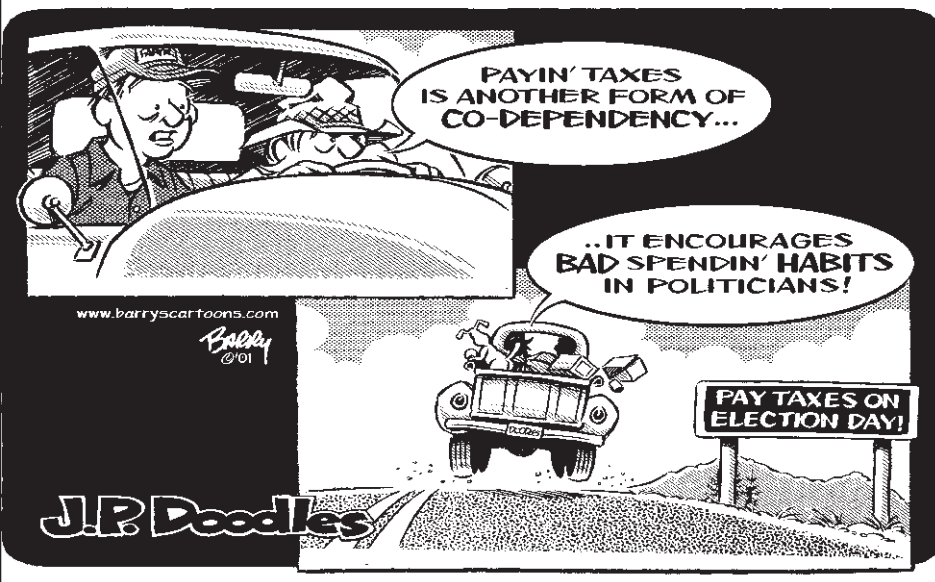
Of course, homeowners are only one piece of the property tax pie. The increases in the total tax levy by the County provides a more macro view of the magnitude of the increases over the last two years. Again, according to the County's tax notices, the total levy for all four entities has gone from slightly under \$3.1 billion in 2022 to nearly \$4 billion for this year, a staggering 28.7% increase in the overall tax burden on the County in just two years. Frankly, I have never heard of a property tax increase even close to this magnitude before.

And keep in mind that is on top of historic increases in the amount that County has siphoned from the Harris County Toll Road Authority.

This tax increase will be felt by every person and business across the county. The cost of everything will be higher as result of it and that will be on top of the current inflation we are already dealing with.

I am not sure when, or perhaps, if ever, these elected officials will come to comprehend that people do not have to live here. Ultimately, they will vote with their feet. Indeed, they have already begun to do so. In the last decade, Harris County's net domestic migration has been a negative 200,000. I suspect these massive tax increases will send more running for the exits.

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.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Voter Registration Deadline Nears for November Election

Eligible Texans planning to vote in the November general election have until Oct. 7 to register, Texas Secretary of State Jane Nelson reminds folks. The registration deadline applies to both early and election day voting.

"Texans have just a few short weeks left to register to vote, and I want to ensure all eligible Texans who want to make their voices heard are registered and prepared to do so," Nelson said.

Instructions on how to register to vote and how to update existing voter registrations can be found at VoteTexas.org. To be eligible to vote, you must be a U.S. citizen, a resident of the county where you register and at least 18 years old on Election Day.

Texas officials say they have scrubbed voter rolls of more than 1 million voters deemed ineligible. The routine process culls people who have moved out of state or are dead. Voters can ensure they are registered by going to the My Voter Portal on the secretary of state's website, https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do

Early voting begins on Oct. 21 and ends Nov. 1. The last day to apply for a ballot by mail is Oct. 25. Election Day is Nov. 5.

VENEZUELAN GANG DESIGNATED TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

Gov. Greg Abbott and state officials have labeled the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua as a "foreign terrorist organization," the Austin American-Statesman reported.

The gang originated in Venezuela's prison system a decade ago and first operated from the state of Aragua, from which it derives its name. Its criminal activities include drug trafficking, human smuggling, kidnapping, extortion and illegal mining, according to the report. State officials believe the gang is operating in Texas.

"Our goal is to defend Texas from the growing threat of the gang," Abbott said. "We will not let them use Texas as a base of operations to terrorize our citizens."



Abbott has said El Paso is a locus of illegal activity by members of Tren de Aragua. A law passed in 2023 to target smugglers of undocumented immigrants will be used against gang members, he said.

JUDGE TOSSES PAXTON SUIT AGAINST BEXAR COUNTY

A state district judge last week threw out a lawsuit filed by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton against Bexar County's plan to mail voter registration forms to country residents, The Texas Tribune reported. Since the forms have already been mailed, District Judge Antonia Artega ruled the case was moot.

Paxton sued the county to attempt to block the mailing of the forms. He asserted that the efforts in Bexar County, as well as in Harris and Travis counties, are a violation of state law and risk adding non-citizens to voter rolls. Bexar county commissioners called the claims misleading and unfounded.

A similar suit against Travis County has been moved to federal court, where county officials are also challenging Paxton's efforts to stop voter registration efforts. In addition, Jolt, a nonprofit that is pushing for increased Latino participation in the electoral process, has sued Paxton after being targeted in a separate investigation into its registration efforts.

PROJECT 2025 DATA SHOWS LITTLE EVIDENCE OF VOTER FRAUD

Data compiled by the Heritage Foundation, architect of the controversial Project

2025, indicates noncitizen voting in Texas is not a widespread problem, the Texas Newsroom reported.

A database maintained since 2017 houses state data since 2005. Only three instances of noncitizens casting ballots have been found since 2012, the database indicates.

The Heritage Foundation has recently sounded alarm bells about potential noncitizen voting in the upcoming general election. The American Immigration Council cited the foundation's own data as proof that noncitizen voting is not a widespread problem.

"The lessons to take from Heritage's own database are that noncitizen voting is not a serious problem and that to the extent rare cases occur, they would be best addressed by better training government workers to recognize immigration documents and follow procedure," wrote Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, a senior fellow at the council.

PUC URGED TO MORE CLOSELY VET PLANT LOAN APPLICANTS

The Public Utility Commission has drawn criticism after initially approving a power plant project in the Rio Grande Valley for a company whose CEO was convicted of embezzlement seven years earlier.

The application has since been canceled, the Texas Standard reported. Earlier this month, the Senate Finance Committee grilled agency leaders, who are tasked with approving loans out of a \$5 billion fund approved by lawmakers to boost the state's power grid.

"The role of your organization has changed dramatically," state Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston, told PUC Chair Thomas Gleeson. "We're expecting more from you. You're not just a [electricity] rate organization anymore."

Gleeson said the PUC would review its processes and has penalized Deloitte, the firm hired to administer the Texas Energy Fund, by cutting its contract by 10%. The agency is under pressure to finish loaning the \$5 billion by the end of 2025, according to the legislation.

TIME FOR FLU, COVID-19 VACCINES

Autumn has officially arrived, which means it's the season to consider booster shots for the flu, COVID-19 and other immunizations, such as shingles or pneumonia. The Statesman reported healthcare providers say it's OK to get both the flu and COVID-19 shots at the same time, but people should first check with their healthcare provider.

The federal Food and Drug Administration has approved three updated COVID-19 boosters, and the agency urges people of all ages to get vaccinated. The vaccines typically become effective in two weeks, healthcare authorities say. Most insurance plans cover the cost of the vaccines.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

The Way of Cats



My husband, Peter, had never had a cat before we adopted Felix, and Felix is taking full advantage of this.

Peter didn't know, for instance, that cats require tuna, right out of the can, every night at precisely 8:30 p.m.—until Felix informed him. Peter did not know that he was not permitted to be late, nor was he allowed to run out of tuna. Felix has a firm no-substitutions policy. Peter now understands this.

Peter didn't know the kinds of games that cats like to play, so Felix had to train him from scratch. This has been a lot of work for Felix, but he is patient, and Peter is a remarkably good student—for starting his training at such an advanced age.

Felix started Peter out with relatively easy games at first. There was the Towel Over the Head game, which is quite simple once you get the hang of it. All Peter had to do was throw a towel over Felix's head and stomp around the floor in front of him so Felix could chase Peter by sound from underneath the towel. The towel serves as a handicap for Felix because, obviously, catching Peter without a towel over his head would be far too easy and not much of a game.

After Towel Over the Head was mastered, Peter moved on to more challenging games. He played Around the House With a Mouse, where Felix has Peter run around with a mouse on a string. But that grew old quickly because Peter is far too slow. They tried Hide and Seek, but that also became tedious because Peter was loud as well as slow, and it was not reasonable to think he could ever outsmart Felix.

Then Peter graduated to Cat in a Box and a Stick, and I have to say, this is where Peter really began to excel as a student. Felix got inside a box and Peter poked the rubber end of a hiking pole into the open top while Felix grabbed onto the end of the stick. This game sounds deceptively simple, but you must have a light touch with the stick and not punch Felix in the stomach too hard while still moving the stick quickly and coming up with unexpected moves. I tried to play this game once, and Felix jumped out of the box and looked at me with disappointment. I clearly did not understand the rudiments of the game. Felix waited for Peter to play again.

Then we had a larger-than-usual Amazon delivery and Felix got a bigger box. That's when things got more interesting because Peter had the brilliant idea of cutting a small window in the box and revising the game to Cat in a Box With a Hole and a Stick, and this proved to be even better. Peter laughed himself silly, and Felix played to exhaustion. Peter then cut several more holes in the box, so it became Cat in a Box With Several Holes and a Stick. Felix's paws were poking out of several windows at once, and Peter left for his bike ride later and later because of the extended rounds required to play this game properly.

"You never had a cat before?" I asked Peter.

"Never! I knew nothing about cats," he insisted.

"Well, you are an expert now."

It's surprising, really. Peter is a natural with cats. But they say when the student is ready, the teacher will appear. Peter was ready and Felix appeared, ready to mentor Peter in the way of cats.

Till next time, Carrie

Advertisement for Star Courier newspaper, including contact information for Gilbert Hoffman, Mei-Ing Liu Hoffman, David Taylor, Julieta Paita, Kristan Hoffman, and Gerardo Hernandez.

FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 5: Diggs faces old team when Bills come to town: Reeling Cowboys face stern test in Pittsburgh

Texas' two professional football teams had a rough go of it two weeks ago as both teams suffered defeats.

The Texans were dominated on both sides of the ball in their 34-7 loss at Minnesota, while the Cowboys were run over and through by Baltimore enroute to a 28-25 loss at home, in a game that wasn't as close as the final score indicated.

The Texans offensive line had a rough day, which was bad news for QB C.J. Stroud. That unit allowed Stroud to be sacked five times and had numerous illegal procedure and holding calls that stalled out drives.

The Cowboys defense once again was shredded at home as Ravens running back Derrick Henry, who many expected would sign with Dallas in the offseason, ran over and through the Pokes for 151 yards and two touchdowns. Dallas trailed 28-6 entering the fourth quarter and scored 19 points in the final stanza to make the score respectable.

Things don't get any easier for either team this week as the Texans host the hot Buffalo Bills, while the Cowboys head to Pittsburgh to take on a Steelers team that won its first three games behind a defense that allowed just 26 points through the first three weeks of the season. Dallas and Pittsburgh will meet on Sunday Night Football.

Texans wide receiver Stefon Diggs will be going up against his former team when the Bills visit NRG Stadium on Sunday at noon. Diggs spent four productive years with Josh Allen and Buffalo, but was traded in the offseason to the Texans. Some say he wore out his welcome in Buffalo, while others contend it was time for him to move on. The Texans were more than happy to have the steady receiver to add one more weapon for Stroud.

Other top games this weekend in the NFL have Tampa Bay visiting Atlanta on Thursday Night Football in a key early-season NFC South tilt, while the improving Jets visit Minnesota on Sunday. Baltimore hopes the Dallas win was the springboard it needed to get on a run after losing their first two games at home. The Ravens will visit the Bengals, who lost their first three games (two at home) and can't afford another loss this early in the season if they hope to contend for a playoff spot.

Week 5 concludes on Monday Night Football with the Saints visiting the Chiefs.

On the college schedule, No. 24-ranked Texas A&M hosts No. 11-ranked Missouri in a key SEC game for both teams, while Iowa visits No. 3-ranked Ohio State. No. 4-ranked Tennessee has a tough road test at high-scoring Arkansas.

District 14-6A play enters its second week with Nimitz taking on Aldine, MacArthur taking on Eisenhower and Davis visiting Spring.

Before we take a look at this weekend's games, let's, unfortunately, review last week's record. After a blazing start to the season, we hit a brick wall with a 5-7 week, which brought the season record to a respectable 31-17 (66%).

Now, onto this weekend's games.

NCAA

Missouri at Texas A&M - Missouri will bring a 4-0 record into Kyle Field on Saturday when it takes on the Aggies for an 11 a.m. kickoff on ABC. Two weeks ago, Missouri escaped lowly Vanderbilt, 30-27 in double overtime, while the Ags struggled at home with Bowling Green and pulled out a 26-20 win. The A&M defense will have its hands full against a loaded Mizzou offense, led by QB Brady Cook (936 yards, 4 TDs), and wide receivers Theo Wease Jr. (26 receptions, 257 yards, and top NFL draft pick Luther Burden III (18 receptions, 247 yards, 4 TDs). The Aggies have some weapons of their own on offense with two solid QBs in Marcel Reed (422 passing yards, 4 TDs/217 rushing yards, 1 TD) and Conner Weigman (225 yards, 2 TDs). A&M can also run the ball effectively with Le'Von Moss (354 yards, 3 TDs). I think the Aggie defense



will make a play or two late to pull off the upset and have Aggie fans smiling when they leave Kyle Field. My pick, A&M 33, Missouri 29

Iowa at Ohio State - The No. 3-ranked Buckeyes host a tough Iowa team on Saturday. Iowa has a strong running game led by Kaleb Johnson (685 yards, 9 TDs), so the Buckeyes will need to slow him down and turn their attention to QB Cade McNamara (588 yards, 3 TDs). OSU is once again loaded on offense led by QB Will Howard (795 yards, 6 TDs), running backs Quinshon Judkins (336 yards, 5 TDs) and TreVeyon Henderson (267 yards, 4 TDs) and big-play wideouts Jeremiah Smith (14 receptions, 281 yards, 4 TDs) and Emeka Egbuka (14 receptions, 266 yards, 1 TD). Look for Ohio State to let the rest of the Big 10 know things will run through Columbus this year and not Ann Arbor. My pick, Ohio State 38, Iowa 13

Tennessee at Arkansas - The No. 4-ranked Vols have another tough road outing when they take on an Arkansas team that has a lot of offensive weapons. Two weeks ago, Tennessee won a tough road game at Oklahoma, 25-15. QB Nico lamaleava (892 yards, 7 TDs) has a lot of weapons on offense, led by running back Dylan Sampson (449 yards, 10 TDs) and wide receivers Dont'e Thompson (7 receptions, 242 yards, 3 TDs) and Bru McCoy (12 receptions, 200 yards). The Hogs can get it done on offense as well led by dual threat QB Taylor Green (957 passing yards, 4 TDs/325 rushing yards, 4 TDs) and running back Ja'Quinden Jackson (472 yards, 8 TDs). I think the Hogs hang around in this one, but look for the Vols defense to be the difference maker late. My pick, Tennessee 31, Arkansas 23

NFL

Tampa Bay at Atlanta - Week 5 begins with Thursday Night Football as the Bucs visit the Falcons in an important NFC South contest for both teams. Two weeks ago, the Bucs dropped a 26-7 decision at home to a Denver team that lost its first two games of the season, while the Falcons, dropped a tough one at home to KC, 22-17. TB needs QB Baker Mayfield (637 yards, 6 TDs) to play as he did in the Buc's first two games. Look for wide receivers Chris Godwin (21 receptions, 253 yards, 3 TDs) and Mike Evans (10 receptions, 120 yards, 2 TDs) to attack a banged up NO secondary. The Falcons need QB Kirk Cousins (626 yards, 4 TDs) to pick up his game, along with running back Bijan Robinson (196 yards, 1 TD). Wide receiver Drake London (14 receptions, 136 yards, 2 TDs) and Darnell Mooney (12 receptions, 169 yards, 1 TD) are off to decent starts. Look for Cousins to get things going on Thursday night against the Bucs. My pick, Atlanta 26, Tampa Bay, 23

New York Jets at Minnesota - Aaron Rodgers and the Jets visit the surprising Vikings on Sunday in what should be an interesting game. Two weeks ago, the Jets looked good on both sides of the ball in their 24-3 throttling of New England. Rodgers (624 yards, 5 TDs) tossed two TD passes, while the defense came up with nine sacks. Rodgers has some nice weapons in running back Breece Hall (170 rushing yards, 2 TDs/16 receptions, 120 yards, 1 TD) and wide receiver Garrett Wilson (15 receptions, 150 yards, 1 TD). The Vikings have been one of the NFL's pleasant surprises, winning their first three games behind journey man QB Sam Darnold (657 yards, 8 TDs), running back Aaron Jones (228 yards, 2 TDs) and big-play wide receiver Justin Jefferson (14 receptions, 273 yards, 3 TDs). The Vikes also have a stout defense as evidenced by their 16 sacks and six take aways. Look for the Minnesota defense to be the difference maker on Sunday. My pick, Minnesota 24, New York

Jets 18

Baltimore at Cincinnati - It's only Week 5, but the Bengals could be looking at a lost season if they lose at home to Baltimore this Sunday. The Bengals lost their first three games, two at home to New England and Washington, while Baltimore got on the winning side two weeks ago with a dominant win over Dallas. Cincinnati QB Joe Burrow (746 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase (16 receptions, 215 yards, 2 TDs) are doing their job, but the defense has been an issue. The Ravens will give that unit a steady dose of QB Lamar Jackson (702 passing yards, 3 TDs/254 rushing yards, 1 TD), running back Derrick Henry (281 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receiver Zay Flowers (16 receptions, 148 yards, 1 TD). Look for Baltimore's defense to pick up its game and make it another tough day for Bengal fans. My pick, Baltimore 26, Cincinnati 23

Buffalo at Houston - Josh Allen (634 passing yards, 7 TDs/85 rushing yards, 2 TDs) brings the high-powered Bills into NRG Stadium to take on the Texans. Allen has a lot of weapons on offense in running back James Cook (188 yards, 4 total TDs) and wide receiver Khalil Shakir (14 receptions, 168 yards, 2 TDs) and a defense that has recorded 11 sacks in its first three games. The Houston offensive line must do a better job of protecting Stroud (709 yards, 4 TDs), or he could be in for another long day like he went through two weeks ago at Minnesota. The Texans hope to have running back Joe Mixon (184 yards, 1 TD) back for this game, which would be huge for the offense. Look for wideouts Nico Collins (18 receptions, 338 yards, 1 TD) and Diggs (20 receptions, 164 yards, 2 TDs) to be focused for this one, especially Diggs who would like nothing more than to stick it to his former team. My pick, Houston 31, Buffalo 28

Dallas at Pittsburgh - This one could get ugly if the Cowboys don't fix a porous defense and find a running game. Dallas does not have a running back who has rushed for 100 yards on the season yet, let alone in a game. The lack of a running game could be costly against a Steeler defense that had nine sacks in its first three games. Look for the Pittsburgh defense to go after Dallas QB Dak Prescott (851 yards, 4 TDs/2 interceptions) and his go-to guy CeeDee Lamb (13 receptions, 218 yards, 1 TD) and turn things over to Justin Fields (518 yards, 2 TDs), Najee Harris (209 yards) and George Pickens (13 receptions, 171 yards). If the Dallas defense does not play the run better, Harris and Fields could run wild on Sunday Night Football. Looks like it will be another long Sunday for Cowboy fans. My pick, Pittsburgh 23, Dallas 16

New Orleans at Kansas City - Week 5 concludes with Monday Night Football as the Saints visit the Chiefs. New Orleans was the talk of the league after opening the season with two impressive wins, but they came back to earth two weeks ago with a 15-12 home loss to the Eagles. QB Derek Carr (585 yards, 6 TDs), running back Alvin Kamara (285 rushing yards, 4 TDs/10 receptions, 132 yards, 1 TD) and wideout Chris Olave (12 receptions, 178 yards, 1 TD) will get tested by a very good KC defense. It's the KC offense that needs to get going. QB Patrick Mahomes (659 yards, 5 TDs) needs more help from tight end Travis Kelce (8 receptions, just 69 yards in first three games). Mahomes has had success hooking up with wide receiver Rashee Rice (24 receptions, 288 yards, 2 TDs) and the Chiefs may have found a new star in rookie running back Carson Steele (99 yards). Look for the KC offense to get rolling on MNF. My pick, Kansas City 31, New Orleans 18

NS Mustangs Dominate Humble Wildcats 42-0,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

games. North Shore scorers were: #18 Charles Ross defensive linebacker on a fumble recovery TD run-back (1 TD), #15 Kaleb Bailey, quarterback run (1TD), #28 D'Andre Hardeman (1TD), #4 Kendrick Deblanc, pass/run (1 TD), #9 Quanel Farrakhan Jr. pass/run (1 TD), and #87 Jorge Campos, kicker made all 6 extra points. Linda Jamail photographer and statistician.

North Shore will take their 4 - 0 record on the road playing the 3 - 1 Kingwood Mustangs at Turner Stadium, Thursday, October 3rd @ 7PM.



"See Arrow" #4 NS Kendrick Deblanc catches a Kaleb Bailey TD pass. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



NS Team Captains: L - R #6-Devin Sanchez, #77-Jakoby Isom, #19-Cedric Henderson and #9-Quanel Farrakhan, Jr. (Photo by Linda Jamail)

Yellow Jackets Thriller Win Retains 1st Place,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Galena Park Yellow Jackets Team Captains: L - R: #67-Marc Lopez, #16-Hunter James, #18-Daylin Boyd and #77-Reuben Escobar. (Photo by Linda Jamail)

lack of discipline by creating so many penalties. In this game they committed 11 penalties and had it not been for so many penalties they would have had an easier victory.

GP scorers: #5 Cary Clay, running back (3 TD's), #16 Hunter James, receiver (2), #11 Kendall Combs, junior quarterback (2 TD's) and #12 Juan Soto, extra point kicker made all 7.

GAME STATS: total yards GP = 315 ~ Milby 317 / Linda Jamail photographer and statistician.

Yellow Jackets take their 3-0 district win streak to Spring Woods to play the Tigers on Thursday at Tully Stadium @ 6:30 PM.



GP receiver #16 Hunter James scores on a 42 yard run. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

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San Jacinto College Foundation Receives \$1.5 Million Anonymous Grant to Support Promise Campaign

The San Jacinto College Foundation continues its journey to turn dreams into realities with the announcement of an anonymous \$1.5 million grant to support the Promise campaign. The campaign supports the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship which provides graduating high school seniors living in the College's taxing district with a no-debt pathway to a certificate or associate degree at San Jacinto College.

The grant is a two-part gift that will be used to



further the Foundation's mission to remove financial barriers and foster student access and success. An initial outright gift of \$500,000 was made upon grant approval, with the remaining \$1,000,000 to be provided contingent on the Foundation raising matching funds from ad-

ditional private donors. The gift match will be given in two equal installments eligible to the Foundation by Oct. 31, 2025, and Jan. 31, 2026. The Promise @ San Jac Scholarship is at the heart of San Jacinto College's commitment to equitably provide access to higher

education for all students in the region. This anonymous gift moves the Foundation much closer to its fundraising goal of a \$30 million dollar endowment, which will fund the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship program in perpetuity for future students.

"Every student should have access to a quality education, and the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship is helping us remove the financial barriers that too often stand in the way of that

goal," said Robert Cage, executive director of the San Jacinto College Foundation. "Thanks to generous and transformational donations such as this, we are seeing dreams become reality for high school seniors in our community. This grant will go a long way in supporting our students' futures, and we are deeply grateful."

The San Jacinto College Foundation believes that supporting students today is an investment in the future of the community. Through initiatives

like the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship, the Foundation is ensuring that students have the resources they need to succeed and contribute to a brighter tomorrow.

For more information about the San Jacinto College Foundation and the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship, or to learn how you can help brighten the future of San Jacinto College students, visit sanjac.edu/foundation.

Pablo Picasso, Hispanic Heritage Month Honoree,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in France. One of the most influential artists of the 20th century, he is known for co-founding the Cubist movement, the invention of constructed sculpture, the co-invention of collage, and for the wide variety of styles that he helped develop and explore. Among his most famous works are the proto-Cubist Les Femmes d'Alger (1911-1914) and the anti-war painting Guernica (1937), a dramatic portrayal of the bombing of Guernica by German and Italian air forces during the Spanish Civil War.

Picasso was born at 23:15 on 25 October 1881, in the city of Málaga, Andalusia, in southern Spain. He was the first child of Don José Ruiz y Blasco (1838-1913) and María Picasso y López. Picasso's family was of middle-class background. His father was a painter who specialized in naturalistic depictions of birds and other game. For most of his

life, Ruiz was a professor of art at the School of Crafts and a curator of a local museum.

In 1895, Pablo Picasso was traumatized when his seven-year-old sister, Conchita, died of diphtheria. After her death, the family moved to Barcelona, where Ruiz took a position at its School of Fine Arts. Picasso thrived in the city, regarding it in times of sadness or nostalgia as his true home. Ruiz persuaded the officials at the academy to allow his son to take an entrance exam for the advanced class. This process often took students a month, but Picasso completed it in a week, and the jury admitted him, at just 13. As a student, Picasso lacked discipline but made friendships that would affect him in later life. His father rented a small room for him close to home so he could work alone, yet he checked up on him numerous times a day, judging his drawings.

The two argued frequently.

Picasso's father and uncle decided to send the young artist to Madrid's Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando, the country's foremost art school. At age 16, Picasso set off for the first time on his own, but he disliked formal instruction and stopped attending classes soon after enrollment. Madrid held many other attractions. The Prado housed paintings by Diego Velázquez, Francisco Goya, and Francisco Zurbarán. Picasso especially admired the works of El Greco; elements such as his elongated limbs, arresting colours, and mystical visages are echoed in Picasso's later work.

Picasso demonstrated extraordinary artistic talent in his early years, painting in a naturalistic manner through his childhood and adolescence. During the first decade of the 20th century, his style changed as he experiment-

ed with different theories, techniques, and ideas. After 1906, the Fauvist work of the older artist Henri Matisse motivated Picasso to explore more radical styles, beginning a fruitful rivalry between the two artists, who subsequently were often paired by critics as the leaders of modern art.

Picasso's output, especially in his early career, is often periodized. While the names of many of his later periods are debated, the most commonly accepted periods in his work are the Blue Period (1901-1904), the Rose Period (1904-1906), the African-influenced Period (1907-1909), Analytic Cubism (1909-1912), and Synthetic Cubism (1912-1919), also referred to as the Crystal period. Much of Picasso's work of the late 1910s and early 1920s is in a neoclassical style, and his work in the mid-1920s often has characteristics of Surrealism. His later work often combines elements of



Artist Pablo Picasso Oct. 25, 1881 - April 8, 1973

his earlier styles.

Exceptionally prolific throughout the course of his long life, Picasso achieved universal renown and immense fortune for his revolutionary artistic accomplishments, and became one of the best-known figures in 20th-century art.

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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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GP Yellow Jackets Claim 1st place, Extend Win Streak to 15,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



play. Galena Park is always lethal from the service line. They've now served at least five aces in 60 consecutive matches dating back to last season. Another big factor in their wins is their feisty defense.

The GP girl's volleyball teams won the best float award in the homecoming parade and were proudly represented by player Camila Esquivel as Homecoming Queen (see homecoming king & queen photo on page # in the NC Star).

DeFiore will lose half of her varsity players at season's end, but she's got some great talent coming up from the junior varsity team. The GP JV's shutout Carnegie's JV team and the GP freshman girls also shutout Carnegie's freshman team. Linda Jamail, photographer & statistician.

2024 GP Varsity Girls Yellow Jackets remain undefeated in district play and move up to 1st place. L - R: Bottom Row Coach Lydia Baggett, Coach Catherine Swanson, Cailin Fountain, Lily Lopez, Jada Bryant, Abigail Esqueda, Marlene Flores, Volleyball Head Coach Mary DeFiore pointing #1 with her finger. Back row: Michelle Rodriguez, Abigail Berrones, Merri Rue, Emma Colon, Italia Estrada, and Camila Esquivel. Not pictured Jessica Pfannstiel, Athletic Trainer. (Photo by Linda Jamail)

State of Texas
County of Harris
Sheldon Independent School District

The Board of Trustees of the Sheldon Independent School District hereby gives notice of an election to be held on November 5, 2024 for the purpose of electing one trustee each for the Positions designated as Positions 1 and 3. Position 2 is unopposed and will listed on the ballot as "Unopposed Candidate Declared Elected".

The Harris County Administration Building, 1001 Preston, 4th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 is hereby designated as the main early voting place. Branch early voting will be conducted at the established early voting locations designated by Harris County and are subject to change up until Election Day. Early voting by personal appearance will be held Monday, October 21, 2024 through Saturday, October 26, 2024 from 7 a.m.-7:00 p.m.; Sunday, October 27, 2024 from 12:00 p.m.-7 p.m.; and Monday, October 28, 2024 through Friday, November 1, 2024 from 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Application requests for ballots by mail can be found online at [harrisvotes.com](https://www.harrisvotes.com) and shall be mailed via regular mail to: Harris County Elections Administrator's Office, P. O. Box 1148, Houston, Texas, 77251-1148; or via common or contract carrier to: Harris County Elections Administrator's Office, 1001 Preston 4th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002. The Harris County Elections Administrator's contact information is: 713-755-6965 (telephone); 713-755-4983 or 713-437-8683 (fax); vbm@HarrisVotes.com (email); <https://www.harrisvotes.com/Voter/Vote-by-Mail> (website). Ballots by mail must be postmarked by November 5, 2024 and must be received by the early voting clerk no later than 5 p.m. on the next business day after Election Day; if there is no postmark, the early voting clerk must receive these ballots by 7 p.m. on Election Day, November 5, 2024. Ballots from civilians abroad must be received by the early voting clerk no later than the 5th day after Election Day. Ballots from Military voters must be received by the early voting clerk no later than the 6th day after Election Day. Per Texas Election Code Section 84.007, to be effective, an application for ballot by mail submitted by fax or email must also be submitted by mail and be received by the early voting clerk no later than the fourth business day after the transmission by fax or email is received.

The polls will be open for voting from 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. on November 5, 2024. The Board of Trustees designates the following Harris County polling places in Harris County election precincts that contain territory from the District as polling places for the election:

Estado de Texas
Condado de Harris
Distrito Escolar Independiente de Sheldon

La Junta de Síndicos del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Sheldon notifica por medio del presente que se celebrará una elección el 5 de noviembre de 2024 con el propósito de elegir a un síndico para cada una de las Posiciones designadas como Posiciones 1 y 3. La Posición 2 no tiene oponentes y aparecerá en la boleta como "Candidato sin oponentes declarado electo".

Por medio de la presente se designa al Edificio Administrativo del Condado de Harris, 1001 Preston, Cuarto Piso, Houston, Texas 77002, como el lugar principal de votación anticipada. La votación anticipada en sucursales se llevará a cabo en los lugares de votación anticipada establecidos y designados por el Condado de Harris que están sujetos a cambio hasta el Día de Elección inclusive. La votación anticipada en persona se llevará a cabo del lunes 21 de octubre de 2024 al sábado 26 de octubre de 2024 de 7 a.m. a 7 p.m.; el domingo 27 de octubre de 12:00 a 7:00 p.m.; y del lunes 28 de octubre de 2024 al viernes 1 de noviembre de 2024 de 7 a.m. a 7 p.m.

Las solicitudes de boletas para voto por correo se pueden encontrar por internet en [harrisvotes.com](https://www.harrisvotes.com) deben enviarse por correo postal a través de correo regular a: Harris County Elections Administrator's Office, P. O. Box 1148, Houston, Texas, 77251-1148; o por paquetería común o de contrato a: Harris County Elections Administrator's Office, 1001 Preston 4th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002. La información de contacto del Administrador de Elecciones del Condado de Harris es: 713-755-6965 (teléfono); 713-755-4983 o 713-437-8683 (fax); vbm@HarrisVotes.com (correo electrónico); <https://www.harrisvotes.com/Voter/Vote-by-Mail> (sitio web). Las boletas de voto por correo deben tener el sello postal para el 5 de noviembre de 2024 y las debe recibir el oficial de votación anticipada a más tardar a las 5 p.m. del siguiente día laborable después del Día de Elección; si no tienen sello postal, el oficial de votación anticipada debe recibir estas boletas para las 7 p.m. del Día de Elección, 5 de noviembre de 2024. Las boletas de votación de civiles fuera del país deben ser recibidas por el oficial de votación anticipada a más tardar el quinto día después del Día de Elección. Las boletas de votación de votantes militares deben ser recibidas por el oficial de votación anticipada a más tardar el sexto día después del Día de Elección. En conformidad con la Sección 84.007 del Código Electoral de Texas, para que sea válida, una solicitud de boleta de votación para votar por correo enviada por fax o correo electrónico además debe ser enviada por correo postal y ser recibida por el oficial de votación anticipada a más tardar el cuarto día laborable después de recibida la transmisión por fax o correo electrónico.

Las casillas estarán abiertas para votar de 7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m. el 5 de noviembre de 2024. La Junta de Síndicos designa los siguientes lugares de votación de los precintos del Condado de Harris que abarcan territorio del Distrito como lugares de votación de la elección.

TIỂU BANG TEXAS
Quận Harris
Khu Học Chánh Độc Lập Sheldon

Hội Đồng Quản Trị Học Khu Độc Lập Sheldon theo đây thông báo một cuộc bầu cử sẽ được tổ chức vào Ngày 5 tháng Mười một, 2024 để bầu chọn một ủy viên hội đồng quản trị để bầu chọn một ủy viên quản trị cho mỗi Vị Trí được ấn định là Vị Trí 1 và 3. Vị trí 2 không có đối thủ tranh cử và sẽ được ghi trên lá phiếu là "Ứng Cử Viên Không Có Đối Thủ Tranh Cử Được Tuyên Bố Trưng Cử".

Tòa Nhà Hành Chính Quận Harris, 1001 Preston, Lầu Bốn, Houston, Texas 77002, theo đây được qui định là địa điểm bỏ phiếu sớm chính. Thủ tục bỏ phiếu sớm sẽ được tiến hành tại các địa điểm bỏ phiếu sớm đã có từ trước, do

Quận Harris quy định và có thể thay đổi cho đến trước Ngày Bầu Cử. Thủ tục đình thần tới bỏ phiếu sớm sẽ được tiến hành vào thứ Hai, 21 tháng Mười, 2024, tới thứ Sáu, 26 tháng Mười, 2024, từ 7 giờ sáng đến 7 giờ tối; Chủ Nhật, 27 tháng Mười, 2024, từ 12 giờ trưa đến 7 giờ tối; và thứ Hai, 28 tháng Mười, 2024 tới thứ Sáu, 1 tháng Mười Một, 2024, từ 7 giờ sáng đến 7 giờ tối.

Đơn yêu cầu các lá phiếu bầu qua thư có thể được truy cập trực tuyến tại [harrisvotes.com](https://www.harrisvotes.com) và có thể được gửi qua thư tin thông thường đến: Harris County Elections Administrator's Office, P. O. Box 1148, Houston, Texas, 77251-1148; hoặc qua hãng dịch vụ đưa thư thông thường hoặc dịch vụ đưa thư theo hợp đồng đến: Harris County Elections Administrator's Office, 1001 Preston 4th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002. Thông tin liên hệ của Quản Trị Viên Bầu Cử Quận Harris là: 713-755-6965 (điện thoại); 713-755-4983 hoặc 713-437-8683 (fax); vbm@HarrisVotes.com (email); <https://www.harrisvotes.com/Voter/Vote-by-Mail> (trang web). Các lá phiếu bầu qua thư phải được đóng dấu bưu điện trước ngày 5 tháng Mười một, năm 2024 và phải được thư ký bỏ phiếu sớm nhận trước 5 giờ chiều vào ngày làm việc tiếp theo sau Ngày Bầu cử; nếu không có dấu bưu điện, thư ký bỏ phiếu sớm phải nhận được những lá phiếu này trước 7 giờ tối vào Ngày bầu cử, ngày 5 tháng Mười một, năm 2024. Các lá phiếu từ thường dân ở nước ngoài phải được thư ký bỏ phiếu sớm nhận được không muộn hơn ngày thứ 5 sau Ngày Bầu cử. Các lá phiếu từ các cử tri Quân nhân phải được thư ký bỏ phiếu sớm nhận được không muộn hơn ngày thứ 6 sau Ngày Bầu cử. Theo Mục 84.007, Bộ Luật Tuyền Cử Texas, để có hiệu lực, đơn xin bỏ phiếu bằng thư từ được nộp lên bằng cách gửi qua điện tín (fax) hoặc email cũng phải được gửi qua đường bưu điện và được Thư ký Phụ Trách Bỏ phiếu Sớm nhận không muộn hơn ngày làm việc thứ tư sau khi nhận được fax hoặc email.

Các phòng phiếu sẽ mở cửa cho cử tri đến bỏ phiếu từ 7 giờ sáng đến 7 giờ tối ngày 5 tháng Mười Một, 2024. Ngoài ra, Hội Đồng Quản Trị quy định các địa điểm phòng phiếu sau đây tại các phân khu bầu cử của Quận Harris nằm trong Khu Học Chánh là các địa điểm phòng phiếu cho cuộc bầu cử:

Texas 州
Harris 縣
Sheldon 獨立學區

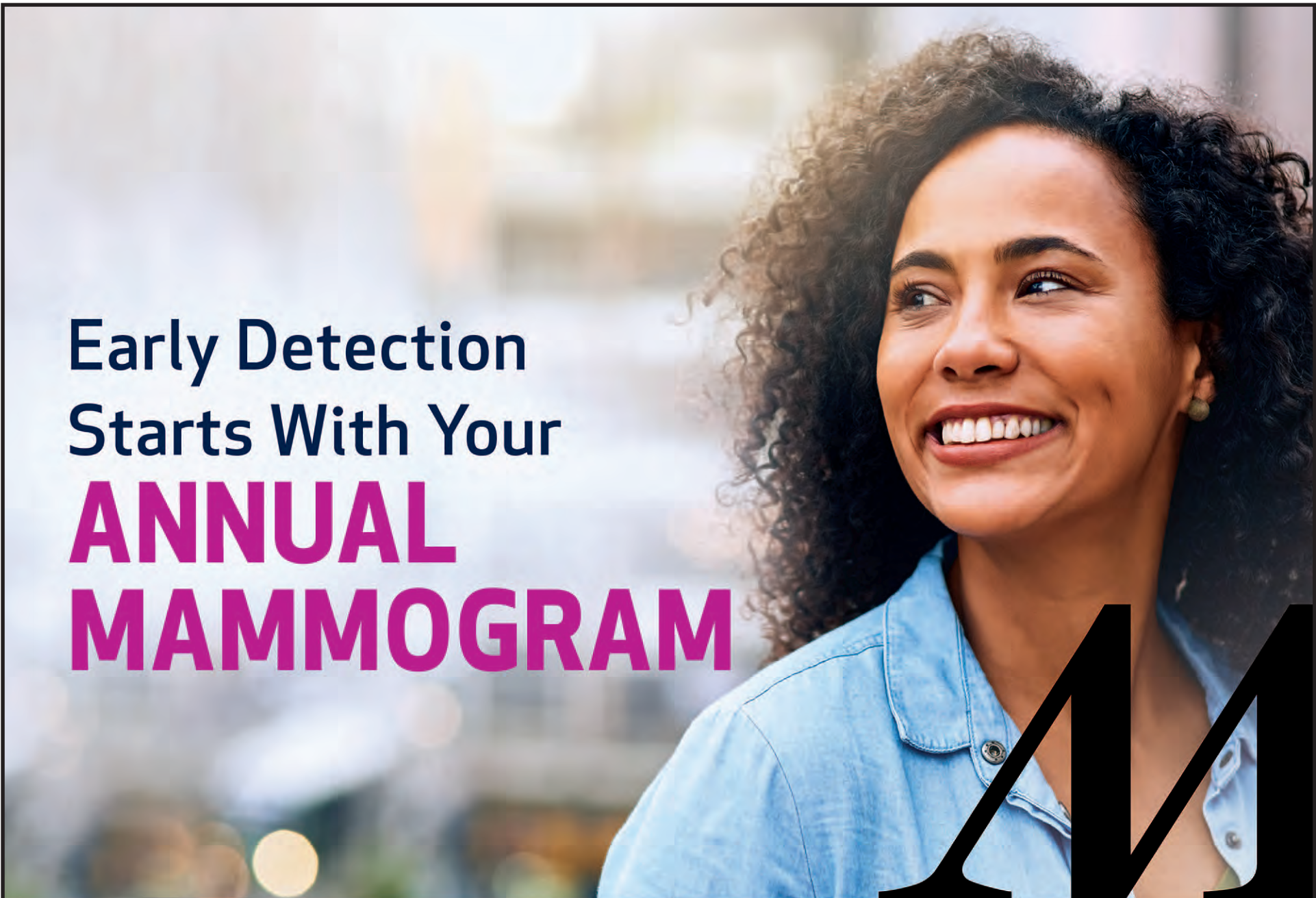
Sheldon 獨立學區理事會茲此通知其將於 2024 年 11 月 5 日舉行一項選舉，目的是為席位 1 及 3 各選出一名理事。席位 2 無競爭對手，並且將在選票上列為“無對手候選人宣布當選”。

Harris 縣行政大樓, 1001 Preston, 4th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 特此指定為主要提前投票地點。提前投票分部將在 Harris 縣指定的既定提前投票地點進行，並且在選舉日之前可能會有變更。親自出席的提前投票將於 2024 年 10 月 21 日週一至 2024 年 10 月 26 日週六，上午 7:00 至下午 7:00; 2024 年 10 月 27 日週日，中午 12:00-下午 7:00; 2024 年 10 月 28 日週一至 2024 年 11 月 1 日週五，上午 7:00 至下午 7:00 舉行。

郵寄選票申請可在 [harrisvotes.com](https://www.harrisvotes.com) 在線找到，並應通過普通郵件郵寄至: Harris County Elections Administrator's Office, P.O. Box 1148, Houston, Texas 77251-1148; 或通過普通或合同承運人郵寄至: Harris County Elections Administrator's Office, 1001 Preston 4th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002. Harris 縣選舉管理員聯繫方式是: 713-755-6965 (電話); 713-755-4983 或 713-437-8683 (傳真); vbm@HarrisVotes.com (電子郵件); <https://www.harrisvotes.com/Voter/Vote-by-Mail> (網站)。郵寄選票必須在 2024 年 11 月 5 日之前蓋上郵戳，並且必須在選舉日後的下一個工作日下午 5 點之前由提前投票書記員收到; 如果沒有郵戳，提前投票書記員必須在 2024 年 11 月 5 日選舉日晚上 7 點之前收到這些選票。來自海外公民的選票必須在選舉日後的第 5 天之前由提前投票書記員收到。來自軍人選民的選票必須在選舉日後的第 6 天之前由提前投票書記員收到。根據 Texas 州選舉法第 84.007 條，通過傳真或電子郵件提交的郵寄選票申請應在收到傳真或電子郵件後的第四個工作日之前，以郵寄方式提交給 Harris 縣提前投票書記員。

投票站應於 2024 年 11 月 5 日上午 7:00 至晚上 7:00 開放投票。理事會指定 Harris 縣選區內包含本區領土的以下 Harris 縣投票站作為選舉的投票站:

Precinct #	November 5, 2024 Polling Locations	Street Address	City	Zip Code
Precinto Nro.	5 de noviembre de 2024 Lugares de votación	Calle	Ciudad	Código Postal
Phân khu #	Ngày 5 tháng Mười một, 2024 Các Địa Điểm Phòng Phiếu	Địa Chỉ có tên đường Phố	Thành Phố	Mã Zip
投票區編號	2024 年 11 月 5 日 投票站地點	街道地址	城市	郵遞區號
045	C. E. King Middle School Gym/Gimnasio/Phòng Tập Gym/健身房	8540 C. E. King Parkway	Houston	77044
096	Michael R. Null Middle School Library/Biblioteca/Thư Viện/圖書館	12117 Garrett Road	Houston	77044
0376	Royalwood Elementary School Auditorium/Auditorio/Khán Phòng/禮堂	7715 Royalwood Drive	Houston	77049
0976	Sheldon Elementary School Library/Biblioteca/Thư Viện/圖書館	17203 Hall-Sheppard Rd.	Houston	77049

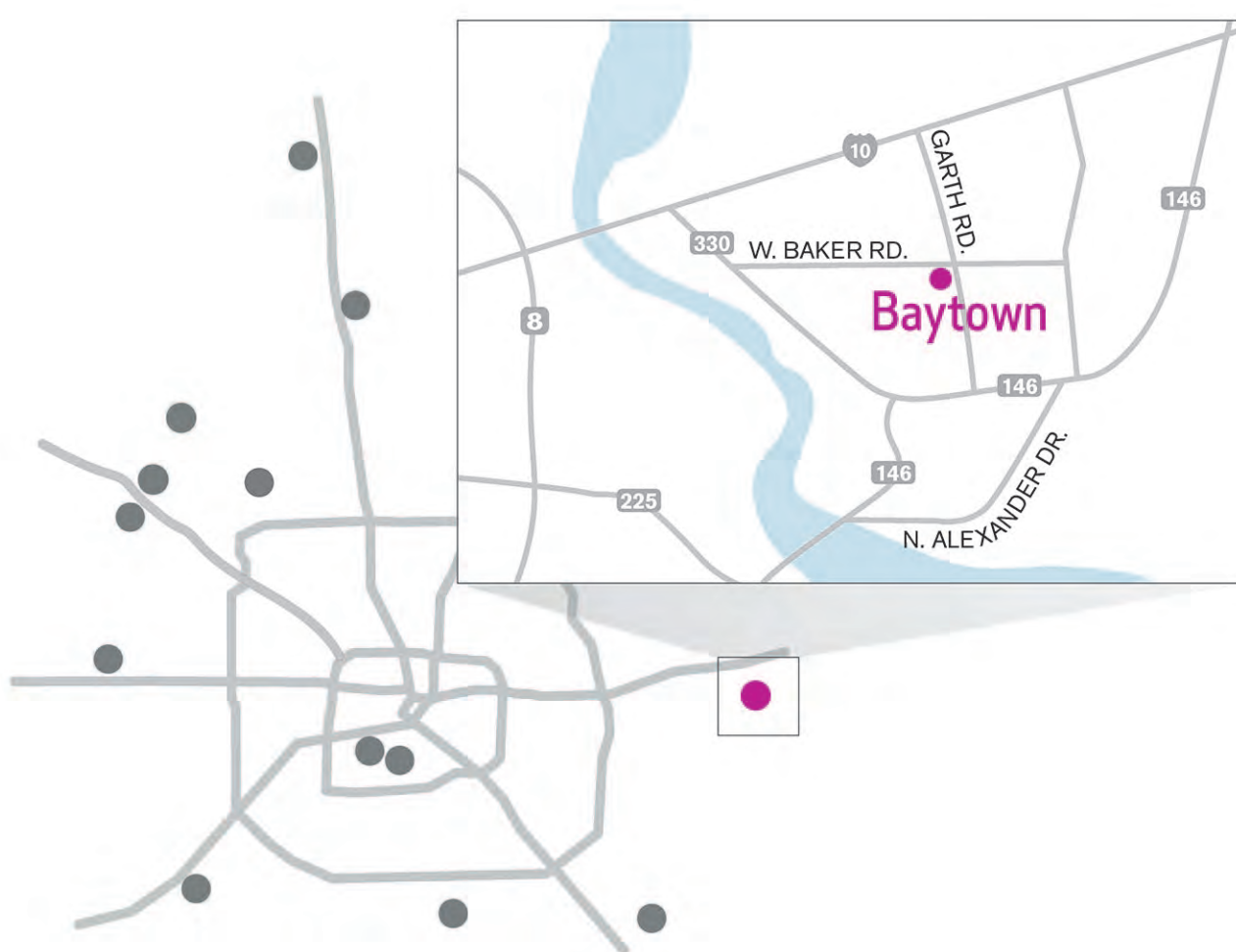


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