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See story on  
page 7



# NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

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Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
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## Emergency Service District 12 Badge Ceremony Celebrates Promotions, New Fire Chief

By David Taylor Managing Editor

In a significant event for the community, the Emergency Services District 12 (ESD 12) celebrated a badge ceremony to honor the promotion of several key personnel, including the appointment of a new fire chief. The ceremony, which took place at the ESD 12 headquarters, was attended by family members, community leaders, and the fire department personnel.

The badge ceremony marked a milestone for ESD 12, as it was the first of its kind since the department transitioned to a full-time career fire department. Chief Mar-

shall Hutton, the newly appointed fire chief, emphasized the importance of the ceremony in bringing back tradition to the fire service.

"One of the traditions in the fire service is a badge ceremony. It gives my guys ownership of the department when they're recognized for their hard work and dedication. It goes a long way towards morale and work ethic because they become owners in the fire service and owners of our department," Hutton said.

The ceremony included the swearing-in of Chief Hutton, Assistant Chief James Novick, District Chief Brian Bunell, and several new captains. Each



The new badge and promotion recipients from ESD 12 fire department and district. Badge recipients from left are Captain Rhonda Owens, Captain Jarvis Russell, Assistant Chief James Novick, Fire Chief Marshall Hutton, District Chief Brian Bunell, Captain Sean Peterson, Captain Astyd Torres-Aviles, and Captain Nicholas Williams.

officer took an oath of office, pledging to uphold the Constitution and the laws of the United States and Texas, and to provide for the safety and well-being of those placed in their care.

Chief Hutton, who was visibly moved, expressed his gratitude and commitment to the department.

"I'm humbled, honestly, but honored to be a part of this history of this department and watching things happen really fast. Making changes that are for the good, watching our guys step up and lead, it's fulfilling, and so I'm looking

Continued. See ESD12 HONORS PROMOTIONS, Page 3

## NS Mustangs Crushes Westfield Mustangs 55 - 0

By Allan Jamail

Spring, Texas ~ Friday, September 12, 2025 ~ The 23-6-A North Shore Mustangs easily shutout the 14-6-A Spring Westfield Mustangs in a non-district game at Planet Ford Football Stadium in front of Spring's home crowd, 55 - 0.

The win gives Nshore a 2-1 record after losing their season opener with Dallas South Oak Cliff Bears 41-31. The Bears have played in four consecutive state title games and expected to reach the 2025 state title game again.

Nshore's Head Coach Willie Gaston's Eastside Boys defense has shutout their last two opponents. The only points NS gave up was in the season opener giving up 7 td's. The offense racked up 100 points in 3 games. In the 1st two quarters Nshore made 27 points and in the last 2



NS's #20 defensive back Tony Guillory picked up a blocked Spring punt and scampered 67 yds for a TD. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Continued. See NS DEFENSE POSTS SECOND, Page 6

## 2025 Lady North Shore Mustang Cheerleaders



TOP ROW L - R: Coach Leslie Gutierrez, Gabrielle Kelly, Annoria McDuffie, Nyla Hulett, Nyah Ewing-McBride, Natalyn Medina, Aileen Diaz, Isabella Preciado, and Coach Tracy Armstrong. MIDDLE ROW L - R: Kaay'dah Skipper, Khloe Hardeman, Natalie Santos-Campos, Koree Adams, Cynthia Garza. BOTTOM ROW L - R: Addison Joseph, Jaela Payne, Kylah Eckford, Jaz Guidry, Ta'Leah Jenkins, Aliyah Young. (Photo by Linda Jamail)

## Leah Nunley's Killer's Parole Sparks Outrage and Calls for Justice

By David Taylor Managing Editor

The impending release of Harold "Wade" Fain, Jr., the convicted murderer of Leah Nannette Nunley, has stirred emotions and calls for justice among the Nunley family and the community. Leah Nunley, who was brutally murdered in her apartment in Channelview on September 16, 1986, was only 22 years old at the time of her death.

Leah's mother, Jean Nunley, expressed her relief and gratitude that the killer was eventually brought to justice.

"We are just excited and happy that he didn't get away with murder," she said. Jean and her husband, Leon, had long feared they might never see Leah's killer brought to justice before their deaths.

"It left a big gap in our hearts. You either go crazy, or you go on," Jean added.

The case, which had gone cold for many years, was reopened in 2000 after Leah's brother, Stuart Nunley, served as a juror on a cold case trial. This twist of fate led to the involvement of the Harris County Sheriff's Office Cold Case Squad, who discov-



A photo of 19-year-old Leah Nunley in 1983 shortly after her graduation and three years before her murder in 1986.

ered key physical evidence that eventually linked Fain to the crime through DNA analysis.

Detective M. D. Holtke, who worked on the reopened investigation, noted the significance of the DNA match.

"He was not listed as a suspect in the original investigation," Holtke said. The DNA profile developed from evidence found on Leah's body was submitted to the Department of Public Safety's Combined Offender DNA Index System (C.O.D.I.S.) databank, leading to the identification of Fain.

Continued. See IMPEDING RELEASE OF LEAH, Page 5

## GP Yellow Jackets Fall to Madison Marlins 42 - 35



By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. ~ Saturday, September 13, 2025 ~ Galena Park Yellow Jackets Head Coach Spiro Amarantos' team hasn't gotten off to a good start, losing their first three games of this season. Madison was not forgetting the trashing the Jackets gave them last season besting them 35 to 8. The lead

changed several times and was always close right up to the final seconds and within reach of a Jackets

The Jackets tied the game 28 - 28 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and took the lead over the Marlins 35 - 34 in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. The lead changed back to the Marlins in the final four minutes putting them ahead 42 - 35. The Jackets took the Mar-

lins kickoff with three minutes left in the game and moved down to the Marlins end of the field but the clock ran out before they could score to regain the lead.

Galena Park will face off against rival Houston Sterling Raiders at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 18th at GPISD Stadium in a district game.

# GALENA PARK ISD NEWS

## Galena Park ISD Students Shine at Education in Action's 2025 Lone Star Leadership Academy



Photo Courtesy of Edwin Rose

Story by Dr. Tommie L. Smith

Galena Park ISD was once again represented at the summer's Lone Star Leadership Academy camps, showcasing the District's dedication to nurturing future leaders. This year, two exemplary students from Cobb Sixth Grade Campus, Elena Aleman Rios and Branden Sepulveda, had the opportunity to attend the prestigious week-long camp, where they immersed themselves in learning about Texas and what it means to be from the Lone Star State.

The Lone Star Leadership Academy is renowned for its enriching programs that combine education, leadership development, and Texas history. Elena and Branden were selected based on their academic achievements, leadership potential, and interest in learning more about their state. The students engaged in a variety of ac-

tivities designed to enhance their understanding of Texas history, government, and culture.

They visited significant historical sites where they learned firsthand about the state's rich heritage and the pivotal events that shaped its history. These visits were complemented by interactive workshops and discussions led by experts in various fields, providing the students with a comprehensive view of Texas's past and present. Moreover, the camp emphasized the importance of leadership and civic engagement. Elena and Branden participated in team-building exercises and leadership workshops, which equipped them with essential skills such as effective communication, problem-solving, and teamwork. These experiences not only bolstered their confidence but also equipped them with the necessary skills

to take on leadership roles in their school and community.

Elena and Branden's participation highlights Galena Park ISD's commitment to providing students with opportunities that extend beyond the classroom, fostering a love for learning and a sense of civic responsibility.

Pictured (L to R): Texas House of Representative Ana Hernandez's Representative, Linda Jamail; Board Trustee Ramon Garza; North Shore Elementary School Counselor, Carmela Garcia; North Shore Elementary School Assistant Principal, Sara Deniz; Yesenia Rios; North Shore Elementary School Principal, Esmeralda Perez; North Shore Elementary School and GPISD Teacher of the Year, Jessica Reyes; Elena Aleman Rios; Branden Sepulveda; and School Superintendent, Dr. John Moore

# SHELDON ISD NEWS

## Sheldon ISD Honors Seniors at Blue Card Luncheon



On September 9, Sheldon ISD hosted its fourth annual Blue Card Luncheon, celebrating community members 65 years and older who are part of the district's Blue Card program. Membership is open to Sheldon ISD residents in this age group and offers benefits such as free admission to all home sporting events and fine arts performances, in addition to the annual luncheon.

This year's event featured a presentation from Superintendent Dr. Demetrius McCall and live performances from King High School, King Middle School, and Null Middle School fine arts students. "The Blue Card program has quickly become a meaningful tradition since its start in 2021," said Executive Director of Communications Emily Conklin, APR. "It's our

way of saying thank you to the seniors who continue to support our schools. Many are grandparents of current students, and some are even proud King High School alumni." Today, Sheldon ISD has more than 150 Blue Card members. Residents 65 and older who wish to join can sign up by visiting [www.sheldonisd.com](http://www.sheldonisd.com) and clicking on the "Community" tab.

## Families Gather for First Ambassador Academy Meeting



On Thursday, September 11, a group of 20 parents met for the first Sheldon Ambassador Academy Meeting for the 2025-26 school year. The purpose of the academy is to develop community leaders that encourage interaction, partnership, learning and dialogue to promote and support the district's mission. This is a year-long program where participants get a look behind the scenes. Sessions focus on specific areas of the district to include operations, academics, student services, athletics, fine arts, school finance and bonds.

During the first meeting, attendees heard from Superintendent Dr. Demetrius McCall in a State of the District presentation. Interested participants should contact the communications department at [communications@sheldonisd.com](mailto:communications@sheldonisd.com) or 281-727-2007.

## Elementary Students Shine in Summer Learning Challenges



Sheldon ISD elementary students put their skills to the test this summer through the district's Summer Safari Challenge and Summer Learning Challenge. The Summer Safari Challenge, open to all kindergartners through 2nd grade students, encouraged students to complete iReady Reading and Math lessons. The top performer was Giovanni Flores, a 2nd grader at Sheldon Lake Elementary, who logged 41 hours of learning, completing 77 reading

lessons and 63 math lessons. The Summer Learning Challenge, also presented to K-2nd grade students, highlighted student participation in virtual classes. Monahan Elementary earned recognition as the top campus for participation and completion. The district winners, all from Monahan, include: Deliah Glover - Perfect Attendance in both math and reading virtual classes (attended all 14 summer sessions) Kingston Griffin - 1st

place Math, 2nd place Reading Amani Boyd - 1st place Reading, 2nd place Math Mario Bradley - 3rd place Reading, 3rd place Math Ashton Sessum - Perfect Attendance Math Amirah Sessum - Perfect Attendance Reading Adalyn Tovar - Perfect Attendance Math These achievements showcase the hard work and dedication of Sheldon ISD students who continued learning throughout the summer months.

## GPISD Board of Trustees Honor Ariana Sanches as District 4's 2025 State Board Of Education Hero for Children



Photo Credit: Edwin Rose

Story by Dr. Tommie L. Smith

**Galena Park, TX** — At the September 8, 2025, Board of Trustees Meeting, Galena Park Independent School District (GPISD) proudly recognized Ariana Sanches for her outstanding service and dedication to the children of District 4. Sanches was celebrated as the 2025 recipient of the State Board of Education Hero for Children award, a prestigious accolade that highlights her remarkable contributions to the community and unwavering commitment to education.

For three decades, the

Heroes for Children Award has honored outstanding individuals whose volunteer services have helped shape the futures of public school students in Texas. Ariana Sanches, a passionate advocate for children's welfare and education, has been a pillar of support in the Galena Park community at Sam Houston Elementary School for over four years. Her tireless efforts to enhance educational opportunities range from attending monthly Coffee with the Principal meetings, revision assistance with the Parent and Family Engagement Compact and Title 1 policy for the 2024-2025 school year, chaper-

oning field trips, and even coordinating other volunteers. Sanches' recognition is a testament to her selfless dedication and the positive change she continues to bring to Galena Park ISD.

Pictured (L to R): Board Trustee President, Ramon Garza; Sam Houston Elementary School Principal, Hilda Nañez; Hero for Children, Ariana Sanches; Sam Houston Elementary School Parent Facilitator and School Counselor, Roxanne McCabe; Sam Houston Elementary School Assistant Principal, Veronica Tovar; and School Superintendent, Dr. John Moore

## CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



### Readers Become....

I remember in first grade, I was attending a Catholic school in Victoria, Texas and the first week of school, every student had a paper with a date on it. I was so excited to be bringing my favorite book, "Never Talk to Strangers". On the day I was supposed to bring my book, the teacher skipped me and went to the next student. As she started reading Larry's book, I quietly picked up my school supplies as well as my book bag and walked out of the classroom. Not only did several employees attempt to chase me and make me return to class, but eventually my dad was called to the school. He took me home for the day and I explained the incident of my book not being read and he explained that sometimes adults make mistakes. But the reality is that I have always been the first to talk to strangers, which I blame on the book not being read on the assigned day.

While I continue to have a love for reading, I have used that memorable day in 1968 as an example for talking to anyone and everyone. It has opened many more doors for me than it has closed. I was on staff with San Jacinto College for twenty-two years which added more people to my fascination of learning as much as I can. After I left that position, I went to work for Constable Eagleton in the Community Outreach Division. If you have read any of my columns, you probably know I speak to over 815 Senior adults weekly as well as research resources to help ease their lives. Talking to strangers has also opened part-time positions over the years with the Houston Rockets, The Texans, the YMCA as well as providing many amazing connections to volunteers around not just our community, but around the world.

Just two weeks ago, I noticed new neighbors finally moving in next door to my apartment which has been vacant several months. I spoke to them as well as gave them my name and number in the event they needed anything. Each time we talked, I shared information with her from registering to vote, to how to find the Harris County Library and I have learned her daughter is a cheerleader at the University of Houston. The fact that Kim is just a few years younger than me as well as she has been a single mother for years was just an extra ingredient to our newly formed friendship.

Can you imagine how interesting it was when on Monday, September 8, she had to call 911 and when they asked for the name of who needed attention, she said "Oh, her name is Charlotte, and she is my new next-door neighbor."? Fortunately, North Channel EMS arrived in just a few minutes and as I came to from yet another episode of syncope, my natural curiosity kicked in. I began questioning the paramedics about where they received their formal training and how long they had been with the EMS Service. When we arrived at the hospital, my natural gift of gab continued. Long before any of the medical professionals could ask a question, I was asking my standard questions. Life is never dull and readers do become leaders, but talking to strangers opens up doors and can also save lives.

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## ASK DIAMOND JIM



**Diamond Jim: "How do I hint at what engagement ring I want?"**

Engagement rings are more than just beautiful pieces of jewelry. They symbolize love, commitment, and a shared future. At Pineforest Jewelry, with our exquisite jewelry collection and expert consultations, we understand the significance of getting it right. So, how do you ensure your partner picks the perfect ring? Let's explore some subtle ways to hint at what you desire without compromising the beautiful surprise.

Start with understanding your preference. Dive into the world of engagement rings, explore the diverse offerings at Pineforest Jewelry, and identify what resonates with your style. Remember, knowledge is the first step to acquiring that dream ring.

### OPEN COMMUNICATION

One of the foundational pillars of any relationship is communication. Consider a gentle conversation about your future together, and maybe sprinkle in some thoughts about rings. A warm discussion over coffee can sometimes be more revealing than you'd expect. While browsing through magazines or social media, point out some exquisite jewelry designs that catch your eye. Discussing friends' rings or spontaneously sharing a jewelry ad can drop just the right hint.

A Pinterest board can speak a thousand words! Create and share one with your favorite Jewelry pieces, subtly showcasing your tastes and preferences.

### GO WINDOW SHOPPING TOGETHER

You could consider spending a day at the mall and exploring various jewelry stores. While browsing, casually admire your preferred design in one of the store windows. A little birdie (perhaps a close friend or family member) mentioning your love for a specific custom design might be the hint your partner needs.

### WEAR JEWELRY THAT MIRRORS YOUR PREFERENCE

Let your accessories do the talking. Accentuate your daily outfits with jewelry pieces that mirror your desired engagement ring style. Whether it's a particular metal, gemstone, or design you're fond of, wearing pieces that reflect this can offer clear yet subtle hints. Engagement rings are steeped in symbolism and tales of love. Delve into nostalgic discussions about cherished family heirlooms or share moving "WOW Experience" stories. Such conversations can subtly illuminate what you truly value in an engagement ring.

If you're both open to it, consider choosing a placeholder ring. This grants you the joy of the proposal surprise and the subsequent adventure of co-designing your forever ring.

### CONCLUSION

Hinting at your ideal ring is a delicate dance between expressing your desires and cherishing the surprise. At the heart of it all, the ring is a symbol of love. And with Pineforest Jewelry's commitment to quality and relationships, you're in safe hands.

Ready to explore our stunning collection? Pineforest Jewelry offers not just jewelry but a promise of quality, service, and trust. From engagement rings to custom designs and expert jewelry repair, our team is dedicated to providing you with the "WOW Experience."

And, if you're in the military or a first responder, enjoy a special 10% discount on both online and in-store purchases.

For more insights and expert advice, [schedule an appointment](#) to experience personalized service like never before.

*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](http://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](mailto:jmills@pineforestjewelry.com).*

## ESD 12 honors promotions, welcomes new fire chief at Badge Ceremony,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

forward to the future," Hutton told the audience gathered.

Assistant Chief Novick, who will be overseeing operations and training, echoed similar sentiments.

"My expectations are simple: Be good, be professional, and lead by example. Those are the only things I ask of you," Novick said during his address.

William Andrews, president of the ESD 12 board, highlighted the community's role in supporting the fire department.

"We'd like to thank the community for all the help because it cost a lot of money. If you take a look around, you will see these two new apparatus here. We just paid \$1.3 million something for them. So they're not cheap," Andrews noted.

**Andrews also spoke about the department's growth and future plans.**

"We're going to start construction and build a shop work center or repair facility and maintenance building. Then on the other side of that, we're going to put an administration building and get our offices out of the station," he explained. This move aims to make the fire station more comfortable for firefighters and their families.

The ceremony was not just about promotions but also about the calling to serve.

"Having professionally served in the emergency services field for over 60 years, I firmly believe the firefighters are following a call, a mission. We are called to love our neighbors and serve one another. It's biblical, it's scriptural, and as we serve one another,



ESD 12 board members Ken Wimbley, Don Nichols, Williams Anders, Bryan Clements and David Proctor were on hand for the badge ceremony.



The firehouse was full of friends, family members, and fire personnel for the badge pinning ceremony at ESD 12.

we're fulfilling that call," Andrews said.

The event concluded with a prayer and a blessing over the newly promoted officers and their families. The community was invited to tour the station, enjoy refreshments, and meet the new leadership team.

Chief Hutton shared his vision for the future, including plans to enhance the department's capabilities and community involvement.

"We added a public education specialist, and we'll be more involved with community events, not just



ESD 12 board president William Anders swears in new fire chief Marshall Hutton.

visiting the schools but also reaching out to seniors and the senior centers for home safety," Hutton said.

Hutton said they would

continue the tradition of a badge ceremony into the future.

**Flashing lights stop traffic**



*Diamond Jim's Pineforest Jewelry Experience*

OPINION PAGE

**COUNTY MATTERS**  
Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia



### Survey Confirms: Commissioner Garcia Funds What Pct. 2 Residents Want

Survey of Pct. 2 residents shows tax increase not supported, residents' funding priorities align with Commissioner's outlook

Harris County, TX — Precinct 2 is making public the results of a survey of residents about their priorities for the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. With over 900 people participating, the results are clear: across locations and age groups, Pct. 2 residents have the same funding priorities that Commissioner Adrian Garcia has pushed in Harris County Budget negotiations.

By overwhelming margins, residents in all age groups and in all areas reject a tax increase. Less than a quarter of respondents are willing to have their taxes increased to close a budget deficit and avoid cuts to services. This aligns with Garcia's comments that Harris County must do all it can to stem increases in the cost of living.

Additionally, Commissioner Garcia's belief that spending taxpayer dollars on public safety/crime prevention, infrastructure, and disaster response is shared by survey participants. Across demographics and locations, these were the top 3 spending priorities.

Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia has issued the following statement:

"Engaging with the community serves as a hallmark for how my office operates. That's why, along with my team, I personally attended two budget town halls, and why since 2024 I have partnered with Rice's Kinder Institute to get feedback ahead of work on the budget. Others might be keen to go it alone, advocating via the media what they think the people want, without ever doing their homework. That will never be the way we do things in Precinct 2. While this survey confirms that I share the community's approach in how to manage taxpayer dollars, that didn't happen by accident. The survey feedback combined with months of work by my team is how we put together a plan. That alignment has happened because I listen to the people I serve, rather than tell them what they should think."

### Harris County Pct. 2 Budget Survey Conducted August 2025

Harris County Pct. 2 Budget Survey Conducted August 2025

**INTRODUCTION**

In partnership with Rice University's Kinder Institute, a community survey was conducted ahead of discussions about the Harris County Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. Available to residents of Precinct 2, it measured constituents' feelings about how Harris County should allocate money for programs and services. The survey was open in the month leading up to Commissioners Court budget discussions. More than 900 individuals participated. Outreach efforts to promote the survey included social media, in-person engagement at budget town hall meetings, and additional community-facing methods.

Designed to be accessible to Precinct 2 residents, constituents could take the survey in either English or Spanish and were given the option to participate through a direct link or by scanning a QR code.

Given the forecast of a likely budget deficit due to rising costs, Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia wanted direct input from the constituents in making informed decisions on behalf of the precinct.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

While data from the survey is not to be considered scientific, it indeed reflects the perspectives of individuals who chose to participate in the survey. Even with this limitation, the responses provide valuable insight into constituent priorities and expectations.

That said, there are four major takeaways from the survey: **NO TAX INCREASE, especially if not tied to specific purpose**

Precinct 2 respondents emphatically reject a tax increase (47% against tax increase under any circumstance, 24% in favor with an additional 14% supporting only if tied to a specific purpose). This trend held across all age groups. Support for tax increases never exceeded 30% in any group.

The survey also identified three clear funding priorities for participants: crime prevention, public infrastructure, and emergency management.

**CRIME PREVENTION**

Crime prevention consistently ranked as a top priority across all age groups and geographic areas. A strong majority - 88% of participants - said they supported spending the same or more on crime prevention efforts. These included measures such as deputy patrols, license plate recognition cameras, and community-based violence prevention initiatives.

**PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE**

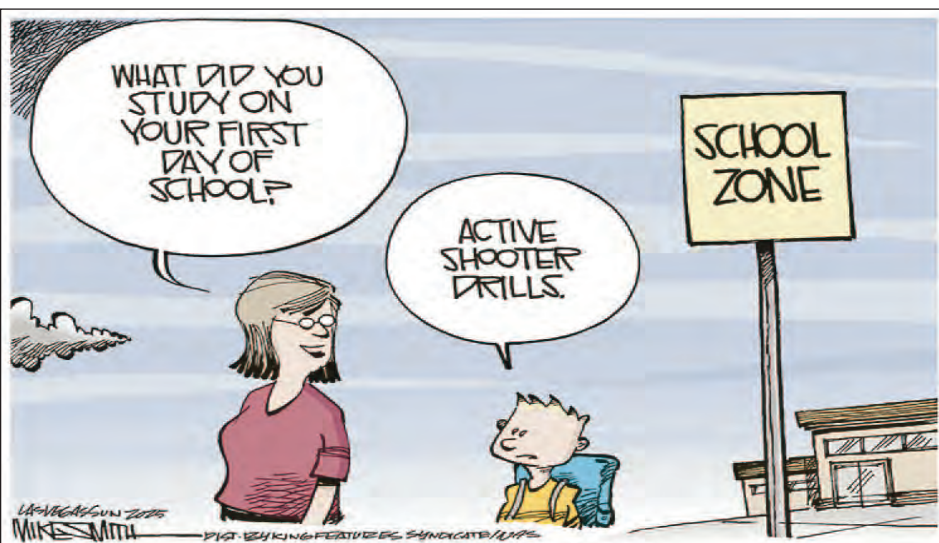
Public infrastructure nearly unanimously is considered a top priority, with 96% of respondents saying they supported maintaining or increasing funding to infrastructure spending.

Respondents cited the need for improvements in flood prevention as well as maintenance and upgrades to roads, bridges, and sidewalks.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

More than 9 of every 10 survey participants believe emergency management should be a priority funding area for Harris County. 93% of participants express a willingness to maintain or increase spending on preparedness and response activities for natural disasters and other largescale emergencies.

**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



### Second special session gaveled to a close

The second special session of the Texas Legislature ended last Thursday with a new congressional map, flood relief and safety measures but a stalemate on whether to ban or regulate THC. The Dallas Morning News reported that lawmakers approved most of the legislative priorities Gov. Greg Abbott listed for the special session.

In addition to those mentioned above, lawmakers made ivermectin an over-the-counter medication available in pharmacies, agreed to replace the annual STARR education test, authorized the Texas attorney general to prosecute election fraud, and further tightened the availability of mail-order abortion pills.

The original reason the first special session was called came after Abbott vetoed a ban on THC, the psychoactive ingredient in many hemp-derived products. Instead, the governor wanted lawmakers to come up with regulations on its sale. However, the Senate again passed a ban that went nowhere in the House.

"I'm proud of all of you," Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick told senators before closing the session. "I know we didn't always agree on every issue or between parties or within a party, but everybody always was respectful to the other members on the floor, and I'm proud of you."

Patrick and Abbott remained at loggerheads concerning the THC ban while agreeing on nearly all the other agenda items in the special session.

The first special session went nowhere after Democratic lawmakers broke quorum by leaving the state to block passage of a new congressional redistricting plan. They returned for the second session, where a redistricting map that would likely give the GOP five additional congressional seats was passed on party lines. That map was quickly challenged in court.

In addition, lawmakers passed four bills requiring increased safety measures after the deadly Hill Country flooding in July.

**GOP LAWMAKERS ROLL BACK VOTING BILL THEY HELPED PASS**

A voting bill that allowed some voters to update their addresses on Election Day



went into effect Sept 1. However, after an outcry by some Republicans, the Legislature during the second special session voted to undo that provision and sent the bill to the governor's desk.

The San Antonio Express-News reported the now-undone law affected voters who changed addresses within the same county. Abbott added the call to reverse the legislation after members of the State Republican Executive Committee and some conservative activists expressed concerns the change would lead to voter fraud.

State Rep. Matt Shaheen, R-Plano, authored both the original bill amendment adding the same-day provision and the bill last week to reverse it.

**CRUZ WARNS NASA RISKS LOSING GROUND TO CHINA**

The United States is at risk of losing dominance in space exploration to China, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz and a bipartisan group of senators warned last week. The Houston Chronicle reported that delays continued to plague NASA's planned mission to the moon. China plans to land on the moon by 2030, according to Cruz.

NASA's Artemis moon mission aims to put U.S. astronauts back on the moon by 2027. However, experts say that timeline is unlikely given various technical setbacks.

Cruz said China aims to control space between the earth's atmosphere and the moon.

"Space is no longer reserved for peaceful exploration," Cruz said. "It is a strategic frontier with direct consequences for national security, economic growth, and technological leadership. Make no mistake: we are in a new space race with China."

President Donald Trump has proposed slashing NASA's \$24 billion annual budget by 24%.

**BID TO LIMIT PROPERTY TAXES DIES IN THE LEGE**

A bid by Texas lawmakers to limit city and county property tax bills died quietly in the second session, according to The Texas Tribune. The proposal would have tightened the limits on how much more cities and counties can raise property taxes without voter approval.

In negotiations, House and Senate lawmakers deadlocked on how to move forward on the bill, with House lawmakers arguing the bill didn't go far enough to rein in local spending.

"This is not the solution to our problems," said state Rep. Mitch Little, R-Lewisville. "This is not the answer to our prayers." The bill would only have applied to cities and counties with at least 75,000 residents.

**DSHS WARNS CHEMICAL FOUND IN KRATOM IS DANGEROUS**

The Texas Department of State Health Services is advising people not to use kratom plant products containing the chemical 7-OH. Concentrated forms of the chemical have been popping up for sale in gummies or as a liquid extract.

Kratom and 7-OH products are marketed as natural remedies for pain, anxiety, or to help with opioid withdrawal. They are not approved for medicinal use by the federal Food and Drug Administration. Kratom is often sold in stores that also sell CBD products.

The Texas Poison Center has received 192 reports of exposures involving kratom or other products containing 7-OH. Symptoms can include nausea and vomiting, agitation, high blood pressure, loss of consciousness, and seizures.

**HUNTERS URGED TO PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY**

With dove season underway and deer season not far behind, Texas hunters are urged to remain alert and be proactive in preventing wildfires, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service.

Limited rainfall in the Rolling Plains, Eastern Hill Country, South Texas and Lower Gulf Coast have led to heightened risk of wildfires.

"Even a small spark can quickly ignite a wildfire under the right conditions," said Jared Karns, Texas A&M Forest Service Fire Chief. "Texans are encouraged to stay alert and be aware of hazards that can cause a wildfire while hunting this season."

Hunters are urged to avoid driving or parking over tall, dry grass; never leave a campfire unattended; and ensure trailer chains do not contact the road, which can cause sparks.

**THE POSTSCRIPT**  
By Carrie Classon

### Writing About Writing



I try not to write about writing.

Like any job, parts of it are harder than others. The hardest part of writing, for me, is not coming up with ideas or creating sentences or deciding what parts of the story are too short or need to be expanded. The hardest part of writing, for me, is doing it alone.

I spend almost every day alone, sitting at my little maple desk. But lately, I have had more fun than usual because I am working on a new book, and I am writing about a lot of things I know nothing about.

Of course, I don't let this stop me. When I am writing, I just write. I make my best guess and keep going because my job isn't to get everything perfect. My job is to treat the story that has landed in my head like the gift that it is and do the best job I can simply getting it all down. Only when I have a complete draft do I need to find out if I have any idea what I am talking about.

For the book I am just finishing, I write a lot about glaciers. The book is called "The Esker." An esker is a formation of sand and gravel left behind by glaciers. It is basically a streambed that flowed beneath the ice while the glaciers were melting. But now, as my father would say, I've told you more than I know.

Reading about eskers on the internet is not nearly specific enough. So I went looking for an esker expert, and I was astonished when 1) I found one; 2) she answered my email in less than 15 minutes; 3) she agreed to read the scenes about glaciers and 4) her name was Carrie.

Dr. Carrie Jennings has taught about glaciers at the university level for 30 years. She read the 2,300 words I had written about eskers in the book and replied the same day. She was funny and informative and obviously knew everything there was to know about eskers. She corrected my descriptions and added details I would never have thought of. I read her email in amazement and was reminded of something I've noted before: People who know their stuff are usually happy to share.

The book has Mexican characters, and so I wrote to the editor of a Spanish-language newspaper. "I will be happy to read your book," she replied. "As a Mexican, I really appreciate your effort!"

I wrote to the retired chief of police who had already helped me get the details of small-town law enforcement right in "Loon Point." "You bet!!" he said. "Love doing it, I am learning as I go too."

There is a therapist in the book, so I wrote to a therapist friend: "I'd be delighted to read and offer whatever suggestions I can for this book."

All of these folks will read a piece of the book. They will make my book better and more accurate and more entertaining. They will make me look a lot smarter than I really am. They are all so kind and generous, and I am so grateful.

This is before my agent and the many editors read my book, before art is made for the cover, before clever words are written to describe the book, before any of the other work is done that turns a story into a book.

It all helps me to remember that it takes a lot of people to make a book. And I am really not alone at all.

Till next time,  
Carrie

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# FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 4: Tech hits road for first time with big test at Utah: Texans head to Jacksonville in early AFC South tilt

It's been quite an interesting start to the 2025 football season, from the NCAA and NFL level.

In the college game, South Florida has become this year's surprise team with back-to-back wins over Boise State and Florida, both ranked teams until they faced the Bulls.

USF's win over Florida was even more impressive when you consider it happened in The Swamp in Gainesville. Gators head coach Billy Napier, who was already on the hot seat for a subpar start to his head coaching stint at Florida, was booted off the field after the Bulls pulled off a late-second 18-16 upset two weeks ago.

Who knows what's in store for the Gators and Napier for the rest of the season, but if they lost at LSU last Saturday night, his head coaching job could be in jeopardy in Gainesville.

In the NFL, the Texans and Cowboys had rough starts to their seasons. Dallas did surprise a lot of folks (me included) in their 24-20 loss at Philadelphia two weeks ago. Many (me included) thought Jerry Jones' trade of one of the league's top pass rushers of Micah Parsons would be the beginning of the end for Dallas in 2025, but the Cowboys showed a lot of heart in their four-point loss. Quarterback Dak Prescott looked sharp and the young offensive line played above expectations. If star wideout CeeDee Lamb would have not had a case of the dropsies on some catchable balls late, Dallas may very well have pulled off the upset.

But that's old news. It's time to look forward to this week's schedule and once again, the NCAA schedule is a bit tepid, while the NFL, as usual, has some interesting matchups.

One of the biggest games on the college schedule will pit No. 21 Texas Tech taking on No. 20 Utah in a big early-season Big 12 game. Both teams have explosive offenses (Tech averaged 64.5 points in its first two games against a cupcake schedule, while Utah averaged 53 points also against subpar foes). This will be Tech's and head coach Joey McGuire's first true test of the season and Red Raider fans are well aware of their team's road struggles over the fourth-year head coaches' tenure.

There's also a good one in the SEC as No. 11 South Carolina visits No. 25 Missouri, which could be an offensive shootout. In another big SEC tilt, No. 24 Auburn visits No. 13 Oklahoma, which opened a lot of eyes two weeks ago with its 21-13 home win over then No. 14-ranked Michigan. Perhaps head coach Brent Venable has brought back the swagger in Norman. We shall see.

The Big 10 has a good one as well, as No. 9 Illinois visits No. 23 Indiana.

In the NFL, the Texans hit the road for the second time in two weeks when they face Jacksonville in what could be a key, early-season game in the AFC South. Houston opened the season with a tough 14-9 road loss to the Rams, in a game where QB C.J. Stroud struggled to get the Texans in the end zone. The Jags opened the season with a convincing 26-10 over Carolina.

The Buffalo Bills and Miami Dolphins kickoff Week 3 on Thursday Night Football with two teams heading in opposite directions. The Bills, behind MVP QB Josh Allen, overcame a 15-point deficit with 4 minutes left in the fourth quarter to pull out an amazing 41-40 win over a very good Baltimore team in their season opener, while the Dolphins looked inept in their 33-8 road loss to the Colts. Allen and Ravens' QB Lamar Jackson went at it all night, but Allen saved his best for late when he passed for 269 yards and accounted for three TDs in the fourth quarter to pull out the amazing victory.

Other top games on the NFL schedule this weekend pit Cincinnati against Minnesota, the Rams at Philly, while Denver visits the Los Angeles Chargers in a key early-season AFC West battle.

The Cowboys pay a visit to the Windy City to take on the Bears in one of the late games on Sunday, while the Chiefs visit the Giants on Sunday Night Football. Week 3 concludes on Monday Night Football with the Lions visiting Baltimore.



Before we take a look at this week's schedule, let's review last week's record. A 7-5 record brought the season record to a paltry 11-11 (50%). I promise you, better days are ahead!

### NCAA

**South Carolina at Missouri** - A good one in the SEC has No. 11-ranked South Carolina visiting No. 24-ranked Missouri in a game that will feature two of the better dual-threat quarterbacks in the country. Both teams easily won their first two games of the season. SC is led by veteran QB LaNorrisSellers (337 passing yards, 2 TDs/48 rushing yards, 1 TD), while the Tigers are led by first-year starter Beau Pribula (617 passing yards, 5 TDs/71 rushing yards, 2 TDs). Sellers isn't a one-man show as he has a productive running back in Oscar Adaway III (80 yards, 1 TD) and a big-play wideout in Nyck Harbor (3 receptions, 99 yards, 1 TD). Mizu also has a solid runner in Ahmad Handy (212 yards, 2 TDs) and a solid wideout in Kevin Coleman Jr. (16 receptions, 124 yards, 1 TD). The Tigers' special teams will need to be on their toes to keep return man Vicari Swain from hurting them. In his first two games, Swain returned three punts for touchdowns. Look for the home crowd to make a difference as the Tigers pull off the upset. My pick, Missouri 31, South Carolina 30

**Auburn at Oklahoma** - No. 24 Auburn visits No. 13 Oklahoma in an important early-season SEC contest in Norman on Saturday. Auburn has gotten off to a nice start after finishing 5-7 in 2024 with a road win at Baylor and then a blowout at home against Ball State. The Sooners have also gotten off to a nice start in Brent Venable's make-or-break season with a blowout of Illinois State and then an impressive 24-13 win over then No. 14-ranked Michigan two weeks ago. This game will see the return of former OU QB Jackson Arnold (359 yards, 3 TDs), who Venables benched last year after ineffective play. Arnold needs to let his teammates help him in this game and not try and do it all himself to prove a point to Venables. He has a strong runner in Jeremiah Cobb (195 yards, 3 TDs) and two solid wideouts in Cam Coleman (8 receptions, 100 yards) and Eric Singleton (7 receptions, 84 yards, 2 TDs). Venables found a very capable replacement for Arnold in Washington State transfer John Mateer, (602 passing yards, 4 TDs/98 rushing yards, 3 TDs), one of the top dual-threat QBs in the country. The Sooners also have a decent running back in Troy Blaylock (98 yards, 1 TD) and a big-play wideout in Deion Burks (14 receptions, 189 yards, 2 TDs). OU also has a very good defense, which allowed just 16 points and recorded three sacks in its first two games. Look for the Sooner defense to make Arnold's return to Norman anything but a happy one. My pick, Oklahoma 26, Auburn 13

**Illinois at Indiana** - For decades, these two schools were known more for their basketball programs than their football programs. But not anymore. Illini head coach Bret Bielema has turned Illinois into a consistent winner on the gridiron, while Curt Cignetti led the Hoosiers to 11 wins and spot in the College Football Playoffs (CFP) a year ago. Both teams won their first two games of this season, with Illinois picking up an impressive 45-19 road win against a respectable Duke team two weeks ago. Illinois has a solid QB in Luke Altmyer (513 yards, 6 TDs) and a two-headed running game in Kaden Feagin (122 yards, 2 TDs) and Aidan Laughey (106 yards, 2 TDs). They also have a big-play wideout in Hank Beatty (13 receptions, 236 yards, 18.2 yards per reception). The Hoosiers are led by QB Fernando Mendoza (438 yards, 4 TDs), running backs Roman Hemby (175 yards) and Lee Beebe (163 yards, 1 TD). Look for both teams to feature

their running games in this one, with the Hoosiers pulling it out late. My pick, Indiana 32, Illinois 30

**Texas Tech at Utah** - No. 21-ranked Texas Tech meets No. 20-ranked Utah in the first Big 12 league game for both teams. The game will be broadcast nationally on FOX and will begin at 11 a.m. (10 a.m. in Utah). This game features two of the highest-scoring offenses in the country as Tech averaged 64.5 points in their first two games against a couple of cupcakes, while the Utes have averaged 53 points in their first two games. Both teams are loaded with offensive weapons. Tech is led by QB Behren Morton (459 yards, 7 TDs), running backs Adam Hill (205 yards, 8.5 yards per carry) and Camerone Dickey (100 yards, 3 TDs) and wideouts Reggie Virgil (9 receptions, 106 yards, 3 TDs), Coy Eakin (six receptions, 100 yards, 2 TDs) and tight end Terrance Carter Jr. (4 receptions, 92 yards, 2 TDs). Utah has a solid dual-threat QB in Devon Dampier (398 passing yards, 5 TDs/112 rushing yards, 1 TD) and two solid runners in Wayshawn Parker (112 yards, 2 TDs) and NaQuari Rogers (92 yards, 3 TDs). When Dampier goes to the air, he will be looking for wideout Ryan Davis (9 receptions, 80 yards, 1 TD). Tech entered this season with high expectations after spending \$25 million in the transfer portal. This will be Red Raider head coach Joey McGuire's first big road test of the season. The defense will be tested for the first time this season and if all of that new talent pays off, this could very well be a big day for the Raiders. My pick, Texas Tech 36, Utah 30

### NFL

**Miami at Buffalo** - Week 3 starts with Thursday Night Football with an AFC East contest between the Dolphins and Bills. It was just one game, but Miami looked like a bad football team in its 33-8 season-opening loss at Indianapolis. Buffalo, on the other hand, overcame a 15-point deficit in the fourth quarter behind '24 MVP Josh Allen (394 passing yards, 2 TDs/30 rushing yards, 2 TDs). In the fourth quarter alone, Allen threw for 269 yards. Look for the Bills to have this one taken care of early in the third quarter. My pick, Buffalo 33, Miami 12

**Cincinnati at Minnesota** - Both teams opened their seasons with road wins as the Bengals won an ugly 17-16 decision at Cleveland, while the Vikings came back for a 27-24 win at Chicago on Monday Night Football. Cincinnati needs more from QB Joe Burrow (113 yards, 1 TD), running back Chase Brown (43 yards, 1 TD) and wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase (2 receptions, 26 yards). Those three are too good to be held in check like that. Viking fans had to be pleased with the play of their new QB J.J. McCarthy, who missed his rookie season with a knee injury. McCarthy led his team to the comeback win passing for 143 yards and two TDs while rushing for 25 yards and a score. Star wideout Justin Jefferson (4 receptions, 44 yards, 1 TD) had a pedestrian game, but look for him and McCarthy to get cooking against a suspect Bengals defense. My pick, Minnesota 26, Cincinnati 23

**Houston at Jacksonville** - The Texans' offense looked sluggish in its 14-9 season-opening loss against the Rams, while the Jags had a nice start to their season with a 26-10 pasting of the Panthers. The Texans need QB C.J. Stroud (188 yards) to get things in gear. It would help if star wideout Nico Collins (3 receptions, 25 yards) got more involved in the offense, which I think happens this Sunday in Jacksonville. The Jags had a nice first game from QB Trevor Lawrence (178 yards, 1 TD) and a big day from running back Travis Etienne (143 yards). Look for Lawrence to get star wideout Brian Thomas (1 catch 11 yards,

# Impending release of Leah Nunley's murderer sparks outrage and calls for justice,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Fain, who was already serving a life sentence for aggravated robbery and sexual assault in an unrelated case, was charged with Leah's murder in October 2002. It was one of the first hits for the new C.O.D.I.S. system database by the Harris County Sheriff's Office Homicide Division.

Leah was working as a secretary for her parents at Nunley Insurance Agency, 532 Sheldon Rd., and lived in an upstairs apartment above the family business.

Her mother noticed that her vehicle, a 1980 Oldsmobile Cutlass, was missing and assumed that her daughter had spent the night with friends. However, when Jean heard Leah's dog barking and went upstairs to feed him, she discovered the crime scene.

Leah had returned home from eating with her younger brother, Stuart Nunley, on Monday night. The break-in occurred sometime later in the night.

According to the younger Nunley, this killer knew what he was doing. There were cuts and bruises on Leah's body indicating there was a struggle.

"Leah had been hit on the head and body by dishes and other items and then shot and killed with

her own gun," he said.

A number of personal items, including Leah's car, were stolen, giving detectives a possible motive. The car was recovered later in the evening of Sept. 16, 1986, abandoned at the South Grand Apartments. It appeared it had been taken to the car wash and washed down to cover up evidence. A medical examiner's report also indicated there were teeth marks on the victims' knuckles where she apparently fought her attacker.

The case was never closed, but detectives were baffled by the crafty way in which the killer had tried to cover his tracks. One of the bed sheets had been stripped off the bed and objects that might have had evidence on it were removed from the apartment.

The Nunley family, who had never given up hope, now faces the possibility of Fain's release.

As the parole board prepares to review Fain's case, the Nunley family is urging the community to submit victim impact statements.

"We need to say, hey, he's still on for parole. Anybody who wants to contribute, here's where you go to this website and fill out a victim impact statement," Stuart Nunley emphasized.

sized.

The impending release of Leah Nunley's murderer has reignited the family's determination to seek justice and ensure that Fain remains behind bars. The community's support and involvement are crucial in this effort to prevent the release of a convicted killer and bring some measure of peace to the Nunley family.

To help the family, it is urgent to send letters and protest statements to the Board of Pardons and Paroles as soon as possible.

He will be eligible for parole on January 17, 2026, and his case was pulled by the Board of Pardons and Parole to consider his possible parole.

Send protest letters to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Victims Services Division, Attention: Christine Wall, 8712 Shoal Creek Blvd., Ste. 265, Austin, TX 78757-6899, or email [victim.svc@tdcj.texas.gov](mailto:victim.svc@tdcj.texas.gov), or fax to 1-512-452-0825. All protest statements must include his name, Harold Wade Fain, Jr., and his TDCJ#00763219.

To assist with the memory of those who knew Leah or lived in the area during the time of the murder, here is the timeline of events published by The Sentinel at the time of the murder.

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCORES/SCHEDULES

### LAST WEEK'S SCORES

**Friday, Sept. 12**  
C. E. King 58, Spring Dekaney 7  
Clear Creek 13, Channelview 8  
North Shore 55, Spring Westfield 0

**Saturday, Sept. 13**  
Houston Madison 42, Galena Park 35

**THIS WEEK'S GAMES**  
**Thursday, Sept. 18**  
Galena Park vs. Houston Sterling at 7 p.m., at Galena Park ISD Stadium

**Friday, Sept. 19**  
C. E. King, BYE WEEK  
Channelview, BYE WEEK  
North Shore, BYE WEEK



1 rushing TD) more involved in the passing game this Sunday. The Texans have owned the Jags on their home field, and that trend will continue on Sunday. My pick, Houston 27, Jacksonville 23

**Los Angeles Rams at Philadelphia** - As mentioned earlier, the Rams opened with a 14-9 win over the Texans, while the Eagles opened defense of their Super Bowl title with a hard-fought 24-20 win over the Cowboys. LA QB Matthew Stafford (245 yards, 1 TD) looked solid after missing most of training camp with a back issue. The Rams will need a big day on the ground from Kyren Williams (66 yards, 1 TD) and big plays in the passing game from Puka Nuca (10 receptions, 130 yards) if they hope to pull off the upset. The Eagles will once again rely on QB Jalen Hurts (152 passing yards/62 rushing yards, 2 TDs) and running back Saquon Barkley (60 yards, 1 TD). But they will need to get more production from their top two wideouts. A.J. Brown was held to one catch for eight yards, while DeVonta Smith was limited to one catch for 16 yards in the Dallas win. Look for Hurts to get both more involved in the offense from here on out. My pick, Philadelphia 26, Los Angeles Rams 20

**Denver at Los Angeles Chargers** - The Chargers play their second AFC West game in three weeks when the Broncos come calling on Sunday. LA opened the season with an impressive 27-21 win in Brazil over defending AFC champion Kansas City, while Denver opened with a tough 20-12 home win over Tennessee. LA QB Justin Herbert had a big opener pass-

ing for 318 yards and 3 TDs, while wideouts Quentin Johnson (5 receptions, 79 yards, 2 TDs) and Ladd McConkey (6 receptions, 74 yards) had solid outings. Denver will be led by second-year QB Bo Nix (176 yards, 1 TD), rookie running back Rj Harvey (70 yards) and wideout Courtland Sutton (6 receptions, 66 yards, 1 TD). Look for a very solid LA defense to be the difference maker in this game. My pick, Los Angeles Chargers 23, Denver 20

**Dallas at Chicago** - Maybe, just maybe, the Cowboys aren't going to be as bad as many (me included) expected them to be this year. Dallas played hard in their 24-20 season-opening loss at Philly, as QB Dak Prescott (188 yards) looked sharp after returning from a serious hamstring injury that cost him eight games last year. If star wideout CeeDee Lamb (7 receptions, 110 yards) would have come up with one or two catchable balls that he dropped late, Dallas just may have pulled off the upset. The Bears, on the other hand, blew a lead at home to the Vikings in head coach Ben Johnson's debut. Second-year QB Caleb Williams (210 passing yards, 1 TD, 58 rushing yards, 1 TD) played well early, but faded when it mattered most. Look for him to try to make plays to wideouts D.J. Moore (3 receptions, 68 yards) and Rome Odunze (6 receptions, 37 yards, 1 TD) against a solid Dallas secondary. My pick, Dallas 26, Chicago 22

**Kansas City at New York Giants** - This could be a clunker for the Sunday Night Football crew if the Giants played like they did in their season-opening loss at Washington (21-6). QB

Russell Wilson (168 yards) had a rough day and could very well be benched in favor of rookie Jaxon Dart if his play doesn't improve. The Chiefs lost a tough 27-21 season opener to the Chargers and know they can't afford to slip up against what could be a very bad NY team. Look for KC QB Patrick Mahomes (258 passing yards, 1 TD/57 rushing yards, 1 TD) to make plays downfield to speedy wideout Marquise Brown (13 receptions, 99 yards) and over the middle to tight end Travis Kelce (2 receptions, 47 yards, 1 TD). Look for the Chiefs to roll in prime time on Sunday night. My pick, Kansas City 34, New York Giants 17

**Detroit at Baltimore** - Week 3 concludes on Monday Night Football with the Lions visiting the Ravens. Both teams dropped their openers as the Lions looked listless in their 27-13 at Green Bay, while the Ravens blew a 15-point lead with 4 minutes left in the game and lost 41-40 at Buffalo. The Detroit offense did not look sharp in the GB game. Things won't get any easier on Monday night for QB Jared Goff (225 yards, 1 TD). He needs to get more production from running back Jahmyr Gibbs (held to 19 yards rushing) and star wideout Amon-Ra St. Brown (4 receptions, 45 yards). Look for Ravens QB Lamar Jackson (209 passing yards, 2 TD/70 rushing yards, 1 TD), running back Derrick Henry (160 yards, 2 TDs) and wideout Zay Flowers (7 receptions, 143 yards, 1 TD) to have a big night against a suspect Lions defense. My pick, Baltimore 33, Detroit 20

### Notice of Public Hearing

The City of Galena Park, Texas will hold a public hearing on the proposed Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 in the Council Chambers, City of Galena Park City Hall, 2000 Clinton, Galena Park, Texas at 9:00 a.m. on September 29, 2025.

This budget will raise more revenue from property taxes than last year's budget by an amount of \$60,903, which is a 0.70 percent increase from last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$61,071.

A summary of the proposed budget is available for inspection during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday) at City Hall, 2000 Clinton in the office of the City Secretary or at [www.cityofgalenapark-tx.gov](http://www.cityofgalenapark-tx.gov)

This facility is wheelchair-accessible and accessible parking is available. Requests for accommodations or interpretive services must be made at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to this meeting. Please contact the City Secretary's Office at (713) 672-2556, or [mayra@cityofgalenapark-tx.gov](mailto:mayra@cityofgalenapark-tx.gov) for further information.

## North Shore defense posts second straight shutout in 55 - 0 Victory,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



NS's #27 running back Hezikiah Johnson plunges over Springs defensive back for a 7 yd TD. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

quarters they made 28 points. Nshore's most powerful offense weapons came from two seniors, quarterback Kaleb Maryland and Jaylen Bocard. Maryland passed for 279 yds and Bocard gained 178 receiving yds. Their running game was led by Hezikiah Johnson who made two TD's. Linda Jamail, statistician.

Spring's Head Coach Desmar Black took over the head coaching position in July of 2024 where he led the team to a district title. According to the 2025 Dave Campbell's Football tracking they're predicted to get to this year's title game again.

North Shore has a bye this week. Their next game will be a district game on the road with the Humble Wildcats Thursday Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm @ Turner Stadium 1700 Wilson Rd. Humble, TX.



NS's #5 wide receiver Jaylen Bocard hauled in a Kaleb Maryland 66 yd deep pass for a TD. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

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# Jovita Idar Vivero Hispanic Heritage Month Honoree

By Allan Jamail

September 15, 2025 ~ National Hispanic Heritage Month in the U.S. is from September 15 to October 15. It's a time when Latinx communities come together to honor their culture, traditions and incredible achievements.

This week the North Channel Star will recognize Texan Journalist Jovita Idar Vivero who was an American journalist, teacher, political activist, and civil rights worker who championed the cause of Mexican Americans and Mexican immigrants. She worked for a series of newspapers, using her writing to work towards making a meaningful and effective change. She began her career in journalism at La Crónica, her father's newspaper in Laredo, Texas, her hometown.

Idar was honored on an American Women quarter in 2023. (see coin photo). The American Women Quarters Program is a series of quarters featuring notable women in U.S. history, commemorating the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Jovita Idar was born in Laredo, Texas, September 7, 1885. She was one of eight children of Jovita Vivero Gómez and Nicasio Idar who strove to advance the civil rights of Mexican-Americans. The Idar family were part of the gente decente, who had better access to good education and opportunities than many méxico-tejano families had. All eight Idar children grew up in an atmosphere where rights



The Jovita Idar U. S. Quarter honoring the trailblazing who devoted her life to fighting separatist ideologies.

and responsibilities and the underprivileged circumstances of the Chicano community were consistently discussed.

Jovita was an imaginative, spirited girl; eager student, she won prizes for her poetry and enjoyed reciting before an audience.

Idar earned her teaching certificate in 1903 from the Holding Institute in Laredo. She taught in a school in Los Ojuelos, located approximately 40 miles east of Laredo. The reality of her first years of teaching was frustrating, "There were never enough textbooks for her pupils or enough paper, pens or pencils; if all her students came to class, there were not enough chairs or desks for them." The schooling for Chicano students was inadequate. Chicanos paid taxes to support decent schooling for their children yet they were denied entry to schools. Idar realized that her teaching efforts were making little impact on student lives due to the ill-equipped segregated schools.

While working as a journalist, she became the president of the newly established League of Mexican Women La Liga Femenil Mexicanista in

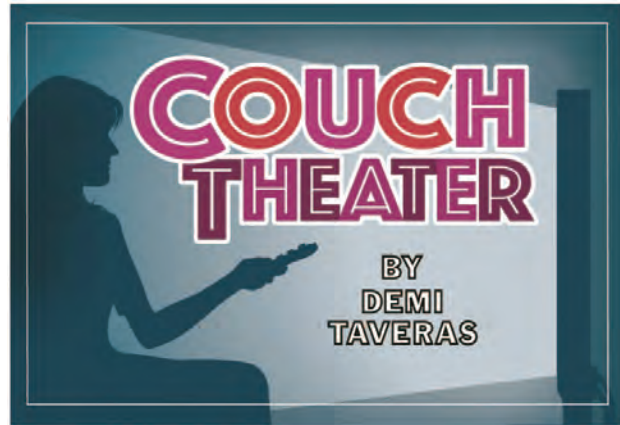
October 1911, an organization with a focus on offering free education to Mexican children in Laredo. She was also active in the Primer Congreso Mexicano, an organization that brought Mexican-Americans together to discuss issues such as their lack of access to adequate education and economic resources.

In March 1913, when Nuevo Laredo on the Mexican side of the border was attacked, Idar and other Laredo women crossed the Rio Grande River to volunteer to help with the wounded. While at the border, Idar later joined the La Cruz Blanca — the White Cross, an organization that provided relief similar to the Red Cross, that had been created and financed by Leonor Villegas de Magnón, who was also from Laredo.

After her father's death in 1914, she became the editor and writer at La Crónica, where she continued to expose the conditions that Mexican-Americans and Mexican immigrants were living under at the time.

In November 1916, Idar founded the weekly paper Evolución which remained in operation until 1920. Idar moved to San Antonio in 1921 where she founded a free kindergarten and also volunteered in a hospital as an interpreter.

In May 1917, Idar married Bartolo Juárez, who worked as a plumber and tinsmith. They lived together in San Antonio until her death from advanced tuberculosis on June 15, 1946 at the age of 60.



Olivia Cooke stars in "The Girlfriend."

## "The Girlfriend"

**"THE GIRLFRIEND"** (TV-MA) — Every person who's been in a romantic relationship knows what it's like to dread meeting their significant other's parents. Even worse, when the parents themselves are dreading meeting you! This series starring Olivia Cooke ("House of the Dragon") and Robin Wright ("House of Cards") depicts what this feeling is like — but on steroids. Danny (Laurie Davidson) introduces his girlfriend, Cherry (Cooke), to his mother, Laura (Wright), but Laura instantly gets a bad vibe from Cherry and finds her untrustworthy. Laura's

suspensions cause her to act out of character to protect her son, but is it all just a figment of her imagination? Or is Cherry really hiding something sinister? Find out in just six episodes, all of which are out now! (Amazon Prime Video)

**"THE MORNING SHOW: SEASON 4"** (TV-MA) — Two of America's favorite leading ladies, Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon, are back with their hit show "The Morning Show," and this season looks juicier than ever! Picking up two years after season three, Alex

(Aniston) and Bradley (Witherspoon) are dealing with the aftereffects of the UBA network's merger with NBN, as misinformation and conspiracy theories continue to infiltrate the news. Marion Cotillard ("Extrapolations") is a new addition to the cast and plays an intriguing high-level executive, while Boyd Holbrook ("A Complete Unknown") joins the cast as a provocative talk-show host. New relationships are teased, and the tension between all the characters continues to rise. The first episode releases Sept. 17 with a weekly Wednesday release through Nov. 19. (Apple TV+)

**"DANCING WITH THE STARS: SEASON 34"** (TV-PG) — It's that time of year again, where celebrities lace up their shoes to hit the "Dancing with the Stars" ballroom and compete to win the mirror ball trophy! Contestants this year include actor Zac Efron's younger brother, Dylan Efron; nostalgic actors like Corey Feldman ("The Lost Boys") and Danielle Fishel ("Boy Meets World"); singers Scott Hoying (of Pentatonix) and Lauren Jauregui (of Fifth Harmony); social media influencer Alix Earle; and Robert Irwin, son of Steve Irwin and brother of mirror ball champion Bindi Irwin. The first episode premieres on Sept. 16, with subsequent episodes releasing every Tuesday night thereafter. Don't forget to vote for your favorites! (Disney+) (c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.603444 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of City of Jacinto City.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.603444 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.589981 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.611033 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2025 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for City of Jacinto City from the same properties in both the 2024 tax year and the 2025 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that City of Jacinto City may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that City of Jacinto City is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2025 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 25, 2025 AT 6:00 PM AT City Hall Annex 10301 Market Street.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, City of Jacinto City is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Board of Commissioners of City of Jacinto City at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

<b>FOR the proposal:</b>	Mayor Ana Diaz	Councilman JJ Rivas
	Councilman Gregg Robinson	Councilman Allen Lee
	Councilwoman Carmela Garcia	Councilman Mario Gonzales

**AGAINST the proposal:** N/A

**PRESENT and not voting:** N/A

**ABSENT:** N/A

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

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

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by City of Jacinto City last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by City of Jacinto City this year.

	2024	2025	Change
<b>Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)</b>	\$0.603444	\$0.603444	increase of 0.000000 per \$100, or 0.00%
<b>Average homestead taxable value</b>	\$113,979	\$125,372	increase of 10.00%
<b>Tax on average homestead</b>	\$687.80	\$756.55	increase of 68.75, or 10.00%
<b>Total tax levy on all properties</b>	\$4,329,074	\$4,481,336	increase of 152,262, or 3.52%

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

## WATER DISTRICT

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The HARRIS COUNTY FRESH WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT #51 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on October 8, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. at 367 Queenstown Road, Houston, Texas 77015. Guests may attend the hearing by Zoom video conference at <https://zoom.us> or by Telephone at 346-248-7799, Meeting ID: 320 452 4804, Passcode: 382181. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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

**FOR the proposal:** Jerry Dominy, Mike Bilnoski, Cary Stephens, Les LeBleu and David Gray

**AGAINST the proposal:** None

**PRESENT and not voting:** None

**ABSENT:** None

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.13000/\$100	\$0.12000/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-\$0.01000/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-7.69%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 228,607	\$ 230,951
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 45,721	\$ 46,190
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 182,886	\$ 184,761
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 237.75	\$ 221.71
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$ -16.04 -6.74%

### NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

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



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