



Members of the Crosby High School Army Junior ROTC post a wreath at the hallowed Wall of Honor at Sterling-White Cemetery.

# NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

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

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## CHANNEL CURRENTS

### Graduation Schedule

**CHANNELVIEW ISD ENDEAVOR HIGH** Graduation will be held on Friday, May 16, 2025, at 7 p.m., at the Bill Neal Center, 828 Sheldon Road in Channelview, TX 77530.

**CHANNELVIEW HIGH SCHOOL** Graduation will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2025, at 10 a.m., at the M. O. Campbell Educational Center, 1865 Aldine Bender, Houston, TX 77032.

**C. E. KING HIGH SCHOOL** Graduation will be held on Sunday, June 1, 2025, at 3 p.m., at the NRG Stadium, One NRG Parkway, Houston, TX 77054.

**NORTH SHORE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL** Graduation will be held on Sunday, May 25, 2025, at 9 a.m., at the NRG Stadium, One NRG Parkway, Houston, TX 77054.

**GALENA PARK HIGH SCHOOL** Class of 2025 Graduation will be held on Sunday, May 25, 2025, at 1 p.m., at the NRG Stadium, One NRG Parkway, Houston, TX 77054.

**GPISD CTE EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL** Graduation will be held on Sunday, May 25, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. at the NRG Stadium, One NRG Parkway, Houston, TX 77054.

## North Channel Chamber Honors Top 5 Percent Seniors at Luncheon

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

Elio Alanis became a hustler out of necessity. The North Carolina native moved to Houston at 13 and found himself in the middle of the grind to help his parents make their dream come true. It wasn't until he graduated that he found himself building his own dreams.

"I moved here with my parents," he said. "Funny thing, North Carolina had the Panthers football team, and I ended up at C. E. King High School who was also the Panthers."

It wasn't much, but it helped him feel more comfortable in his new home where he discovered football was a big deal.

It wasn't long before he owned his first pair of boots, and he was becoming hooked on the culture.

"I played football from eighth grade to my senior year. I wasn't very good, but I was always first in the weight room and the



Seniors Luncheon Group photo North Shore



Seniors Luncheon Group photo Galena Park

last to leave. There was something about the discipline that I fell in love with," he told the seniors at the North Channel Chamber of Commerce's luncheon saluting the top five percent students.

During his senior year, he was contemplating his future. He was envious of his friends who took vacations every year. That was an impossibility for him at the time.

"I come from a hard-working family that owns restaurants," he said. "When I was growing up, during spring break, I was passing out business cards within a five-mile radius to where my pops restaurant was trying to drum up business," he told his story.

During the summer he was hustling up customers from local businesses, focusing on Friday lunches.

"All I knew was the restaurant business, and as

Continued. See PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS, Page 2

## GP Yellow Jackets baseball perfect 18-0 season

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX. ~ Saturday, May 3, 2025 the Galena Park High School's boys' baseball team under Head Coach James Turrubiarres had a perfect undefeated 18-0 win-streak season in district play.

In the Galena Park Yellow Jacket vs. Victoria West Warriors UIL 5A D1 Baseball Bi-District play-off game the Yellow Jackets season came to an end. The Warriors won the 2 out of 3 contest, those 2 losses was the only Jackets losses of the season.

The Yellow Jackets pitching was unbelievably

good all season averaging 1.63 runs per game. However the strong offensive hitting of the Warriors proved to be the difference in the two teams in the playoffs.

The Jackets had a much better overall record of 22 - 2 while the Warriors overall record was 18 - 7.

Coaches and support staff for the team: Head Baseball Coach James Turrubiarres & Varsity Assistant Coach - Flavio Recio. Student Athletic Trainers: Jocelyn Luna & Natalie Mejia. Athletic Trainers: Jessica Pfannstiel & Ambreya Hamlett.



Standing L-R: #1 Xavier Aldana, #12 Daniel Gomez, #14 Albert Muro, #15 Cesar Amador, #19 Dave Correa, #11 Jacob Gutierrez, #28 Christian Guerra, #8 Jose Ramirez, #10 Miguel Daniel, #2 Hector Arrieta Granados, #13 Fabian Cantu, #6 Jovani Rojas, #3 Isaac Lamas, Jose Navarro. Kneeling L-R: #30 Jon Henry, #7 Jesus Resendez, #27 Kevin Guerra, #9 Christian Johansen, #4 Joshua Banda, #5 Noah Mendez, #26 Jorge Rodriguez, #21 Emmanuel Garcia. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

## Fire ravages Channelview Motel for third time this year



The Fairfield Inn by Marriott is a total loss after a third fire in three months.

Fairfield Inn appears to be a total loss after massive fire

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

The quick actions of a Houston Fire Department firefighter last Friday

weren't enough to save the Fairfield Inn and Suites by Marriott at 15822 East Freeway in Channelview from what appears to be a total loss.

"The firefighter was driving by the hotel when he noticed the flames coming out of the top of the ho-

tel," said Brandi Dumas, spokesperson for the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office.

"He knew the chief for the Channelview Volunteer Fire Department and

Continued. See MOTEL FIRE, Page 2

## Rep. Ana Hernandez proposes Electric Bill Assistance Fund

By Allan Jamail

Austin, Tx. May 5, 2025 ~ Texas State Representative Ana Hernandez has successfully revived and moved House Bill 1359, a low income assistance bill, through the state house.

A similar bill was first introduced by the late US Congressman Sylvester

Turner when he was a state representative and before he became Houston's mayor.

Turner's first attempt to get his bill passed was in 2007. Session after session, Turner's bill proposals died in the Texas House or the Senate. There's been no further action on the bill since 2013.

Now Hernandez and other lawmakers want to re-establish a comparable bill and have it enacted into law.

The proposed bill would establish a statewide Consumer Assistance Program (CAP) to help low-income

Continued. See ANA HDZ ELECTRIC BILL ASSISTANCE FUND, Page 3

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# County votes Parity Pay Raise for HCSO Deputies

### Commissioners form Committee to find source of Funding

Harris County commissioners last Thursday approved a motion to increase wages for deputies by 2026 — but where exactly they will find the money to back the \$140 million boost remains in question.

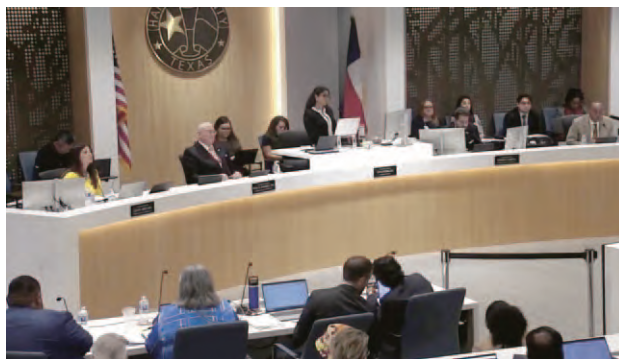
The pressure was on for commissioners to take up immediate discussions about clearing a path to pay parity for sheriff's office and constable's deputies after the Houston City Council authorized a five-year, \$832 million contract for the city's police officers.

The county's elected constables during a news conference earlier Thursday implored commissioners to not delay approving

boosted wages for deputies. But the approval of the motions for a pay increase — which will create a negotiation committee charged with finding the finances to pay for the higher wages — could spiral the county into a deeper financial pit to the tune of a \$270 million projected budget deficit.

Each of the county's eight constables said they could risk losing deputies to other local law enforcement agencies without a pay bump.

"We work collaboratively every day with our partners, but it's a real disparity when you have officers that are making \$20,000 more starting pay



Harris County Commissioners Court at last week's meeting.

for the exact same job," Precinct 1 Constable Alan Rosen said. "They're doing the exact same job."

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo in a Thursday evening statement called the vote for increased deputy pay unprecedented. She and Commissioner Rodney Ellis opposed Commissioner Tom Ramsey's motion for

pay parity with Houston Police Department officers — with Hidalgo saying the move will exacerbate the county's financial problems. She approved a separate motion to create the negotiation committee that will be charged with coming up with the money to pay for raises.

"That's a bewildering thing for county leaders to

commit to without explaining how to cover that deficit," Hidalgo said. "They can't answer that question because they do not know."

Commissioners Lesley Briones and Adrian Garcia, a former county sheriff, joined Ramsey — the only Republican on commissioners court — in approving the pay increase. Briones said the county faces the threat of losing qualified law enforcement officers to agencies such as HPD if the commissioners court doesn't swiftly pass pay parity.

The starting salary for deputies in Harris County is \$57,000. After approval from commissioners court, the pay will increase to be in line with the city's recently approved contract, which calls for first-year officers to be paid \$75,000 starting in July.

"They are poaching our people," Briones said.

Speaking on Houston Matters earlier in the day, Hidalgo said the county doesn't yet have the money to cover boosted wages for deputies. Though the county was already facing a \$130 million deficit going into its annual budgeting session, the pay increase plan will come as an incremental cost every year.

The county may need to redirect its focus to cut down on what commissioners called non-essential services to find the money to back the raises.

"What we're asking is for every department to cut across the board," Hidalgo said. "We are looking at cutting across the board a certain percentage, it's around 6% or 7%. But that obviously is just a proposal right now."

## From passing out menus to selling hundreds of homes; the story of Elio Alanis,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

much as I love my parents, and the restaurant industry, I didn't feel like that was for me the rest of my life," he said.

He credits the industry for helping him develop his work ethic.

He enrolled in college and quickly realized that it was not his cup of tea, but his father was insistent that he do something.

"That's when I realized if I can sell tacos, I can sell houses!" he smiled.

He worked hard and earned his license at the age of 18, but that wasn't easy.

"I went to the best real estate school here in Houston, Champions Real Estate School.

The grind was real for him driving from the Sheldon area to the Galleria to attend classes every day from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

After 180 hours in real estate school, it took him seven times to pass the real estate exam.

"That last time, I thought to myself, if I don't pass it, I think I will have to go back to the restaurant industry.

At 18, he was joining Keller Williams, one of the best franchises for real estate in the industry.

His real estate dream, however, faced another obstacle. It was the fall of 2020 and the Covid pandemic was in full swing. No one was buying houses.

"The very first week of me going into real estate brokerage, they sent an email out to us the next day telling us we were closed, please stay home. I didn't know how to do open houses, make cold calls, so I found myself back talking to my dad knowing real



Elio Alanis was the keynote speaker at the annual North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce Top Five Percent Seniors Luncheon at San Jacinto College North campus. Alanis is a graduate of C. E. King High School.



Galena Park ISD superintendent Dr. John Moore spoke to the cream of the crop Top Five Percent students from area high schools at the annual North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon.

with 65 homes in 2022, 150 homes in 2023, and last year over 250 transactions.

"Our goal this year is 500," he said optimistically.

He now leads a team of agents, admin, and a marketing team.

"Success doesn't make you special. What you do with it does," he said.

He's invested his success into his home community as the title sponsor for the Panther Stadium the next few years.

"I love doing things for our community and it's all about mindset," he said.

He now owns 60 properties across Houston, purchasing his first one at 19.

Dr. John Moore, superintendent of Galena Park ISD, summarized what Alanis stressed to the top five percent students.

"What he said is will versus skill. Will wins every time. Will beats skilled every time. If you're willing to pay the price to work the hardest for the longest, you will find the prize at the end of that rainbow and it's called happiness," Moore told the students.

He reminded them that no one gets to define their happiness but themselves.

"The question is, 'Are you willing to pay the price for your own happiness?'" he asked.

"You just heard a young man talk about all the hurdles he faced, and he kept after it, kept after it, kept after it, and he's going to do much bigger things than he's doing now, and it's because of his will, not his skill. So, remember that," the superintendent told the students.

## Channelview Motel a total loss after third fire,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

called him personally and told him the hotel was on fire."

The 2-alarm fire call came in around 8:52 a.m. and firefighters from Channelview, Crosby, Sheldon, Cloverleaf (ESD12), and Highlands responded to the raging flames.

The hotel, which had already been vacant from a previous fire back on March 28, was occupied at that time, but since has been closed and boarded up while the investigation continued.

Eyewitnesses from surrounding businesses said they had seen vagrants going in and out of the property.

The HFD firefighter was the first on the scene as constable's, sheriff's office and fire personnel arrived.

"They eventually sent in their HOT team, homeless team to search for anyone who might have been caught in the building. It has been broken into since

it's been closed," Dumas confirmed, "probably people looking for shelter."

Dumas said the March 28 fire never had a ruling and added there had been another fire on May 10 of this year.

"It was smaller and contained to an area, so it wasn't as big as what we saw this week," she said.

The investigation is still ongoing.

"They actually went back into the scene yesterday (Saturday), just to do another search to make sure that nobody was left inside," the spokesperson said.

The fire department did an initial search of the building upon arrival, and another search after the fire was under control. On Saturday, around 8 a.m. they took in cadaver dogs to perform a third search, according to Dumas.

The HCFMO said investigators hadn't established where the fire had started and couldn't give a cause of the fire until then.

"They feel like they have a general area, but of course, they'll be back out there just trying to see what they can find," she said.

The fire wasn't confined to the roof, there was a complete collapse of the second and third floor, Dumas said.

"You have to remember that there was damage from previous fires, so the building is pretty much done," she said.

The previous fire in March was called in just after 9 p.m. and did significant enough damage to close the hotel.

Tap out on the fire May 23 was around 11:45 a.m. Secondary entry into the property to check for homeless began around 12:30 p.m. Firemen remained on the scene for hours checking for hotspots.

The owners were issued a safe and secure order which forces them to board up the hotel to protect it from unwanted entry.

## SHELDON ISD NEWS

### Sheldon ISD Surprises Select Teachers with Considerable Salary Increases



On Friday, May 2, Sheldon ISD surprised teachers with the news that they have earned a designation through the Texas Teacher Incentive Allotment resulting in significant salary increases. Last year, Sheldon ISD implemented the Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) program as an initiative to reward, retain and recruit highly effective teachers on every campus while providing a realistic pathway for top teachers to earn six-figure salaries.

Last year, Sheldon ISD received approximately \$110,000 to disperse to 16 educators based on their Recognized or Exemplary distinction. This year, 56 Sheldon ISD teachers will benefit for a total of \$2.3 million for the next five years.

During the 86th Legislative Session, funding to support the Teacher Incentive Allotment was built into Texas state law as part of House Bill 3. This funding source established the ability for Sheldon ISD to imple-

ment a local designation system to recognize effective teachers on three different levels: Recognized, Exemplary and Master. Based on state qualifying criteria, Sheldon ISD has designated 43 Recognized teachers, 11 Exemplary Teachers and 2 Master Teachers.

The funding is provided to the teachers annually through additional compensation for the next five years as long as they continue to meet the Teacher Incentive Allotment requirements.

## CE King HS Graduates Celebrate Decision Day



On May 1, senior students at King High School participated in the annual Decision Day. Each year, senior students who are accepted and committed to a college, university, or post-secondary institution have an opportunity to participate in Decision Day. Students are treated to breakfast and dur-

ing a special assembly are called down to the front to share where they have decided to go in the fall and have an opportunity to collect a prize basket filled with goodies to help them in their first year of college. Baskets are donated by Sheldon ISD schools, community and staff.



# CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



## Where are they now

As I sat down to write this week's column, I realized that Thursday marks the 45th anniversary of the North Shore Senior High Class of 1980's Graduation. This was the last or one of the last classes that graduated on campus. Times were much simpler. Seniors did not have to register in advance to take a shuttle to an offsite location or worry about limited number of tickets for guests to attend. The "high school" was located on Holly Park and graduated walked across the stage on what is now known as the Tenth Grade Track.

The Senior Class song was "Where are they now?" sung by Barry Manilow. The prom had been held at the Shamrock Hilton. The principal's son was a member of the class. Unfortunately, both Mr. von Bieberstein and his son Paul "Von" Bieberstein are both deceased. The couple who had been voted "most attractive" were not dating then, yet years later Joni McClellan married John Adams and truly were the most attractive couple from the class. The true beauty of their marriage was the way that God shown through both and continues to shine even after John has passed away. Tommy Wood had been voted the most athletic male, and off to the University of Texas he went. Sadly, just after the class held their 35th Reunion, he too passed away.

Many of the class have also passed away including Perry Walker, Gary Dousay, Laurie Perez, Steve Bate, Brad McHaney, Sharon Blundell, Eddie Fleck, Scott Bratton, Mike Glenn and tragically several more. We lost several teachers and administrators who impacted our lives such as Janet Long, Skippy Collins, Jimmy Rhodes, Walter Lilly and most recently Mary Lou Dillard.

There are many who have retired after enjoying amazing careers teaching such as Joe Weir and Laurie Gresham. Daniel Burris retired from Harris County Sheriff's Office and many more have transitioned into second careers. Some have taken on the family businesses such as Delton "Bubba" Hayes and others are enjoying life with their grandchildren and traveling as often as they can. There are some friends who you never see alone. They are constantly surrounded by other fellow 1980 graduates. This is an added blessing for us.

In the midst of it all, we have several who left the community to venture out and become successful here in the Houston area, such as Johnny Smith who is with one of the larger car dealerships in Houston as well as Kristal Kirksey, who is the owner of Jubilee in the Heights. If you are looking for a unique gift or just something to spoil yourself, stop by and you are guaranteed to find the perfect items.

So, 45 years later, where are we now? We are in the midst of planning our next class reunion. We have moved beyond needing to gather a big fancy hotel and have dinner, drinks, and dancing. We are at a place where most of our children are no longer active in high school, now it is our grandchildren taking up many Friday nights, but we still need to get together and celebrate the gift of friendships. If you are interested in helping to plan the event, or you know others who graduated in 1980 from North Shore, reach out to Stacey Robinson Johnson, Joni McClelland Adams or myself and let us get busy.

# Rep. Hernandez electric bill assistance fund,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and "critical care residential customers" facing disconnection of service with payment assistance for their electricity bills. The fund would help ease the burden of unexpectedly high electric bills for the most vulnerable Texans.

The number one priority of the CAP program is to assist low-income electric customers by making available the retail electric service bill payment assistance established under the bill's provisions and to provide onetime bill payment assistance as described by the bill to "critical care residential customers" who have received notice of an impending service disconnection for nonpayment.

The bill defines "critical care residential customer" by reference as a residential customer who

has a person permanently residing in the customer's home who has been diagnosed by a physician as being dependent upon an electric-powered medical device to sustain life.

Hernandez is the Vice-Chair of the State Affairs Committee and on April 10, 2025, HB 1359 passed unanimously out of committee where it was then sent to the full House where it is passed on May 1st.

The Bill now moves to the Senate for a vote, should it pass there it will

then be sent to Governor Abbott with hopes to get his signature. If so it will become effective September 1st 2025.

In an interview with the Houston Chronicle Hernandez said her proposal and Senator Nathan Johnson, D-Dallas, author of the Senate's bill proposal version differ from Turner's System Benefit Fund in at least one crucial way: The new program would be financed by taxpayer dollars appropriated each session by the legislature, rather than surcharges on electricity bills.

Johnson said a new fund is needed because electricity rates are "not likely to fall back to previous levels." He said this law as written would protect the new program from being misused for purposes other than helping low-income Texans.

Hernandez, meanwhile, pointed out that the legislature has already appropriated \$5 billion to help companies build natural gas power plants and is considering \$2 billion more in taxpayer money to subsidize nuclear.

"It's important that if we are using state funds, that we also provide assistance to the residential consumers," Hernandez said.

Hernandez's goal is to get \$250 million for the first iteration of the new fund — dependent on negotiations with the lawmakers in charge of the budget.

# ASK DIAMOND JIM



## Diamond Jim: "What is the Birthstone for the Month of June?"

### JUNE BIRTHSTONES

June counts three gems as birthstones: pearl, Alexandrite, and moonstone.

#### Pearl

Pearls are unique as they are the only gems from living sea creatures and require no faceting or polishing to reveal their natural beauty. In the early 1900s, the first successful commercial culturing of round saltwater pearls began. Since the 1920s, cultured pearls have almost completely replaced natural pearls in the market.

The qualities that determine the overall value of a natural or cultured pearl or a piece of pearl jewelry are size, shape, color, luster, surface quality, nacre quality, and, for jewelry with two or more pearls, matching. When other value factors are equal, larger pearls are rarer and more valuable than smaller pearls of the same type. Round is the most difficult shape to culture, making it the rarest cultured pearl shape and—if all other factors are equal—also generally the most valuable. There are exceptions, though. Well-formed pear, oval, or baroque (irregularly shaped) cultured pearls are also prized by pearl lovers.

Natural and cultured pearls occur in a broad range of hues. There are warm hues like yellow, orange, and pink, and cool hues like blue, green, and violet. Pearls have a wide range of tone from light to dark. Pearl colors tend to be muted, with a soft, subtle quality.

#### Alexandrite

A relatively modern gem, Alexandrite, was first discovered in Russia in 1831 during the reign of its namesake, Czar Alexander II, and is an extremely rare chrysoberyl with chameleon-like qualities. Its color is a lovely green in both daylight and fluorescent light; it changes color to a purplish red in incandescent light.

Due to its rarity, some jewelers stock lab grown versions of this enchanting gemstone. (lab grown gemstones are man-made alternatives to the natural mined stones, possessing the same physical, optical, and chemical properties as the natural gemstone.) Alexandrite is also the gem for the 55th wedding anniversary.

#### Moonstone

The third birthstone for June is the moonstone. It was given its name by the Roman natural historian Pliny, who wrote that moonstone's appearance altered with the phases of the moon — a belief that held until well after the sixteenth century. A phenomenal gemstone, moonstones show a floating play of light (called adularescence) and sometimes show either a multi-rayed star or a cat's eye.

Considered a sacred stone in India, moonstones often are displayed on a background of yellow (a sacred color) and are believed to encapsulate within the stone a spirit whose purpose is to bring good fortune. Part of the family of minerals called feldspar, moonstone occurs in many igneous and metamorphic rocks and comes in a variety of colors such as green, blue, peach, and champagne. The most prized moonstones are from Sri Lanka; India, Australia...the United States, Myanmar, and Madagascar are also sources.

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

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If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email [jimills@pineforestjewelry.com](mailto:jimills@pineforestjewelry.com).

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# Sheldon Lake Elementary Honor Choir Chosen as Top Choir in State



Sheldon Lake Elementary Choir 2025 Children's Music Invitational

During their performance at the All Children's Music Festival, the Sheldon Lake Elementary School Honor Choir received two awards Outstanding Performance and Best Choreography for their school song. The choir was selected among the top 37 choirs in the state and were invited to perform. These honors placed the students in the top three choirs overall. The choir is led by Terry Small.

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OPINION PAGE

**COUNTY MATTERS**  
Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo



### On Funding Pay Raises

Harris County Judge Hidalgo Statement on Funding Law Enforcement Pay Raise

Harris County, TX, May 22, 2025 – Judge Lina Hidalgo released the following statement on raises for county law enforcement officers:

“Even without salary increases, the County is facing a \$130 million deficit for FY 2026. Approving \$142 million in new spending without identifying a funding source, pushes the county to a \$270 million budget deficit. That’s a bewildering thing for county leaders to commit to without explaining how to cover that deficit. They can’t answer that question because they do not know. As far as I know, this is unprecedented.

Every budget season is about setting priorities. This one is about truth-telling. By moving forward without a plan, we are effectively choosing to gut core services like county library programs, early childhood initiatives, juvenile services, mental health services, and the Harris County animal shelter. I would like to fund the salary increases, but to do so responsibly and transparently, as I have proposed,” said County Judge Lina Hidalgo.

**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.



Before we begin our regular commencement tonight,” said combined elementary/high school principal Jim Albertson, “we have a special award to present. Will Windy Wilson please come up here on the stage with us?”

Windy looked up at the stage in the gymnasium and all he saw were black choir robes and smiles. He looked at his fellow spectators and all he saw were grins and people sitting down.

“Windy?” said Jim. Windy walked up to the stage and shook hands with the principal. “Put this on.”

Windy draped a black robe around himself and put the mortarboard on his head.

Albertson pulled a piece of paper from his shirt pocket.

“Alphonse Wilson, it is the judgment of your community and friends that no one has ever worked harder for an honorary doctor’s degree.” He looked up at the stands. “Am I right on that?”

The young graduates clapped and hooted, and so did the audience. Windy looked at the floor and blushed right through his grey beard.

“We can’t give you an honorary doctorate here because we don’t have one. But your neighbors discovered that you only lacked one class to graduate from high school, and we can do something about that.”

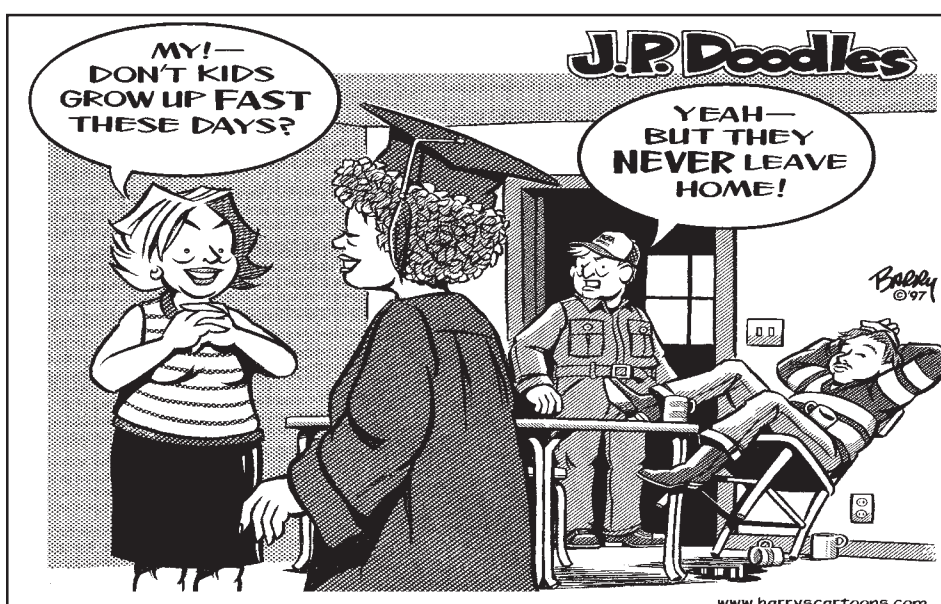
“Alphonse Wilson ... known to all as Windy ... this school ... these young graduates ... and all your friends and neighbors are proud to bestow upon you an honorary high school diploma.”

Jim placed a ribbon with a medal hanging from it around Windy’s neck and handed him a rolled-up certificate.

Not too many aging cowboy camp cooks and philosophers receive standing ovations, but then, there’s nothing very ordinary about Windy Wilson and we all know that.

**Brought to you by Saddle Up: A Cowboy’s Guide to Writing, by Slim Randles, now available at Amazon.com.**

He does have an honorary high school diploma.



**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
By Gary Borders



### Lawmakers Agree on \$8 Billion School Funding Package

Leaders from the Texas House and Senate have agreed on an \$8 billion school funding package, which is being called the largest in state history, The Dallas Morning News reported.

The latest version of House Bill 2 was unveiled at a Senate hearing Thursday. It would give the state major discretion in deciding how the funds are spent, from teacher pay raises to special education to school safety.

House Democrats reportedly are unhappy with major changes to the original bill, first passed in mid-April. That version gave local schools more discretion on how to spend state dollars. The new version cuts the proposed per-student funding increase from \$395 to \$55 but also includes \$7.2 billion in new funding, with more than half of that dedicated to teacher pay raises.

State Sen. Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe, said critics should concentrate on the total number of funding being appropriated.

“It seems to be lost in narratives right now as we talk about this historic money, knowing that every district in Texas wins,” Creighton said.

An administrator testifying at the Senate hearing said lawmakers should put more trust in local school districts.

“We hear a lot about [how] we need to be a small government, and yet I see a lot of the bodies talking about things that will put a lot of restrictions on the local independent school districts,” said Phillip Morgan, the Plano ISD fine arts director. “Let those local ISDs make those decisions.”

#### ABBOTT MOVES TO BLOCK USE OF FOOD STAMPS FOR SODA, CANDY

Gov. Greg Abbott last week formally requested a waiver from the Trump administration to block the purchase of “unhealthy, highly processed food” with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits. The SNAP program serves more than 3.2 million Texans with more than \$7 billion in taxpayer funding, Abbott wrote in a letter to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins, according to the San Antonio Express-News.

“SNAP was created to in-



crease access to nutritious food; however, many SNAP purchases are for food with little to no nutritious value,” Abbott wrote.

A bill to ban SNAP recipients from using benefits to buy “sweetened soft drinks” has passed the Senate and is up for a vote in the House.

SNAP recipients receive an average of \$187 a month, according to the latest USDA figures.

#### BILLS POSE RISKS TO EXISTING WIND, SOLAR FARMS

Two companion bills pose existential threats to the state’s renewable energy boom, according to the clean energy industry, the Houston Chronicle reported. House Bill 3356 and Senate Bill 715 would “require nearly every solar and wind farm in the state to back up their electricity output with natural gas power plants or a fleet of batteries.”

If an existing renewable project doesn’t have backup power, its owner would have to either stop operating or pay a steep fine. Clean industry leaders say such a requirement would be cost-prohibitive.

“I cannot recall legislation as damaging to our industry and to the energy market as House Bill 3356 and Senate Bill 715 being considered in both chambers this late in session,” said Mark Stover, executive director of Texas Solar and Storage Association, a trade group.

The bill’s sponsor, state Rep. Jared Patterson, R-Frisco, said his goal is to “level the playing field” against what he called a highly subsidized renewable energy industry, so more natural gas power plants can be built in the state.

#### POWER GRID WEATHERS AN

#### EARLY HEAT WAVE

Temperatures soared near or above the 100-degree mark last week, setting records in several cities while power usage came close to reaching an all-time high, the Chronicle reported. Demand hit 81 gigawatts, an all-time high for May according to the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, but no power shortages were reported.

The ERCOT grid has added more solar power to cushion the grid during the hottest hours and more battery storage to help meet the load when solar power is unavailable, according to energy analyst Rob Allerman.

ERCOT CEO Pablo Vegas attributes a growing fleet of renewable energy facilities as one reason the power grid operator should be able to get through the summer without resorting to rotating outages this summer. “We’re really continuing to see the benefit of increased resources from the solar and battery perspective. That made a very significant difference last summer. I think that we’ll see the benefit of that this summer,” Vegas said.

#### NORTH TEXAS HOME TO FIVE OF NATION’S FASTEST-GROWING CITIES

Newly released U.S. Census data indicates that five cities in the Dallas-Fort Worth area are among the 15 fastest-growing cities in the country, The Dallas Morning News reported. Topping the list is Princeton in Collin County, whose population grew by 30.6% between July 2023 and July 2024. Its population has more than doubled from 17,000 in 2020 to an estimated 37,000 today.

“We went from a small farming town to — I wouldn’t say the city level yet — but a lot of new faces, lots of traffic in a short period of time,” said Princeton Mayor Eugene Escobar Jr. “We knew the growth was coming.”

Three other Collin County cities cracked the top 15 — Celina (parts of which are in Denton County), Anna and Melissa.

Texas cities took seven of the top 15 spots, with Fulshear, near Houston, and Hutto, near Austin, also on the list.

#### HOUSE COMMITTEE CONSIDERS DEI BAN IN K-12 SCHOOLS

A Texas House panel is considering a bill to ban diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives in hiring and training in public schools — similar to a law passed in 2023 targeting DEI efforts in higher education. The Austin American-Statesman reported state Rep. Jeff Leach, R-Plano, is handling the bill in that chamber. It has already passed the Senate.

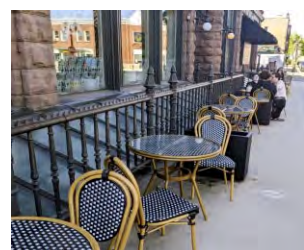
“This is about performance and achievement and instruction, and very strongly stands against and prohibits discriminatory practices,” Leach said.

Ash Hall, a policy strategist with ACLU of Texas, said the bill could lead to classroom censorship.

“This bill creates red tape and compliance burdens that distract schools from teaching and learning,” Hall said. “It is not about improving education. It is about controlling it.”

**THE POSTSCRIPT**  
By Carrie Classon

### Small Moments



Reality does not always match up with fantasy. My fantasy, once I finally sold my first novel, was that I would print my book in hard copy (which I never do) and carry it out of my office and go somewhere with it—maybe a coffee shop!

I would sit at a table in a coffee shop and read my manuscript on real paper with a red pen in hand and review it with care, while sipping my coffee, thoughtfully editing a chapter or two a day until I was confident that everything was to my complete satisfaction.

Right. I have finally started working on the first major edits with a wonderful editor who lives in L.A. She is smart and experienced and no-nonsense, and she gives me lots and lots of notes—and a one-week deadline to fix them all.

It’s more work than I imagined and a lot more stress. Leisurely trips to the coffee shop are out of the question. Sleeping full nights and getting regular meals are in doubt. I had no idea what to expect because this is, in fact, my very first rodeo.

“Can’t you ask for an extension?” someone asked and, of course, I cannot. I do not want to disappoint this hardworking editor who has taken the time to write all these notes. So I work in my office, often until quite late.

Her notes appear in little bubbles at the side of the text. “This is reading like a sermon,” a note said.

This was a puzzling observation because the passage she was referring to was, in fact, a sermon. But I gathered from the note that sounding like a sermon (even if it was a sermon) was not a good thing.

So I cut the sermon. It is now a very short sermon. If you were in church, you might think the pastor had come up short of ideas or there was a football game scheduled to start shortly, but that’s OK. There’s no reason we can’t get to the point a little faster.

But much more often—probably because I write a 600-word column every week—she wants me to write more. “Can you tell us more?” she asks. Of course, I can always write more, but it takes time, and I only have a week. There is no coffee shop in sight.

I had forgotten about my coffee shop fantasy entirely until yesterday, when I was taking a walk. (I still try to get some exercise during all of this.) It had finally warmed up enough, and the sidewalk was full of people sitting at little round tables, either reading or having important-sounding conversations. I felt a little jealous. And then I felt silly.

Because I am doing what I’ve been fantasizing about for so long. It just doesn’t look exactly like I thought it would. So I made a promise to myself right then and there.

I will celebrate when I hit “send” on the next set of revisions. I will celebrate when I have written new words, when my editor gives me a thumbs-up, when I’ve made a small thing better. The big moments go by too fast, and they are almost never the way I imagine them. But the small moments are happening every day, one after another, and they can be whatever I choose to make them.

Someday, I will have a coffee in that shop I walk by—with or without a manuscript—and I will have a small and perfect celebration—over nothing at all.

Till next time,  
Carrie

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From left, Elizabeth Banks, Michael Harney and Jessica Biel star in "The Better Sister."

"The Better Sister"

"2025 AMERICAN MUSIC AWARDS" (TV-PG) — Jennifer Lopez, the queen of everything in her mind, is hosting the 2025 American Music Awards ceremony this year, her second time after hosting back in 2015. Taking place at the Fontainebleau Las Vegas, the ceremony will be airing live on May 26 but can, of course, be streamed on demand afterward if you miss the live show. Recent Super Bowl halftime show headliner Kendrick Lamar leads with 10 nominations for the fan-voted award show, including Artist of the Year and Song of the Year ("Not Like Us"). Performers include artists like Benson Boone, Gwen Stefani, Gloria Estefan and The Weeknd. Meanwhile, Janet Jackson will be presented with the Icon Award. (Paramount+)

"THE BETTER SISTER" (TV-MA) — Jessica Biel's last lead television role was in the 2022 crime-drama series "Candy," but it seems that television suits Biel more than movies, as evidenced by her performance in this upcoming thriller series premiering May 29. The series picks up as Biel's character, Chloe, stumbles upon her husband's dead body. Following the aftermath of his murder, which appears to be a "burglary gone wrong," Chloe's estranged sister, Nicky (Elizabeth Banks), shows up at her door to lend her support, even though she has her own string of issues. These two opposite sisters being forced together only adds to the increasing tension as the police work to solve the murder. (Amazon Prime Video)

"TUCCI IN ITALY"

(TV-PG) — About a month ago, Stanley Tucci's "Searching for Italy" lifestyle series from 2021-2022 was highlighted in this column, and now the follow-up series to the show has premiered with three episodes available to stream right now! Starting off in the Italian regions of Tuscany, Lombardy, and Trentino-Alto Adige, Tucci explores the cuisine, culture and history that has become an important of these regions. He ends his five-episode show with Abruzzo and Lazio, but don't be surprised if Tucci continues to find ways to showcase the great dishes the country has to offer and share his love of Italian food with us. (Disney+)

"NETFLIX TUDUM 2025"

(TV-MA) — In 2020, Netflix held its first global fan event called Tudum. It took place in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and featured celebrities from its biggest shows at the time, like Lana Candor and Noah Centineo ("To All the Boys I've Loved Before"). Now the event has evolved to include live performances and will stream for fans all over the world to enjoy from the comfort of their homes. Lady Gaga, who recently dropped the album "Mayhem," will be performing a song from the album, and stars from shows like "Squid Game," "Stranger Things," "Outer Banks" and more will be present for interviews and exclusive news. This is not a night to miss for the dedicated Netflix fans out there! (Netflix)

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Q:I was watching the original "Dexter" series. Who played the "Ice Truck Killer" in the first season? He's really good. I'm surprised he isn't a bigger star after this role. — L.K.

A:The actor who played the serial killer in season one of "Dexter" is Christian Camargo. He's been acting steadily since but nothing that really showcases his talents like "Dexter." (Maybe he can play a "Batman" villain someday?) He's mostly guest-starred on several notable prime-time series like "The Good Wife" and "Elementary." He's also appeared in the Academy-Award-winning film "The Hurt Locker" and two of the "Twilight" blockbuster films.

Since "Dexter," he's landed recurring or contract roles on two series: Showtime's "Penny Dreadful" with Eva Green and Apple TV+'s "See" with Jason Momoa. His upcoming projects are listed as a series titled "Camelot" and the comedy "Big Mike's Cabin." So far, it hasn't been announced if he'll appear in the upcoming sequel series "Dexter: Resurrection" like John Lithgow and Jimmy Smits, despite their characters' deceased status in the original series.

Q:How did "Georgie & Mandy's First Marriage" do in the ratings compared to "Young Sheldon"? Will it be back for another season? — K.C.

A:"Georgie & Mandy's First Marriage" is a spin-off on CBS focusing on kid genius Sheldon's (Iain Armitage) older brother, his wife and her family. It won its time slot with 6.6 million viewers tuning in to CBS for its premiere episode this past October. The series finale of "Young Sheldon" drew 8.95 million viewers. "Georgie & Mandy" is a certified hit, however, and will return for its sophomore season.

The new season is said to focus on Georgie's ownership of the auto shop and Mandy's career as a local news broadcaster. While "Young Sheldon's" Zoe Perry and Annie Potts guest-starred in the first season of the spin-off, Armitage did not. Perhaps this will change in the upcoming season.

Q: What ever happened to Thomas Gibson? I was hoping that his character would be back for the new "Criminal Minds," but he's completely disappeared. — G.S.

A:Before "Criminal Minds," Thomas Gibson starred in the hit sitcom "Dharma & Greg" without any reported issues. However, he was written out of the CBS series "Criminal Minds" after the 12th season due to being fired from the show for an on-set altercation with a producer. His character, Aaron Hotchner, went into the Witness Protection Program with his son after being targeted by a serial killer. The show went on for three more seasons on CBS and was then rebooted as "Criminal Minds: Evolution," where it currently airs on Paramount+.

Gibson likely made a big chunk of change while starring on the show for over a decade and probably doesn't have to work again. His acting credits stop in 2019 with the movie "Shadow Wolves," but it's not known whether his career was halted by choice or if he's been blackballed by the industry. He does have one upcoming project — "The Writer's Bible," which he's not only starring in but also directing.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com. (c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.



Christian Camargo in "Dexter"

ENTERTAINMENT

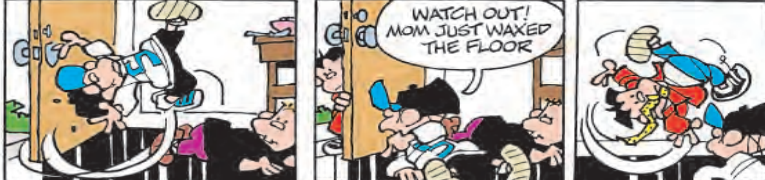
Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps



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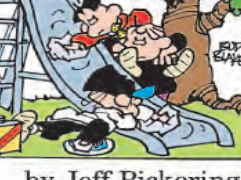
by Bud Blake



The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



Weekly SUDOKU

Sudoku grid with numbers 3, 7, 9, 2, 1, 6, 6, 4, 3, 3, 8, 7, 9, 3, 8, 6, 2, 5, 1, 2, 7, 6, 2, 5, 8, 8, 5, 1, 7, 2, 2, 5, 3, 7, 9, 6

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!

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Man is moved; 2. Leg is not showing; 3. Purse in window is moved; 4. Hand is not showing; 5. Hat is different; 6. Letter B is larger.

May 26, 2025 Posting Date

King Crossword

King Crossword grid with 11 columns and 30 rows. Includes clues for Across and Down.

- ACROSS: 1 Sprint, 5 Dalai —, 9 Humorist, 12 Twice cuatro, 13 Done with, 14 Here (Fr.), 15 Impulsive, 17 Born abroad?, 18 Sweetheart, 19 Sequence, 21 Freudian concept, 22 Ersatz chocolate, 24 Lascivious, 27 "Wham!", 28 Rain-delay cover, 31 MSNBC's Melber, 32 Night before, 33 "Gosh!", 34 Gasp for air, 36 Scale members, 37 Despot, 38 Tub outlet, 40 Battery size, 41 Laugh track sounds, 43 Author Lurie, 47 "I love," in Latin, 48 Tropical cooler, 51 Writer Harper, 52 Theater award, 53 Length times width, 54 "For shame!", 55 Frees (of), 56 Legendary loch, 9 Motormouths, 10 Frozen drink brand, 11 Level, 16 Cover, 20 Hogwash, 22 Witch group, 23 Dazzles, 24 Napkin's place, 25 Geological period, 26 Namibia's capital, 27 Gilpin of "Frasier", 29 Actor Stephen, 30 Apiece, 35 —la-la country, 37 East Asian country, 39 Silents star Mary, 40 Hearty brew, 41 Sentry's cry, 42 Iowa city, 43 Citrus drinks, 44 Beget, 45 Small bills, 46 Secret-protecting docs, 49 Slugger's stat, 50 Succor

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. ACRONYMS: What do the acronyms "AM" and "PM" stand for? 2. TELEVISION: What is the name of the Jack Russell Terrier in the sitcom "Frasier"? 3. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which vice president won a Nobel Peace Prize in 2007? 4. MOVIES: How many Infinity Stones are in "Avengers: Endgame"? 5. U.S. STATES: In which state would you find the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve? 6. GEOGRAPHY: What is Scotland's official national animal? 7. LITERATURE: Which cities are the settings for Charles Dickens' novel "A Tale of Two Cities"? 8. SCIENCE: Which two planets in our solar system have no moons? 9. HISTORY: Who was the first woman Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives? 10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which branch of the U.S. military uses the recruiting slogan, "It's not just a job; it's an adventure"?

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Trivia Test Answers: 1. Antie meridian and Post meridian (before noon and after noon); 2. Eddie Crane (real name is Moose); 3. Al Gore, vice president to Bill Clinton, won the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in climate change; 4. Six; 5. Idaho; 6. The unicorn; 7. London and Paris; 8. Venus and Mercury; 9. Nancy Pelosi; 10. The Navy



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**Notice for Private Nonprofit Schools with students who reside in the Galena Park ISD attendance area.**

Please be advised that Galena Park ISD will hold a Zoom meeting for administrators of all Private Nonprofit Schools that have students who reside in the Galena Park ISD attendance area. Information on program planning, availability, and eligibility criteria of Federal funds and services (Title I, II, III, IV, and Special Education programs) will be held on Monday, June 9, 2025, at 9:00 am. For additional information about this meeting, please contact Amy Cole at 832-386-1028 or at [acole@galenaparkisd.com](mailto:acole@galenaparkisd.com).

21-2t

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Notice to Vendors

Sheldon Independent School District will be accepting proposals for Depository Services until June 12, 2025 @ 2:00 p.m. RFP documents will be available beginning May 28, 2025 on the District website: [www.sheldonisd.com](http://www.sheldonisd.com) (Departments, Purchasing, Request for Proposals/Bids), or via email to [purchasing@sheldonisd.com](mailto:purchasing@sheldonisd.com).

22-2t

**BID NOTICE**

**BID NOTICE**

**BID NOTICE**

Channelview I.S.D. will accept Sealed Request for Proposals for the following:

**RFP# 2425-002 – Combi Ovens**

Bids will be received until 4:00 p.m., Friday, May 30, 2025, at the Channelview ISD's E-bidding website. Please visit the electronic bidding website at <https://cvisd.ionwave.net>

All necessary information may be obtained by calling the Business Office at (281) 452-8003, or the district website [www.cvisd.org](http://www.cvisd.org), under Departments Business Office Purchasing. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

21-2t

**CEMETERY LOTS**

**CEMETERY LOTS**

**CEMETERY LOTS**

We have 4 Cemetery spaces for sale at the San Jacinto Memorial Park-Funeral Home off of I-10. They are located in the Blue Lagoon section Lot #57 and spaces 9,10,11, and 12. They are \$3750 each. We can break them up and sell 2 groups of 2. Please email [sacain55@yahoo.com](mailto:sacain55@yahoo.com) for more information.

19-4t

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50-280 (Rev. 4-22/6)

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Sheldon Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 7:00 pm June 17, 2025 in Donald P. Ney Administration Building Houston, Texas 77044.

**The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

**Maintenance Tax**                      \$ 0.7358 /\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)  
**School Debt Service Tax**  
**Approved by Local Voters**      \$ 0.5000 /\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

### Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	<u>                    </u> % increase	or	<u>(2.38)</u> % (decrease)
Debt service	<u>12.55</u> % increase	or	<u>                    </u> % (decrease)
Total expenditures	<u>0.42</u> % increase	or	<u>                    </u> % (decrease)

### Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Tax Code Section 26.04)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ <u>9,553,309,674</u>	\$ <u>9,579,669,192</u>
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ <u>461,691,035</u>	\$ <u>136,537,608</u>
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ <u>7,580,973,506</u>	\$ <u>7,601,890,949</u>
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ <u>366,372,244</u>	\$ <u>108,348,627</u>

\* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(8).  
 \*\* "New property" is defined by Tax Code Section 26.012(17).  
 \*\*\* "Taxable value" is defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(10).

### Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness\* \$ 425 MM

\* Outstanding principal.

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### Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
<b>Last Year's Rate</b>	\$ 0.75520	\$ 0.50000 *	\$ 1.25520	\$ 8565	\$ 5734
<b>Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance &amp; Operations Revenue &amp; Pay Debt Service</b>	\$ 0.72185	\$ 0.45180 *	\$ 1.17365	\$ 8507	\$ 5948
<b>Proposed Rate</b>	\$ 0.73580	\$ 0.50000 *	\$ 1.23580	\$ 8968	\$ 6301

\* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

### Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 207,733	\$ 209,994
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 110,116	\$ 111,780
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.2552	\$ 1.2358
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 1382.18	\$ 1381.38
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ (0.80)

**Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.**

**Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.2358. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of 1.23580.**

### Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 36.1 MM
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 16.9 MM

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

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

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



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