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North Shore Mustangs running back #28 D'Andre Hardeman Jr. races 46 yds for a TD (Photo by Allan Jamail) See Pages 1, 6

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

VOLUME 12, NO. 46 (#545)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2024

www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

Holiday Events

Thursday, DEC. 5
ORIENTATION: New member of the chamber? Or interested in joining? The North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a New Member Orientation at their office on 13301 East Freeway, Suite 100. To register, contact yesenia@ncachamber.com or call 713-450-3600.

Saturday, DEC. 7
JACINTO CITY PARADE: The city of Jacinto City will host their Annual Christmas Parade on Dec. 7 at 5:30 p.m. All entries for the parade must be a Christmas theme. No Santa entries except for Santa who will ride on the fire truck at the end of the parade. All entries should enter off Market St. south on Kerby and east on Burman. This is the only entrance allowed. Lineup for the parade will start at 4:30 p.m. Entries will be judged in categories Best Marching or Walking Group, Most Beautiful Float, Most Original Entry, Mayor's Choice Award, and Honorable Mention. Vendors are welcome. Entries are free but must be submitted by Dec. 4. Entry applications are available at Jacinto City Hall and can be found on the city website. Email them to cityhall@jacintocity-tx.gov.

North Channel Chamber Holiday Open House

The public and members are invited to a Holiday Open House, Tuesday, December 10 at the Chamber office, 13301 East Freeway, Suite 100 from 12:00pm to 3:00pm. Please RSVP to 713-450-3600 or info@ncachamber.com.

THEA sues Corps of Engineers over Barge dangers

Lawsuit claims that Corps illegally permitted a barge fleet near the Superfund Site

The Texas Health and Environment Alliance (THEA) is filing suit against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for illegally permitting a barge fleet near a Superfund Site on the San Jacinto River in Houston.

The lawsuit alleges that the Army Corps failed to follow its own permitting process and ignored THEA and the community's requests that it assess the environmental impacts of mooring barges so close to the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site.

The lawsuit is being filed on THEA's behalf by EarthJustice.

HOUSTON—The Texas Health and Environment Alliance (THEA), represented by EarthJustice,



filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The lawsuit alleges that USACE failed to follow proper permitting procedures, which require USACE to properly assess the environmental impacts of a proposed project that would dredge and add moorings to accommodate barges near the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site and provide

proper public notice and comment.

The Army Corps skipped required permitting procedures, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) approval process, and instead issued a 'Letter of Permission' approving the project without environmental review or public notice and comment, despite the project having likelihood of real and significant impacts and years of public opposition expressing con-

cerns with the proposed plans.

The project would require dredging and mooring near the San Jacinto River Waste Pits (SJRWP) Superfund site "area of concern," which creates a significant risk of contamination should the waste pits be disturbed during dredging or impacted by barges once the project is operational. The plaintiff alleges that allowing this company to cut corners and avoid environmental review is not only wrong, but also illegal.

"The Army Corps has approved dredging and operation of a barge facility within the area of concern for a federally designated toxic Superfund site in the middle of the San Jacinto

River. The government has a responsibility to protect this site so that it does not contaminate local waterways, fisheries, and communities," says Allison Brouk, senior attorney at Earthjustice. "Instead, the Army Corps is taking shortcuts, which is, frankly, reckless. They must play by their own rules and conduct a proper evaluation of all potential impacts prior to granting a permit."

The SJRWP Superfund Site has been the center of decades of research on cancer risks, and a new cancer study from the Texas Department of State Health Services is expect

Continued. See THEA SUES CORPS, Page 6

North Shore Mustangs Dominate Ridge Point Panthers, Advance to Regional Semifinals

By Allan Jamail

Pearland, TX. ~ On November 22, 2024 while playing at a neutral site at the "Rig Stadium" the North Shore Mustangs and the Ridge Point Panthers game was highly publicized as one of Texas's premier matchups in high school football for the week. The game attracted a large audience of football enthusiasts along with each teams large fan base.

The Eastside Boys squad was dominant and quickly discouraged the Panther fans who were hoping for a victory by scoring 23 points in the first quarter. This score included their defense making a 2 point safety and shutting out the Panthers in the first quarter. In the football playoff season the loser goes home, there's no second chance. NShore preserved their 12-0 unde-

feated season record with the Area-Round win while Ridge Point's season came to a close with a 10-2 record.

North Shore advances to the third round of the playoffs for the 13th consecutive season. It's an impressive streak that spans three head coaches: David Aymond, Jon Kay and now Willie Gaston. The Eastside Boys just keep knocking out area-round opponents year after year.

NShore Head Coach Willie Gaston said, "I think that's the message we were preaching all week — let's just come out fast and try to jump on them, overwhelm them a little bit. I'm very proud of the way our team came out fast on offense and defense. I'm proud of our coaching staff."

Continued. See MUSTANGS TROT PAST PANTHERS, Page 6



Mustangs #3 wide receiver Deion Deblanc makes spectacular air-borne diving catch of a 40 yd. Kaleb Bailey TD pass. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Murderer of GP Cheerleader Sentenced to 17 years

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

A 29-year nightmare has finally come to an end for the Kristie Martin family.

The 19-year-old popular cheerleader from Galena Park High School was shot and killed in a drive-by shooting in Channelview at River Terrace Park almost three decades ago and her admitted murderer was sentenced to 17 years behind bars last week in a Harris County court.

It was not the sentence the family had hoped for.

"We weren't totally sold on that," said her mother, Judy Martin. "I don't think Stephanie (her sister) and I realized that they were going to move forward with that."

Martin said originally that they had offered 25



years for a plea bargain and Rios' lawyer countered with 10. After more negotiations, they settled on 17.

"You know how it is. All it would have taken would be to have one or two that would have caused a hung

jury, and he might get off entirely," she said.

She was happy that he finally admitted guilt in court and took his punish

Continued. See MURDERER GP CHEERLEADER SENTENCED, Page 6

Pumpkin Spice Conchas Take The Country by Storm

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

A small, obscure Mexican bakery in a strip center on Uvalde in North Shore exploded to popularity in October when their own creation became the talk of the country.

La Hacienda Bakery is located at 180 Uvalde Road and shares the non-descript building with several other small businesses including Mr. Gatti's Pizza, the largest retailer in the strip center.

The bakery achieved notoriety when one of their customers posted on Tik Tok and Instagram their newest creation—a pumpkin spice sweetbread with a pumpkin spice filling, dusted on top with a pumpkin-type icing.

The video went viral and caught the attention of local news station ABC-13.



Denis Gonzalez gets busy making more dough that will eventually become one of the pumpkin sweetbread delights.

It also caught the eye of producers at Good Morning America and the next thing you know, the little bakery was flooded with television media seeking the story of the unique concha-like creations.

"It was crazy having Good Morning America and ABC-13 News here in

our restaurant. We are the only ones in the country making this that we know of," said Denis Gonzalez, one of the workers at the bakery.

After the video went viral, pastry lovers across

Continued. See N SHORE BAKERY GOES VIRAL, Page 6

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Daniel Pfannstiel Named Texas Thespian's Administrator of the Year

Sheldon ISD's Director of Fine Arts Daniel Pfannstiel has been selected as the Texas Thespian's Administrator of the Year. He was recognized at the Texas Thespians State Festival on November 16. Texas Thespians present this award to outstanding school administrators who have demonstrated exemplary support for educational theatre.

This was the first time King High School sent students to compete at this event. C.E. King High School theatre senior Caleb Johnson, who recently played Willy Wonka in Sheldon ISD's production of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," scored a "superior" rating and advanced to Nationals in the Solo Musical category for the International Thespian Society's Thespy



Awards Program.

King High School had 19 students attend this workshop, 13 compete in various "individual events" and the "Tech Team Relay," and several students who earned college theatre program acceptance through auditions and callbacks at this annual gathering of nearly 4000 theatre students from across the state.

Building Futures: Superintendent Student Squad Explores the World of Architecture on Field Trip



On November 19, the Superintendent's Scholar Squad traveled to Huckabee to learn more about a career field in architecture. Huckabee, long-time community partner with Sheldon ISD, provided a tour, drawing exercises and real-world examples for students who might want to explore architecture as a possible career or study in college. The squad meets monthly and is Dr. McCall's student advisory group. Students range from fourth through 12th grade and are working to develop a community service project that will engage the Sheldon community. Sheldon ISD is grateful for community partners like Huckabee for advocating for education and supporting our students.

Sheldon ISD Board of Trustees approve purchase and name for new educational support center



Over the summer, the Board of Trustees approved the building purchase of the former Holy Trinity Episcopal School located at Lockwood Road and North Lake Houston Parkway. As Sheldon ISD continues to experience growth in enrollment, programs and resources are increasing to be able to support students and staff. The facility will be used to provide administrative support spaces for students and staff as well as serve as training rooms and testing centers for students who might need additional specialized support.

At the November 19 School Board Meeting,

trustees approved the naming of the facility as the Dr. King R. Davis, Jr. Education Support Center. Dr. Davis, retired Sheldon ISD Superintendent, has 30 years of service in public education, with seven spent in Sheldon ISD.

"We will always be grateful for the leadership and service that Dr. Davis brought to our community," said Board President Mr. Fred Rivas. "During his time in Sheldon ISD, we overcame many obstacles together. From Hurricane Harvey to a pandemic, together we stayed Sheldon Strong in our community. Dr. Davis was instrumental in the passing of two bond elec-

tions to allow for new buildings, land for schools as well as technology enhancements, new programs and safety upgrades to facilities. He is truly deserving of this honor for the lasting impact he made during his time in Sheldon ISD."

The Davis Jr. Education Support Center will house departments such as special education, multilingual, career and technical education, counseling and student wellness and advanced academics. The facility can be used for large gatherings as well as professional development training spaces. The center is expected to open in August 2025.

From Trash to Treasure: STEM students walk the runway in style



King High School's STEM Pre-AP chemistry students took a walk down the runway to promote sustainability and environmental awareness on November 22. Students designed, created and repurposed plastic waste into wearable fashion at the school's first STEM PBL Fashion Show.

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You can win too. Just send us a photo
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See information on Page 2, and enter
the Drawing.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB
By Charlotte Jackson



OBITUARIES

Fredric Milam Saunders
JULY 4, 1932 – OCTOBER 20, 2024

IN THE CARE OF
Heights Funeral Home

Please let this notice serve to inform those interested that I died on October 20, 2024.

To all those I have injured or offended, I apologize.

My life has been blessed with more good fortune than I ever deserved or had a right to expect. To all those who assisted in causing that to happen, thank you.

Sincerely,
Fred Saunders



Fredric Milam Saunders passed away peacefully on October 20, 2024. Fred was born on July 4, 1932, in Kenedy, Texas to the late Freddie Milam Saunders and Charles Lemuel Saunders. Fred is predeceased by his two half-brothers, Rhoderick Kelso "Pete" Saunders and Charles Lemuel Saunders, Jr.

Fred is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Gayle Donovan Perry Saunders of Houston, Texas, his daughter Meredith Anne Saunders Mason and husband Richard Alan Mason of Austin, his son Stuart Donovan Saunders and wife Farrell Harris Saunders of Houston, seven grandchildren, and his sister, Mary Ella "Susie" Saunders Milam of Austin, Texas.

Fred grew up in Mission, Texas where he was an Eagle Scout and graduated from Mission High School. He played basketball for Schreiner Junior College and then The University of Texas at Austin. While at The University of Texas, he was named All Southwest Conference. After graduation, Fred completed his ROTC obligation in the Army Transportation Corps in Ohio, before returning to Texas to begin his life in Houston. He and Gayle were married on August 24, 1957, and he quickly settled into banking. Fred spent most of his career in east Harris County as President and Chairman of Channelview Bank which later became Prime Bank.

Of all his qualities and skills, perhaps most impressive was his commitment to family and friends. Fred regularly attended dance recitals, little league baseball games, basketball games, swim meets, band concerts, football games, lacrosse games, and drill team competitions. He was a dedicated member of many organizations including Northshore Rotary Club, North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce, YMCA board of directors, The Lighthouse of Houston board of directors, Breakfast Association of Houston, and the Houston Racquet Club where he and his tennis bunch spent decades enjoying tennis and fellowship. He cared about people and worked at maintaining relationships over decades and without regard to distance.

A memorial service and celebration of life was held on Thursday, November 14, 2024, at the Houston Racquet Club. For those desiring, contributions in memory of Fred may be made to Heritage Classical Academy, 602 Sawyer St., Suite 720, Houston, Texas 77007 or online at www.heritageed.org, or a charity of your choice.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "How do I select the perfect engagement ring?"



It should be one of the most memorable moments in your life. You pull an engagement ring out of your pocket and ask the love of your life to be your wife. You desperately want her to say yes and fall in love with her ring too, right? You can make sure that happens if you follow these tips to pick out the perfect engagement ring:

DECIDE HOW MUCH YOU WANT TO SPEND

You will be confronted with a dizzying array of choices when it comes to engagement rings. Have a price range in mind before you start to shop. Going in with fairly specific parameters will help your jeweler find the right engagement ring to fit your budget.

DO YOUR HOMEWORK

There's a lot you can learn about diamonds before you even set foot in a jewelry store. Start with the 4Cs - Color, Clarity, Cut and Carat Weight - so you understand how each influences the value of the diamond and adds to the overall appearance of the stone. You'll learn what is most important to you and where you might want to compromise to fit your price range. Begin your homework at our website: www.pineforestjewelry.com Click on the first tab "BRIDAL", and then on the far right click on "Diamond Education". This is the interactive diamond education display from GIA where you'll learn all about the 4Cs.

UNDERSTAND HER TASTE IN JEWELRY

Pay attention to the kind of jewelry she already wears. Is she more classic or modern? Does she wear more white metals or yellow gold? Do her pieces tend to be more delicate or chunky? Sleek or ornate? Have these preferences in mind when you set out to shop. If you buy something similar to what she already likes, you can't go wrong.

KNOW HER RING SIZE

If she wears rings, borrow one she already owns. Trace the inner circle on a piece of paper, or press the ring into a bar of soap for an impression. You can also slide it down one of your own fingers and draw a line where it stops. A jeweler can use these measurements to identify her approximate ring size. If she doesn't wear rings, estimate in the following manner: The average ring size in the U.S. is 6 (based on the 'average' U.S. female being 5'4" tall and weighing 140 lbs.) If she's more slender, or fine-boned, her ring size is probably in the 4 1/2 to 5 1/2 range. If she is heavier, larger-boned or taller, her ring size is probably in the 6 1/2 to 7 1/2 range. It's always better to buy a ring a bit bigger than you think she'll need, because sizing a ring down is much easier than increasing its size.

KNOW HER FAVORITE SHAPE AND CUTTING STYLE

If she hasn't made it easy for you by already voicing an opinion on the subject (or admiring someone else's engagement ring), keep these thoughts in mind when considering shape: She will be wearing this ring every day of your married life. It will need to go with everything from jeans to evening wear. If you're uncertain about her diamond shape preference, it's sensible to stick to the classics, such as a round or square shape. They became classics because they appeal to most people most of the time. Certain shapes pair more successfully with other shapes in multi-stone rings. Round, oval and marquise shapes work well sitting side-by-side. Pear and heart shapes are more challenging.

A diamond's cutting style refers to its facet arrangement, rather than its shape. Round-shaped diamonds, for example, are cut in the brilliant style - an arrangement of 57 or 58 facets designed to maximize the diamond's sparkle and minimize the appearance of inclusions. The fewer the facets, the more visible any inclusions will be, so a cutting style such as a step cut (a.k.a. emerald cut), for example, requires higher clarity in the diamond.

DECIDE ON A SETTING

Consider her lifestyle and how well a certain setting design will fit into it. If she's more active or outdoorsy, look for lower profile, less ornate or more secure mountings, which are less likely to get knocked against or caught on things. If she's more of a glamour girl, look for statement settings, with a higher stone profile, more intricate ring detailing or a unique motif. While there are endless design choices you can make for her ring, there are some basic setting types you are likely to encounter:

SOLITAIRE: A single stone and still the most popular style choice in engagement rings.

SIDESTONE: Smaller diamonds or other gemstones that flank the larger center stone for additional sparkle or color.

THREE STONE: Typically, the diamonds are the same shape with the center diamond larger than the two sidestones.

HALO SETTING: The center stone is surrounded by tiny gemstones in a pave (pah-vey) setting, usually diamonds, to add sparkle and to give the appearance of a larger center stone.

DECIDE ON A METAL

A diamond engagement ring is meant to last a lifetime so it is often made of gold or platinum - highly durable metals that can withstand many decades of daily wear. Metal color is a matter of personal preference with gold providing more color options: white, yellow, or rose. Metal color is also a consideration since the appearance of a diamond's color is affected by its surroundings. Once you've selected your diamond, ask your jeweler to show you how it would look with different colored metals.

FIND A JEWELER

You don't have to go it alone. Pineforest Jewelry will ensure that your engagement ring buying process is stress-free. Our knowledgeable staff will educate you about the 4Cs of diamond quality, answer your questions in detail, and help you narrow your choices to those that fit your intended tastes and your budget. Our sales associates are professionally educated by the GIA, making us a great choice to assist you. We stand behind our diamonds and engagement rings with over forty years of experience as one of Houston's best jewelers. Buying an engagement ring can be easier than you think, if you educate yourself about diamonds and the 4Cs, know her tastes and find a good jeweler to work with. Enjoy the process and imagine the look of awe, surprise and love you'll get when you put that perfect ring on her finger!

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

Diamond Jim is a master jeweler, diamond dealer and precious metals broker. Pineforest Jewelry has been a proud member of the Independent Jewelers Organization (IJO) and the Retail Jewelers Organization (RJO) for many years. See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com.

If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email jmills@pineforestjewelry.com.

Take Time to Remember

It is that time of year where our lives are full of activities and often excessive amounts of food. The days are filled with hugs and perhaps some shopping. Often there are too many miles put on our cars as well as some added stress to our families. But during it all, take time to remember those who are less fortunate.

Maybe you have lost a loved one this year, if so, make plans for Sunday, December 1 to attend the Annual Candlelight Remembrance Service at the Carter-Conley Funeral Home at 3 p.m. Perhaps you have a neighbor or friend who has lost a child, share information with the about the Annual HOPE Candlelight Service held on December 6th at 7 p.m. at San Jacinto College North.

This year marks the 16th Annual NEGAMI Toy Drive and Concert at the Zotz Center. For more information, visit www.ExploreEastHarrisCounty.com and check out the "events" page. Perhaps your children are grown, and you want to donate to help others have gifts under the Christmas tree? Be sure to drop by Channelview ISD on Saturday, December 7 for the Annual Channelview Fire Department Toy Drive. This annual event is co-hosted by the Channelview Ministry Team. Stop by and learn more about their monthly meetings and upcoming projects. If you have children or even those who are young at heart, make plans to attend the Annual Christmas Parade sponsored by Cloverleaf Community Outreach on December 19th. Contact Donnie at 832-208-3690 or Luz at 832-258-5102 for the details. This annual event includes a visit from Santa Claus as well as entries from various community groups and the event ends with a live concert.

In upcoming weeks, there will be many more events as well as opportunities to help brighten the lives of others. Never forget the military veterans, your former teachers as well as those in local nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. Most churches will be hosting musical events as well as holiday plays. Be sure to invite someone to attend with you.

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★ OPINION PAGE ★

OPINION

By Jeff Burdett
National Federation of Independent Business

This Holiday Season, Shop Small

As we head into the final stretch of 2024, a recent survey of small business owners found that our local job creators feel more uncertain than ever. Between rising costs, few qualified applicants, and a massive federal tax hike scheduled to take effect next year, there are plenty of reasons why the mood on Main Street feels gloomy.

But here's the good news: you can kick off the holiday season by shopping small. November 30, the day after Black Friday, is Small Business Saturday. What began in 2010 as a way to promote local businesses recovering from the Great Recession, has blossomed into one of the most robust shopping days of the year.

That's good for our small employers, their employees, and the communities they call home. Here in Texas, small businesses are the foundation of our economy, accounting for more than 99 percent of businesses in the state and employing at least 5 million working Texans, according to the Small Business Association.

When we shop small, we're supporting our friends and neighbors. Roughly 67 cents of every dollar spent at a small business stays within the community where it's spent and creates another 50 cents in local business activity. When we shop small, family-owned businesses are better able to host school fundraisers, donate to charity, and keep our communities thriving.

Becoming a loyal customer is just one of the ways we can support Main Street businesses this holiday season. With nine out of 10 small businesses facing a massive tax hike next year, Congress must make the 20% Small Business Deduction permanent as quickly as possible.

Since becoming law in 2017, this deduction has empowered small business owners to overcome a host of economic challenges we've seen these past few years. If Congress fails to act, the expiration of this deduction represents a massive tax hike on more than 30 million small businesses.

Main Street businesses, and the communities they support, will pay the price.

Recent analysis estimates that if Congress were to make the deduction permanent, it would create 104,000 new jobs each year for the first 10 years, and 201,000 annually every year after. We can't jeopardize those jobs or the economic growth it would bring to the Lone Star State.

Here's where you can help: tell Congress to make the expiring 20% Small Business Deduction permanent.

This holiday season, don't forget to shop small. Our local businesses keep our communities strong and our economy growing. That's why I'm encouraging everyone to shop small on Saturday, November 30. Because when we help small businesses, we help everyone.

Jeff Burdett is the State Director of the National Federation of Independent Business in Texas.

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.



THE POSTSCRIPT
By Carrie Classon

Words About Teeth



"I don't know many words about teeth," I told the dentist.

Since my husband, Peter, and I spend time in Mexico, it makes sense to get dental work done while we're here, and I had been putting off going to the dentist. I knew I needed to get work done where my gums had receded, and the enamel no longer covered what it was supposed to. I've been told that over-exuberant toothbrushing contributes to this condition, so I've been trying to ease off. But I don't really think my toothbrush is the cause. I'm just getting old.

"Do you have the expression 'long in the tooth' in Spanish?" I asked the dentist and dental hygienist in Spanish.

I like this dentist. His name is Patricio. He is young and works quickly. He has a nice waiting room with a comfortable purple couch and a dental hygienist who doubles as his receptionist. As far as I can tell, they are the only two working at the office. They are open six days a week, and until 8 p.m. on weekdays. So, even with a short break in the afternoon, it's a long day. This is why I was sitting in his chair at 6:30 in the evening, chatting about long teeth.

"It's what we say about horses," I continued, while Patricio prepared his tools.

"Horses?" Patricio looked confused.

"The animal?" I clarified. Sometimes even when I know a word, I panic and think I have just said "cowboy" instead of "horse," and am describing long-toothed cowboys.

"Yes, a horse," Patricio confirmed.

"We look at their teeth to see how old they are. If they are old, they have long teeth. And so it's how we describe something that is old. It is long in the tooth."

I knew Patricio was busy with his dental preparations, but a part of him was puzzling over why the length of horses' teeth had any relevance.

"So, I am an old horse," I concluded triumphantly. "I have long teeth!"

The dental hygienist laughed, but I'm pretty sure this was because I was a crazy gringa, not because I had managed to communicate anything meaningful.

"I'm sorry," I added. "I don't know many words about teeth."

So, as he worked, Patricio patiently taught me words about teeth. I learned saliva and resin and anesthesia (which were almost the same as in English), and gums (which was totally different), and a verb that described what he was doing with the drill (which I immediately forgot), and several other words Patricio thought I should know. The whole thing went much faster than expected.

"How many teeth did you do?" I asked when he finished. "Five," he said.

"Wow! You are fast."

I told Patricio, in English, that I had meant to do this work a long time ago and was happy to have it done today. I think he understood, but I wish I could have said it in Spanish. I haven't studied Spanish in more than a year, and I feel badly that I haven't put in a little more effort. But I know the words I learned while sitting in Patricio's dentist chair are much more likely to be remembered than any I would learn in a classroom.

I looked at my teeth in a hand mirror shaped like a tooth and admired Patricio's work. I looked much less like a long-toothed horse, and the price was very affordable. I will be back on Monday to get the rest of my teeth fixed. And learn a few more new words about teeth.

Till next time,
Carrie

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



More Than 1,500 bills filed as session approaches

Texas lawmakers last week filed more than 1,500 bills ahead of the next legislative session, which begins Jan. 14. The Houston Chronicle reported the proposed measures cover a range of topics ranging from border security to abortion access, education and other issues.

Republicans have expanded their control of both chambers after flipping several seats during this year's elections. State Comptroller Glenn Hegar has projected the state will have a \$20 billion surplus at the start of the 2025 session.

AMONG THE BILLS ALREADY FILED:

· Proposed reduction or elimination of property taxes. State Rep. Cody Vasut, R-Angleton, has filed a bill to eliminate property taxes altogether and create a committee to examine "alternative methods of taxation." Property taxes raise \$81.5 billion annually, meaning their elimination would likely require a marked increase in sales tax. Other proposed bills would use the state's surplus revenue to partially offset property taxes.

· Austin Democrat Donna Howard filed two bills that would expand when a health care provider can legally perform an abortion. The state's near-total ban on abortion has resulted in women coming forward with stories of delayed or denied medical care, and more than 100 Texas OB/GYNs signed a letter saying they have been restricted from providing high-quality care to their patients.

· School vouchers are certain to be considered, since they are a priority of both Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick. Several Republican opponents of vouchers were targeted in the primaries and defeated, making passage of a measure more likely this session, after it failed in 2023.

· Several House Republicans have filed measures to stop providing in-state tuition to some undocumented students living in Texas, effectively eliminating the Texas Dream Act passed in 2001.

· Lawmakers from both parties filed bills that seek to ensure faster responses from utility companies after power outages caused by storms and hurricanes. The measures come after Hurricane Beryl hit southeast Texas last summer, leaving millions without power for days.



er for days.

TEA RELEASES FINAL FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY RATINGS

The Texas Education Agency has released its final 2023-2024 financial accountability ratings, which show 83% of Texas public schools earned an "A" rating, reflecting "a continued commitment to effective financial management practices so that they can best serve students," a news release stated.

The ratings are based on annual financial reports submitted by school districts to TEA, with districts getting a letter grade for financial accountability and management. A dozen public school districts and 10 charter schools were rated substandard and given an "F." Those districts were Culberson County-Allamore, Fannindel, Karnes City, Shepherd, Denver City, Tioga, Matagorda, Overton, Hitchcock, Sunray, Dew, and Wylie.

Charter schools receiving failing grades for financial accountability were Bexar County Academy, Prelude Preparatory Charter School, Academy of Dallas, Gateway Charter Academy, Education Center International Academy, Texas Preparatory School Westlake Academy Charter School, Rocketship Public Schools, Texas Empowerment Academy, and Austin Discovery School.

Readers can look up how school districts in their area fared by going here: <https://tinyurl.com/3x8ddmab>.

ABBOTT FREEZES COLLEGE TUITION FOR NEXT TWO YEARS

Gov. Abbott sent a letter last week to the state's public colleges and universities say-

ing he would not support any undergraduate tuition and fee increases over the next two years, extending a tuition freeze already in place. The Austin American-Statesman reported Abbott had discussed the issue with all of the state's university system boards of regents, who supported the decision.

"Texans face significant rising costs due to inflation," Abbott wrote in the letter. "When inflation and other economic pressures burden household budgets, our public universities must take every step possible to ease the financial burden on our students and their families."

Abbott signed a law in 2023 that stopped tuition and fee increases for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 academic years. His proposal would extend that through 2027.

"I will ensure college affordability remains a top priority for the state as we head into the next legislative session," Abbott wrote.

WATER AGREEMENT MIGHT BRING RELIEF TO SOUTH TEXAS

A change to an 80-year-old treaty between the U.S. and Mexico could bring relief to South Texas farmers grappling with a drought and scarce water, according to The Texas Tribune. Under the amended treaty, Mexico now has more options to meet its required water deliveries, which have fallen short in recent years.

Under the 1944 treaty, Mexico must deliver 1.75 million acre-feet of water to the U.S. from six tributaries every five years, a deadline it is at high risk of not meeting. The country still has a balance of more than 1.3 million acre-feet of water that is due by October 2025.

The amendment will allow Mexico to meet its delivery obligations using other tributaries not covered by the original treaty, and by transferring water stored at the Falcon and Amistad international reservoirs.

"What's more important is we need water transferred at Amistad and Falcon," said Sonny Hinojosa, a water advocate for Hidalgo County Irrigation District No. 2, which distributes water to ranchers and farmers in the region. "If water gets transferred, they'll know they'll have a little bit of water for next year."

The amendment expires in five years unless extended.

DRIEST, HOTTEST OCTOBER IN MANY DECADES

The drought is back for much of Texas after the driest October since 1952, and the hottest since at least 1895, according to the Texas Water Development Board's hydrologist, Dr. Mark Wentzel. By the end of last month, nearly three-fourths of the state was in drought - up 40 percentage points since the end of September.

Only the northwest corner of the Panhandle and the southern tip of Texas received anywhere near normal precipitation.

Wentzel said the outlook over the next few months is still bleak, rain-wise. The latest seasonal drought outlook from the National Weather Service predicts all of Texas, except that corner of the Panhandle, to be in drought by the end of January 2025.

TOP ten

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2. Utah
3. Georgia
4. North Dakota
5. Oklahoma
6. Florida
7. Arizona
8. California
9. Montana
10. Colorado

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FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 13: UT, A&M meet for first time since 2011, much at stake: Thanksgiving Weekend loaded with a feast of football

It's that time of year when we give thanks for our many blessings, stuff ourselves on turkey and the trimmings and feast on football!

Yes, it's Thanksgiving and while we enjoy the company of friends and family, the football schedule is loaded with four days (not counting the Monday Night Football stinker featuring the Browns and Broncos) of intriguing football games at the college and pro level.

The highlight of the weekend comes on Friday, Nov. 30 when the University of Texas and Texas A&M will renew their in-state rivalry when the Aggies host the Longhorns at Kyle Field. Not only will this be the first meeting between the state's biggest universities since 2011, but the game will have real significance in the SEC race and the College Football Playoff picture. The winner of this game could have an inside track to the SEC title game slated for Dec. 7 at Atlanta's Mercedes Benz Stadium.

Two weeks ago, UT improved to 9-1 on the season and to 5-1 in the SEC with a 20-10 road win at Arkansas. A&M also stood at 5-1 entering last weekend's game at Auburn. Texas hosted Kentucky. If both teams win those games, they will enter the big showdown in College Station with identical 6-1 league marks.

When these two met in 2011, prior to the Aggies leaving the Big 12 and heading to the SEC, Texas won, 27-25 on a last-second field goal by Justin Tucker, who is still kicking for the Baltimore Ravens. This should be one of the biggest games in the 119th meeting between the two teams (UT leads the overall series, 76-37-5).

While much attention will be on College Station on Friday, there are a number of other key matchups this holiday weekend. No. 2-ranked Ohio State will be out to end a three-year losing streak their bitter rivals, the Michigan Wolverines, when the two meet in Columbus on Saturday. This year, the Buckeyes are definitely the better team, but you had better believe the Wolverines will show up for this one and would like nothing more than to spoil OSU's Big 10 and CFP title hopes.

No. 21-ranked South Carolina takes on in-state rival No. 20 Clemson, while No. 8-ranked Notre Dame heads out to Los Angeles to take on a disappointing USC team in the renewal of one of the great intersectional rivalries in college football.

The NFL gives us a triple header on Thanksgiving Day, beginning with the Lions, perhaps the best team in the league, hosting the reeling Chicago Bears. That game will be followed by the Cowboys hosting the Giants in a game matching two struggling teams. The nightcap could be a good one with the hot Miami Dolphins visiting the Packers at Lambeau Field.

Week 13 continues on Friday with the Raiders visiting the Chiefs, who saw their undefeated season come to an end two weeks ago when they lost to the Bills, 30-21.

The Texans travel to Jacksonville on Sunday to take on the Jags, while the Chargers head to Atlanta to take on the Falcons in what should be an interesting contest. Arizona visits Minnesota in a key game for both team's playoff hopes, while the Eagles visit Baltimore in the Game of the Week in the 3:25 viewing window on Sunday. There's a good one on Sunday Night Football as the 49ers visit the surging Bills in prime time.

This is going to be quite a weekend of football viewing. Before we take a look at those games, let's review last week's record. A 10-2 week brought the season record to 93-39 (70%).

I hope all of you have a very blessed Thanksgiving. Please enjoy time with your family and enjoy the games!

NCAA

Michigan at Ohio State – The Buckeyes will be looking to end a three-year losing streak to their rivals from the North. These two teams are heading in opposite directions. After winning the national championship and finishing 15-0 a year ago, head coach Jim Harbaugh bolted Ann Arbor for the NFL and he didn't leave much left in the cupboard. The Wolverines were 5-5 heading into their Nov. 23 game against Northwestern. Michigan has struggled on offense all year long, especially at the quarter-



KEENEY'S KORNER
By
MIKE KEENEY

back position. Ohio State, on other hand, has been rolling as of late on both sides of the ball. The defense has allowed just 37 points in their last four games heading into their Nov. 23 showdown with undefeated Indiana. The offense is explosive led by QB Will Howard (2,484 yards, 24 TDs), running back Quinshon Judkins (723 yards, 8 TDs) and TreVon Henderson (662 yards, 5 TDs) and big play wideouts Jeremiah Smith (49 receptions, 865 yards, 9 TDs) and Emeka Egbuka (49 receptions, 612 yards, 8 TDs). During the three-year winning streak, Michigan has outscored OSU 117-74. Look for the Buckeyes to exercise those demons in a big way come Saturday in Columbus. My pick, Ohio State 34, Michigan 13

South Carolina at Clemson – This should be an interesting game to watch as the surging Gamecocks visit Clemson in a battle for bragging rights in the state of South Carolina. South Carolina head coach Todd Beamer has his team rolling and should enter this game with a five-game winning streak (SC played Wofford last week), while Clemson needs this game to keep its slim ACC title hopes alive. South Carolina is led by QB LaNorris Sellers (1,796 yards, 14 TDs), running back Raheim Sanders (749 yards, 10 TDs) and tight end Joshua Simons (32 receptions, 426 yards, 6 TDs). The Tigers will look for another big day from QB Kade Klubnik (2,563 passing yards, 26 TDs/341 rushing yards, 5 TDs), running back Phil Mafah (998 yards, 8 TDs) and wide receiver Antonio Williams (52 receptions, 615 yards, 8 TDs). Clemson is tough to beat at home, which the Gamecocks will discover come Saturday. My pick, Clemson 31, South Carolina 28

Notre Dame at USC – No. 8-ranked Notre Dame heads to the West Coast to take on a disappointing USC team that entered its Nov. 23 game against crosstown rival UCLA with a 5-5 record. The powers that be at 'SC can't be happy with a .500 record for what they paid head coach Lincoln Riley. This will be the Trojans Super Bowl, so expect Riley to throw a lot of surprises at the Irish. ND has one of the best defenses in the nation as evidenced by the 104 points that unit has allowed heading into last Saturday's game against undefeated Army. The Irish are solid on offense led by dual-threat QB Riley Leonard (1,789 passing yards, 12 TDs/641 rushing yards, 13 TDs) and productive running back Jeremiah Love (720 yards, 12 TDs). Look for the ND defense to hound 'SC QB Jayden Maiva (325 yards, 3 TDs) and slow down running back Wood Marks (1,024 yards, 9 TDs) as the Irish look to have an impressive finish to the regular season and prepare for the CFP. My pick, Notre Dame 34, USC 14

Texas at Texas A&M – It's good for college football to have these two in-state rivals playing one another again. It's been way too long since the Longhorns and Aggies went after it's fitting that there is so much at stake for both teams as they meet for the first time since 2011. The winner should land a spot in the SEC title game, while the loser could still earn a CFP bid. This game will match Texas' high-powered, but inconsistent offense, against a stout A&M defense. The Aggie defense will look to rattle UT QB Quinn Ewers (1898 yards, 21 TDs) early. Ewers has a lot of weapons on the outside in wideouts Isaiah Bond (30 receptions, 483 yards, 5 TDs) and Matthew Golden (29 receptions, 417 yards, 8 TDs) and a dependable tight end in Gunner Helm (37 receptions, 493 yards, 3 TDs). Helm could be a key player come Saturday in College Station. UT also needs to be able to run the ball against the tough A&M front seven, which means Quintrevion Wisner (468 yards, 2 TDs) and Jayden Blue (459 yards, 5 TDs) will be counted on to step up their games on Saturday. The A&M offense isn't explosive, but they get the job done, led by dual-threat QB Marcel Reed (1,129 passing yards, 9 TDs/375 rushing yards, 7 TDs) and wideout Noah Thomas (26 receptions, 390 yards, 4 TDs).

While the Aggie defense is one of the best in the SEC, so is the UT defense. That unit was lights out two weeks ago in its 20-10 road win at Arkansas coming up with six sacks and a turnover. This is going to be a tightly contested game, but I think the home crowd at Kyle Field will be the difference maker as the Aggies earn their first-ever trip to the SEC title game. My pick, Texas A&M 23, Texas 20

NFL

Chicago at Detroit – The NFL's Thanksgiving Day Triple Header begins in the Motor City as the red-hot Lions host the stumbling Bears. The Bears and rookie QB Caleb Williams (2,016 yards, 9 TDs) will be entering a buzzsaw when they face the Lions on Thanksgiving Day. The Detroit offense is perhaps the most explosive unit in the NFL this year. In their last seven games, they have scored 42, 47, 31, 52, 24, 26 and 52 points. They have weapons all over the place led by QB Jared Goff (2,492 yards, 20 TDs), running back Jahmyr Gibbs (796 yards, 9 total TDs), David Montgomery (595 yards, 11 total TDs), and big-play wideouts Amon-Ra St. Brown (65 receptions, 685 yards, 9 TDs) and Jameson Williams (24 receptions, 538 yards, 4 TDs). Look for the Lions offense to continue to roll and send the Bears packing with another loss. My pick, Detroit 36, Chicago 16

New York Giants at Dallas – The second game of Thanksgiving Day should be a stinker as both the Giants and Cowboys have been major disappointments this year. Two weeks ago, the Cowboys lost their fifth straight home game of the season when they were routed by the Texans, 34-10. All five home losses have been blowouts, which can't sit well with owner and GM Jerry Jones. With Dak Prescott out for the season, the offense, if that's what you call it, is now in the hands of backup Cooper Rush (566 yards, 2 TDs). He will look to CeeDee Lamb (67 receptions, 774 yards, 4 TDs) to make some plays against a suspect NY defense. The Giants have benched starting QB Daniel Jones for fan favorite Danny DeVito. DeVito should just hand the ball to running back Tyrone Tracy (545 yards, 3 TDs) and let him run over a horrible Dallas run defense. I think the Cowboys defense will be the difference maker in this one as they finally pick up a home win. My pick, Dallas 23, New York Giants 17

Miami at Green Bay – The final game of Thanksgiving Day should be a fun one to watch as the Dolphins take on the Packers in Green Bay. The Dolphins have been a different team since QB Tua Tagovailoa (1,443. Yards, 9 TDs) has returned under center after missing four games due to a concussion. He has weapons in running back De'Von Achane (530 yards, 3 TDs) and wideout Tyreek Hill (44 receptions, 523 yards, 3 TDs). The Packers have plenty of offensive weapons as well in QB Jordan Love (2,081 yards, 16 TDs), running back Josh Jacobs (838 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receiver Jayden Reed (38 receptions, 643 yards, 4 TDs). Look for Jacobs to be the difference maker in this one as GB remains in the NFC playoff hunt with a big win. My pick, Green Bay 31, Miami 26

Houston at Jacksonville – The Texans will look to put the clamps down on the AFC South race when they visit the reeling Jaguars on Sunday. Two weeks ago, Houston ran over and around the Cowboys, 34-10, as running back Joe Mixon (764 yards, 11 total TDs) rushed for 109 yards and three TDs. QB C.J. Stroud (2,628 yards, 12 TDs) was happy to have big-play wide receiver Nico Collins (36 receptions, 621 yards, 3 TDs) back after he missed five games recovering from a hamstring injury. Collins and fellow wideout Tank Dell (39 receptions, 448 yards, 2 TDs) should have a big day against a beat-up Jags defense, which gave up a franchise high 52 points two weeks ago to the Lions. Head coach Doug Pederson is probably out of a job after the season and the Texans will make it another long day for the head coach. My pick, Houston

THEA sues Corps,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ed to be released soon. A 2015 cancer study found higher than expected levels of several different types of cancers in east Harris County near the SJRWP Superfund site.

"This toxic site has a long history of impacting local communities and the environment. The Army Corps should not ignore the clear and present risks in the area of concern," says Jackie Medcalf, executive director of Texas

Health and Environment Alliance.

For example, during Tropical Storm Imelda in 2019 a barge carrying lubricating oil to become grounded on one of the waste pits at the same Superfund site. Increasing barge traffic in the area could result in further collisions with the toxic pits.

"If someone wants to dredge near a toxic waste site and bring barges into a vulnerable area, the

Army Corps must ensure thorough environmental testing is done to prevent disturbing old contamination and redistributing it into our environment," Mrs. Medcalf continued. "Not to mention the impacts that could result from dumping potentially toxic sludge on another community. This needs further review to assess environmental and public health impacts at every level."

Holiday Calendar

Monday, DEC. 9
SHOWCASE: The Sheldon FFA invites the public to their Exhibitor and Project Meet and Greet Winter Project Showcase. The event is on Monday, Dec. 9 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. See student projects that will be shown later at the Sheldon Livestock Show. The event is at the Sheldon Agriculture Center, 17522 Beaumont Hwy. in Houston. Food items will be available while supplies last.

Tuesday, DEC. 10
OPEN HOUSE: The North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce invites the public to their annual Holiday Open House at the chamber office, 13301 East Freeway, Suite 100, in Houston from 12 noon to 3 p.m. Please RSVP to 713-450-3600 or email to info@ncachamber.com.

Saturday, DEC. 14
FUNDRAISER: Second Baptist Church at 1913 18th Street in

Galena Park will host a Winter/Christmas Picture Fundraising Event from 1 to 6 p.m. at the church. There will be three scenes available (outdoor winter scene, a fireplace scene and a kids scene). A photographer will take your photos and send the digital files to customers via email or text. Cost is \$5 per three images and can be paid by cash, Venmo or Cashapp. They will be serving hot chocolate, icer and cookies to those attending. The youth will be singing Christmas carols and selling homemade craft items. The picture-taking is planned for outside but will be moved inside if there's inclement weather. For more information, text Gwen DiStefano at 832-419-5863.

Saturday, DEC. 14
SANTA: The city of Jacinto City invites all residents to be on the lookout for Santa and his helpers on Dec. 14, beginning at 8 a.m. as he

rides through every street in the city visiting children on the fire truck. It's a tradition that has been going on for 63 years. Each year they give out between 4,500 and 5,000 bags of candy. Want to help? Donate cash or individually wrapped candy. Checks can be made payable to "Santa On The Fire Truck" and mailed to 1301 Mercury Dr., in Jacinto City or drop off donations at Jacinto City Hall, 1301 Mercury Drive in Jacinto City.

Sunday, DEC. 15
MUSIC: Enjoy the talented students from the Studio of C. David Taylor for their annual Christmas recital at Church of the Resurrection, 5202 First Street, in Crosby. The recital begins at 2:30 p.m. and the public is invited to a reception for the students in the Parish Hall immediately following the recital. Free to the public.

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SCORES & SCHEDULES WEEK 13 & PLAYOFFS

34, Jacksonville 18

Los Angeles Chargers at Atlanta – This will be an interesting game as the Chargers head cross country to take on a Falcons team that has been up and down thus far in 2024. Two weeks ago, the Falcons were blown out at Denver, 38-6, while the Chargers defeated Cincinnati in overtime, 34-27. LA will look for another big day from QB Justin Herbert (2,186 yards, 13 TDs), running back J.K. Dobbins (726 yards, 8 TDs) and wideouts Ladd McConkey (43 receptions, 615 yards, 4 TDs) and Quentin Johnson (22 receptions, 354 yards, 6 TDs). The Falcons need QB Kirk Cousins (2,807 yards, 17 TDs) to have a big day against a tough LA defense. Cousins will look to running back Bijan Robinson (783 yards, 6 TDs) and wide receiver Drake London (61 receptions, 710 yards, 6 TDs) to make plays to slow down the Chargers defense. My pick, Atlanta 26, Los Angeles Chargers 23

Arizona at Minnesota – A big one for both teams and the NFC playoff hopes. Arizona has been one of the surprise teams in the NFC this year led by QB Kyler Murray (2,058 passing yards, 12 TDs/371 rushing yards, 4 TDs), running back James Conner (697 yards, 5 TDs), rookie wide receiver Marvin Harrison Jr. (33

receptions, 499 yards, 6 TDs) and tight end Trey McBride (49 receptions, 552 yards, 2 TDs). The Vikings have gotten solid play from QB Sam Darnold (2,387 yards, 19 TDs), running back Aaron Jones (692 yards, 2 TDs) and big play wideout Justin Jefferson (59 receptions, 912 yards, 5 TDs). Look for the ball hawking Minnesota defense to force Murray into a key turnover or two as the Vikings pick up a big home win. My pick, Minnesota 26, Arizona 22

Philadelphia at Baltimore – A good one in the late viewing window on Sunday as the hot Eagles visit the dangerous Ravens in Baltimore. Philly entered last Sunday night's game against the Rams riding a six-game winning streak. The Eagles are loaded on offense led by QB Jalen Hurts (2,197 passing yards, 12 TDs/417 rushing yards, 11 TDs), running back Saquon Barkley (1,137 yards, 10 total TDs) and wide receivers A.J. Brown (33 receptions, 618 yards, 3 TDs) and DeVonta Smith (41 receptions, 516 yards, 4 TDs). The Eagles defense will get a real test against the Ravens Lamar Jackson (2,876 passing yards, 25 TDs/584 rushing yards, 2 TDs), running back Derrick Henry (1,185 yards, 15 total TDs) and speedy wide receiver Zay Flowers (52 receptions, 727 yards, 4 TDs).

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

NORTH SHORE PLAYOFFS INFO: The No. 2 state-ranked North Shore Mustangs (12-0, 7-0) play No. 13 Katy (11-1, 8-0) in the Region III semifinals at 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 29 at NRG Stadium.

The Baltimore defense, which has been suspect thus far, needs to step up its game and something tells me it will come Sunday. My pick, Baltimore 30, Philadelphia 23

San Francisco at Buffalo – The 49ers head to Western New York to take on the surging Bills on Sunday Night Football. Two weeks ago, the Bills and QB Josh Allen (2,543 passing yards, 18 TDs/316 rushing yards, 5 TDs) led the Bills to a win over the Chiefs to end their undefeated season. While the Bills were winning a big home game, the 49ers lost at home to Seattle, 20-17. SF has been hammered with injuries this year and aren't the same team that has dominated the NFC for the last three years. SF needs a big night from running back Christian McCaffrey (118 rushing yards/95 receiving yards in two games), but that might not be enough to put them over the top against a very solid Buffalo team. While Allen is definitely the star of the team, he has plenty of help in running back James Cook (597 yards, 11 total TDs), wide receiver Khalil Shakir (56 receptions, 599 yards 2 TDs) and tight end Dalton Kincaid (34 receptions, 356 yards, 2 TDs). Look for the Bills to be rude guest to SF QB Brock Purdy (2,613 yards, 13 TDs) and the 49ers come Sunday night on national TV. My pick, Buffalo 31, San Francisco 20

Mustangs Trot Past Panthers NShore 44 - Ridge Point 28,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Team Captains: L - R: #19-Cedric Henderson, #3-Deion Deblanc, #47-Kylan Darville and #15-Kaleb Bailey (Photo by Linda Jamail)



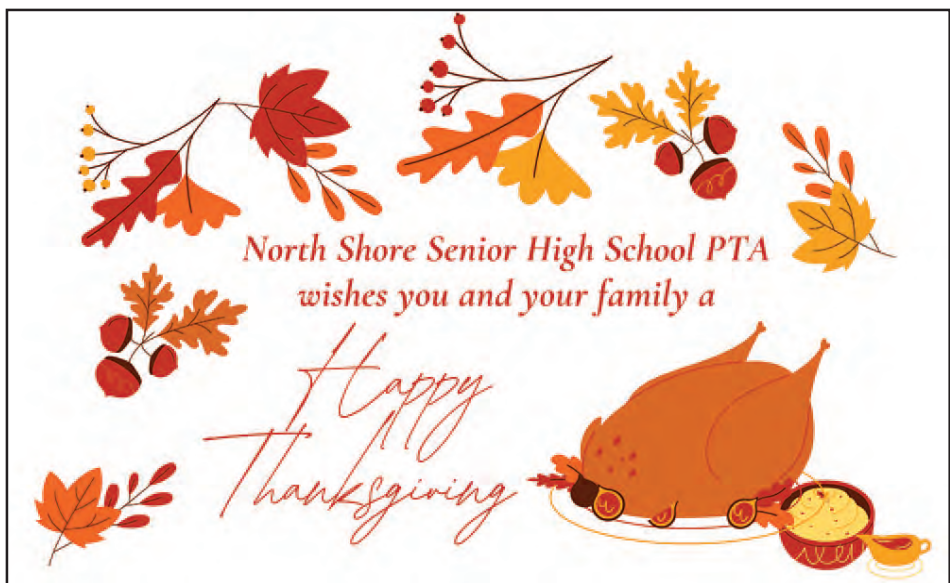
NShore #9 wide receiver Quanel Farrakhan Jr. hauls in a 25 yd Kaleb Bailey TD pass. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



NShore # 2 running back Chris Thomas trots untouched for a TD. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

NShore scorers: D'Andre Hardeman Jr., (2TD's), Quanel Farrakhan Jr., (1 TD), Deion Deblanc, (1 TD), Chris Thomas, (1 TD), Cameron Smith, (1 TD) and kicker Daniel Cruz made all 6 extra point kicks. Linda Jamail, statistician/photographer.

North Shore advances to play Katy (11-1) in the Region III semifinals at 2 p.m. Friday at NRG Stadium. It's a matchup between two of the most accomplished football programs in Texas. Katy beat Cypress Falls 49-20 on Friday night. The most recent matchup between the Mustangs and Tigers came the day after Thanksgiving in 2019, when North Shore prevailed with a 56-35 triumph in the regional semifinals.



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Nathalie Emmanuel and Giancarlo Esposito star in "Megalopolis."

of our dear Pogues won't be returning. (Netflix)

"MEGALOPOLIS"
(R) — The latest film from legendary Francis Ford Coppola ("The Godfather" trilogy) has quite a lore behind its creation. While Coppola originally conceptualized the idea for the film in 1977, the film spent decades in development hell and was only brought out of it when Coppola was able to put \$120 million of his own money toward the film.

He also shot the film in an experimental style with lots of last-minute add-ins that cost him several of his crew members, including the art department and visual effects team.

In the film, Adam Driver ("Ferrari") portrays Cesar Catilina, a genius architect in the futuristic city of New Rome who can stop time. However, Cesar has made many enemies throughout his time in New Rome, including new mayor Franklyn Cicero (Giancarlo Esposito). So, when a romantic connection ensues between Cesar and the mayor's daughter, Cesar's enemies triple, and his vision for the future of New Rome hangs in the balance. Out now to rent. (Apple TV+)

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Professional boxer and YouTuber Jake Paul

Q: I watched the boxing match with Jake Paul and Mike Tyson. I didn't know that Jake and Logan Paul were two different people. Did they both start out on YouTube? — D.E.

A: Yes, Jake and Logan Paul are two blonde brothers who grew up in Ohio and became social media stars. They can be hard to tell apart. Logan started up his YouTube channel 11 years ago and grew it to more than 23 million subscribers. He's also a professional wrestler for the WWE and the owner of an extremely successful beverage company, Prime. Like his brother, Jake, he's also headlined boxing events, including an exhibition match against Floyd Mayweather Jr. in 2021.

Logan's younger brother by two years, Jake, recently beat Mike Tyson in a boxing match on Netflix. Many feel it was staged, but both Paul and Tyson came out winners monetarily when they each took home a seven-figure payday. Jake originally was a child actor on the Disney Channel series "Bizaardvark," then became a YouTube star like his brother. In the years before facing Tyson, Jake won boxing matches against several MMA fighters, but lost to British pro boxer Tommy Fury.

Q: What is the new "Bridget Jones" project coming up on Peacock? Is it a TV series? — S.G.

A: "Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy" is a film based on the fourth book in the series by author Helen Fielding. Renée Zellweger returns as the hilarious and relatable heroine, Bridget, who is newly widowed with two young children. The film also stars Hugh Grant, Emma Thompson, Sally Phillips and Isla Fisher.

Look for the movie in theaters and on Peacock just in time for Valentine's Day, with a release date of Feb. 14, 2025.

Q: Who is the actress with the long brown hair featured in the commercials for the new Bob Dylan movie? She looks very familiar. Also, does Timothy Chalamet do his own singing in the movie? — K.E.

A: You're probably thinking of Monica Barbaro, who is best recognized as Lt.

Natasha "Phoenix" Trace in "Top Gun: Maverick." She also co-starred in the Netflix series "FUBAR" opposite Arnold Schwarzenegger and, prior to that, the ABC series "Splitting Up Together" and Lifetime's "Unreal." In "A Complete Unknown," Barbaro plays folk singer and political activist Joan Baez, who was instrumental in the success of Bob Dylan early in his career.

You could also be thinking of Elle Fanning, who sports reddish-brown tresses in "A Complete Unknown." She plays a character named Sylvie, who is loosely based on Dylan's girlfriend at the time, Suze Rotolo.

"A Complete Unknown" is directed by the same person who directed the Johnny Cash biopic "Walk the Line." Both of those stars did their own singing and learned to play instruments for their roles. Timothy Chalamet can definitely sing, as witnessed in the motion-picture musical "Wonka," and he's said to have done his own vocals in the Dylan film.

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

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"Saturday Night"

"SATURDAY NIGHT" (R) — Director Jason Reitman ("Ghostbusters: Afterlife") takes on this biographical-drama film that centers around the premiere night of NBC's "Saturday Night," which would later be famously known as "Saturday Night Live." The film's ensemble cast is hefty, full of names like Willem Dafoe, Finn Wolfhard, Dylan O'Brien, and Kaia Gerber, but Gabriel LaBelle leads the film as none other than the creator of "SNL" himself, Lorne Michaels. Viewers get to watch as Michaels nervously attempts to rally his dysfunctional cast together for the pilot, while merciless executives wait in the wings and expect the show to flop majorly. Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

"OUTER BANKS: SEASON 4, PART 2" (TV-MA) — The second part of the latest season of "Outer Banks" is out now, completing the fourth season since the show's inception in 2020. During the first half of the season, our favorite group of Pogues managed to spend all of the earnings they spent three seasons trying to locate, while simultaneously diving headfirst into a new treasure hunt.

JJ received some seriously shocking news, and Rafe, of course, is still up to no good trying to get his hands on some money.

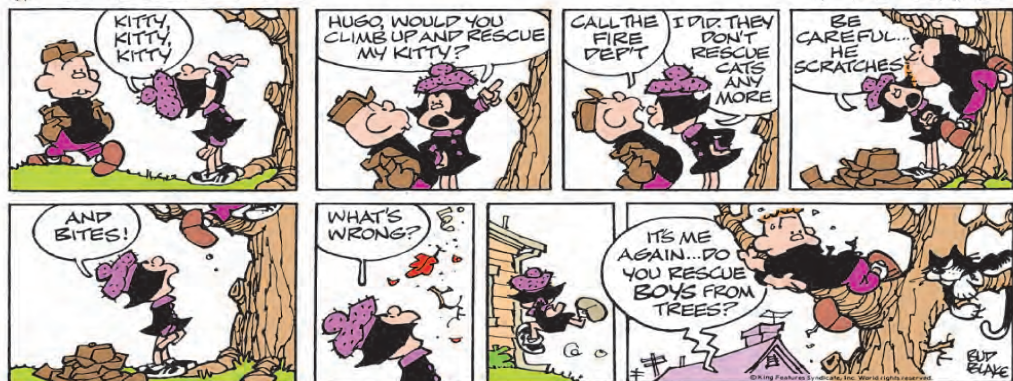
What awaits in the second half of the season will leave you on the edge of your seat, as the Pogues try to track the mysterious Blue Crown all the way to Morocco. This time, though, one

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



TIGER



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

7				6				8
	3		1			4		
		8		7			6	
	1		6				7	
		4			2			3
9			5			8		
8					1	3		
		5		6			4	
			2		4			9

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Scale is shorter. 3. Nurse's foot is moved. 4. Cabinet is not as wide. 5. Window is shorter. 6. Sock is shorter.

November 25, 2024 Posting Date
King Crossword

ACROSS

- Newt
- Former Delta rival
- Very dry
- Bjorn of tennis fame
- Documentarian Burns
- Portrayal
- Afrikaner
- Fire sign?
- Pinnacle
- Lieu
- Trumpet
- Actress Vardalos
- Trite
- Basking venue
- Skiing spot
- Twistable treat
- TV's Danson
- Autobahn auto
- Open-mouthed
- Swiss cheese
- Wards off
- Resort
- Pleasing
- Batter's dry spell
- Spiced tea
- Vitamin stat
- Bangkok cuisine
- Hayloft site
- Whatever

DOWN

- Recedes
- Shoe insert
- Shade provider
- la-la
- Desire
- Sneeze sound
- Basis for repeat purchases
- Sinbad's bird
- City on the Danube
- Golf peg
- Banner at a new store
- Conk out
- "Kidnapped" monogram
- Play part
- Aspiration
- Mimic
- Prefix with conference
- Fly high
- Incite
- Tide type
- Small barrel
- Hosp. workers
- Football's Manning
- Boom times
- Discard
- St. Vincent Millay
- "Nope!"
- Algeria's neighbor
- Artist Mondrian
- "CSI" ailer
- Solo in space
- Altar constellation
- Novelist Rand

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Trivia Test Answers

- Cambodia; 2. Vitamin K; 3. Prince ("Love Symbol #2"; a purple shade); 4. "The Drew Carey Show"; 5. "Womanizing"; 6. A hen; 7. "The Shawshank Redemption"; 8. State Farm; 9. 2.5 miles; 10. Specialized cells in the pancreas that produce insulin

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY:** In which country would you find the Angkor Wat temple?
- SCIENCE:** Which vitamin aids in blood clotting?
- MUSIC:** Which pop music icon has a Pantone color named after him?
- TELEVISION:** Which 1990s TV comedy series features the theme song "Cleveland Rocks"?
- U.S. STATES:** Which state is last alphabetically?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM:** What is an adult female turkey called?
- MOVIES:** Which popular 1994 movie features a character named Red?
- AD SLOGANS:** Which company's advertising slogan is "Like a Good Neighbor"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** How long is the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade route?
- ANATOMY:** What are beta cells?

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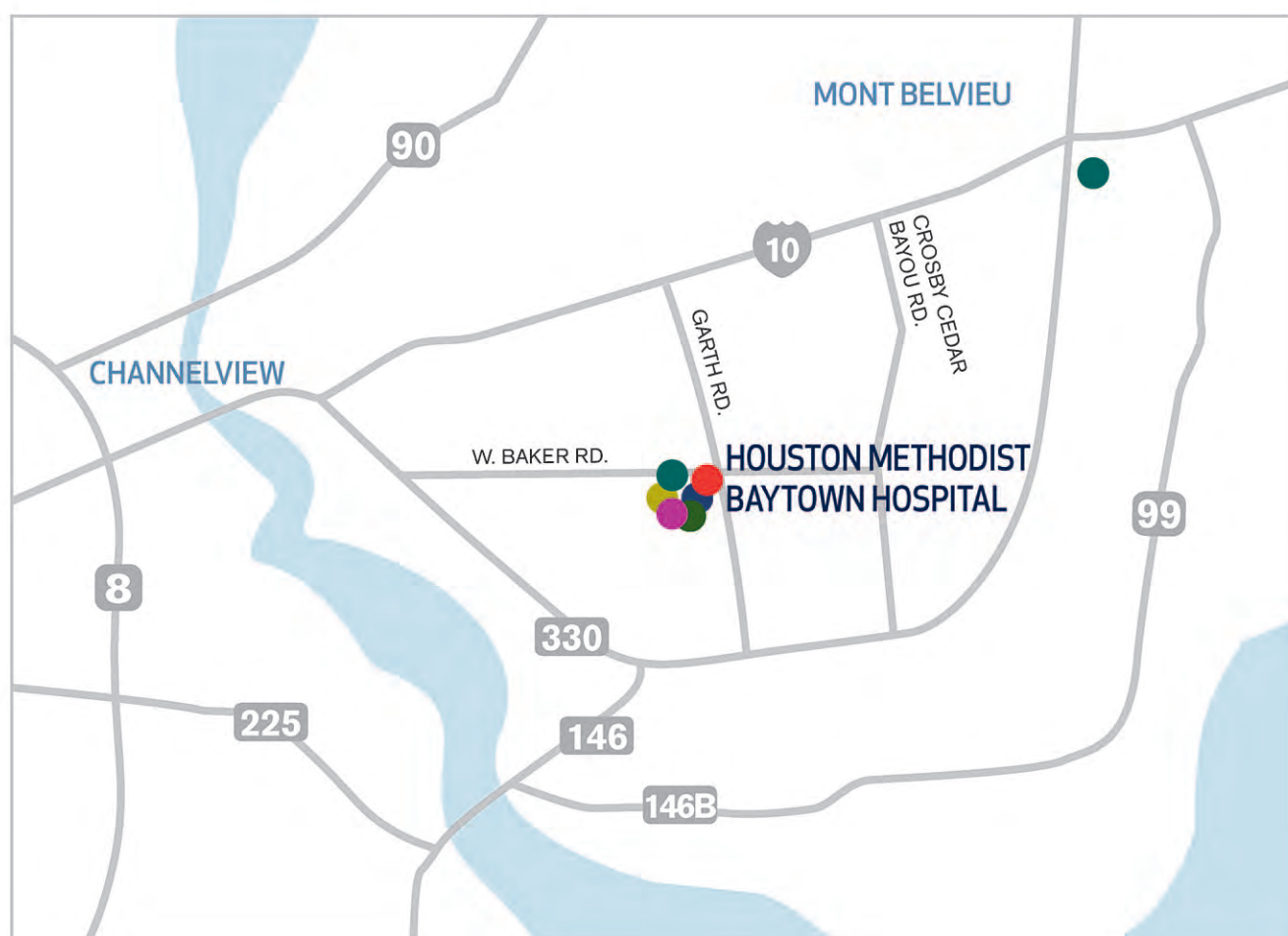


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