

Jack & Jill Kids learn
Anti-Bullying Tips, Page 2

Great Careers Start at HCC,
Page 2

MUSTANGS Defeats Katy,
Advance to Regional Final



Mustang #3
Deion
Deblanc
sprints
across the
goal from a
76 yd Kaleb
Bailey pass
(Photo by
Allan Jamail)
See Page 1

NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
VOLUME 12, NO. 47 (#546) THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024 www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

Holiday Events

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.

Friday, JAN. 31
AWARDS BANQUET AND GALA: Join the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce for their 48th Annual Awards and Installation Gala Behind The Mask: A Night of Elegance and Enchantment at the Hyatt Regency Baytown Hotel, 100 Convention Center Way, Baytown 77520. Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. To sponsor or buy tickets, contact Yesenia@ncachamber.com.

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 HOLIDAY DINNER MEETING

New Cancer Study by State; EPA report on Waste Pits

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

For years, members of the Texas Health and Environment Alliance (THEA) and community have filled out health surveys turned over to the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) regarding cancer types and asked them to study the rates of cancer here. Last Tuesday, Jackie Medcalf, founder of THEA, announced that the state has agreed to do an updated

study. "The last study covered a very large area with the map," she said. "They studied 17 types of cancer back in 2014 that we most commonly saw, and they found that 14 of them were at abnormally high rates."

The organization and community weren't completely happy with the data because it lagged so far behind. The TDSHS agreed to do the study, but instead of going back to when the cancer registry started, they're simply do-



Jackie Young Medcalf

ing an addition to the previous study, according to Medcalf.

"It's going to pick up in 2013 where the data from the previous study stopped. "Now we have some new cancer types that you all have reported," she told the crowd gathered for the meeting.

The study was intended to be released in late summer and Medcalf has been sending them emails weekly asking for the results as the tardy results have now pushed into late fall.

"They're telling me that the study is in executive review," she said. "Last

time the original study was in executive review, that state tried to squash it," she said, but the toxicologist who wrote the study insisted that it be published as he wrote it.

Medcalf urged followers to watch their email inboxes over the coming weeks for an update.

WASTE PITS

The group also discussed the San Jacinto Waste Pits, a long drawn-out. See THEA DINNER MEETING, Page 3

Mustangs Advance to Quarterfinals Over Tigers

North Shore Mustangs 42 - Katy Tigers 28

By Allan Jamail

Friday, November 29, 2024 at Houston's NRG Stadium thousands of high school football enthusiasts came to watch two of Texas's powerhouse teams compete in the Class 6A Division I Region III semifinals; a part of the UIL Football State Championship contests.

The North Shore Mustangs the winner advances to the state quarterfinals and the loser the Katy Tiger's season ended. The Eastside Boys convincingly won over the Westside Tigers, 42 - 28.

This was the GPISD Mustang's program's 80th playoff victory and 10th consecutive regional championship appearance. The win keeps them with a perfect 13 - 0 undefeated season.

The Mustangs will take on District 23 - 6A rival the Humble ISD Atascocita Eagles (12 - 1) at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7 at the new Aldine ISD Thorne Stadium. The Eagles Friday pulled out a squeaking thriller 47 - 42 win over Fulshear to advance to play the Mustangs in the



Mustang #2 Chris Thomas races 70 yds from a Kaleb Bailey pass scoring play. (photo by Allan Jamail)

Region III quarterfinal for the fourth consecutive year.

In preparing for the Eagles rematch the Nshore team will be doing some homework on their last meeting when they squeaked by with just 12 seconds left in the game and on their last offensive play of the game. That 27 - 23 victory made nine consecutive wins in their matchups. Along with the homework the Mustangs need to look into cutting back on penalties. They continue making excessive penalties game after game, with 6 penalties against Katy.

This next playoff re-



North Shore Mustangs take the field in Regional Semi-Final game with Katy Tigers. (photo by Allan Jamail)

match will determine which powerhouse moves one step closer to the state championship.

"We know what kind of team we're going to play," Gaston said. "They're a tough team, they do a good job coaching, and Coach (Craig) Stump has been there for a long time. I'm pretty sure they're trying to figure out a way to break our 9 game winning streak against them. My coaches and I must make sure our squad understands this is a completely different game than before. Just because you beat these guys this year you can't relax and let that affect the way you play them this time."

GAME STATS: Total yards, NS 451 - Katy 260; rush yards NS 177 - Katy 151; pass yards NS 274 - Katy 109 & 1st downs; NS 18 - Katy 14. Linda Jamail, statistician/photographer.

Mustangs scorers : Kaleb Bailey made 5 TD passes, leading scorer D'Andre Hardeman Jr. 2 TD's, Deion Deblanc 1 TD, Quanell Farrakhan Jr. 1 TD, Cameron Smith 1TD, Chris Thomas 1 TD & place kicker Daniel Cruz was perfect with 6 extra points.

| BOX SCORE: | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Final |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|-------|
| North Shore | 14 | 14 | 0 | 14 | 42 |
| Katy | 0 | 14 | 7 | 7 | 28 |



Nshore receiver #8 Cameron Smith catches a TD pass from Kaleb Bailey. (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, Jose Luis Rios, 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 punishment.

Continued. See MURDERER GP CHEERLEADER SENTENCED, P. 6

Reprinted and completed from last issue.

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 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

Reprinted and completed from last issue.

Channel Area Jack & Jill of America kids learn anti-bullying tips

By Allan Jamail

Houston, [October 12, 2024] — The Greater Channel Chapter of Jack and Jill of America Twinkling Stars grade group, aged 2 to 5, gathered at the Harris County Public Library, North Channel Branch on Saturday, October 12th, for an invigorating, hands-on anti-bullying seminar designed to educate young minds about kindness and empathy.

The event, facilitated by Sensei Kamal Sanders of KMS Elite Scholars Martial Arts, aimed to instill values of respect and inclusion from an early age.

The seminar featured interactive activities that engaged the children in discussions about feelings and friendships. Colorful storybooks and playful role-playing scenarios helped illustrate the importance of standing up against bullying and supporting one another.

The event also highlighted safety tips and strategies in the event a stranger attempts to abduct the children.



The Greater Channel Chapter of Jack and Jill of America Twinkling Stars grade group, aged 2 to 5 at the North Channel Library Branch on Wallisville Road learns hands-on anti-bullying techniques.

Front row L – R: Matthew Martin, Keian Bryant, MiKenly Bryant, Averie Grigsby, Amerie Grigsby, Thompsen Wesley, Lincoln Fitzgerald, Harrison Fitzgerald, Miles Preston, and Jason Williams Jr.

Back row L – R: Ebum Akinjaiyeju, Yewande Akinjaiyeju, Ernesia Martin, Mian Bryant, Amicha Williams, Toiya Gulley, Amber Fitzgerald, Kevin Preston, Kameka Williams, and Kamal Sanders
Photo by Allan Jamail

Following the seminar, the children participated in a hands-on community service project. With the help of the Mothers, they crafted cheerful candy bags filled with treats, which will be donated to the Julia Hester House for their annual Trunk or Treat. The little ones worked together to ensure

each bag was filled with love showcasing their newfound understanding of kindness.

The facilitators ensured all Twinkling Stars could access the information by providing noise canceling headphones (for children with sensory processing difficulties), pictures of bullying scenarios (for vi-

sual learners and emergent readers), and a “Buddy” for children in need of additional support to participate in the activities.

The event concluded with a group photo, capturing the smiles of the young participants, proudly holding their certificates where they vow to always be a BUDDY, never a BULLY.

The seminar and service project highlighted the importance of early education in fostering a supportive and caring community.

I had the pleasure of working with Amicha Williams daughter of former GPISD Superintendent Dr. Angi Williams to put together the article’s details. When I took the pho-

to I was greeted with a room full of youngsters excited about being in the North Channel Star Newspaper. Dr. Williams is a longtime friend of the Publisher Gilbert Hoffman.

Amicha was the 2005 (class of 2006) North Shore High School’s Homecoming Queen.

GREAT CAREERS START HERE



Train for work as a first responder

- Firefighting
- Police
- Criminal Justice
- Emergency Medical Services

HCC Real World Education

Discover endless opportunities to cultivate your skills.

REGISTER NOW

SPRING CLASSES BEGIN
JANUARY 13

Train for in-demand careers at the HCC Northeast Campus

- Community Learning/Leisure classes
- Academic and University Transfer courses
- Biology/Pre-Nursing classes
- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- High School Equivalency/GED
- Commercial Truck Driving (CDL)
- Basic Firefighter
- Criminal Justice/Police Academy
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Electronics Engineering Technology

- Petroleum Engineering Technology
- Process Technology/Process Operator
- Instrumentation & Controls Engineering Technology
- OSHA Construction & General
- NCCER Core/Scaffolding
- Water/Wastewater Operations
- Comp TIA A+ Certification
- Health, Safety, & Environmental (HSE)



Scan for steps on how to get started!



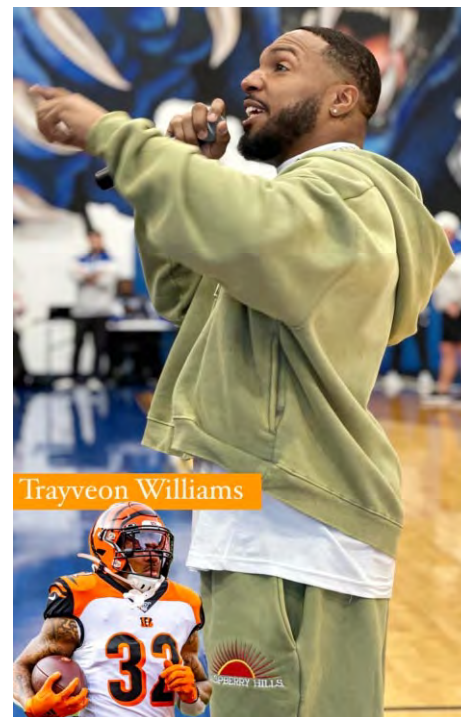
HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Northeast Campus
555 Community College Drive
Houston, Texas 77013
713.718.8300
hccs.edu/northeastcollege



HCC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity and gender expression, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or Veteran status. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Devaldo Gomez, Director, EEO and Compliance, Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator, 3100 Main Street, Houston, TX 77002, 713.718.8271 or hcc.eeo@hcc.edu.

SHELDON ISD NEWS

KHS Alumni Return Home to Pay a Special Visit to Students



Trayveon Williams



On November 20, King High School had the honor of welcoming two amazing guests who are part of the Sheldon Legacy. Trayveon Williams (Class of 2016), running back for the Cincinnati Bengals, and Jordon T. Fite (Class of 2019), actor and the Gold Dino Fury Ranger from Power Rangers Dino Fury, returned to their former high school to inspire and engage with students.

They shared their incredible journeys, answered questions, and reminded students that greatness starts in Sheldon ISD. Students loved the opportunity to connect with these role models and left feeling motivated to chase their dreams!

COMMUNITY TOY DRIVE!

"EVERY CHILD DESERVES A CHRISTMAS"

Collecting **NEW** unwrapped toys benefiting the North Channel Community

DECEMBER 7TH 2024

10:00AM - 2:00PM

CHANNELVIEW HIGH SCHOOL

110 SHELDON RD



© 2024 Consumer Cellular Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change.

Consumer Cellular

NO HIDDEN FEES. NO HIDDEN ANYTHING. FREEDOM CALLS.

Plans start at just \$20/month.

855-821-6277

© 2024 Consumer Cellular Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB
By Charlotte Jackson



THEA Dinner Meeting,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

December is Here

Over the holiday weekend, the talk was about how did we get here. We blinked and not only is it December, but we survived. It seemed like we had months of bad weather. We woke up more than once with no electricity and lots of trees fallen. We are already at the time of year when high school sports are moving too quickly from football to basketball. We survived what seemed to be an extremely long election year. We lost many who we loved and yes, welcomed many new neighbors to our community.

So how are we going to finish up 2024? Listening to the unending sound of fireworks? Fighting for a parking space within proximity to the store we are running into for that bargain that we cannot live without? Are the calendars filling up with holiday parties and annual events we enjoy with family and friends? Are you anxiously awaiting the birth of a new grandbaby? Have you looked back at the list of all you hoped to accomplish this year and checked off the ones you achieved? Have you bought your new planner and begun to fill in the information for 2025?

Have you set a budget for the holidays? I remember one of my spiritual leaders always saying, "It's the time of the year when people spend money, they don't have on people they don't really care about for items that are not worth the money and will be forgotten about by mid-January." Another reminder is that no matter how much you budget for family and friends for the holidays, be sure to give the same amount plus at least one dollar to those in need. And of course, I love the thought that December 25 is about the birth of Christ, not about you. (Unless you have a daughter in law, your firstborn granddaughter, your oldest son, your grandson and too many friends to count that celebrate birthdays in December—at that is when you question taking on another job just for gifts.)

We should end 2024 grateful not only for all we survived, but all the blessings we received. Our community is stronger than in the past. Our local elected leaders are not only holding community meetings but listening and putting work into making east Harris County a better place to live, work, worship and volunteer. Citizens are eagerly signing up to get involved and make a difference. Groups such as C.H.I.C. (Channelview Health Improvement Coalition) are joining with others such as East Harris County Empowerment Coalition to take on projects informing others about what is happening in the area. And among the many events to be held in the area in 2025, the North Channel Area Chamber has their 48th Annual Awards and Installation Gala as well as the Rotary Club of North Shore hosting their 50th Annual Fry and Crawfish Boil Fundraiser. (Mark your calendar for THE community event that raises \$250,000+ and donates the majority of it to the community. This event will be held on Saturday, April 26th and for more information, reach out to Mini Izaguirre, Fish Fry Chairwoman at mini@izaguirre@sjcd.edu

We have so much to be grateful for as we close our 2024 and move forward to a successful 2025.

out process by the government to clean up the Superfund site.

The southern waste pit was remediated as outlined in the Record of Decision down to 10 feet that was completed earlier this year. Now they turn their attention to the northern site.

"Most of you probably know that what they're proposing is outlining the structure with this double Cofferdam wall, and then excavating the material within it," she explained.

On July 17, the responsible parties submitted a 100 percent design for the cleanup to the EPA.

"We reviewed those documents, thousands of pages of technical writing, and submitted the most intense and lengthy comments and questions ever before to the EPA," she said.

The group received good news that they were being heard.

"Fast forward to October 25 and the EPA submitted their comments to the responsible parties. In those comments, they incorporated many of the things we asked about, and a lot of that was incorporated," Medcalf reported.

Some of the concerns were what happens when a truck leaves the site and it hasn't been cleaned on the inside, and the trucking company hires a third-party company to clean that, does that person know that they should be protected from the dioxins or what they're about to come in contact with?

THEA members had hoped that the entire site would be taken over by the EPA but that didn't occur. Now the responsible parties have until November 25 to address the comments and resubmit a design.

Medcalf said she and her staff found numerous inconsistencies in the responsible parties' comments that the EPA picked up on. The agency submitted 138 comments in total

to the 100 percent design. One of those concerned testing at the site.

"One of the other items that was really important to us that we saw get picked up by the EPA was the type of test that will be done on the material before it goes to the disposal facility, which will determine if it is going as hazardous or non-hazardous," she said.

As of now, the EPA conceded that it would go as non-hazardous, but there's the caveat that it must be tested before it goes.

"The responsible parties were not even saying that they would test for dioxin. Well, that's the primary contaminant at this site," she exclaimed.

The EPA reiterated in their comments to the responsible parties that they have to require that dioxins be tested before the waste is disposed of."

I-10 BRIDGE

TxDOT is finally getting more involved in this process. Medcalf said TxDOT is saying maybe they can use that structure to protect the bridge and their construction.

"TxDOT is saying, either we have to reconfigure what is called the BMP, the wall, the cofferdam wall, either we have to reconfigure it, or consider that in the outer structure, staying there, or being there in part to also protect the bridge construction, which isn't half that idea, if it's designed to work," Medcalf said.

The EPA responded that "the pilons are not designed to absorb the full impact of a drifting barge moving at 3.14 feet per second or two miles per hour."

The report states that a barge moving at that speed would break through the pile barrier, but with substantially dissipated energy.

"The only positive thing I have to say about that is that they're (EPA) listening. They're not getting it done quick enough for any of us, but they are listening."

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "What is the birthstone for December?"



The world is your oyster

DECEMBER BIRTHSTONES

December's birthstones offer three ways to fight the winter blues: tanzanite, zircon and turquoise – all of them, appropriately, best known for beautiful shades of blue. These gems range from the oldest on earth (zircon), to one of the first mined and used in jewelry (turquoise), to one of the most recently discovered (tanzanite).

All of these stones are relatively inexpensive, but their beauty rivals even precious gems. Colorless zircon is a convincing replacement for diamond, tanzanite often substitutes sapphire, and turquoise is unmatched in its hue of robin's egg blue. Whatever your style preference or budget, one of December's three birthstones will match your true blue desires.

TANZANITE

Tanzanite is the exquisite blue variety of the mineral zoisite that is only found in one part of the world. Named for its limited geographic origin in Tanzania, tanzanite has quickly risen to popularity since its relatively recent discovery. Zoisite had been around more than a century and a half before this rare blue variety was found in 1967. Trace amounts of vanadium, mixed with extreme heat, cause the blue color – which ranges from pale blue to intense ultramarine with violet undertones.

Tanzanite is still only found on a few square miles of land in Tanzania, near majestic Mount Kilimanjaro. Its price and availability are directly tied to mines in this region. Tanzanite measures 6.5 to 7 on the Mohs scale of hardness – which is not nearly as hard as the sapphire it often substitutes. Given its vulnerability to scratch during daily wear and abrasion, tanzanite is better suited for earrings and pendants than rings. Between its deep blue color and its limited supply, tanzanite is treasured by many – whether one is born in December or not!

ZIRCON



Zircon is an underrated gem that's often confused with synthetic cubic zirconia due to similar names and shared use as diamond simulants. Few people realize that zircon is a spectacular natural gem available in a variety of colors. The name zircon likely comes from the Persian word *zargun*, meaning "gold-colored." Others trace it to the Arabic *zarkun*, meaning "vermillion." Given its wide range of colors – spanning red, orange, yellow, green, blue and brown – both origins make sense.

Zircon commonly occurs brownish red, which can be popular for its earth tones. However, most gem-quality stones are heat treated until colorless, gold or blue (the most popular color). Blue zircon, in particular, is the alternative birthstone for December.

TURQUOISE



Admired since ancient times, turquoise is known for its distinct color, which ranges from powdery blue to greenish robin's egg blue. It's one of few minerals to lend its name to anything that resembles its striking color. Ancient Persia (now Iran) was the traditional source for sky blue turquoise. This

color is often called "Persian blue" today, regardless of its origin. The Sinai Peninsula in Egypt was also an important historical source.

The U.S. is now the world's largest turquoise supplier. Nevada, New Mexico, California and Colorado have produced turquoise, but Arizona leads in production by value, as well as quality. The stone's popularity here makes it a staple in Native American jewelry. Turquoise is sensitive to direct sunlight and solvents like makeup, perfume and natural oils. The hardest turquoise only measures 6 on the Mohs scale, which made this soft stone popular in carved talismans throughout history.

From ancient Egyptians to Persians, Aztecs and Native Americans, kings and warriors alike admired turquoise for thousands of years. It adorned everything from jewelry to ceremonial masks to weapons and bridles – granting power and protection, particularly against falls. Highly esteemed for its striking namesake color and its ancient history, turquoise remains popular through time.

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.

Dealing with the loss of a loved one is never easy, but maybe these guys can help!

We're the only funeral home in the Houston area providing full-time, certified therapy dogs for the comfort of our families and guests

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

CARTER * CONLEY FUNERAL HOME
FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED FOR OVER 30 YEARS

13701 Corpus Christi St, Houston, TX 77015 • (713) 455-5100
www.carterconleyfh.com

LET THE PROS HANDLE IT! LeafFilter GUTTER PROTECTION

Get 100% of your gutters cleaned and your gutters protected. Protect Your Home with LeafFilter.

THE LEAFFILTER ADVANTAGE

- 1. WE CLEAN CLOGGED GUTTERS
- 2. WE SEAL & ALIGN GUTTERS
- 3. WE INSTALL LEAFFILTER

20% OFF + **10% OFF**
Your Entire Purchase*
** We offer financing that fits your budget!
Promo: 285

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE INSPECTION! 1-855-762-1481

WARRANTY

BEFORE AFTER

FULL SERVICE GUTTER PROTECTION - SCHEDULE YOUR FREE INSPECTION NOW! 1-855-762-1481

MARKET PLACE

Jacuzzi BATH REMODEL

YOUR BATHROOM. YOUR WAY. IN AS LITTLE AS ONE DAY

CALL NOW 844.265.7098

SPECIAL OFFER 50% OFF Installation
WITH No Interest No Payments for 1 Year PLUS FREE Safety Upgrade*
*If paid in full by end of 12 months.

*Add'l terms apply. Offer subject to change and vary by dealer. Expires 12/31/2024

AMERICAN RESIDENTIAL HEATING & COOLING

The Season for Big Savings Is Now!

Schedule Soon & Save Up to \$2000

- Free Estimates and Second Opinions for New Heating and Cooling Systems
- Many Payment Options to choose from
- Service Available Seven Days a Week
- Licensed and Professional Technicians

Call today! (855) 241-1293

\$49 Cooling or Heating System Tune Up

SAVE UP TO **\$2000** on a New Cooling and Heating System with our Buy Back Program!

Some restrictions apply. Offer subject to change and vary by dealer. Expires 12/31/2024

License numbers available at americanresidential.com/licenses

A couple extra Christmas decorations

Diamond Jim's Pineforest Jewelry Experience

1141 Uvalde Road • Houston, Texas 77015
(713) 451-1321

OPINION PAGE

OPINION By Michael Regan Environmental Protection Agency

New Rules for Car Emissions could boost EV sector

Biden announces new rule for gas car emissions that could boost EV sector Rule, hailed as historic step on climate crisis, will have slashed more than 7bn tons of carbon dioxide emissions by 2055

In a move being hailed as one of the most significant climate rules in US history, the Biden administration announced on Wednesday new regulations on tailpipe emissions. The rule, which calls for a 56% reduction in fleetwide average carbon emissions by 2032, constitutes the strictest-ever limit on pollution from the nation's cars and light trucks.

"Today, we're setting new pollution standards for cars and trucks," Joe Biden said in a statement. "US workers will lead the world on autos making clean cars and trucks, each stamped 'Made in America'. You have my word."

The new standards do not mandate the sale of particular kinds of vehicles, but they all but ensure a dramatic increase in EVs over the next eight years.

EVs made up just 7.6% of new car sales last year. But by 2032, the standards will mean EVs make up 35% to 56% of sales, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The new standards form one of the most significant pieces of the White House's efforts to slash greenhouse gas emissions. Transportation is the largest source of planet-warming emissions in the US, and passenger cars and trucks account for the majority of that pollution.

By the time the rule is fully implemented in 2055, it will have cumulatively slashed more than 7bn tons of carbon dioxide emissions, senior administration officials told reporters on Tuesday. It will also tackle toxic pollution, they said, slashing fine particulate emissions by 95% and emissions of NOx and volatile organic compounds by 75%.

But the regulation has been weakened since it was first proposed last spring.

The final rule would result in the same endpoint - a 56% reduction in fleetwide average carbon emissions by 2032 from 2026 levels - but the year-over-year tightening of the pollution standards between 2027 and 2030 will happen at a more gradual pace.

The change aligns with asks from auto manufacturers and the United Auto Workers. UAW, which has long noted that EV jobs often pay less than traditional autoworker jobs, last year said the EPA should revise its standards to increase stringency "more gradually" in an effort to ensure they do not "disproportionately impact domestic union auto production".

In a Wednesday statement, the union said: "By taking seriously the concerns of workers and communities, the EPA has created a more feasible emissions rule that protects workers building ICE vehicles, while providing a path forward for automakers to implement the full range of automotive technologies to reduce emissions."

Automakers also applauded the changes. "The right pace for something this consequential and transformative ... gives us a chance to secure manufacturing and industrial base needed for long term success," said John Bozell, president of the automaker trade group Alliance for Automotive Innovation, in an EPA press conference on Wednesday.

But critics say the slower cuts will allow automakers to continue selling fossil fuel-powered vehicles longer and will produce more cumulative pollution.

"This rule could've been the biggest single step of any nation on climate, but the EPA caved to pressure from big auto, big oil and car dealers, and riddled the plan with loopholes big enough to drive a Ford F150 through," said Dan Becker, director of the safe climate transport campaign at the environmental advocacy group Center for Biological Diversity.

Last spring, the EPA projected that electric vehicles would need to make up about two-thirds of car and light truck sales by 2032, up from less than one-tenth in 2023, to meet emissions reduction goals.

In a shift from the 2023 proposal, which did not mention plug-in hybrid vehicles, the EPA's final rule suggests manufacturers achieve the same reduction by ensuring 56% of cars sold are fully electric and 13% are plug-in hybrids by 2032. The move comes after automakers criticized the earlier omission.

The EPA says the rule will save the nation \$99bn a year, including \$46bn in reduced fuel costs and nearly \$16bn in auto repair and maintenance. The rule is also expected to prevent 2,500 premature deaths by 2055 thanks to cuts in pollution.

Some environmental groups applauded the new limits.

"Every single day, millions of Americans suffer under the weight of vehicle pollution, unsustainable gas prices and the climate crisis, all fueled by tailpipe emissions spewing from gas cars throughout our communities," said Ben Jealous, executive director of the Sierra Club. "Today, President Biden, in one of the most significant actions his administration can take on climate change, has put forward standards with benefits extending far beyond reducing greenhouse gas emissions."

The new standards, Jealous said, will "save lives and money for families".

Republicans have already launched plans to go after the new regulation. Two GOP lawmakers are preparing a resolution aiming to kill the rule, E&E News reports. On the campaign trail, Donald Trump has said he would repeal Biden's "insane electric vehicle mandate" on his first day in office.

Senator Joe Manchin, the conservative Democrat from West Virginia, has said he would support Republicans' efforts to overturn the rule. In a Wednesday statement, he called it "reckless and ill-informed" and said it "will impose what is effectively an EV mandate without ensuring the security of our supply chains from nations like China and without a realistic transition plan that addresses our domestic infrastructure needs".

EV sales are accelerating. Last year, they were up by 54% compared with 2022, which was a 46% increase from 2021, according to Wards Auto Data.

"From plug-in hybrids to fuel cells to fully electric, drivers have more choices today," said Biden's national climate adviser, Ali Zaidi, in emailed statement. "This growth means jobs, and it means we are moving faster and faster to take on the climate crisis."

Advocates say the rule will benefit communities of color who are more likely to breathe in pollution from roads and highways.

"While there's undoubtedly more work ahead to improve our environment, today marks a positive step forward in protecting communities like mine," Asada Rashidi, environmental justice organizer for the South Ward Environmental Alliance and member of the National Environmental Youth Advisory Council, said at the EPA's Wednesday press conference.

Regan said the rule "marks a historic win for public health, for the environment and for the future of our country".

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

Abbott Issue orders Targeting China

Gov. Greg Abbott issued three executive orders last week targeting the Chinese government and the Chinese Communist Party, The Dallas Morning News reported

Abbott said the orders were intended to protect Texans of Chinese descent from "harassment and intimidation" by the Chinese Communist Party and government, and to fight threats to state security.

"Texas will not tolerate the harassment or coercion of the more than 250,000 individuals of Chinese descent who legally call Texas home by the Chinese Communist Party or its heinous proxies," Abbott said.

The orders: • Instruct the Texas Department of Public Safety to establish a hotline for victims and to "target and arrest" operatives in the state working with the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese government.

• Direct all state agencies, colleges and universities to "harden" their systems against foreign governments. That includes stronger background checks on employees with access to critical infrastructure and banning state agencies from doing business with companies owned wholly or partially by foreign adversary countries.

• Direct the Texas Department of Emergency Management and the Public Utility Commission to create a task force to study vulnerabilities to potential cyberattacks and run simulations of possible responses.

"China has made it clear that they can - and will - target and attack America's critical infrastructure," Abbott said.

STATE PLAN FOR \$3 BILLION TO EXPAND BROADBAND APPROVED

The state has won federal approval to move forward with its plan to improve broadband internet access for the estimated 7 million Texas residents who don't have access, The Texas Tribune reported.

The approval came from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, which means the state now has access to about \$3.3 billion in federal funding included in the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

The state has already awarded more than \$1 billion in state and federal funding for broadband investments. Last week, applicants in 15 counties were awarded \$580 million to



connect 80,000 locations, according to the Texas Broadband Development Office. Federal maps that show where internet connections are needed are being questioned as to their accuracy, The Tribune reported.

"We want to make sure the data being provided to us by the federal government is accurate and up to date," Greg Conte, director of the TBDO, said.

More buoy barriers added in Rio Grande

Despite a dramatic decrease in border crossings in recent months, Abbott has ordered expansion of the 1,000 feet of orange buoys in the Rio Grande near Eagle Pass, theHouston Chronicle reported.

"We're not letting up at all; we're continuing our efforts," Abbott said.

The barriers have prompted lawsuits from the federal government, which are tied up in an appeals court.

Monthly border crossings have dropped steadily since March. U.S. Customs and Border Protection data for October indicate that 27,000 migrants were encountered that month in the five Texas sectors of the border with Mexico - fewer than the 44,000 monthly migrants encountered in the final months of the first Trump presidency.

NEWLY PURCHASED RANCH COULD BE DEPORTEE STAGING AREA

A Starr County ranch purchased last month by the state has been offered as a staging area for potential mass deportations promised by President-elect Donald Trump, according to The Washington Post. Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham sent a letter to Trump on Nov. 14 extending the offer.

Tom Homan, former director of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency and Trump's pick to be "border

czar," said the incoming administration would "absolutely" use the 1,400-acre parcel of land.

"We absolutely will. When we find somebody - it's a targeted enforcement operation. When they get arrested, they'll be detained," Homan said.

"We feel like this is actually very well-located. The land is very flat there. It's adjacent to major airports. It's also adjacent to a bridge over the river," Buckingham said. "So, if it's helpful, then I would love to partner up with the federal government. And if it's not, then we'll continue to look to ways to be helpful to them."

TEXAS STILL LEADS NATION IN JOB GROWTH

The Lone Star State has again led the nation in job creation over the past 12 months - October 2023 to October 2024 - adding nearly 275,000 non-farm jobs during that time period.

"With the best business climate in the nation and a skilled and growing workforce, Texas is where innovative entrepreneurs and businesses find the freedom and tools needed to succeed," Abbott said.

Coming in second in job creation during that same time frame was California, which added 212,000 jobs, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, followed by New York, which added 133,600 jobs.

The state's unemployment rate has changed little in the past year, reported at 4.1% last month, up just two-tenths of a percentage point from October 2023.

LAWMAKER SEEKS FUNDS TO PLUG WELLS, CUT EMISSIONS

A West Texas legislator has introduced bills that would provide millions of dollars to the state to seal abandoned oil and gas wells.

The money would come from taxes being collected from oil and gas companies that now go to schools, highways and the state's "rainy day fund," or savings account.

State Rep. Brooks Landgraf, R-Odessa, is seeking to use the money now going to the rainy-day fund that is collected from those companies. The measure would require approval of the Legislature, governor and voters in a November 2025 amendment election.

So-called orphaned wells have proven to be hazardous, with at least eight erupting with briny water since October 2023. For example, a well blew out last December in Imperial that took more than two months and \$2.5 million to clean up, according to The Tribune.

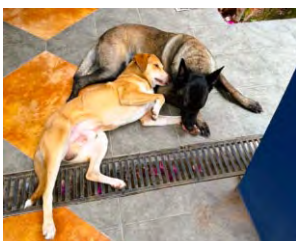
SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATE AUCTION DRAWS BIG BIDS

The bidding is over for the My Plates Great Plate Auction 2024, with winners spending more than \$71,000 on 50 different messages that were offered. The most expensive plate was "ACE," which sold for \$20,500, according to the Chronicle. Coming in a distant second was "006," a play of James Bond's 007. It sold for \$9,000.

"BOSSMAN" sold for \$3,600, while REAL and TEX4S each garnered \$2,700. None of those bids compare to the most expensive license plate ever sold in Texas. That was in 2013, when 12THMAN sold for \$115,000. Those Aggies...

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Waiting for a Friend



My husband, Peter, told me about the unlikely friendship.

When we stay in Mexico, Peter walks the same route up to the environmental preserve every day. It's a steep climb to the park, which is filled with wildlife and rare plants. Because Peter walks the same streets daily, he has gotten to know a lot of the people who have homes on the way up.

The whole thing started with Reacher, an exuberant 75-pound Belgian Malinois, and his American expat owner, Anita. The Belgian Malinois is a dog often trained for search and rescue. You might have seen videos of them scaling walls. Peter never saw Reacher actually climbing any walls, but he never doubted his ability to do so if the need arose.

Reacher is less than two years old, and he is a handful. Peter would stop and talk to Anita while she was trying (with limited success) to curb Reacher's more enthusiastic impulses.

In Anita's neighborhood, there also lived a feral dog who did not have a name or a home. Peter would regularly see him as well. Peter thought he was part lab and part herding dog and probably a lot of something else. The dog stayed in the neighborhood, so Peter figured folks must have left food for him. Most days, he stayed in a shady spot in the dirt under a tree.

The dog was not aggressive, but he was very wary of people. He never made eye contact with Peter and would back off if Peter got too close when he walked by. People who lived in the area said he'd been there, under the tree, quietly staying out of the way, for a couple of years.

But then Reacher met him. Belgian Malinois are apparently known for the strong bond they form with other dogs (presumably that's an asset in the search-and-rescue biz), and Reacher took an interest in this stray dog in his neighborhood.

I wasn't there, and neither was Peter, but according to Anita, Reacher tried to make friends with this dog. It was a slow process, but Reacher was determined and, eventually, the feral dog started cautiously following Reacher. One day, he followed Reacher home and walked right into the outdoor courtyard and stayed for a little while. Anita gave him some food. This continued and, finally, the dog (who Anita started calling Duke) followed Reacher all the way into Anita's house. And he stayed.

Duke was still very shy around people, but he trusted Reacher and soon he started to trust Anita and her husband. Duke started letting them pet him and make eye contact. Anita took him to the vet to be fixed. The vet said he thought Duke was about five years old. Duke was bathed. He had his teeth cleaned. He started sleeping on a couch. And now Duke is Anita's second dog and lives with Reacher.

Peter now sees Reacher and Duke and Anita on their walks together. Duke is very submissive and laid-back. Reacher is as exuberant as ever. "I think I could pet Duke now, if I wanted to," Peter told me.

Duke has bonded with Anita, and he is obviously Reacher's best friend. And none of it would have happened without Reacher.

I love this story so much. It seems to me that everyone made a lot of assumptions about Duke—the kind of assumptions I make every day—and all of those assumptions turned out to be wrong. It took someone like Reacher to see that Duke was just waiting for a friend. Till next time, Carrie

Advertisement for Star Courier newspaper, including contact information for the publisher and subscription rates.

FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 14:

**Ohio State, Oregon meet for Big 10 title:
Texans get much-needed week off to regroup**

It's conference title weekend across the country and heading into the Thanksgiving Weekend, the only league that has its title game set is the Big 10, which will feature a rematch at No. 1-ranked Oregon will face off against No. 2-ranked Ohio State on Saturday, Dec. 7 at Lucas Oil Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

These two teams met on Oct. 12 in Oregon, with the Ducks pulling off a 32-31 win over the Buckeyes. Ohio State has not lost a game since that meeting in Eugene, but then again, neither have the Ducks.

That loss seemed to be a wakeup call for Ryan Day's team, especially the defense, which has allowed just 52 points since that game.

Ohio State could very well be the best team playing at this juncture of the season and that could be bad news for the Ducks. No matter what happens in Indy on Saturday, both teams should earn berths in the College Football Playoffs now that it has become a 12-team tournament. The winner of this one could very well earn the No. 1 seed and earn a very important first round bye, while the loser should host a first-round game.

While the Big 10 is settled, that can't be said for the other major conferences, especially the SEC and Big 12. Two weeks ago, a plethora of upsets clouded the picture of who would play in each of those respective conference title games.

Texas appears headed to the SEC title game if they beat Texas A&M on Nov. 30. Their opponent could very well be Georgia, thanks to Alabama's stubbing its toe at Oklahoma (a 24-3 loss). The Aggies hurt their chances to earning their first-ever trip to the SEC title game by being upset by a five-win Auburn team in four overtimes. Mike Elko's team fell behind 21-0, but rallied to tie things up in the fourth quarter, only to lose in the fourth OT and badly hurt their SEC title game and CFP chances.

Colorado was upset at Kansas to slow their roll in the Big 12. Deion Sanders' team could earn a berth in the league title game with a season-ending win against disappointing Oklahoma State.

But with so much still to be decided, the only college game we will pick this week will be the Oregon-Ohio State tilt.

In the NFL, the Texans get a much-needed week off after losing at home to a then two-win Tennessee team. The Houston secondary was torched all afternoon and the offensive line had QB C.J. Stroud running for his life. Things only get tougher in the coming weeks as the Texans have games against a hot Miami team, Kansas City on Dec. 21 and Baltimore on Christmas Day. That's three games in a stretch of 10 days. Wow!

Week 14 kicks off with a good one in the NFC North on Thursday Night Football as the Packers visit the first-place Lions. On Sunday, Atlanta visits Minnesota in a key game for both team's playoff chances, while Seattle visit Arizona in an important NFC West contest. This will be the second time in three weeks these two have met. Two weeks ago, the Seahawks earned a hard-fought 16-6 home win over the Cardinals to force a tie in the division.

Buffalo heads west to take on the Rams, and there's a good one in the AFC West on Sunday Night Football as the Chargers visit the defending Super Bowl champs in Kansas City. Monday Night Football has the Bengals visiting the Cowboys, in a meeting of two disappointing teams this season.

Before we take a look at this weekend's game, let's review last week's record. A 6-6 week brought the season record to 93-39 (68%).

Now, onto this weekend's games.



Ohio State vs. Oregon, Big 10 title game - The first game between these two was a barnburner with the Ducks outlasting the Buckeyes, 32-31. The rematch should be just as good. I think playing in a neutral environment will be a big plus for the Buckeyes, who have been here before. Oregon has played in the Pac 12 title games a few times, but the Buckeyes are used to playing in Indy and will be out to revenge that Oct. 12 loss in Eugene. The Buckeyes are playing as well as any team in the country at this time, and that includes the top-ranked Ducks. OSU will look for a big game from QB Will Howard (2,685 yards, 26 TDs), running back Quinshon Judkins (759 yards, 8 TDs) and TreVeyon Henderson (730 yards, 6 TDs) and big-play wideouts Jeremiah Smith (52 receptions, 899 yards, 9 TDS) and Emeka Egbuka (56 receptions, 652 yards, 9 TDs). The Ohio State defense has been a force as of late, but that unit will face a very good offense in Oregon, led by QB Dylan Gabriel (3,066 yards, 22 TDs), running back Jordan James (1,067 yards, 11 TDs) and steady wideouts Tez Johnson (64 receptions, 649 yards, 8 TDs) and former Aggie Evan Stewart (47 receptions, 609 yards, 5 TDs). I think the OSU defense will be the difference maker in this one as the Buckeyes earn the Big 10 title. My pick, Ohio State 24, Oregon 17

NFL

Green Bay at Detroit - A good one to start Week 14 pits the Packers against the division-leading Lions. Two weeks ago, Green Bay dismantled a beat up SF team at home, 38-10, while the Lions won a tough road contest at Indy, 24-6. Detroit is tough to beat at home and QB Jared Goff (2,761 yards, 20 TDs), running back Jahmyr Gibbs (886 yards, 10 TDs) and wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown (71 receptions, 747 yards, 9 TDs) will be a handful for a solid GB defense. The Packers have a few offensive weapons of their own in QB Jordan Love (2,244 yards, 18 TDs), running back Josh Jacobs (944 yards, 7 TDs) and wide receiver Jayden Reed (41 receptions, 669 yards, 4 TDs). The Lions want that top seed in the NFC, so don't expect them to slip up against their division rivals on Sunday. My pick, Detroit 26, Green Bay 23

Atlanta at Minnesota - A big game for both teams who are squarely in the playoff hunt. Atlanta has upgraded at QB with Kirk Cousins (2,807 yards, 17 TDs) and they have a dual-threat at running back in Bijan Robinson (783 rushing yards, 6 TDs/45 receptions, 359 yards, 1 TD). They also have a big-play wide receiver in Drake London (61 receptions, 710 yards, 6 TDs) and a go-to guy in Darnell Mooney (48 receptions, 711 yards, 5 TDs). The Vikings have a stout defense that plays well at home. Minnesota has gotten a nice season out of Sam Darnold (2,717 yards, 21 TDs), steady running back Aaron Jones (798 yards, 3 TDs) and two dependable wide receivers in Justin Jefferson (61 receptions, 939 yards, 3 TDs) and Jordan Addison (32 receptions, 521 yards, 4 TDs). Look for the Vikings defense to make things tough on Cousins all afternoon as they pick up a big late-season win. My pick, Minnesota 30, Atlanta 22

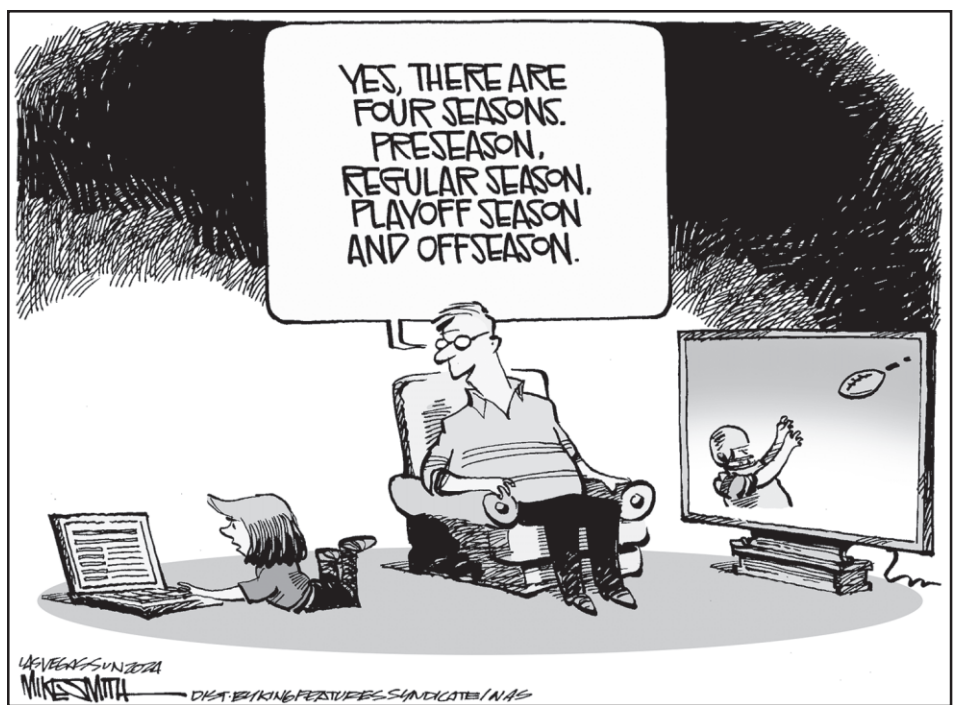
Seattle at Arizona - The Cards will look to extract revenge from their loss at Seattle two weeks ago. Tyler Murray and his offensive mates were limited to just six points in that loss, and will look to play much better on Sunday. Seattle will look for QB Geno Smith (3,035 yards, 12 TDs), running back Kenneth Walker III (493 yards, 7 TDs) and wide

receiver Jaxson Smith-Njigba (66 receptions, 755 yards, 4 TDs) to step up in the desert come Sunday. Look for Murray to get the offense back on track as the Cards pick up a big-division win on Sunday. My pick, Arizona 31, Seattle 24

Buffalo at Los Angeles Rams - The Bills head across the country to take on a Rams team that needs to get back on the winning track if they hope to remain in the NFC West race. Two weeks ago, the Bills enjoyed the weekend off, while the Rams fell at home to the Eagles, 37-20. Buffalo is not scared to play on the road and with QB Josh Allen (2,543 passing yards, 18 TDs/316 rushing yards, 5 TDs), under center, the Bills always have a chance to win at home or on the road. Buffalo also has a strong running game led by James Cook (696 yards, 10 TDs) and dependable receivers in wideouts Khalil Shakir (56 receptions, 599 yards, 2 TDs) and Keon Coleman (22 receptions, 417 yards, 3 TDs) and tight end Dalton Kincaid (34 receptions, 356 yards, 2 TDs). The Rams can put up points as well behind QB Matthew Stafford (2,800 yards, 15 TDs), running back Kyren Williams (822 yards, 9 TDS) and wideouts Cooper Kupp (55 receptions, 548 yards, 5 TDs) and Puka Nacua (37 receptions, 490 yards, 1 TD). Look for Allen to be the difference maker in this one as the Bills get a big road win. My pick, Buffalo 31, Los Angeles Rams 26

Los Angeles Chargers at Kansas City - A big one in the AFC West for the Sunday Night Football crew has the Chargers visiting the Chiefs. LA will need a big game from QB Justin Herbert (2,186 yards, 13 TDs) and running back J.K. Dobbins (726 yards, 8 TDS) against a solid KC defense. Wide receivers Ladd McConkey (43 receptions, 615 yards, 4 TDs) and Quentin Johnson (22 receptions, 365 yards, 6 TDs) will also need to step up as well. Two weeks ago, the KC defense gave up 27 points to the lowly Panthers, but something tells me defensive coordinator Steve Spagnolia will have his troops prepared for this one. The KC offense will once again rely on QB Patrick Mahomes (2,673, 18 TDs), running back Kareem Hunt (577 yards, 5 TDs), tight end Travis Kelce (68 receptions, 569 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receiver Xavier Worthy (28 receptions, 353 yards, 4 TDs) to make plays. KC is tough to beat at home, which the Chargers will discover come Sunday. My pick, Kansas City 30, Los Angeles Chargers, 23

Cincinnati at Dallas - Week 14 concludes with a Monday Night Football meeting between the Bengals and Cowboys. Both teams entered the season with high aspirations, but both have been huge disappointments thus far in the season. The Bengals have one of the best QBs in the league in Joe Burrow (3,028 yards, 27 TDs) and one of the top receivers in Ja'Marr Chase (73 receptions, 1,056 yards, 12 TDs), but their defense has let them down in numerous games this year. Look for running back Chase Brown (607 yards, 5 TDs) to have a big night against a porous Dallas defense. Two weeks ago, the Cowboys did step up with an upset win at Washington, 34-26, as the Pokes returned two kickoffs for touchdowns. Dallas backup QB Cooper Rush (813 yards, 4 TDs) had a nice game throwing for 247 yards and two TDs. He should have another solid game going up against a suspect Cincinnati secondary. Look for wide receiver CeeDee Lamb (77 receptions, 841 yards, 4 TDs) to have a big night on Monday, but I think Burrow will be too much for a bad Cowboys secondary. My pick, Cincinnati 33, Dallas 26



SCORES & SCHEDULES WEEK 14 PLAYOFFS

FBPlayoffsWeek3

LAST WEEK'S SCORE

North Shore 42, Katy 28

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

North Shore vs. Atascocita in the State Regional Finals (quarter-finals) on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 2 p.m. The game will be at Aldine Thorne Stadium. Ticket prices

are \$8 for students pre-sale, \$10 pre-sale for adults and all tickets \$10 at the gate. Tickets can be purchased at the Galena Park ISD Athletic Office at 15025 Wallisville Road from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. For more information, call the Athletic Office at 832-386-4330.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Notice of Draft Federal Operating Permit and Acid Rain Permit

Draft Permit No.: O2136

Application and Draft Permit. EIF Channelview Cogeneration, LLC, 3011 Kerns Ct, Orefield, PA 18069-2268, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal of Federal Operating Permit and Acid Rain Permit (herein referred to as Permit) No. O2136, Application No. 36300, to authorize operation of the Channelview Cogeneration Facility, a Fossil Fuel Electric Power Generation facility. The area addressed by the application is located at 8580 Sheldon Rd in Houston, Harris County, Texas 77049-3166. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to the application. You can find an electronic map of the facility at: <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=95.121111,29.836944&level=13>. This application was received by the TCEQ on February 7, 2024.

The purpose of a federal operating permit is to improve overall compliance with the rules governing air pollution control by clearly listing all applicable requirements, as defined in Title 30 Texas Administrative Code § 122.10 (30 TAC § 122.10). The draft permit, if approved, will codify the conditions under which the area must operate. The permit will not authorize new construction. The executive director has completed the technical review of the application and has made a preliminary decision to prepare a draft permit for public comment and review. The executive director recommends issuance of this draft permit. The permit application, statement of basis, and draft permit will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ Central Office, 12100 Park 35 Circle, Building E, First Floor, Austin, Texas 78753; the TCEQ Houston Regional Office, 5425 Polk Street, Suite H, Houston, Texas 77023-1452; and the North Channel Branch of Harris County Public Library, 15741 Wallisville Rd, Houston, Texas 77049-4607, beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The draft permit and statement of basis are available at the TCEQ Website:

www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/tvnotice

At the TCEQ central and regional offices, relevant supporting materials for the draft permit, as well as the New Source Review permits which have been incorporated by reference, may be reviewed and copied. Any person with difficulties obtaining these materials due to travel constraints may contact the TCEQ central office file room at (512) 239-2900.

Public Comment/Notice and Comment Hearing. Any person may submit written comments on the draft permit. Comments relating to the accuracy, completeness, and appropriateness of the permit conditions may result in changes to the draft permit.

A person who may be affected by the emission of air pollutants from the permitted area may request a notice and comment hearing. The purpose of the notice and comment hearing is to provide an additional opportunity to submit comments on the draft permit. The permit may be changed based on comments pertaining to whether the permit provides for compliance with 30 TAC Chapter 122 (examples may include that the permit does not contain all applicable requirements or the public notice procedures were not satisfied). The TCEQ may grant a notice and comment hearing on the application if a written hearing request is received within 30 days after publication of the newspaper notice. The hearing request must include the basis for the request, including a description of how the person may be affected by the emission of air pollutants from the application area. The request should also specify the conditions of the draft permit that are inappropriate or specify how the preliminary decision to issue or deny the permit is inappropriate. All reasonably ascertainable issues must be raised and all reasonably available arguments must be submitted by the end of the public comment period. If a notice and comment hearing is granted, all individuals that submitted written comments or a hearing request will receive written notice of the hearing. This notice will identify the date, time, and location for the hearing.

Written public comments and/or requests for a notice and comment hearing should be submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087, or electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/ and be received within 30 days after the date of newspaper publication of this notice. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record.

A notice of proposed final action that includes a response to comments and identification of any changes to the draft permit will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments, a hearing request, or requested to be on the mailing list for this application. This mailing will also provide instructions for public petitions to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to request that the EPA object to the issuance of the proposed permit. After receiving a petition, the EPA may only object to the issuance of a permit which is not in compliance with the applicable requirements or the requirements of 30 TAC Chapter 122.

Mailing List. In addition to submitting public comments, a person may ask to be placed on a mailing list for this application by sending a request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address above. Those on the mailing list will receive copies of future public notices (if any) mailed by the Chief Clerk for this application.

Information. For additional information about this permit application or the permitting process, please contact the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Public Education Program, MC-108, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087 or toll free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained for EIF Channelview Cogeneration, LLC by calling Mr. Conyers Horton at (281) 860-4104.

Notice Issuance Date: November 8, 2024

NCAA

North Shore Bakery Goes Viral with Pumpkin Sweetbread Sensation,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Bakers begin to add the pumpkin spice to the sweet bread dough.



A baker removes trays full of the pumpkin delights from the oven just in time for hungry customers to add them to their purchases.

Harris County, the state, and country were trying to get their hands on the pumpkin delicacies.

"I start with the dough for the sweet bread first," Gonzalez said. And as is the case in all good things, it takes awhile to rise. "The process is slowed down a bit because the dough has to rise about 45 minutes before baking," he said.

Once the dough has risen, next comes the insertion of the special pumpkin spice. Bakers use a knife to make ridges in the dough to simulate a pumpkin and then the trays get slid into the oven to bake.

Once baked, they receive an orange icing top and a green stem to finish it off.

They became so popular that they extended their hours to 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. to accommodate the business.

"We had some this morning who saw the story on Good Morning America and drove here from Mississippi to try them out," Gonzalez said surprised at the length of travel.

After the news came

out, the parking lot was full most of the day and the store with a line all the way outside and down the sidewalk with customers wanting to try it out.

"We were making between 5,000 to 10,000 every day to keep up with the demand," he said.

They also earned a new business, shipping pastries around the country.

"We're going to keep making the fillings for these because that's what everyone seems to like," Gonzalez said.

Brenda Betancourt of North Shore said she's a regular at the bakery picking up a variety of pastries. She and her partner first saw the delectable sweetbread on Tik Tok and decided to pick some up. Betancourt not only got several of the pumpkin bread delights, but also picked up a few other goodies along with it.

"I literally just got off work and came right here after work to pick some up," she said.

Alejandro Hernandez says they have been in business for awhile and at least 13 years at their cur-

rent location. "My son-in-law came up with the recipe and now it has gone viral," he said. "I wouldn't have imagined this in my best dreams," the owner said.

They began selling them on Oct. 1 and ended the run of the pumpkin delicacies on Oct. 31 after feeding a store full of customers all day.

Hernandez immigrated to the United States when he was 19 years old and has been here 45 years and is grateful for the business.

"We're using a secret ingredient in the conchas that makes it so appealing," he said. His son-in-law had been trying different spicey pumpkin flavors and made their own.

He wasn't ready to give away the secret ingredient after it turned the county and the country upside down.

Workers say they will announce a new creation for the Christmas holidays so stand by.

Murderer of GP Cheerleader Sentenced to 17 Years,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ment. Both Kristie's mom and sister Stephanie were able to give impact statements. Her father Brian, died of a massive heart attack.

"He went to his grave without the satisfaction of knowing her killer had been caught," her mom said.

Stephanie spoke first. She had spent the night with her cousins making Christmas cookies when her aunt came in and told her Kristie had been shot and killed.

"Going forward every part of our lives felt heavy with heartbreak. It took years to start feeling normal again," Stephanie said.

"Kristie did not get to see me graduate from high school or college, Kristie was not there to be a bridesmaid at my wedding and Kristie was not with us to help welcome my son and daughter into the world. We must have cried a million tears in the past 29 years," she said.

Judy's sister Dr. Shirley Ellisor along with numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins attended the sentencing.

"Her (Judy's) eyes were trained on Rios the whole time. I don't know that she even looked a different direction," Ellisor said.

Martin stood to read her statement, and the interpreter had to tell Rios to look at her while she held a photo of Kristie.

"This is my daughter Kristie. Kristie had unconditional love for everyone. On December 23, 1995, you chose to take her life. She was only 19 years old, the same age as you were," she read.

Martin told how she felt relief after she discovered he had been arrested and jailed in Harris County.

"We miss her every day and nothing can ever bring her back. Kristie was a Christian, a Christ follower so she is now in heaven with her Lord and Savior and her dad



Jose Luis Rios extradited to the U.S.

Brian who died an early death 15 years ago, heartbroken and still grieving."

Both Martins said their prayer now was for his own soul in the hopes he would change his ways and become a productive leader in his family and the community. Judy Martin bought Rios a Spanish Bible to give to him, but no one sentenced to jail can take anything with them.

"The bailiff said they would do their best to get it to him," she said.

Martin said Rios could come before the parole board as early as five years.

"We will be there to protest that and give victim statements against his release," Martin said.

On Friday night, Dec. 22, 1995, Kristie had gone shopping with her mom earlier in the day. That night, she opted not to go to her aunts to make Christmas cookies and instead, went out with friends. As she walked down the stairs of her house headed to go out, she was wearing her Christmas present, a leather jacket which her mom had bought her earlier while they were out shopping.

"She stopped on the stairs and sang 'O Holy Night,'" her mom said.

Martin was shot and killed around 12:15 a.m. early Saturday by Rios at a small park in Channelview. Court depositions say Rios used an assault rifle during the drive-by shooting. He had driven by the park, saw the two couples, Kristie and her friend Sal, were outside the car. Rios ordered them to walk toward them, and the couple scrambled to get back in the car. Rios unloaded five shots, one of which struck Martin in the back killing her. Shrapnel hit a female in the back seat riding with them. She survived her wounds.

The funeral was held the next day on Sunday afternoon, Christmas Eve, following church services at the Woodforest Baptist Church in North Shore. Around 1,000-plus mourners attended the funeral.

The case drew national attention with profiles on Unsolved Mysteries and America's Most Wanted. Rios was indicted on the charge of murder on May 1, 1996, by the 263rd Grand Jury without him being present.

Both Martins said they were relieved this part of justice was done—for now.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Call 713-266-3444

Your AD will reach up to 40,000 readers in our FIVE newspapers, with a combined circulation of 20,000 copies. Get ACTION on your AD. Rates start at only \$18 for 20 words. A bargain!

BID NOTICE

BID NOTICE

BID NOTICE

Galena Park Independent School District ("GPISD" or "the "District") is soliciting proposals for RFP 25-008 General Retail Merchandise as more fully set out in this Request for Proposals ("RFP"). The submission deadline will be, Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at 2:00 PM CST at the GPISD Admin Bldg. The Purchasing Department, located at 14705 Woodforest Blvd., Houston, TX 77015.

Interested proposers should respond to this RFP and submit proposals online at the GPISD eBid System site, <https://galenaparkisd.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Purchasing Dept. at our website: galenaparkisd.com/Page/1155

The Galena Park ISD reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

Galena Park Independent School District ("GPISD" or "the "District") is soliciting proposals for RFP 25-009 Catering Services as more fully set out in this Request for Proposals ("RFP"). The submission deadline will be, Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at 2:00 PM CST at the GPISD Admin Bldg. The Purchasing Department, located at 14705 Woodforest Blvd., Houston, TX 77015.

Interested proposers should respond to this RFP and submit proposals online at the GPISD eBid System site, <https://galenaparkisd.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Purchasing Dept. at our website: galenaparkisd.com/Page/1155

The Galena Park ISD reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

Galena Park Independent School District ("GPISD" or "the "District") is soliciting proposals for RFP 25-010 General Purchases (Multi Award) as more fully set out in this Request for Proposals ("RFP"). The submission deadline will be, Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at 2:00 PM CST at the GPISD Admin Bldg. The Purchasing Department, located at 14705 Woodforest Blvd., Houston, TX 77015.

Interested proposers should respond to this RFP and submit proposals online at the GPISD eBid System site, <https://galenaparkisd.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Purchasing Dept. at our website: galenaparkisd.com/Page/1155

The Galena Park ISD reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT

OFFICE MANAGER

Full Time Office Manager needed for an Established Real Estate Company in Crosby

- Minimum High School Diploma
- At Least two Years experience in Payroll, Bookkeeping and Office Management.
- Proficiency with Accounting Software (Sage 50, QuickBooks) and all Microsoft Office Products.
- Prepare Monthly Property Financial Reports.
- Manage and Lease Self Storage Units
- Show and Lease Self Storage units to Tenants.
- Salary: Negotiable - based on Experience
- Benefits: PTO and Holiday Pay

Email Resume to: ramsey.chehayeb@gmail.com

Or Drop Off Resume at Office Address:

Crosby Boat, RV & Mini Storage: 15118 FM 2100, Crosby, TX 77532

Monday - Friday: 9 AM to 6 PM

GALENA PARK ISD NEWS

Galena Park ISD and EHCEC Spread Holiday Cheer with Turkey Giveaway

Dr. Tommie L. Smith

The spirit of giving continues as Galena Park ISD (GPISD) partnered with the East Harris County Empowerment Council (EHCEC) for the annual Hope for the Holidays event to ensure families in the District enjoy a bountiful holiday feast. This year, the EHCEC generously donated 120 turkeys to the families while the GPISD administrative team completed the feast with all the necessary fixings. GPISD School Counselors are an integral part of Hope for the Holidays. They register families, decorate boxes containing the fixings, gather to pick up the meals, and



Pictured: GPISD School Counselors and Executive leadership with EHCEC's Mareo Hendricks (photo by Jerome Delafosse)

diligently deliver meals to their respective families. The School Counselors' personal touch makes each meal special,

reinforcing the community's commitment to caring for one another. As the Superintendent of Schools stated, "Hope for

the Holidays has become a cherished tradition in Galena Park ISD, touching the lives of many and exemplifying the power

of partnership and the impact of small acts of kindness. We are proud to give, share, and embrace giving throughout

the holiday season. Visit: www.eastharriscounty.org to learn more about the EHCEC.

OBITUARY

SANFORD ALLEN HALL

Sanford Allen Hall, known affectionately as Allen by his friends and family, passed away peacefully on November 24, 2024, in Channelview, Texas, just two days before what would have been his 88th birthday. Born on November 26, 1936, at Heights Hospital in Houston, Texas, to Sanford and Ethel Hall.



Allen graduated from Aldine High School in 1954. He continued his education at Sam Houston State University. Not only did he earn his Bachelor of Science Degree on January 24, 1959, he completed his Master of Education Degree on August 28, 1959. During his college days, he crossed paths with Bernie Lynn, the love of his life. He and Bernie Lynn, both sharing a passion for rodeo, met at a Rodeo Club meeting at SHSU, a fitting backdrop for a lifetime of shared interests. They were united in marriage on August 31, 1957, and together they shared 65 years of unwavering love.

Allen began his career as an elementary school teacher and principal in Northeast Houston, dedicating four years to shaping young minds before moving on to become an Agriculture Teacher at Channelview ISD in 1964. When Allen took over as the Agriculture Teacher in Channelview, the FFA Fair was held in the high school parking lot. He helped negotiate an agreement with the property owner of some land on Bear Bayou to house the fair each year. That property was eventually donated to the YMCA. His passion and commitment to vocational education were evident as he was promoted to the position of Director of Vocational Programs in 1974. He was instrumental in securing land and construction of a new fairground facility on Wood Dr. In 1984, the first FFA Fair was held in the new grounds. He was honored to have the fairgrounds named and dedicated as the "Allen Hall Fairgrounds". Also in 1984, he was given the additional role of Director of Transportation, showcasing his versatile talents and dedication to the educational field. After 38 years of service, he retired from Channelview ISD on May 28, 1998, leaving behind a legacy of influence and inspiration.

Allen grew up with a deep appreciation for the land and the outdoors, a sentiment that would shape much of his life's work and passions. Allen's love for agriculture stemmed from his upbringing

on a farm and his time as a steer wrestler in rodeos. He loved spending his time outside in the garage "tinkering", always keeping his hands and mind busy. His fair, tough, and opinionated nature was respected by all who knew him.

Throughout his life, Allen was actively involved in his community. He was a member of the YMCA, the Lions Club, and he served on the district water board, where he was a past president. His contributions to these organizations were not just in title but in the time, energy, and passion he invested in them. During his tenure at CISD, Allen received many accolades inside and outside of the district. In 1980 he was named Outstanding Citizen for Youth Development by the Channelview Lion's Club. In 1982, he served as the State Director for Vocational Administrators and Supervisors Association. In 1992, he was honored as the Outstanding Gulf Coast Vocational Ancillary Award for Dedicated Service. In 1998-99 and 1992-93 he was named the Outstanding Educational Administrator by the Gulf Coast Administrators and Supervisors Association. In 1995, Allen received the Community Builders Award from the C.A. Fortner Masonic Lodge 1304. This is the highest award given by Masons to a Non-Mason. In the 47-year history of the lodge, Allen was the first man to receive this honor. Allen's interests were as vast as his heart. His commitment to the community and his love for the land were evident in the way he lived his life, always striving to make a positive impact on those around him.

On a personal side of Allen, he was the fairest person you could meet. He had a heart as big as he was. He loved to give hugs and he never failed to give you his opinion, good or bad, and whether you wanted to hear it or not! He always prefaced it by saying, "You may not want to hear this but I'm gonna tell you anyways". And no matter what, before he walked away, he always offered a handshake. He was one of the toughest, fair and


loving people all wrapped up in one.

Allen now joins the company of his family who have predeceased him, including his parents, Sanford and Ethel Hall; his beloved wife of 65 years, Bernie Lynn Hall; his treasured grandchildren, Cody Hall and Maddie Hall; his dear granddaughter-in-law, Colby Jacks Hall; and his sister, Sandra Rhodes. Allen is survived by his children, Doug Hall and his wife Kayla, Clay Hall and his wife Pam, and Spence Hall and his wife Tammy. His legacy continues through his four grandchildren, Brittany Hall and her partner Justin Vaughan, Casey Hall, Cooper Hall and his wife Ashley, and Calli Harrington and her husband Trevor. He is also survived by his five great-grandchildren Kira Hall, Mya Hall, Wyatt Hall, Dawson Harrington, and soon-to-arrive Jacks Hall. He is also survived by his sister Janet Green and her husband Bill, as well as nieces and nephews. All are a testament to his enduring influence and love. Allen's extended family of friends, spanning over 60 years, held a special place in his heart, as he did in theirs.

To join the family for a time of remembrance, there will be a visitation at Carter-Conley Funeral Home on Thursday, December 5, 2024, in the chapel from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. Funeral services for Allen will be held on Friday, December 6, 2024 at 12:00 P.M. in the chapel of Carter-Conley Funeral Home and will be officiated by Pastor Gene Summers. Graveside services will be at 2:00 PM at Brookside Memorial Park Cemetery, 13747 Eastex Freeway, Houston, TX 77039 under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations be made to Channelview FFA. The checks should be made out to Channelview FFA and mailed to:

Channelview FFA
c/o Allen Hall Scholarship
1100 Sheldon Road
Channelview, TX 77530
Please add "In Memory of Allen Hall" on the memo line in order to direct the funds


CARTER ★ CONLEY
FUNERAL HOME
13701 CORPUS CHRISTI STREET
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77015
(713) 455-5100
WWW.CARTERCONLEYFH.COM

SHELDON ISD NEWS

GT Expo Showcases 300 Student Projects

On Wednesday November 20, Sheldon ISD held the Annual Elementary Gifted and Talented Expo featuring approximately 300 projects. First through fifth grade students presented their projects for community members and spectators. First grade students studied unusual or unique animals and created habitats to display. On display was every animal you could think of, including Bue Dragon Sea Slugs! Second Graders studied famous people

and were responsible for the living museum. Individuals on display were Kalpana Chawla, a famous astronaut along Pablo Picasso. We were even greeted by appearances from LeBron James, Simone Biles, Taylor Swift. Lionel Messi and Beyonce were even autographing pictures for their guests! Third grade displayed their cities and towns, as they created their own Utopian Destinations. From Spooky Halloween Towns, to Heavenly City a place

was created that anyone could live. Fourth graders placed their Enigmas on trial, as they worked to prove their case and solve their Enigma mystery. Big Foot, is he real? Nessie, does she exist? The WOW sound, where is it coming from? Finally, fifth graders presented their collectibles and showcased their own opinions as a Fad or Fortune. Everything from lunch boxes to beanie babies, barbies, coins were on display!



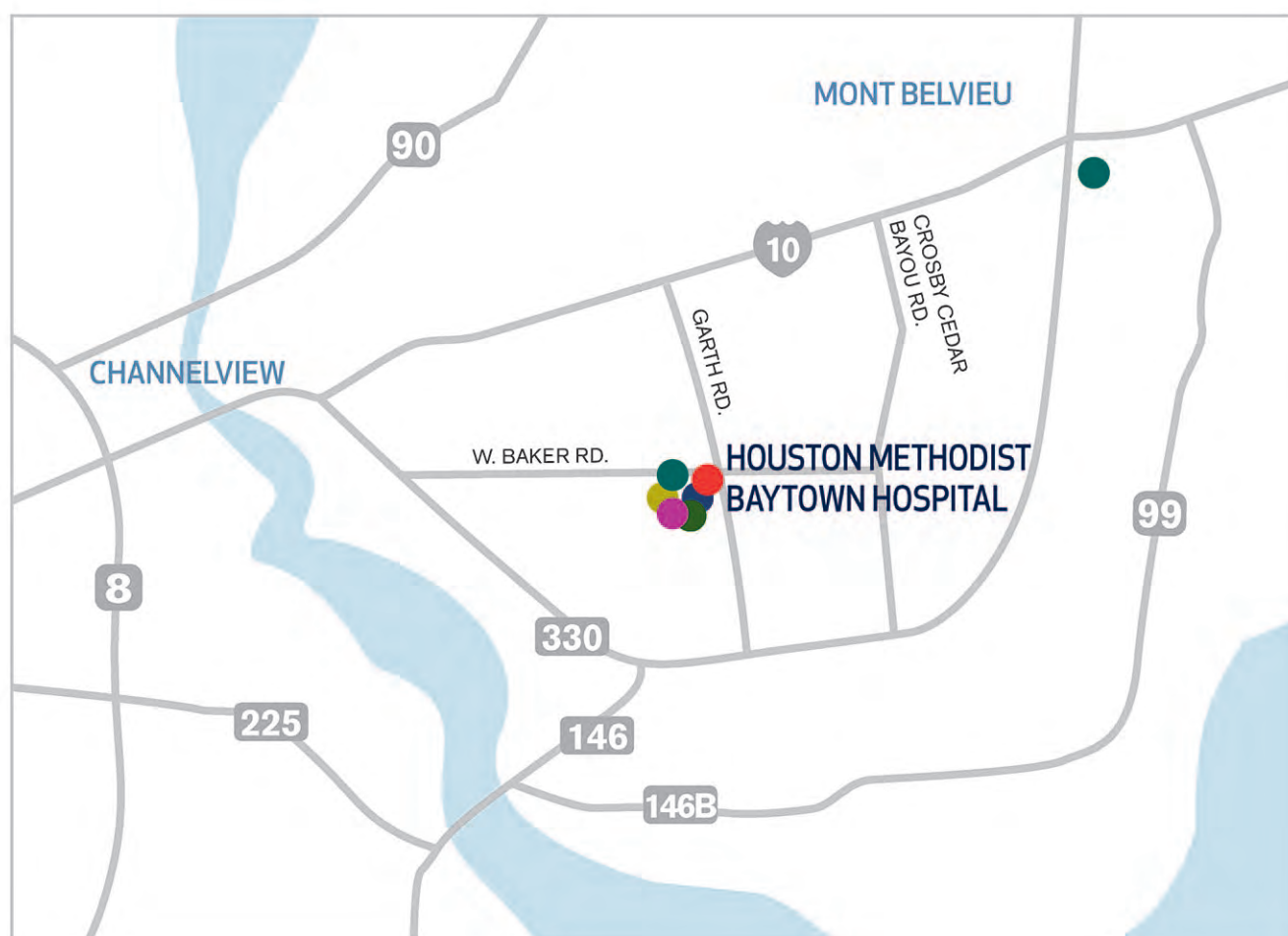


HOUSTON METHODIST LEADING CARE where you need us

Convenient, easy-to-access locations for primary, specialty and emergency care in Baytown

We offer a full spectrum of care, including:

- Primary care physicians for you and your family, providing personal care and service
- Specialists with innovative treatments and customized programs for all conditions
- Collaborative teams of experts using the newest technologies and latest research



To find care near you, visit houstonmethodist.org/care-baytown or call **713.790.3333**.