



NORTH CHANNEL STAR

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

Probate Court Seminar on Oct. 11, 2025

HOW TO PREPARE FOR PROBATE COURT.

Join Representative Ana Hernandez for a free informative seminar on the probate courts' procedures for wills. Presentation by Probate Judge Pamela Medina, Q&A by Lone Star Legal Aid attorneys.

Saturday, October 11, 2025, from 9:30am - 11:30am, at Jacinto City Town Center - 1025 Oates Rd., Jacinto City, 77029. Breakfast & coffee will be provided please RSVP by Thursday, Oct. 9, 2025 by calling 713-675-8596 or emailing to District143.Hernandez@house.texas.gov.

2025 Greens Bayou Regatta October 4th

Starting Line: Brock Adventure Park (8201 John Ralston Rd., Houston, TX 77044) Race Day Registration: 7:30 - 8:15 am Start Time: 9:00 am Finish Line and Awards Ceremony: Thomas Bell Foster Park (12895 Greens Bayou St, Houston, TX 77015) Awards Ceremony: 12:30 pm

*Must be 18+ years old to register. Minimum age for entry is 12 years. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult on the boat. A waiver must be signed by a parent or guardian. Waivers must be signed by all participants. For waiver.

*Entry includes tee-shirt and lunch, while supplies last. Does not include canoe or kayak.

*Your registration fee does not include boat rental. PLEASE NOTE: On-line registration closes on Thursday, October 2, 2025, at 11:59 pm CST.

Diamond Jim's Pineforest Jewelry: A New Era Begins

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

In a remarkable blend of history and innovation, Pineforest Jewelry has opened its doors to a new, state-of-the-art location, promising an experience unlike any other. The grand opening of Diamond Jim's Pineforest Jewelry Experience marks a significant milestone for the beloved jewelry store that has been a cornerstone of the East Houston community for nearly four decades.

A Legacy of Excellence

Founded on May 1, 1986, by Jim and Linda Mills, Pineforest Jewelry has grown from humble beginnings into a renowned establishment known for its exceptional customer service and high-quality jewelry.

"Giving customers a



The new 8,000 square foot space is based on an 1860's working mine with a rock façade, huge gold nugget inside, and an authentic skip, or minecart at the entrance.

"WOW Experience" was a must in our minds," says Jim Mills, affectionately known as Diamond Jim. This dedication to exceeding customer expectations has earned Pineforest Jewelry a stellar reputation, with over 1,700 five-star Google reviews. The journey began with

Jim's purchase of a large Russian ingot of pure 24K gold, which he alloyed to 14K and crafted into rings and pendants. This leap of faith laid the foundation for what would become a thriving business. Over the years, the store has expanded and evolved, always staying true to its

commitment to quality and customer satisfaction.

A New Chapter

The new 8,000 square foot store, located at 6840 East Sam Houston Parkway North, is a testament to Jim's vision and dedication. Designed to resemble an 1800s gold mine, the store offers a unique and

immersive experience for customers.

"I wanted it to be a learning experience, a fun place," Jim said.

The interior is adorned with mining tools, artifacts, and murals that create the illusion of tunnels, while the ceiling is painted black to mimic the inside of a mine.

One of the standout features of the new store is its six 55-inch monitors, each driven by its own computer, providing customers with educational content about the jewelry business, including gold mining, silver mining, and gemstone cutting.

The store also boasts a continuous glass wall that allows customers to view the complete repair facility, adding to the transparency and trust that

Continued. See PINEFOREST JEWELRY: A NEW ERA, Page 3

GP Yellow Jackets Sting Milby Buffs 54 - 12

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. Friday, September 26, 2025 at the HISD Barnett Stadium the Jackets' Head Coach Spiro Amarantos got his defending district championship team's offense and defense playing solid football for four quarters. The 54 - 12 district win over the Milby Buffs was much needed for the winless Jackets'.

The Gold-Blooded Jackets' have four district games remaining and might be able to still repeat winning the District 10-5A Div. 1 title by winning-out.

The Jackets' steel curtain defense held the Buffs' scoreless in the first two quarters allowing only 2 late game td's. Their offensive line was what enabled the team's blowout win.

Offense scorers: Cary Clay 165 total yds & 3 TDs (59 yd run td & 76 yd punt return td & 6 yd run td), Darick Runnels 120 total yds & 2 TDs, Kendal Combs 110 total yds & 3 TDs (90 yd kickoff return td) and kickers Juan Soto & Adrian



#33 Jackets' John Carmona sacks Buffs quarterback & blocked a kick in the game. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Guzman. GP had 9 team penalties in this game. Penalties have already cost them a game or two. In their last against the Sterling Raiders they committed 12 penalties, there's no doubt to me in that very close overtime game it made the difference which gave

Sterling the win. Linda Jamail statistician.

The Yellow Jackets next game is a **Homecoming district against the Spring Woods Tigers at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 2nd. **The Jackets' fans will be in the team colors; black & gold.



#5 Jackets' Cary Clay makes 1 of 3 TDs. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



#7 Jackets' QB Kendall Combs makes 1 of 3 TDs. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Harris County approves \$2.8 billion budget for 2026

HARRIS COUNTY - Following months-long spats about how to bridge a \$200 million gap in the county's budget, the Harris County Commissioners Court has approved a \$2.8 billion budget for the 2026 fiscal year.

Commissioners Lesley Briones, Tom Ramsey and Adrian Garcia voted in favor of the county's budget during Wednesday's court meeting. Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, who has said that it will strike essential county services, and Commissioner Rodney Ellis voted against the budget. Their opposition was fueled by the approving commissioners' motion earlier this year to increase wages for county law enforcement.

Hidalgo has said the boosted pay wages force

funding cuts to essential services in order to balance the looming budget deficit. Commissioners who approved the budget - at one point deemed the 'GOP 3' by Hidalgo - have said that they specifically targeted vacant county positions in an effort to avoid cuts to crucial services.

Harris County Commissioner Lesley Briones told Houston Public Media on Tuesday that commissioners also trimmed the budget by better matching expenses to revenue.

"So, whether that is the food permitting fee, the JP [justice of the peace] court fee, the fire code fee, making sure that we're paying expenses associated with those activities from the actual revenue that comes in," Briones said. "So that alone was \$32 million."

The bottom line, she said, is that the county has hundreds of vacant positions.

"In terms of the general fund alone, there are over a thousand vacancies," she said. "When we started drilling into these vacancies, some had been open for three months, six months, nine months, some even longer ... and the work has continued without those vacancies being filled."

The results of the funding cuts to certain departments will likely take some time to appear, as discussions about how to trim services and consolidate workloads will continue into the new fiscal year. Hidalgo has warned that

Continued. See COUNTY BUDGET PASSES, Page 3

NS MUSTANG'S TAME WILDCATS 34 - 6

By Allan Jamail

Humble, TX. ~ Thursday, September 25, 2025 at the Humble ISD Turner's Stadium the GPISD North Shore Mustangs (Stang's) won their season's first District 23-6A Region III game 34 to 6 against the Humble Wildcats. Willie Gaston's East Side Boys head coach has his offense and defensive playing like they want another try for a state title.

The game started like it was going to be close with neither team scoring in the first quarter. The Stang's woke up and began racking up points, scoring 18 points in the 2nd quarter on a 2 point safety, a 3 point field goal and two td's with a missed extra point.

The Stang's defense



continues to dominate their opponents offense and shut out the Wildcats until late into the fourth quarter with the game ending NS 34 - Wildcats 6.

Quarterback Kaleb Maryland the Stang's 6ft - 195lbs senior is continuing to show good passing and running abilities. He's thrown 9 td's in four games this season and ran for 2 td's and has a 66.5 % pass completion season record.

Other offensive standouts this season: Jaylen Bocard, Aubery Johnson,

Aubery Johnson, La' Damian Defreeze, Hezekiah Johnson, Marcus Stewart, Isai Navarro and Daniel Cruz (kicker).

The Stang's season offense has made 162 points; the defense has only allowed 47 points scored on them, Linda Jamail statistician.

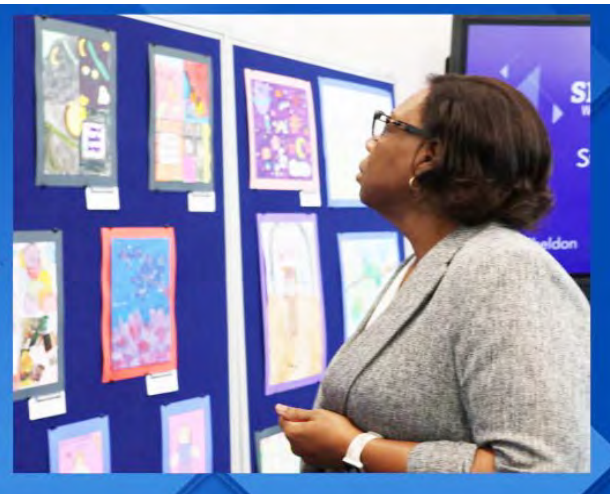
North Shore's Home Coming will be a district game Friday, October 3rd at 7pm against the Kingwood Mustangs, both teams have a 3-1 record each having won their first district game.

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Sheldon ISD 2026 Annual Campaign at State of the District Luncheon

Sheldon ISD welcomed more than 180 community partners and Education Foundation donors to its annual State of the District luncheon, sponsored by Huckabee, on September 25. The Sheldon ISD Education Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that raises funds for teachers and students, hosted the event to celebrate partnerships, showcase student talent, and announce the kickoff of the new 2026 Annual Campaign.

Guests heard an inspiring presentation from Superintendent Dr. Demetrius McCall and learned about new opportunities to partner and volunteer in Sheldon ISD through the launch of the 2026 Annual Campaign. Attendees also enjoyed dynamic student performances, including the King High School Pantherette officers, Null Middle School Dance Company, King High School Drumline, Null Middle School Honor Choir, and the King High School Band and Varsity Mixed Choir. In addition, student artwork from Cravens Early Childhood Academy, Sheldon Early Childhood Academy, and Sheldon Elementary was proudly on display. To learn more about partnerships in Sheldon ISD, please contact 281-727-2007.



Rising Star Mini Grant Program for New Teachers

The Sheldon ISD Education Foundation, in partnership with H-E-B, proudly awarded the first-ever Rising Star Teacher Mini Grants to three deserving new educators on September 24. Congratulations to Wanda Green (Sheldon Elementary), Nicolas Devia Luna (Sheldon Lake Elementary), and Anastasia Jack (King Middle School) on being surprised with grants to help stock their classrooms with much-needed supplies.

The Rising Star Teacher Mini Grant Program: Supporting New Teachers. Fueling Classroom Dreams provides monetary support to help beginning teachers create engaging and inspiring learning environments. Special thanks to H-E-B for their generous donation in support of Sheldon ISD educators.



Sheldon Shuffle 5K Set for October 25

Sheldon ISD invites the community to lace up their running shoes for the Sheldon Shuffle 5K, happening Saturday, October 25, at 7:30 a.m. at Panther Stadium.

This annual event brings together students, families, staff, and community mem-

bers for a morning of fitness and fun. Proceeds from the race will benefit the Sheldon ISD Education Foundation, which supports innovative classroom projects and teacher grants across the district.

Mark your calendars and join us at Panther Stadium to celebrate

health, community, and education—one step at a time. Immediately following the event is the district's fourth annual Fall Festival at King High School from 9-12. To register for the race, go to

www.sheldonisd.com.

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The HARRIS COUNTY W.C.I.D. #36 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on October 14, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., at 903 Hollywood, Houston, TX 77015. 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: Gerardo Parra, Ronald S. Holder, Maria E. Koukoulakis, Edbert Cantu, Tammy Eason

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
	Adopted	Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.23580/\$100	\$0.23080/\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-\$0.00500/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-2.12%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 133,249	\$ 142,497
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 26,650	\$ 28,499
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 106,599	\$ 113,998
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 251.36	\$ 263.10
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		\$ 11.74
and percentage of increase (+/-)		4.67%

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 voter-approval tax rate is \$0.23080 and therefore, notwithstanding the above, no election is required.

The board of directors proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of continued debt service.

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.

HARRIS COUNTY WATER CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 36

TO THE RESIDENTS OF HARRIS COUNTY WATER CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 36:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 51.129 of the Texas Water Code, that there has been a change in the Order Adopting Amended Rates and Fees for Service and Rules and Regulations; Establishing Certain Other Policies and Providing Penalties and Violations Thereof (the "Rate Order") for Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 36 (the "District"). The Rate Order contains definitions of terms, water and sewer rates, rules and regulations covering water, sewer and drainage service and enforcement provisions of the District.

The District's Rate Order has been amended to include the following amendments and additions:

- to include Grease trap reporting requirement fee, should the report not be submitted timely, and a bypass fee should there be a bypass and adding Engineering Fees for multi-family commercial properties up to \$5,000, effective November 1, 2019;
- to clarify the penalties for damage to District facilities;
- to add additional provisions under Section 8.03, Illegal Connections in order to establish escalating penalties for multi-user violations, effective October 1, 2020;
- to amend Grease interceptor Inspection and Fees, effective February 1, 2021;
- to add a leak adjustment procedure in billing for the lowest tier for one (1) month in a 24-month billing cycle for water only and only residential customers;
- to increase the rate for assessing a fine to two (2) times the actual cost of reinstalling water or sewer tap after a tap is pulled for theft of service which the renter or owner must pay prior to reinstating the water service;
- to update the backflow preventor reporting and add a fee for any forms submitted late;
- to clarify the definition of an Illegal Connection, as reflected in Section 8.03, Illegal Connections, to be effective April 1, 2024;
- to amend the Article VIII., Section 8.01, Enforcement Penalties and Section 8.02, Remedies to clarify the District's Penalties for violations to the District's Rate Order and adding a \$500 penalty for any violation to the District's Rate Order, to be effective July 1, 2024;
- to clarify the documents required for establishing connections and the number of connections, effective March 11, 2025, or as soon as permitted by law;
- to clarify the plumbing standards and requirements and regarding lead copper and galvanized lines, effective July 8, 2025;
- A violation of the District's rules and regulations will subject the violator to a penalty, including but not limited to refusal of service and civil fines;
- To amend the rules and regulations governing terms of service, number and type of connections, water and sewer tap fees, billing procedures, access to facilities, damage to facilities, cut-off valve requirements, mobile food regulations and enforcement and civil penalties.

The entire Rate Order with detailed changes is on file at the principal office of the District, 903 Hollywood, Houston, Texas 77015, where it may be read by any interested person. The Rate Order with detailed changes may also be found at the District's website <https://harriscountycwid36.com>. The current Rate Order was adopted on August 12, 2025, and the rules and regulations contained therein are effective and enforceable immediately or as soon as permitted by law.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Awareness

October has arrived and with that comes awareness of several prominent issues. Breast Cancer Awareness is promoted with lots of pink, Domestic Violence Awareness has attention drawn by purple, and National Night Out arrives with patriotic colors of red, white, and blue.

Each of these causes deserves attention and there will be multiple events hosted to raise awareness of each.

Many of the individuals in our area have been affected by breast cancer. No longer thought of just a women's issue, there are men who have been diagnosed as well. Life can go from smooth and routine to suddenly, many doctor appointments, medical tests, surgery, and recovery. Often our neighbors have needs that any of us can assist with from picking up their prescriptions to taking out their trash. We can pray and we can offer to run errands for them. We can offer to cook, to pick their children up from school and a variety of other ways. With our area not having a large hospital, it can be difficult but fortunately, with Houston being home to the world's largest medical center, there are many available resources.

Events are being held throughout the community to raise awareness.

You will also see plenty of purple in the community as well as on social media. During this month, purple brings awareness to domestic violence awareness. Fortunately, over the years, the stigma of reporting violence has grown smaller. And sadly, domestic violence is not just something that happens in homes. It is in relationships outside of the home. There are survivors of rape which went unreported for various reason who have finally been able to break free and share the events, the emotions, and the ways to find support. Often the violence begins while the victim is still living at home with family, enrolled in school and active in the community. For a brief time beginning in 2008, our community was home to a three-day emergency shelter for women fleeing domestic violence, as well as their children. Due to inadequate structure and support, the shelter closed, and the number of reported violence has increased. It is time to join and not only build a network of resources but to open a facility to help the victims. The first of several public events concerning domestic violence was held on October 2 with several more planned in October.

National Night Out is a nation-wide program to bring neighbors together to know about law enforcement and learn about their different programs prior to needing them. In our community there are multiple events scheduled for October 7. Various law enforcement agencies will be present at local community centers, churches, neighborhood block parties and more. All the agencies in our area are also available for presentations on other dates, just contact the agency and ask for their Community Outreach division and they can help with speakers, bringing out emergency rescue equipment and more.

One last thought, October is also full of football, including high school Homecoming games and other events. It is a time to take pride in our community and get involved. As always if you are looking for a way to get involved, please reach out to me at charlotte.jackson@yahoo.com Have a great week and celebrate October.

Harris County Passes \$2.8b Budget,

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certain departments will see funding cuts that go beyond position vacancies — including cuts to air monitoring equipment that she said could negatively affect the aftermath of a future chemical plant fire.

Geoff McKeel, the chief of staff of the county's pollution control department that oversees air monitoring, said that the department's initial approach to proposed budget reductions was to leave about 10 open positions unfilled. However, there are still several unknowns in the budget process that will require follow-up discussions with the county's office of management and budget.

He did not say whether the department, which employs about 74 people, expects funding cuts to specific air monitoring equipment.

Other county departments, like the Harris County District Clerk's Office, have warned that the budget presents significant funding shortfalls. The clerk's office in a press release last week said it's facing a \$500,000 shortfall in the budget. Those cuts also come in the form of

unfilled positions, but District Clerk Marilyn Burgess said the money saved from vacated positions is what she's used every year to give merit raises to staff.

"This is no way to run a business or a government," she said.

But commissioners have said that certain losses that may appear to be the effects of the county's budget deficit are the result of funding that won't be renewed after the expiration of COVID-era federal funding through the American Rescue Plan Act.

Commissioners affirmed the need for boosted pay raises for deputies and constables in a series of discussions and press conferences leading up to the vote on Wednesday. Immediately following the vote, Sheriff Ed Gonzalez and elected constables, standing in the lobby of the county administration building, commended commissioners for backing law enforcement.

"Because of your investment, we are better equipped to combat threats to public safety, like reckless driving, gun violence and domestic abuse," Gonzalez said.

--Sarah Grunau
HoustonPublicMedia

ASK DIAMOND JIM

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



As the traditional birthstone of October, opal offers a myriad of colors all residing within one beautiful stone. Because opal has the colors of other gems, the Romans thought it was the most precious and powerful of all. The Bedouins believed that opals contained lightning and fell from the sky during thunderstorms. When Australia's mines began to produce opals commercially in the 1890s, it quickly became the world's primary source for this October birthstone.



Opal is the product of seasonal rains that drenched dry ground in regions such as Australia's semi-desert "outback." The showers soaked deep into ancient underground rock,

carrying dissolved silica (a compound of silicon and oxygen) downward. During dry periods, much of the water evaporated, leaving solid deposits of silica in the cracks and between the layers of underground sedimentary rock. The silica deposits formed opal.

How Opal Forms

Opal is known for its unique display of flashing rainbow colors called play-of-color. There are two broad classes of opal: precious and common. Precious opal displays play-of-color, common opal does not. Play-of-color occurs in precious opal because it's made up of sub-microscopic spheres stacked in a grid-like pattern—like layers of Ping-Pong balls in a box. As the lightwaves travel between the spheres, the waves diffract, or bend. As they bend, they break up into the colors of the rainbow, called spectral colors. Play-of-color is the result.

Although experts divide gem opals into many different categories, five of the main types are:

- White or light opal: Translucent to semitranslucent, with play-of-color against a white or light gray background color, called bodycolor.
- Black opal: Translucent to opaque, with play-of-color against a black or other dark background.
- Fire opal: Transparent to translucent, with brown, yellow, orange, or red bodycolor. This material—which often doesn't show play-of-color—is also known as "Mexican opal."
- Boulder opal: Translucent to opaque, with play-of-color against a light to dark background. Fragments of the surrounding rock, called matrix, become part of the finished gem.
- Crystal or water opal: Transparent to semitransparent, with a clear background. This type shows exceptional play-of-color.

Writers have compared opals to volcanoes, galaxies, and fireworks. Admirers gave extraordinary opals poetic names like Pandora, Light of the World, and Empress. In ancient Rome, this gem symbolized love and hope. The Romans gave it a name—opalus—that was synonymous with "precious stone."

Opal is considered an October birthstone. Some people think it's unlucky for anyone born in another month to wear an opal. But that particular superstition comes from a novel written in the 1800s (*Anne of Geierstein* by Sir Walter Scott), and not from any ancient belief or experience. In fact, throughout most of history, opal has been regarded as the luckiest and most magical of all gems because it can show all colors. Once, it was thought to have the power to preserve the life and color of blond hair.

Let us know what topics you'd like to see covered next. We're always here to answer your questions and make your Pineforest Jewelry experience a "WOW Experience"!

Thank you for reading the "Ask Diamond Jim" column and for supporting the North Channel Star Newspaper!
Diamond Jim is a master jeweler, diamond dealer and precious metals broker. Pineforest Jewelry has been a proud member of the Independent Jewelers Organization (IJO) and the Retail Jewelers Organization (RJO) for many years. See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com.
If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email jmills@pineforestjewelry.com.

IMPORTANT 2025 ELECTION DATES	
OCTOBER 6	VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE
OCTOBER 20	FIRST DAY OF EARLY VOTING
OCTOBER 24	BALLOT-BY-MAIL APPLICATION DEADLINE
OCTOBER 31	LAST DAY OF EARLY VOTING
NOVEMBER 4	ELECTION DAY

Pineforest Jewelry: A new era begins,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Pineforest Jewelry has built over the years.

Innovative Offerings

In addition to its unique design, the new store offers several innovative services that set it apart from other jewelry stores. Customers can have their old jewelry refined and made into new custom pieces, or they can sell their old jewelry and apply the credit towards new purchases.

"We provide very high quality for less than half of what the malls charge," Diamond Jim said.

The store also features a kitchen that serves food and drinks, a game room for kids, and even a train that runs continuously around the perimeter of the ceiling.

"We do things different from any other jewelry store," he explained. This commitment to creating a welcoming and enjoyable environment for customers is evident in every aspect of the new store.

Community and Customer Focus

Throughout its history, Pineforest Jewelry has remained deeply connected to the community. Jim and Linda are active members of local organizations, including the North Shore Rotary Club, the North Channel Chamber of Commerce, and San Jacinto Pilot Club.

"We have raised over a million dollars for charity in our community," Jim said. Their community involvement, combined with their dedication to customer service, has helped Pineforest Jewelry build a loyal customer base that spans generations.

"We've got somewhere in the neighborhood of



Owners Jim and Linda Mills of Diamond Jim's Pineforest Jewelry Experience are ready at the front door to greet customers now that the new, plush store has opened after five years of planning and construction



Isaac has been trained by the best in Gary Mills, to help with repairs or creating new pieces.



Sales associates Desiree Lopez and Selena Guerrero are waiting to help you with your jewelry needs, including the famous Shotgun Wedding package.

50,000 customers," he said. Keeping customers happy is a top priority.

"If customers aren't happy, then they don't come back. All of ours come back," Jim proudly said.

Looking Ahead

The new location positions the business into a more regional store, but with neighborhood hospitality.

"We've increased traffic in front of our store tenfold. The business, therefore, will probably increase fivefold within a couple of years," he predicts. The store is poised to continue its legacy of excellence for many more years to come.

The new store is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

"Everyone that comes into our business becomes a member of the family," he said.

Be sure to add Pilot Club to the community organizations. We have raised over a million dollars for charity in our community.

Commitment to Excellence

Pineforest Jewelry is a member of the IJO (Independent Jewelers Organization) and RJO (Retail Jewelers Organization). Diamond Jim is a Master Jeweler by IJO, and an Associate Gemologist by GIA (Gemological Institute of America). The staff is required to obtain Diamond Knowledge, Precious Stone Identification, and other certificates from GIA. This commitment to training allows Pineforest to provide the level of service that makes it stand above the crowd.

Full service  

jewelry repair

Rings, pendants, chains, earrings, Gold, platinum, or silver. Antiques to today's styles.

* Chains soldered	* Tight rings made loose	* Tips rebuilt	* Stones tightened
* Clasps replaced	* Loose rings made tight	* Heads replaced	* Pearls re-stringed
* Watch links replaced	* Prongs replaced	* Shanks replaced	* And more!

Free cleaning and inspection any time



Diamond Jim's
Pineforest Jewelry
Experience

OPINION PAGE

OPINION

By BILL KING

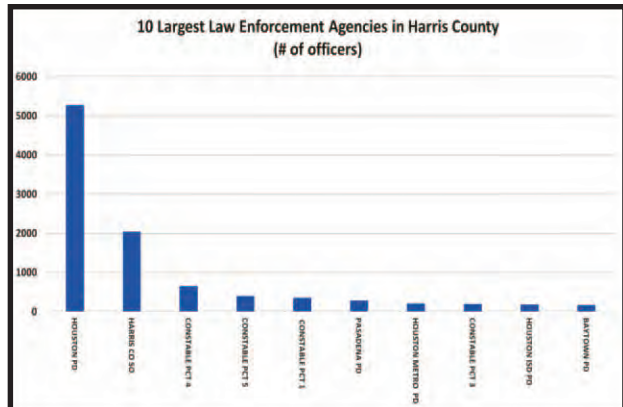


Harris County has 63 Law Enforcement Agencies

Spread over Harris County's 1,777 square miles are 63 different law enforcement agencies.

These range from the largest, the Houston Police Department with 6,337 employees (of which 5,246 are officers), to the smallest, the Shore Acres Police Department with 6 officers.

There are another 2,174 employees at the Harris County Constable Offices, 1,921 of whom are officers. Precinct 4 is, by far, the largest at 706. Precinct 1 has the second largest with 490.



There are twenty law enforcement agencies associated with school districts, colleges, and universities. These agencies employ 1,853, of which 1,108 are officers.

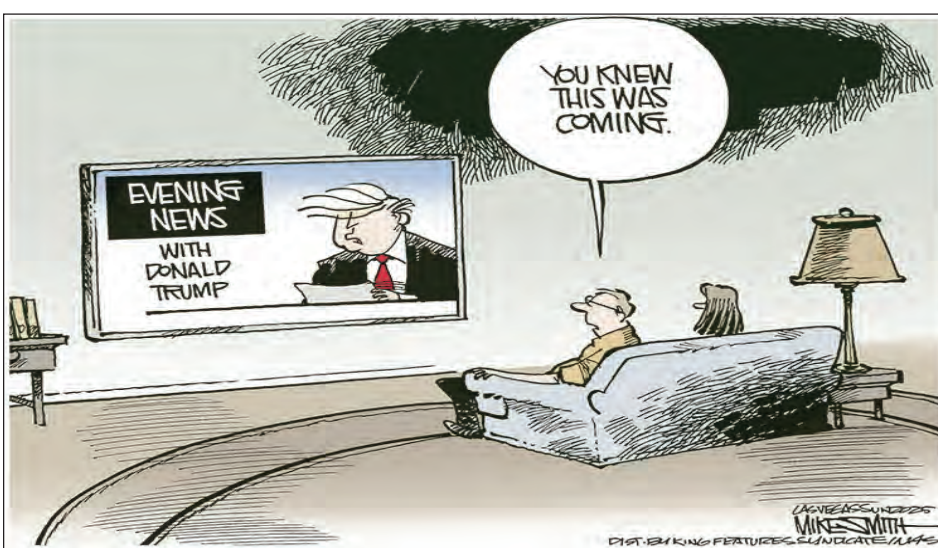
The number of women police officers has been steadily rising in recent years. As of the end of the year, they constituted 19% of all officers.

In future posts, I will be looking at the clearance rates for the agencies and how the overall headcount employed by law enforcement compares to the other large counties in Texas.

Stay tuned.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome.

top ten MOST DANGEROUS CITIES IN THE WORLD BY HOMICIDE RATE: 2024. 1. Colima, Mexico, 2. Ciudad Obregon, Mexico, 3. Port-au-Prince, Haiti, 4. Zamora, Mexico, 5. Manzanillo, Mexico, 6. Tijuana, Mexico, 7. Zacatecas, Mexico, 8. Guayaquil, Ecuador, 9. Mandela Bay, South Africa, 10. Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Source: WorldAtlas.com



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



DPS Officers Arrest Thousands of Undocumented Immigrants

In an operation being called "Lone Star 2.0," more than 3,000 undocumented immigrants have been arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety officers this year.

From late January through early September, DPS recorded 3,131 arrests by specialty teams created at the direction of Gov. Greg Abbott and previously unreported.

Only the federal government has the authority to enforce immigration violations. State and local police cannot arrest someone solely for being undocumented without agreements made with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security or the agencies under its umbrella.

Unlike the original Lone Star initiative along the border, DPS officials have remained tight-lipped about its deportation efforts in the state's interior.

NEARLY HALF OF TEXAS COUNTIES ARE MATERNAL CARE DESERTS

A recent report concludes that 47% of Texas counties are "maternity care deserts." The Dallas Morning News reported. The report from the nonprofit March of Dimes concludes those counties have no obstetric providers, birth centers, hospitals with obstetric units, and no OB-GYNs or family doctors who practice obstetrics.

Shortages of obstetric care occur throughout the state, regardless of geography, though rural areas are most affected. As a result, rural mothers are at much higher risk of death than mothers in



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

urban areas. In some areas, maternal death rates in rural areas are nearly double the rates of urban areas.

The Texas Legislature approved more than \$300 million in funding for rural health care in hopes of boosting rural hospitals.

MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS WANT PAXTON DIVORCE RECORDS UNSEALED

Eight Texas news organizations are asking a state judge to unseal records in the divorce case of Attorney General Ken Paxton and his wife, state Sen. Angela Paxton, R-McKinney.

Lawyers for the news organizations argue that the Paxtons are both public officials, the Houston Chronicle reported. Hearst Newspapers, owners of the Chronicle and several Texas newspapers, is one of the groups suing. They argue that the public has a legitimate interest in information regarding allegations of adultery and requests to disproportionately divide the couple's property.

"The public has a compelling and legitimate interest in understanding the conduct of these public officers, the nature and extent of assets held by these long-serving public officers, and any allegations of fault, misconduct, or abuse of trust—particularly where such issues may bear on the performance of official duties, the ethical obligations of office, or AG Paxton's service in current or future public office," reads the filing by Tyler J. Bexley and Joel W. Reese of law firm Reese Marketos, LLP.

Angela Paxton filed for divorce in July after 38 years of marriage, citing adultery as the reason. The case was sealed by a Collin County judge at her request. Ken

Paxton is running in the GOP primary next March against incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn.

TEA INVESTIGATING MORE THAN 280 COMPLAINTS OVER KIRK COMMENTS

The Texas Education Agency is investigating more than 280 complaints against teachers accused of making inappropriate comments online after the killing of conservative activist Charlie Kirk, The Tribune reported.

TEA has not specified what policy or ethics code would be violated if a teacher made what it considered an inappropriate comment. Agency commissioner Mike Morath said he would recommend the State Board for Educator Certification suspend the licenses of those teachers.

"While all educators are held to a high standard of professionalism, there is a difference between comments made in poor taste and those that call for and incite further violence—the latter of which is clearly unacceptable," Morath said.

At least six schools have already taken disciplinary action regarding comments made on Kirk's death. Critics have called crackdowns "authoritarian," and maintain such comments are protected by the free speech clause of the First Amendment.

"What started with lawmakers weaponizing their platforms against civil servants has morphed into a statewide directive to hunt down and fire educators for opinions shared on their personal social media accounts," Zeph Capo, president of the Texas' American Federation of Teachers union, said.

DEMS NOT LINING UP TO TAKE ON ABBOTT IN 2026

Despite his approval rating being at an all-time low as he seeks a fourth term as Texas governor, Democrats are not lining up to challenge Abbott next year, the Houston Chronicle reported. U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett, D-Dallas, who has high name recognition, has said the only statewide race she is considering is for U.S. Senate. That Democratic primary already has two of the party's most prominent young prospects: James Talarico and Colin Allred.

Abbott's approval rating in August was 40%, the lowest since he took office in 2015.

"I think failing to run a serious candidate against Greg Abbott is a mistake," said Matt Angle, a Democratic strategist. "There's a sense he's more vulnerable than any other time he's been governor. He's become such a polarizing figure."

The governor has amassed a massive campaign war chest and has no serious Republican primary challengers to date. Some lesser-known Democrats are reportedly considering challenging Abbott, including state Rep. Gina Hinojosa, D-Austin. Beta O'Rourke, assisted the state's best-known Democrat, has not ruled out a rematch. He lost handily to Abbott in 2022.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Vegetable Gluttony



It is the time of year for vegetable gluttony.

The truth is, I am a vegetable glutton all year round. I blame my mother. My mom grew up on a farm, and when my sister and I were growing up, my mother was one of the first moms in our suburb to plant a big vegetable garden.

When my sister and I got old enough to eat at friends' houses, we learned that this was not the norm. We saw this tiny bowl of broccoli going around the table and knew we could easily eat the whole thing. What were we supposed to do? Take a single floret? It seemed kind of ridiculous—as if the broccoli was really not the point of dinner at all, but some kind of decoration.

I now eat more vegetables than I did when growing up. (I once ate five ears of corn, one after the other, at a street fair. I could feel even the corn vendor giving me the side-eye.) I learned there were vegetables my mother didn't serve because she wasn't fond of them—beets and spinach and Brussels sprouts. There is not a vegetable I have ever tried that I dislike, and this time of year, when summer and fall overlap, is the best time to be a vegetable glutton.

Last week, I brought my cart to the farmers market. I see these folks burdened with plastic bags in their hands and I vow not to be one of them. I start the season with a canvas bag, graduate to a large backpack and finish up the season pulling my cart behind me. By the time I leave, my cart is hard to pull.

Because the last of the sweet corn is in and the first of the winter squash. There are tomatoes in profusion. Cucumbers and zucchini and summer squash are everywhere. Beets are now in, along with carrots and potatoes, and even a little broccoli can still be found. And then there are the flowers. It does not matter that the flowers I bought last week are still looking beautiful on my desk. I have to buy more. (Sunflowers for \$3!)

By the time I am heading home, my cart is difficult to pull uphill. I have to keep everything in a large bag to prevent my tomatoes from making an escape through the wires of my cart and getting road rash on the way home.

And then I eat entirely too much.

I know that eating too much sweet corn will make me feel bloated and too much squash will make me positively sick. But how does one resist at this time of year? And so, I don't. I eat way too many vegetables, and then I go back the next week and get more.

It is a very good time to be a glutton. And maybe I should feel bad for having so little restraint. But I don't feel guilty. I just feel thankful for all this abundance. I know that not everyone has access to this much produce and such a variety, and I feel just terribly grateful that I have the luxury of being a glutton.

And of course, I blame my mother.

Next time, Carrie

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FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 6: UH hosts Tech in key Big 12 battle: Things get more difficult for Texans when they visit Baltimore

There was a lot of hype and optimism for the Texans entering the 2025 season, but after losing their first three games of the season, that optimism has been replaced with fear and uncertainty. Texans fans were told things were going to be better on offense for third-year QB C.J. Stroud thanks to the arrival of new offensive coordinator Nick Caley, who was going to get the most out of Stroud. So far, the change isn't working so great.

The offensive line, which was a bone of contention last year, hasn't improved all that much as Stroud was sacked eight times in his first three games. The defense, especially the secondary, was considered one of the best in the NFL, but it hasn't played that way as it has allowed too many big plays at key moments that have cost the team late in games.

Hopefully, the Texans got right last week against another winless team, the Tennessee Titans, but they step back into the fire this Sunday when they travel to Baltimore to take on a very talented and motivated Ravens team.

Good luck with that, Texans.

Week 5 of the NFL schedule starts with a big one in the NFC West as the 49ers visit the Rams. On Sunday, the struggling Cowboys visit the Jets in what could be a must-win game for Brian Schottenheimer's team after being embarrassed 31-14 at Chicago two weeks ago. The Dallas defense, especially the secondary, is not playing well and has given up big play after big play so far in the 2025 season.

Other interesting games have the Broncos visiting the Eagles, who two weeks ago overcame a 26-7 deficit at home to the Rams with a big second half to pull out a 33-26 victory.

The New England Patriots, who many thought could be a playoff team this year, will learn a lot about themselves when they visit the Buffalo Bills on Sunday Night Football. If the Patriots want to be taken seriously, they need to prove they can play with the big boys in the AFC, and they don't get any bigger than Josh Allen and the Bills.

Week 5 concludes on Monday Night Football, with the Kansas City Chiefs visiting the Jacksonville Jaguars.

The college schedule is so-so, with the biggest game coming locally when Willie Fritz's revived Houston Cougars host No. 12-ranked Texas Tech. Two weeks ago, the Red Raiders opened a lot of eyes with a 34-10 thumping of Utah on the road behind backup QB Will Hammond. Hammond replaced injured starter Behren Morton after Morton left with an upper body injury and responded by throwing two touchdown passes and leading Tech to 24 second-half points.

The Cougars are vastly improved from last year's 4-8 team, but they will get their first real test against a Tech team that is playing as well on defense as any team in the Big 12.

After its bye week, No. 10-ranked Texas opens SEC play on the road against a wounded Florida Gators team, while the ACC has a big one as No. 2-ranked Miami visits No. 8-ranked Florida State.

In District 14-6A play, Eisenhower takes on MacArthur, while Springs visits Davis and Aldine and Nimitz do battle.

Before we take a look at this week's schedule, let's review last week's record. Finally, some good results as a 10-2 week improved the season record to 27-19 (57%).

Now, onto this weekend's games.

NCAA

Miami at Florida State - After decades of irrelevance, this game means something again. In the 80s and 90s, Miami and Florida State games usually pitted two of the top teams in the country, with the winner usually being in contention for the national championship. Both programs suffered through some tough times in the last decade, but it appears things might be getting back to the good old days. Miami and FSU are now in the ACC. The Hurricanes enter ranked No. 2 in the country, while the Seminoles



enter ranked No. 7. The 'Canes are solid on both sides of the ball, averaging 37 points a game in their first three outings, while giving up only 11.5 points per game. They own wins over Notre Dame and Florida. FSU has averaged 58 points in their first three games and have a state-time win over Alabama. Miami is led by QB Carson Beck (972 yards, 7 TDs), running back Mark Fletcher (388 yards, 5 TDs) and big-play wideouts Malachi Toney (22 receptions, 268 yards, 1 TD) and CJ Daniels (18 receptions, 191 yards, 3 TDs). FSU is led by QB Tommy Castellanos (594 passing yards, 3 TDs/139 rushing yards, 3 TDs), running back Samuel Singleton (168 yards, 3 TDs) and wideouts Michi Danzy and Duce Robinson (8 receptions, 199 yards, 2 TDs). This will be Miami's biggest test to date, but I think they have the better defense, which will be the difference maker in this game. My pick, Miami 26, Florida State 23

Texas at Florida - Texas opens SEC play against a Florida team that could be playing to save head coach Billy Napier's job. After opening the season with a win, the Gators lost three straight games heading into their bye week prior to the Texas game. Steve Sarkisian's Longhorns also had a week off to prepare for league play. This will be a good road test for UT QB Arch Manning (888 passing yards, 9 TDs/123 rushing yards, 5 TDs), who had a rough first three games before busting out against Sam Houston State with three passing TDs and two rushing scores. Texas hopes to have its two two runners back in CJ Baxter (110 yards) and Quintrevion Wisner (80 yards, 1 game). Manning appears to have found a go-to wideout in Parker Liningstone (11 receptions, 232 yards, 2 TDs) and Ryan Wingo (13 receptions, 190 yards, 3 TDs). Florida will need a big game from QB DJ Langway (690 yards, 5 TDs/6 interceptions), a Willis product. He will face a stern test from a very good Texas defense, which should be the difference maker in this one. If Texas is going to get back in the College Football Playoff picture, a tough SEC road win would be a good place to start. My pick, Texas 26, Florida 13

Texas Tech at Houston - A big early-season game in the Big 12 for two teams that struggled a year ago, but appear poised for bigger and better things in 2025. This game will be played in prime time at 6 p.m. on ESPN to add more luster to it. No. 12-ranked Tech enters off a bye week after a big road win at Utah (34-10), while the Cougars won their first three games of the year after going 4-8 in '24. Second-year head coach Willie Fritz's team has played well thus far on both sides of the ball and picked up a big home win against Colorado (36-20) on Sept. 12 before playing at Oregon State last week. Once again, the Red Raiders have an explosive offense (52 points per game), but might have the best defense folks have seen in Lubbock in decades. That unit is allowing just 11.5 points per game, and will give UH QB Conner Weigman (569 yards, 4 TDs) a real test Saturday night. The Coogs will need a big game from him and versatile running back Dean Connors (271 yards, 3 TDs) if it hopes to pull off the upset. Tech is led by QB Behren Morton (1,015 yards, 11 TDs), running backs Cameron Dickey (244 yards, 6 TDs) and JKoby Williams (201 yards, 2 total TDs) and big-play wideouts Coy Eakin (15 receptions, 276 yards, 3 TDs), and Reggie Virgil (17 receptions, 207 yards, 4 TDs) and tight end Terrace Carter Jr. (17 receptions, 243 yards, 3 TDs). Morton suffered an upper body injury in the Utah game, but backup QB Will Hammond (357 yards, 4 TDs) filled in well, throwing two touchdown passes to lead Tech to the win. Look for Tech's defense to once again step up, while the offense does its job as the Red Raiders pick up another big road win. My pick, Texas Tech 36, Houston

26

NFL

San Francisco at Los Angeles Rams - Week 5 begins with a good one for the Thursday Night Football crew as the 49ers and Rams meet in a key early-season NFC West contest. The 49ers won their first three games of the season with backup QB Mac Jones (563 yards, 4 TD) subbing for an injured Brock Purdy (277 yards, 2 TDs). Purdy could return for this one, which would be a boost for running back Christian McCaffrey (176 rushing yards/25 receptions, 213 yards, 1 TD) and wideout Ricky Pearsall (16 receptions, 281 yards). The Rams won two of their first three games and should have won all three, but they blew a 19-point lead at Philly two weeks ago. QB Matthew Stafford (739 yards, 5 TDs) is still at the top of his game and he has plenty of weapons in running back Kyren Williams (226 yards, 2 total TDs) and wideouts Puka Nuca (29 receptions, 333 yards) and Davante Adams (13 receptions, 213 yards, 2 TDs). Look for the Rams to get the job done as their defense steps up to save the day. My pick, Los Angeles Rams 26, San Francisco 23

Dallas at New York Jets - Two desperate and disappointing teams meet in The Meadowlands on Sunday as the beat up Cowboys take on the Jets. The Dallas offense will be without star wideout CeeDee Lamb, who could miss weeks with a high ankle sprain and starting guard Tyler Booker. QB Dak Prescott (800 yards, 3 TDs) will need a big day from running back Javonte Williams (227 yards, 3 TDs) and wideout George Pickens (13 receptions, 166 yards, 2 TDs) if it hopes to pick up the road win. The Jets offense is nothing to write home about, but its defense is decent. These are desperate times in Big D. Cowboy fans are hoping they show some life come Sunday. My pick, Dallas 17, New York Jets 13

Denver at Philadelphia - The Broncos head east to take on the Eagles looking for a 1-2 start. Good luck with that. The Eagles overcame a 19-point, second-half deficit two weeks ago as the offense finally got untracked behind QB Jalen Hurts (479 passing yards, 3 TDs/117 rushing yards, 4 TDs). He and running back Saquon Barkley (194 yards, 2 TDs) and wideouts DeVonta Smith (15 receptions, 129 yards, 1 TD) and A.J. Brown (12 receptions, 144 yards, 1 TD) will be facing a tough Broncos defense. The Dener offense also has a tough task ahead and will need a big day from QB Bo Nix (535 yards, 5 TDs), running backs J.K. Dobbins (222 yards, 3 TDs) and RJ Harvey (80 yards) and wideout Courtland Sutton (13 receptions, 185 yards, 2 TDs) if it hopes to pull off the upset. Good luck with that. My pick, Philadelphia 27, Denver 19

Houston at Baltimore - The Texans head to Baltimore to take on a Ravens team that has also gotten off to the slow start. Two weeks ago, Jim Harbaugh's team fell to 1-2 after its 38-30 home loss to Detroit, while the Texans dropped their first three games of the season. This could turn into a long day for C.J. Stroud (599 yards, 2 TDs/3 interceptions) and Co. It was good to see Nico Collins (14 receptions, 181 yards, 2 TDs) get back into the offense, but the key to this game will be how well the beleaguered offensive line holds up against the Ravens defense. Look for a big day from Baltimore QB Lamar Jackson (722 passing yards, 9 TDs/118 rushing yards, 1 TD), running back Derrick Henry (242 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver Zay Flowers (16 receptions, 231 yards, 2 TDs) as the Texans have a rough day in Bmore. My pick, Baltimore 33, Houston 20

New England at Buffalo - If the Patriots want to be taken seriously as a serious playoff contender, they need a signature

National Night Out Celebrations planned for Tuesday, October 7

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

As the nation prepares for the annual National Night Out, several NNO events are planned locally for area residents to participate in.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

Millions of neighbors take part in National Night Out across thousands of communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide on the first Tuesday in August (Texas and select areas celebrate on the first Tuesday in October). Neighborhoods host block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts and various other community events with safety demonstrations, seminars, youth events, visits from emergency personnel, exhibits and much more.

Here's a list of the NNO events planned for the east Harris County area:

DEPUTY DARREN ALMENDAREZ COMMUNITY CENTER
10918 Bentley Street, Houston, TX 77093
6 PM - 8 PM

FELIX L. BALDREE COMMUNITY CENTER
13828 Corpus Christi St., Houston TX 77015
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

JD WALKER COMMUNITY CENTER
7613 Wade Road, Baytown, TX 77521
6 PM - 7:30 PM

MARTIN L. FLUKINGER COMMUNITY CENTER
16003 Lorenzo St., Channelview, TX 77530
5 PM - 7:30 PM

CROSBY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
Newport Station #82
123 Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, TX 77530
6 PM - 8 PM

I. T. MAY COMMUNITY CENTER
2100 Wolf Road, Huffman, TX

77336
5 PM - 7 PM

SAN JACINTO COMMUNITY CENTER
604 Highland Woods Drive, Highlands, TX 77562
5 PM - 7 PM

BAYTOWN NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
Town Square, 213 W. Texas Ave., Baytown, TX 77520
5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

To list your block party or NNO event, email editor@tdavidtaylor@outlook.com.





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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCORES/SCHEDULES

LAST WEEK'S SCORES


Thursday, Sept. 25
North Shore 34, Humble 6

Friday, Sept. 26
C. E. King 70, Atascocita 55
Galena Park 54, Houston Milby 12
Humble Summer Creek 73, Channelview 0

THIS WEEK'S GAMES

Thursday, Oct. 2
Galena Park vs. Spring Woods (Homecoming)

Friday, Oct. 3
C. E. King at Goose Creek Memorial at 7 p.m., at Stallworth Stadium in Baytown
Channelview vs. Humble at 7 p.m., at Ray Maddry Stadium
North Shore vs. Kingwood at 7 p.m., at Galena Park ISD Stadium



win. Well, Mike Vrabel's team will get that chance on Sunday Night Football when they take on the Buffalo Bills. The Pats will need a big night from second-year QB Drake Maye (785 passing yards, 5 TDs/87 rushing yards, 1 TD). That's a tall order against a pretty good Bills defense. The NE defense will have its hands full with Buffalo QB Josh Allen (755 passing yards, 5 TDs/114 rushing yards, 2 TDs), running back James Cook (284 yards, 4 TDs) and solid wideout Keon Coleman (14 receptions, 158 yards, 1 TD) and tight end Dalton Kincaid (13

receptions, 151 yards, 2 TDs). My pick, Buffalo 33, New England 17

Kansas City at Jacksonville - Week 5 concludes on Monday Night Football as the Chiefs play another prime time game when they visit the Jaguars. Two weeks ago, KC picked up its first win of the season with a 22-9 thumping of the Giants on the road, while the Jags improved to 2-1 with a home win over the Texans. Look for the Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes (669 passing yards, 3 TDs/125 rushing yards, 2 TDs) to get the offense going as he gets Marquise Brown (19 re-

ceptions, 171 yards), Tyquan Thornton (9 receptions, 171 yards, 2 TDs) and Travis Kelce (10 receptions, 134 yards, 1 TD) more involved in the offense. I'm not sold on Jags QB Travis Lawrence (671 yards, 4 TDs). He will need a big night from running back Travis Etienne (270 yards, 1 TD) and wideout Brian Thomas (7 receptions, 115 yards, 1 TD) if Jacksonville is to pull off the upset. The Chiefs know they need to get on a roll, so look for it to start on Monday night. My pick, Kansas City 26, Jacksonville 18

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

Harris County Fresh Water Supply District No. 47 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on October 8, 2025 at 5 p.m., at 210 Brookview, Channelview, Texas. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even or 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 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: Dennis Hamala, Jack Dauzat, Michael Oballe, Amy Miller
 AGAINST the proposal: None
 PRESENT and not voting: None
 ABSENT: Joshua Shankle

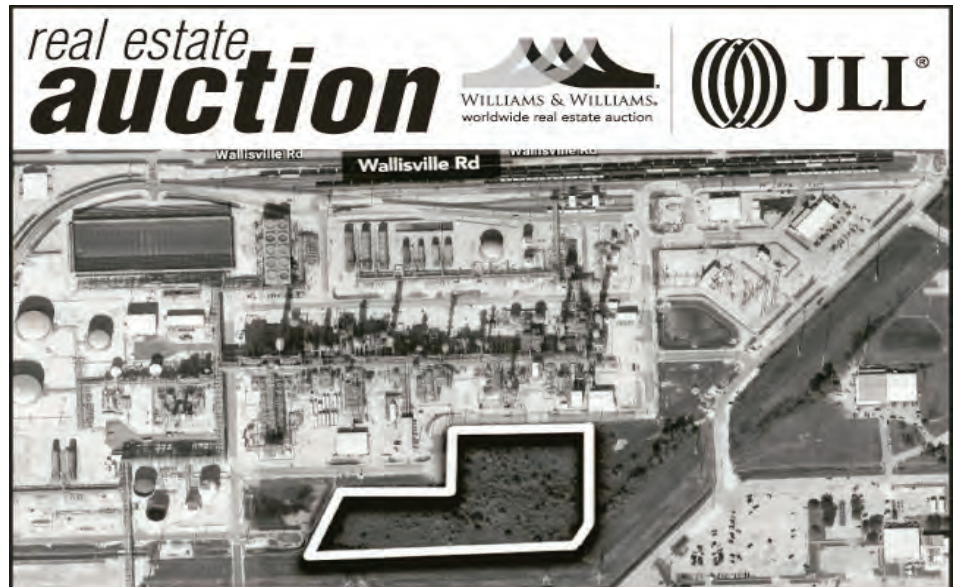
The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year \$0.6625/\$100 Adopted	This Year \$0.6555/\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-0.007/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-10.56%
Average appraised value	\$170,613	\$178,469
General exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disable person's exemptions)	\$17,061	\$17,847
Average taxable value	\$153,552	\$160,622
Tax on average residence homestead	1,017.28	\$1,052.88
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		+\$35.60 +3.49%

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 Harris County Fresh Water Supply District No.47 proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of making bond payments and improvements to the system. 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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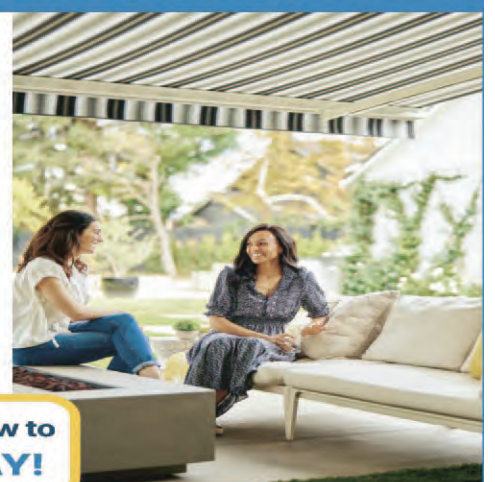
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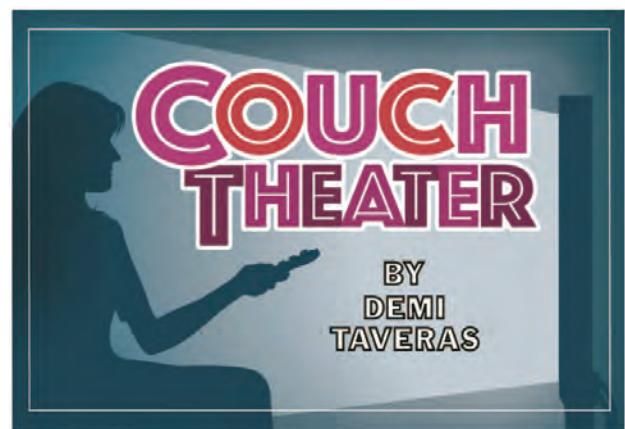
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From left, Liev Schreiber, Austin Butler and Vincent D'Onofrio stars in "Caught Stealing."

"Caught Stealing"

"Caught Stealing" (R) — The way Austin Butler ("Eddington") continues building on his career with standout leading roles is quickly propelling him into one of the top movie stars of our decade.

apartments for the cat, Hank is then greeted by a pair of Russian mobsters who are looking for Russ and won't take "no" for an answer.

nicknamed "The Butcher" of Plainfield, Wisconsin, in the 1950s. Laurie Metcalf ("Lady Bird") plays his mother, Augusta, who had a haunting effect on her son, while Tom Hollander ("The White Lotus") transforms into film director Alfred Hitchcock ("Psycho").

"Weapons" (R) — This comedy-horror film, led by Josh Brolin ("Brothers") and horror aficionado Julia Garner ("Wolf Man"), pulled in \$264 million worldwide after a \$38 million cost, making it quite the success financially.

Galena Park Library Inaugural Career Day

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX - Tuesday, September 23, 2025 the Harris County Branch of Galena Park Library held its first Career Day event.

This family-friendly event was aimed to inspire local students to consider their future career paths and explore various professions.

Medina said, "Many children who visit the library often inquire about staff members' jobs, leading the staff to ask the kids about their dream careers. This interaction motivated the library team to organize a Career Day, allowing teens and tweens in the community to learn about a diverse range of occupations at one event."

"To begin planning for the career day Program Specialists Ashley Almendarez and Sarai Aguilar consulted the children at the library to gain insight into their dream jobs and interests. They compiled a list of potential professions and began reaching out to local professionals through community connections, social media, and local businesses," Medina said.

Ultimately, 14 extraordinary individuals volunteered their time to participate, including members from the Galena Park Fire Department, a chef, an artist, a therapist, a librarian, tattoo artists, Taekwondo instructors, an engineer, and a Deputy Constable.

Library staff was thrilled with the turnout, believing the event positively impacted attendees. Most children actively engaged with each professional present. The Galena Park Library staff hopes to continue inspiring youth and encouraging them to think about their futures.

Names and contact information of some who were present:

Nicholas Reid, a Master Taekwondo Instructor and Master Instructor Treacy McReynolds were teaching attendees how to use their hands and feet to knock-open the training tool available. Taekwondo is a form of self defense martial arts; Their gym is located at 1809 1st Street Suite 200, in Galena Park. Phone @ 832-514-9971 for more information.

Eden Torres, a BP Petroleum Engineer, his assistant Ana, his wife and Eliana their daughter were present. Eden had a thorough display of photos to help educate those interested. His complete presentation of what encompasses an engineering career was very helpful to the attendees. To learn more, he's listed on LinkedIn.

Roy A. DeBlanc, a Psychotherapist and own-



L-R: Nicholas Reid Galena Park Taekwondo Tigers Chief Master Instructor, Eliana Torres (5 years old) & Master Instructor Treacy McReynolds. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

er of The Shrink Gym was on hand to offer an explanation of a career in psychotherapy. Psychotherapy helps individuals, couples or groups address mental, emotional, and behavioral issues through talking therapies, leading to a more effective and fulfilling life.

Victoria Elizondo, Chef and owner of the Cochinita & Co. Restaurant located at 5420 Lawndale St. Houston displayed her authored cookbooks titled Taco-Tastic! She gave autographed cookbooks of recipes of her grandmother and the restaurant's. She's an example of what one can achieve with hard work and a creative imagination.

Artist Lillyana Suquet owner of Artist For All! Displayed her artwork and explained how one can develop their career in artistry. She has art classes, for those interested contact her: lsuquet95@gmail.com or Instagram: @lillysempire.

Moonlight Studio located at 4212 Canal St. Houston had two tattoo artists on hand to show-off their tattoo artwork and the tattooing equipment used in the tattooing industry. A career in tattooing can be very rewarding for the right person, offering creative freedom and strong earning potential for well known established artist.

Representing the Texas Roadhouse were; Daizy Robles, Madison Spriggs and Andy Armadillo (Carlos) their armadillo mascot. Fireman of the Galena Park Fire Department were involved.

If you are interested in being part of Career Day, please contact the library @ (832) 927-5470 or via email at gp@hpl.net. Galena Park Branch Library, 1500 Keene Street, Galena Park, TX 77547

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU puzzle grid and instructions. Difficulty: Moderate. HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS comic strip with a 'Find at least six differences in details between panels' challenge.

September 29, 2025 Posting Date King Crossword

King Crossword puzzle grid with across and down clues.

Answers for the King Crossword puzzle.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. TELEVISION: What was the name of the dog on "The Brady Bunch"?
2. U.S. CITIES: Which major U.S. city was called Yerba Buena until 1847?
3. GEOGRAPHY: Where is Bryce Canyon National Park located?
4. HISTORY: Where did the Renaissance begin?
5. MOVIES: What is the nickname of the serial killer in "The Silence of the Lambs"?
6. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the 20th president of the United States?
7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many amendments are in the United States' Bill of Rights?
8. ASTRONOMY: What type of galaxy is the Milky Way?
9. MUSIC: Which rock band sings the theme song to "The Big Bang Theory"?
10. LITERATURE: What is the last name of the family in "Little Women"?

Trivia Test Answers: 1. Tiger; 2. San Francisco; 3. Utah; 4. Florence, Italy; 5. Buffalo Bill; 6. James A. Garfield; 7. The first 10 amendments (of 27 to date); 8. Spiral; 9. Barenaked Ladies; 10. March



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