

NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR Your News, Your Newspaper

#5 Jaylen Bocard caught a 61 yard Kaleb Maryland pass for Mustang Touch down. (Photo by Linda Jamail). See Story below & on page 3



Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
VOLUME 13, NO. 43 (#591) THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2025 www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

NCA Chamber Business EXPO & Health Fair

The North Channel Chamber invites you to a SALUTE to a Hometown Heroes Luncheon. Thursday, November 6 from 9am to 1pm at Armenta's Reception Hall, 823 Sheldon Road, Channelview. Luncheon is served from 11:30am, cost \$25. Join us as we salute our Veterans and First Responders. Also an official meeting of local Rotary, Pilot and Service Clubs.

Groundbreaking Ceremony Marks New Era for Sheldon Community Fire and Rescue Station No. 5

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

On Thursday, October 2, local officials, firefighters, and community members gathered to celebrate the groundbreaking of the new Sheldon Community Fire and Rescue Station No. 5, located at 11159 W. Lake Houston Parkway, just west of Lockwood Drive. The event marked a significant milestone for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60, promising improved emergency response and expanded coverage for the rapidly growing Sheldon area.

The ceremony was attended by Commissioners Don Nesbitt, James Collins, Dale Langdon, Daron McCaslin, and Board of Directors Curtis Roane, Jim Gamel, Wyatt Kotal, along with Assistant Fire Chief Roland Balderas, Deputy Fire Chief Daniel Grabill, and Fire Chief Sidney Webb. Crews from Stations #1 and #3 joined in to commemorate the occasion, highlighting the collaborative spirit of the



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district. The new station, a 14,890-square-foot facility, is set to complete the Sheldon district's coverage plan and is expected to be operational by August 2026. The project was made possible through a generous land donation from Gener-

ation Park, which provided four acres after negotiations expanded the original offer of one acre. "We just could not build the facility that was needed for that area on one acre," explained Fire Chief Sidney Webb. "They agreed to give me another

three acres at no cost. That's going to really enhance the response time and coverage for the northern and western ends of the district, like Kingslake Forest and the Lake Houston area."

Continued. See NEW SHELTON COMMUNITY FIRE & RESCUE, Page 6

Mustangs Crush Atascocita 47-28 to Stay Undeclared

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. ~ Friday, October 24, 2025 at the GPISD football stadium the clash between two 6A Region III District 23 high school powerhouses collided. There was a lot of pre-game hype that the district's first place Mustangs may not remain undefeated in district play at game's end. The hype turned out to be nothing but noise and wishful thinking of the Eagles fans. With a little strain the East Side Boys disappointed the Eagles 47 to 28.

However at the start of the game the Eagles forced the Mustangs to punt after they received the opening kickoff. To make it more exciting the Eagles scored on their first drive



#27 Hezekiah Johnson bulldozes thru Eagle defenders for a TD, his 1 of 4 TD's in the game. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Continued. See NS OVERPOWERS RIVAL IN HIGH-SCORING, Page 3

The Healthier North Channel Focus Group



A group of Harris County residents came together with Harris County Public Health & Environmental Officials to work together to Plan for a Healthier Cloverleaf/Channelview. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

By Allan Jamail

Channelview ~ Cloverleaf ~ Saturday, October 18, 2025 at the New Generation Church (13817 Force St, 77015) a group of Harris County residents came together with Harris County Public Health & Environmental Officials to work together to Plan for a Healthier Cloverleaf/Channelview.

Yasmin Hart the Community Health & Design Special-

ist of the Environmental Health Division of Harris County and Alicia Fontenot the Built Environment Coordinator with Harris County Public Health (HCPH) had an informal roundtable discussion about the present Public Nuisances in their neighborhood.

Moderator Hart had a pre-planned list of questions to asked the attendees in order to ensure the meeting would produce the answers needed for

the HCPH to evaluate the area's conditions and concerns so future improvements can be made to help make for a Healthier Community (Cloverleaf-Channelview).

Hart said, "The meeting offered valuable insights into the experiences, priorities, and perspectives of Cloverleaf residents. Their contributions will aid in advancing *The Neighbor*."

Continued. See NEW SHELTON COMMUNITY FIRE, Page 3

North Channel Business Expo & Veteran's Salute Set for Nov. 6

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

The North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce is gearing up for its annual Business Expo and Veteran's Salute, a signature event that brings together local businesses, first responders, and veterans for a day of recognition, networking, and community spirit. Scheduled for Thursday, November 6, the expo will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Armenta's Reception Hall on Sheldon Road in Channelview, with a special program at noon to honor veterans and first responders.

The event is open to the public and free to attend, with the option to purchase lunch for \$25. However, all veterans, first responders, and their spouses receive complimentary



In 2024, Emma Rangel from Channelview High School gets a taste of how difficult it can be to give CPR for any length of time without help. Flores is a member of the Interact Club, the high school extension of North Shore Rotary Club.

mentary lunches, thanks to generous sponsorships from local organizations and individuals. "Anybody can attend," said Margie Buentello, president and CEO of the chamber. "Lunch is paid for unless

you're a veteran, first responder, or their spouse. We have a lot of people who sponsor those meals, and we're always open to more donations," she said.

Continued. See COMMUNITY UNITES TO HONOR LOCAL, Page 2

Rotary Million Dollar Meal Serves Up Success for GPHS Students



GP/JC Rotary Club President J. Cline, Congress Woman, Sylvia Garcia and Maria Cortez.



Jose Jimenez (GPISD Board of Trustees) James Cline (President of the GP/JC Rotary Club, GPISD Director of Human Resources)

GALENA PARK, TX — The spirit of generosity filled the air this last Tuesday, October 21, as the annual "Million Dollar Meal" fundraiser brought the Galena Park High School community together for a cause that truly makes

a difference. Thanks to the overwhelming support from local sponsors and the community's participation, including the chili sales, organizers proudly announced that the event raised more than \$15,000.

All funds collected will go directly toward scholarships for GPHS students, helping them pursue their education.

Continued. See MILLION DOLLAR MEAL SERVES UP, Page 5

Annual Business Expo and Veteran's Salute set for Nov. 6,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The expo features around 40 booths, each offering free giveaways and samples. Attendees can collect stamps from each booth on a card, and those who visit all booths are entered into a drawing for a two-night stay at the Courtyard by Marriott Generation Park, complete with breakfast for two and a \$50 Bistro gift card.

"There's a lot of nice swag out there," Buentello added. "It's a great way for people to learn about local businesses and take home some goodies."

At noon, the focus shifts to the Veteran's Salute program, a heartfelt tribute to the area's veterans and first responders. The program includes the presentation of Armed Forces flags by Channelview cadets, the nation's colors by Sheldon, and performances of the Armed Forces theme songs. Veterans and active-duty service members are invited to stand as their branch's song is played, receiving recognition from the entire community.

Bill Palko, past chairman of the chamber and a passionate advocate for veterans, described the event's impact.

"We sponsor 20 to 25 Precinct Two veterans, bringing them up to the front of the stage and giving them our Rotary goodie bags. These bags are filled with snacks, socks,



Brittney Pequeno, Brittany Monn, and Kim Seabranck of Nothing Bundt Cakes took home the prize last year for the best display among the business expo booths.



Last year, Judith Padilla, Jamarcus Charles, and Justin Vidaura of United Community Credit Union was spinning the wheel for prizes to give away during the expo.



North Channel EMS paramedics Tyler Sarver and Christian Rivera show off their robot ambulance during last year's expo.



Sylvia Gallegos and Lorraine Rowe with the San Jacinto College Veteran Service Center was on hand to offer assistance to veterans at the 2024 Expo.

shaving cream, nail clippers—just a bunch of goodies to show our appreciation," Palko said.

After the program, additional goodie bags are delivered to veterans at the Michael DeBakey VA hospital by Rotarians and Channelview Interact students.

"It really makes their day," Palko said. "We just want to say, 'Thank you for your service.'"

A highlight of the event is the drawing for a handmade patriotic quilt, crafted by Debbie Palko. All veterans and first responders receive a free raffle ticket, and one lucky winner takes home the quilt as a symbol of gratitude from

the community.

The Business Expo and Veteran's Salute has been held at Armenta's for about 12 years, evolving from separate business and veterans events into a combined celebration.

"It's always the week before Veteran's Day, on Thursday," Buentello explained. "We wanted to create something that brought the community together and gave back to those who serve."

The event is designed to focus on the North Channel area, including Channelview, Sheldon, and Galena Park first responders and veterans.


"We're not going to turn anyone (veteran) away, but our target is our community," Buentello emphasized. "It's about recognizing those who make a difference right here at home."

With the support of the North Shore Rotary, local sponsors, and volunteers, the Business Expo and Veteran's Salute continues to grow each year.

"It's a public event," Palko reiterated. "As long as you're a veteran or a first responder, you come on in. We want everyone to feel welcome and appreciated."

For more information, including a list of sponsors and event details, visit the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce website at www.northchannelarea.com.

North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce



You are Invited!

BUSINESS EXPO & HEALTH FAIR

Thursday, November 6, 2025

Armenta's Reception Hall

823 Sheldon Rd. Channelview, TX 77530


EXPO/HEALTH FAIR: 9AM - 1PM

HOMETOWN HEROES LUNCHEON


LUNCH: 11:30AM (\$25)

Join us as we salute our Veterans and First Responders

RAFFLE: INDIVIDUALS WHO VISIT ALL BOOTHS WILL BE ENTERED INTO A DRAWING FOR A COMPLIMENTARY WEEKEND STAYCATION FOR TWO AT THE COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT HOUSTON NORTHEAST. INCLUDES BREAKFAST FOR TWO, \$50 BISTRO CREDIT, AND CHAMPAGNE. PICK UP A MAP AT THE CHAMBER BOOTH AND HAVE BOOTH PARTICIPANTS INITIAL YOUR MAP. RAFFLE DRAWING AT 12:50PM.



yesenia@ncachamber.com | 713.450.3600 | northchannelarea.com



Constitutional Amendments on the November 2025 General Election Ballot

Last day to register to vote: Oct. 6, 2025
 Early Voting: Oct. 20-31, 2025
 Election Date: Nov. 4, 2025

- Creates two state funds to support career and technical education at Texas State Technical Colleges, aimed at preparing students for high-demand jobs.
- Prohibits the imposition of a tax on the realized or unrealized net capital gains of individuals, families, estates, or trusts.
- Allows judges to deny bail in certain serious felony cases, including violent crimes, first-degree sexual offenses, and continuous human trafficking.
- Dedicates a portion of existing state sales tax revenue to the newly created Texas Water Fund. This fund will support projects to improve water infrastructure and supply across the state.
- Exempts from property taxes any animal feed that is held by a retailer for sale. The exemption is intended to support agricultural and rural businesses.
- Prohibits the Legislature from imposing an occupation tax on registered securities market operators or taxing securities transactions conducted by those entities.
- Extends property tax relief to surviving spouses of veterans who died from service-connected causes, as recognized under federal law.
- Although Texas currently has no estate or inheritance tax, this proposition prohibits the state from imposing an estate or inheritance tax on a decedent's property or on the transfer of an estate, inheritance, legacy, succession, or gift.
- Increases the exemption from property taxation for personal property used in a business from \$2,500 to \$125,000. This applies to equipment, tools, and inventory used by the business to produce income.
- Allows the Legislature to grant temporary property tax relief for homes rendered uninhabitable due to fire damage.
- Increases the additional school district homestead exemption for homeowners 65+ or disabled from \$10,000 to \$60,000, raising their total exemption from \$110,000 to up to \$200,000 to provide property tax relief.
- A proposal to modernize the State Commission on Judicial Conduct by updating its structure and expanding its authority. The goal is to improve transparency and accountability in the judicial system.
- Increases the school district homestead exemption from \$100,000 to \$140,000 for all homeowners to provide property tax relief.
- Creates the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas with \$3 billion in state funding to support research and treatment of dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and related conditions.
- Affirms in the Texas Constitution that parents have the right to direct the upbringing, education, and care of their children. May affect how school and health policies are implemented.
- Although it's already law, this proposition adds to the Texas Constitution that only U.S. citizens may vote in any Texas election.
- Authorizes a property tax exemption for property owners along the Texas-Mexico border who install border security infrastructure and related improvements on their land.

NEWS TIPS & ADVERTISING INQUIRIES

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CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Kindness Matters

In a world where every day seems to be filled with anger and hurt, there are some basics that should matter. Almost daily we read about another shooting or a road rage incident. Families are pulled in many directions and there are constant issues that can easily turn your smile into a frown.

In the past week I have spoken with grandparents who were in an emergency room with their 10-year-old granddaughter who had slipped in the shower and was unconscious when they found her. They had to decide whether they should call 911 or take her to the emergency room on their own. Why the delay? They were afraid that their immigration status would be questioned. As they sat in the emergency room, I was unaware what was going on but could sense the fear, yet our language barrier was an issue. After a few minutes, I realized that I could use google translate and type a message and share it with them. This is what I eventually did. My message was simple, "I can tell something is upsetting you. Since we are at Texas Children's, I know this involves a child. I speak no Spanish, but I am praying for you." Immediately, the woman read my phone and reached out to hug me. She typed a message in Spanish to me, which google translated to English and she told me about the incident. She was truly afraid that either the granddaughter was in serious condition, or that ICE had been called or both. I then typed a message telling her that God will continue to take care of all of us and we must Him.

The following day, I received a phone call from the school counselor that the granddaughter attends. She had been asked by the grandmother to reach out to me and let me know all was okay. Throughout all of this, I never asked her name but gave the grandmother my name and number. Once again, I was thankful that I never learned not to talk to strangers.

Later in the week, I attended the funeral of a 99-year-old friend and former coworker. Even though those attending were sad to have lost a friend, we truly found comfort in the words of Pastor Ronnie Jordan. He reminded us that everyone has an appointed time to die and that if we were like Miss Clara, we would secure that relationship by simply acknowledging the need to be saved and would someday see Miss Clara again.

Friday night there was a much-anticipated football game between North Shore and Atascocita High Schools. As I arrived at the game, there was a large group of individuals who did not know the game was sold-out. I witnessed one mother trying to explain to her two young children that they were not going to the game as there were no more tickets. Thankfully, I have four season tickets to I handed her three and she immediately wanted to pay me. I explained that that was not necessary. As they walked off, an older man who was a 1970 graduate from North Shore said he should have spoke up as he needed a ticket. I gladly gave him my fourth ticket. He wanted to pay me for it, but I explained that I wanted to give it to him.

As I walked to my car, I realized that it had been a full week and that I needed the rest. I was at home, safe in bed and sound asleep long before North Shore won the game. Life is not about going and doing, it is about being there for others.

NS player Hezekiah Johnson scores four touchdowns,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



North Shore Game Team Captains L-R: #76-Jaylen Fields, #24-Dezmon Christian, #94-Jayden Curry and #7-Kayleb Maryland. (Photo by Linda Jamail)

going ahead 7-0. This was a rare and unusual start for the Mustangs. Needless to say the Eagles got the attention of the thousands of Mustang fans who came to watch the rivalry game.

The Eagles lead was short lived and when the first quarter ended it was Mustangs 14-7. The Eagles never got close for the remainder of the game. At halftime the Mustangs had a comfortable 27-7 lead. At the close of the third quarter Mustangs Head Coach Willie Gaston's team had a commanding lead of 40-21.

Nshore's offense piled up 538 yards (yds), 245 yds passing with 293 rushing yds. with 7 touchdowns (TD's).

The Mustangs two offensive standouts were Hezekiah Johnson out in front who rushed for 70 yards and four TD's. Quarterback Kaleb Maryland, who threw for 233 yards and a pair of TD's completing 10 of 16 passes for a 63% completion record.

Offensive scorers: Hezekiah Johnson 4 TD's,



#25 Kaden Brandley rushes for a 16 yd Mustang TD. (Photo by Linda Jamail)

Jaylen Bocard 2 TD's, Kaden Brandley 1 TD & Kicker Jorge Campos 6 extra point kicks. Linda Jamail statistician.

North Shore will face off against district rival CE King Panthers at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, October 31st at Sheldon ISD Panther Stadium. The game is expected to be a barnburner sellout with standing room only available. Both teams are 7-1 with undefeated district records.

The Healthier North Channel Focus Group,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Harris County Public Health & Environmental Officials. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

neighborhood Nuisance Project and developing an action plan."

"We met the goal of this focus group meeting, it was to establish a space for dialogue, relationship-building, and mutual understanding between residents and Harris County Public Health (HCPH). As part of the Neighborhood Nuisance Project in Cloverleaf, this discussion serves as an important step in identifying how environmental and structural conditions impact residents' daily lives. By centering community voices, we are working diligently to build a strong foundation for co-collaboration and shared problem-solving. These efforts will inform sustainable strategies to reduce neighborhood nuisances and improve overall health, safety, and quality of life in Cloverleaf," said Yasmin Hart.

"Our next steps include reviewing the feedback gathered from the focus group and preparing for upcoming engagement activities that will build on the data already collected. These activities will help identify priority areas of interest for sustainable recommendations in the action plan aimed at mitigating neighborhood nuisances and improving neighborhood health, safety, and overall quality of life in Cloverleaf," Health Specialist Hart concluded.

Ronnie Holder, a Board of Directors member of the Harris County Water Control & Improvement District No. 36 (HC WCID No. 36) and a long time property owner in Cloverleaf said in my interview with him that, "one of the main reasons there's so many public nuisances is there no accountability or enforcement by the county agencies who has jurisdiction for those placing bulk or heavy trash in the right-of-way and easements, Harris County's enforcement is too slow."

When I asked Director Holder whenever a public nuisance has been reported to HCPH does he feel satisfactory action is being taken to eliminate the nuisances he said, "They respond quickly to reports, but the legal process that follows is often lengthy. During this time, debris can accumulate or property ownership may change, making coordination more difficult and prolonging resolution. Meanwhile, the situation can create health hazards, like rodent infestations, and attract individuals seeking to steal or scavenge items to sell for buying drugs."

Holder concluded saying, "H.C. Precinct 2's current strategy of spreading teams across multiple neighborhoods (e.g. Cloverleaf/Channelview/North Shore) limits their ability to focus on each community's specific needs. A one-size-fits-all approach is ineffective, leading to gaps and delays in addressing issues. Immediate adjustment is needed to assign dedicated personnel to each area to ensure timely resolution and protect community safety."

Donald Onnen, a HC WCID No. 36 staffer and property owner in Cloverleaf said in my interview with him when asked for the reason why property owners or renters allow public nuisances to exist on their property he said, "I think that the issue is mainly from it being primarily rental property."

"There's nothing tying a renter to the property and the other big issue is accountability. There's no enforcement accountability to the property owner when something is left for a long period of time, the

property owner doesn't have to stare at it every day because he doesn't live here or doesn't live in the area. They usually live somewhere else. And this is all rental income property for them. It's income. So I think the lack of accountability is the main issue," Onnen said.

"Being consistent with enforcement is also key. Addressing the issues at hand with consistency is important, we have to be consistent. We cannot stop or let up because once that happens, then people blow you off, or they don't see you're prioritizing it, so they don't prioritize it," said Onnen.

Onnen concluded, "I believe residents will have to start holding each other accountable. We are going to have to be more involved and not accepting the public nuisances and reporting them. Unfortunately, we have a lot of people here that don't want to get involved in other people's business because they don't want people involved in theirs."

Danna Niño, former president of the North Shore Rotary and business owner of Phase 3 Embroidery said the Rotary has several programs which have provided help to the Cloverleaf area through the years.

Luz Lopez, Pct 2 Community Liaison for Adrian Garcia's said one of the problems is the result of many of the residents not having the ability to read or speak or understand the English language. Many of the churches in the area and public schools provide free classes to teach English speaking skills several attendees said.

Lopez further said Mexicans generally are afraid to turn someone in and or report public nuisances because they fear if they do they'll somehow get into trouble for making a report.

Regina Duncan, General Manager of Harris County WCID No. 36 said to me in a phone call interview about 80% of the residents are renters, this was what many of the attendees said is a real factor with the public nuisances being out of control. She said, "The approximate 4,000 water bill recipients get a quarterly newsletter in both English and Spanish with helpful information plus reporting numbers."

William (Bill) B. Anders of the Harris County Emergency Services District #12 said when ask if there was something Cloverleaf residents were proud of he said, "The emergency services the residents receive is the best they can get anywhere."

Charlotte Jackson of Pct. 3 Constables office said she been organizing prayer meetings in various North Shore locations and she believes God needs to be involved in helping to improve the problems of Cloverleaf.

Hart informed me after the meeting they plan to host additional focus groups and community engagement activities to ensure residents remain active partners as this work moves forward.

Information about upcoming events will be shared through multiple channels, including WCID 36, Precinct 2 Community Liaison Luz Lopez, and other community events taking place in Cloverleaf.

Harris County residents can report or file a complaint on a Neighborhood/Public Nuisance at 713-274-6300 for more information <https://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/>

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "What is an 'inclusion found in Gemstone?"



Inclusions or imperfections occur in nearly every type of gemstone. Natural diamonds, for example, are the result of carbon exposed to tremendous heat and pressure deep in the earth. This process can result in a variety of internal characteristics called 'inclusions' and external characteristics called 'blemishes.' Evaluating diamond clarity involves determining the number, size, relief, nature, and position of these characteristics, as well as how these affect the overall appearance of the stone. While no diamond is perfectly pure, the closer it comes, the higher its value.

The same principals hold true for all gemstones including ruby, emerald, sapphire, and more. But, does a gem with an internal inclusion always diminish its value? No, not always. In rare instances, the inclusion might be so unique that it could add to the gem's value if a prospective buyer agrees. I remember reading an article that contained a picture of a diamond with a small heart-shaped internal inclusion which, interestingly enough, was red in color. Once this was seen by a couple looking for an engagement ring, they wanted no other diamond, period.

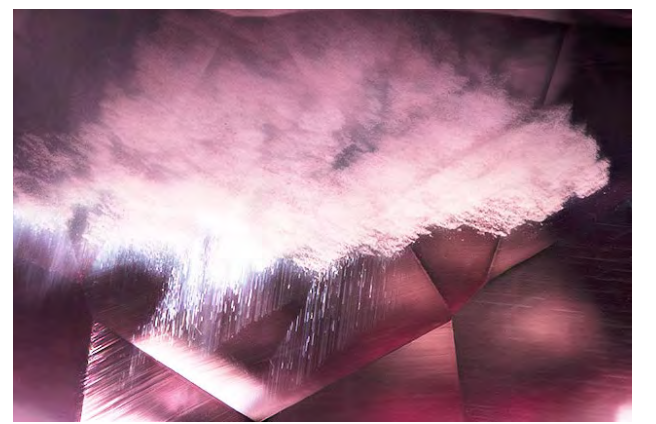


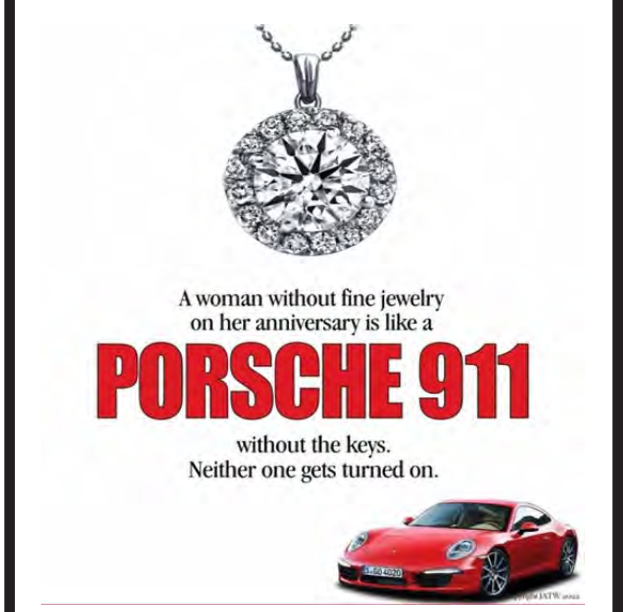
Photo courtesy of the Gemological Institute of America

An example of nature imitating nature was seen in a 0.73 carat faceted alexandrite showcasing an inclusion reminiscent of a rain cloud (see above). The "cloud" was composed of white particles oriented as parallel bands that displayed a cloud-like silhouette when viewed at an angle. The "rain" was composed of fine oriented reflective needles commonly referred to as silk. Fiber-optic lighting allowed for a concentration of white light to be seen under the cloud, creating an appearance of lightning. The inclusion scene observed in this gem is an interesting novelty that any gemologist can appreciate and perhaps even a willing buyer. This group of inclusions are truly unique but, do they add to or lessen the stone's price? Remember, "beauty is in the eye of the beholder", and so too is the value.

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.




A woman without fine jewelry on her anniversary is like a

PORSCHE 911

without the keys.
Neither one gets turned on.





Diamond Jim's
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OPINION PAGE

OPINION

By BILL KING



Republicans Getting the Blame for the Shutdown

Republicans Getting the Blame for the Shutdown

So far, more Americans are blaming Republicans than Democrats for the shutdown – and it is not close.

Table with 5 columns: Blame for Shutdown, Democrats, Republicans, Both, Not Sure, Net Blame Republicans. Rows include Washington Post, Navigator, Morning Consult, PBS Marist, NYT/Siena, and Average.

As one would expect, the partisan breakdown of who is to blame closely tracks party identification. But among the all-important independent voters, Republicans are clearly losing the blame game.

Table with 5 columns: Blame for Shutdown, Democrats, Republicans, Both, Not Sure, Net Blame Republicans. Rows include Washington Post, Navigator, Morning Consult, PBS Marist, NYT/Siena, and Average.

Of course, these results are far outside the margins of error on these polls. And while it may be fair to characterize several of these pollsters as left-leaning, these results are so lopsided that there can be little doubt that the shutdown, at least so far, is hurting Republicans more than Democrats.

I was surprised by these results. Traditionally, the minority party holding the government hostage has borne the blame for shutdowns, so I expected to see the same pattern this time.

First, most past shutdowns were instigated by a Republican minority. Over time, shutdown politics may have become a core part of the Republican brand in the minds of many Americans.

However, there may be another reason why Republicans are being blamed. While they have attempted to frame the shutdown as a dispute over healthcare for illegal immigrants, many Americans may be focused on another issue that more directly impacts their pocketbooks – the Affordable Care subsidies.

Republicans only won the popular vote in all House races in 2024 by 3.8 million votes. Having 12-14 million Americans hopping mad over losing their health insurance or seeing much higher premiums is probably not a winning strategy for the midterms.

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.

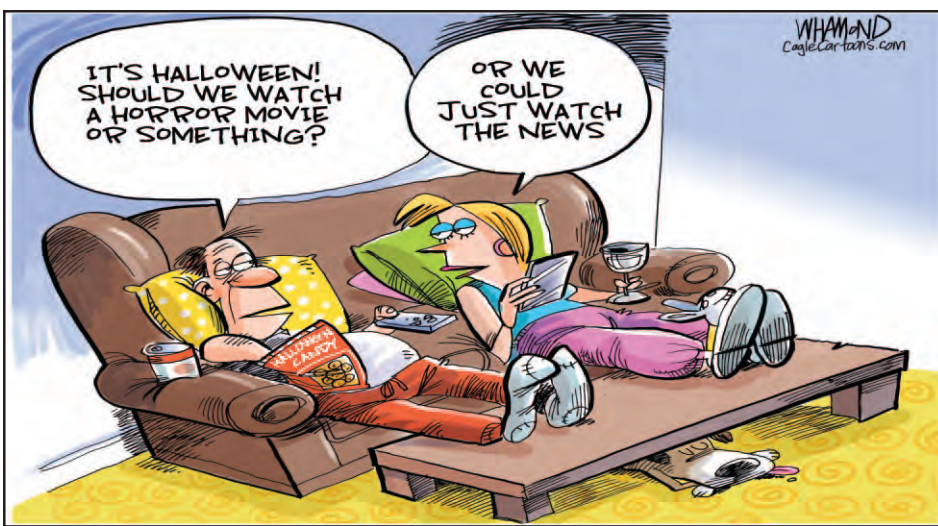
Americanisms



"Halloween is not only about putting on a costume, but it's about finding the imagination and costume within ourselves."

— Elvis Duran

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Early Voting Underway for November Election

Early voting began Monday across Texas with voters deciding the fate of 17 proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution, as well as local races for city and school board, bond measures, and tax proposals.

Prop 13 would raise the exemption from \$100,000 to \$140,000 for all homeowners. The amendment's authors say that it would save homeowners an average of \$363 annually.

The additional property tax exemptions would cost the state \$4 billion in property tax revenue over the next two years.

Prop 9 would raise the tax exemption for businesses' personal property from \$2,500 to \$125,000. Other propositions include small property tax cuts for specific groups, such as surviving spouses of deceased veterans.

Prop 4 would create a \$1 billion annual fund for water infrastructure projects, financed by state sales tax revenue. Half of the money, if it passes, would go for new water projects. The other half would go to fix deteriorating infrastructure.

A non-partisan explanation of all 17 propositions provided by the Texas Legislative Council can be found at https://tinyurl.com/mt3jywf.

AUSTIN STATE REP. HINOJOSA RUNNING AGAINST ABBOTT

State Rep. Gina Hinojosa, D-Austin, has joined the race for governor, the Austin American-Statesman reported. She accused incumbent Gov. Greg Abbott, seeking his fourth term, of being beholden to wealthy donors.

"Our fight right now is against the billionaires and the corporations, who are driving up prices, closing our neighborhood schools and cheating Texans out of basic health care. That's who Greg Abbott works for," she said in



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

a video announcing her campaign.

Hinojosa has served in the House since 2017 and fought against the school voucher plan passed earlier this year.

Also running thus far in the Democratic primary are Andrew White, a Houston businessman and son of the late Gov. Mark White; Bobby Cole, a rancher and retired firefighter; and Bay City Councilman Benjamin Flores.

PARENTAL RIGHTS LAW LEAVES FAMILIES, SCHOOL NURSES CONFUSED

A new form required after passage of the state's new education law has left both parents and school nurses confused, the Texas Standard reported. Senate Bill 12, which was billed as a parental rights law, requires parental permission before a school employee can provide physical or mental health care.

Unclear wording in a few paragraphs is being blamed by some for the confusion. School nurses worry they might unknowingly break the new law, according to Becca Harkle-road, executive director of the Texas School Nurses Organization.

"The law was very clear that if you provided any services without written consent, disciplinary action was coming your way," she said. "So that gave a lot of people pause."

The bill's authors, state Rep. Jeff Leach, R-Plano, and former state Sen. Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe, acknowledged the confusion and urged educators "not to suspend common sense when it comes to providing basic care for the children at their schools."

Leach and Creighton have asked the Texas Education Agency to provide "consistent

and clear guidance" to schools on how to implement the law. That guidance was released last month, but Jack Frazee with the Texas Nurses Association said he is awaiting additional details from TEA to provide more clarity.

FOREST SERVICE AWARDS \$164 MILLION TO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Texas A&M Forest Service has approved \$164 million in funding for Texas volunteer fire departments to purchase 558 fire trucks and 321 slip-on units through a grant program established in 2001.

The state uses a tiered approach to wildfire response, with local VFDs as the first on the scene, followed by state response if needed.

"Texas fire departments are the front line of local response, and their equipment capacity is vital to response time and effectiveness," said Al Davis, Texas A&M Forest Service director. "This historic funding reflects the strong support of the Texas Legislature and governor. Their investment allows us to continue supporting and equipping firefighters who protect Texas lives and property."

TEXAS CONTINUES TO RANK TOPS IN TRADE

With 32 official ports of entry and two intermodal logistics facilities to connect different modes of transport, Texas continues to lead the nation in overall value of trade commodities, according to the comptroller's office.

The state's trade value fell to \$634.6 billion during the 2020 COVID pandemic but has increased by 67.6% since then, to \$1.1 trillion.

Port Laredo leads the country in total trade with \$339.5 billion of commodities coming through that port of entry. Port Houston ranks first in the nation in exports flowing out of the port at \$129.9 billion.

ANOTHER DRY, HOT OCTOBER FOR MOST OF TEXAS

This month is shaping up to be a repeat of last October, with much of the state staying both drier and warmer than average, according to Dr. Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board. By the end of September, 24% of the state was in drought, up four percentage points from late August.

While a very wet July slowed down the expansion of drought conditions, soil moisture across the state has been much reduced since. With 40% of the state now classified as abnormally dry, the National Weather Service is predicting drought conditions to expand to cover most of Texas. The next few months are expected to be warmer and drier than normal in the state.

Those dry conditions are increasing the chances of wildfires. The forest service now classifies Texas at Level 3 in what it calls Wildland Fire Preparedness Levels, with wildfire activity affecting several regions. Level 5 is the highest level.

As of Sunday, there were three active wildfires in Texas, the largest being the 195-acre Bronco Creek fire in Wheeler County in the Panhandle. It was 75% contained.

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Living with Felix



My cat, Felix, is lying at the foot of the bed. I wiggle my toes. Felix puts his teeth around them and I can feel the little points of his incisors. He lets me know he could bite—but he does not. That's because both Felix and I have learned a lot.

We have had Felix for almost two years. Before we adopted Felix, he lived for two years on the street—at least that is what the vet said. The vet said teeth do not lie, and Felix's teeth were two years old. My husband, Peter, is convinced that Felix is much younger because he was so small when we adopted him. And it's true, he became much bigger and more muscular once he started getting regular nutrition. But Felix knew nothing about living in houses or living with people and, to be honest, we knew nothing about living with Felix.

The first time Felix felt comfortable enough to sleep on the bed, he bit our toes—hard. He bit them as if he planned to bite right through them.

"OWW!" Peter yelled the first time it happened to him. Peter took to wearing very heavy socks to bed. I'm not sure when or how it happened, but eventually Felix learned that those enticing little mice under the blankets were actually body parts that belonged to us.

The biggest problem wasn't the toes, however. It was that Felix had never used a litter box. He used it right away when we adopted him—but not all the time, and that was a problem. We put down plastic to discourage him from going in the corners. We hid our dirty laundry to prevent him from peeing in that. We took him to the vet. She explained that he had to be stressed. Only stressed-out cats don't use the litter box. Peter and I were skeptical.

Because Felix seemed entirely relaxed. In fact, when we caught him peeing where he shouldn't, he seemed totally chill. "What's the issue?" he seemed to be asking. And again, I don't know how he figured it out, but eventually he just stopped peeing anywhere but his litter box. He isn't any less stressed. He just decided that peeing in one place was less hassle.

I've had other cats, but I have never had a cat as athletic as Felix. He quite literally bounces off the walls. He gets up speed in the hallway, then hits the wall at a high rate of speed and ricochets onto another wall before tearing off in the opposite direction. He makes a ferocious sort of growl when he does this. It is very exciting living with Felix.

I don't know if he will ever be as cuddly as other cats I've had, and I don't really care. Felix likes to be petted but won't sit on a lap. He sleeps in the bed, but always far enough away so we can't touch him. He does not like being picked up or carried around, although he now tolerates it for a short while. Maybe living on the streets for a couple of years made him a little more independent. Maybe that's just how he is made.

But I think, as much as people and cats can understand one another, we've come to an understanding with Felix. He is part of our family. He misses us when we are gone. He always wants to know what we are doing. He purrs loudly and often. And he doesn't bite our toes anymore—at least not very hard.

Till next time, Carrie

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FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 10: Texas face tough test at home against Denver: High-octane Cowboys offense takes on Arizona on MNF

As the calendar turns from October to November, things are starting to gear up at the college and pro level.

In high school action, there are a number of important games.

Friday, Oct. 31

North Shore at C. E. King at 7 p.m., at Panther Stadium

Saturday, Nov. 1

Channelview at Atascocita at 6 p.m., at Turner Stadium in Humble

Galena Park at Houston Westbury at 12 noon, at Delmar Stadium

In the NCAA, teams are beginning to jockey for position as the first College Football Playoff (CFP) rankings will be released on Nov. 4 on ESPN. In the NFL, the Week 9 schedule has a number of intriguing matchups that could go a long way in determining who's in and who's out once the playoffs roll around.

This week's college schedule is so-so, while the NFL will take center stage, once again.

In the Big 12, No. 14-ranked Texas Tech, which lost 26-22 at Arizona State two weeks ago with backup QB Will Hammond running the offense, travels to Manhattan, KS to take on a struggling Kansas State team. This will be no walk in the park for Joey McGuire's team, which has not beaten the Wildcats since 2015 and has lost eight straight games to them. Tech's last win at KSU came in 2008. Ouch!

In the SEC, No. 14-ranked Oklahoma visits No. 17-ranked Tennessee with the winner remaining somewhat alive in the conference title race.

The ACC has an interesting matchup at No. 9-ranked Miami travels to Dallas to take on a dangerous and unranked SMU team. Two weeks ago, the Hurricanes, who were ranked No. 2 at the time, were upset at home, 24-21 by previously unranked Louisville, while the Mustangs picked up a big 35-24 win at Clemson.

In the NFL, the Texans host a very solid Denver team at NRG Stadium at noon on Sunday. Two weeks ago, Denver trailed the Giants 19-0 after three quarters, but scored 33 points in the fourth quarter en route to a wild 33-32 win. This will be a tough game for the Texans who will be facing one of the league's top defenses.

Week 9 begins with a good one on Thursday Night Football as the Atlanta Falcons take on one of the surprise teams of the 2025 season when they travel to Foxborough to take on the New England Patriots.

Another surprise team, the Indianapolis Colts, who moved to 6-1 two weeks ago with a 38-24 win over the Los Angeles Chargers in LaLa Land, visit the Steelers in the Steel City.

The Sunday Night Football game features Seattle at Washington, in a key game for both teams. Two weeks ago, the Commanders were blown out at Dallas, 44-22, and star QB Jayden Daniels suffered his second injury of the season when he sustained a hamstring injury. If he is unable to play, Washington could be in a world of hurt.

Week 9 concludes on Monday Night Football with the aforementioned Dallas Cowboys hosting the reeling Arizona Cardinals.



Before we look at this weekend's games, let's review last week's record. An 8-4 week brought the season record to 58-36 (60%).

Now, onto this week's games.

NCAA

Oklahoma at Tennessee - This is the only game on the NCAA schedule this weekend that pits two ranked teams as No. 14 OU visits No. 17 Tennessee in an elimination game in the SEC for both teams. Actually, both teams have little chance to play in the SEC title game. There are just too many teams ahead of them in the conference standings. Two weeks ago, the Vols picked up their second league loss, falling at Alabama, 37-20. They would like nothing more than to gum up OU's SEC title hopes. Tennessee has a potent offense led by QB Joey Aguilar (1,948 yards, 15 TDs), running back DeSean Bishop (604 yards, 7 TDs) and wideouts Chris Brazzell II (39 receptions, 602 yards, 7 TDs) and Braylon Staley (41 receptions, 523 yards, 3 TDs). That unit will face a stout Sooner defense. Two weeks ago, that unit gave up just seven points in OU's 26-7 win at South Carolina. The OU offense will be led by QB John Mateer (1,567 passing yards, 7 TDs/209 rushing yards, 5 TDs), running back Tony Blaylock (393 yards, 4 TDs) and big-play wide receiver Isaiah Sategna III (37 receptions, 493 yards, 4 TDs). Tennessee coach Josh Heupel is a former Sooner QB, and he would like nothing more than to stick it to his old team on Saturday in Knoxville. My pick, Tennessee 27, Oklahoma 23

Miami at SMU - No. 9-ranked Miami heads to Dallas to take on the SMU Mustangs in a key ACC game for both teams. Two weeks ago, the Hurricanes saw their undefeated season come to an end when they were upset at home by Louisville, 24-21, while SMU picked up a huge road win with a 35-24 win at Clemson. The 'Canes need the good Carson Beck (1,484 yards, 11 TDs, 7 interceptions) to show up in Dallas. He has talent around him in running back Mark Fletcher (446 yards, 6 TDs) and big-play wideouts Malachi Tony (38 receptions, 510 yards, 3 TDs) and CJ Daniels (30 receptions, 343 yards, 5 TDs). The Mustangs will present the Miami defense with all kinds of troubles with QB Kevin Jennings (1,948 yards, 17 TDs), running back TJ Hardon (431 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receiver Romello Brinson (34 receptions, 502 yards, 3 TDs). I think Jennings has a big day as the Mustangs pull off the upset and put a huge damper on Miami's CFP hopes. My pick, SMU 33, Miami 30

Texas Tech at Kansas State - This is a very important game for No. 14 Texas Tech and their Big 12 and CFP hopes, and they take on a team they have a bad history against. The Red Raiders have not defeated KSU since 2015, and are riding an eight-game losing streak against them. Two weeks ago, Joey McGuire's team suffered its first loss of the year,

when it fell at Arizona State, 26-22. Red Raider fans hope that starting QB Behren Morton (1,501 yards, 13 TDs) returns to this game. Morton sustained an ankle injury three weeks ago in Tech's win over Kansas, and backup QB Will Hammond (578 passing yards, 6 TDs/278 rushing yards, 5 TDs) struggled in his first start. If Hammond gets the starting assignment this week, he must pick up his game. It would help if Tech turned to its running game, with Cameron Dickey (633 yards, 8 TDs) and J'Koby Williams (378 yards, 5 total TDs). If Tech can establish the run, that will open up the passing game for wideouts Caleb Douglas (29 receptions, 413 yards, 1 TD) and Coy Eakin (29 receptions, 407 yards, 4 TDs). The Tech defense needs to get back to its dominant ways, but will have its hands full with dual-threat QB Avery Johnson (1,556 passing yards, 13 TDs/238 rushing yards, 3 TDs). Look for the Tech defense to be the difference maker in this one as the Red Raiders pick up a huge road win. My pick, Texas Tech 34, Kansas State 20

NFL

Atlanta at New England - Don't look now, but the New England Patriots look like they are back. After years of hard times after the departure of Hall of Fame QB Tom Brady, the Pats have drafted wisely, acquired key free agents and have a real coach in former NE linebacker Mike Vrabel. The Pats won five of their first seven games and were atop the AFC East standings heading into last Sunday's home game against Cleveland. They have a solid QB in second-year man Drake Maye (1,744 passing yards, 12 TDs/200 rushing yards, 2 TDs) and big-play wideouts in former Texans Stefon Diggs (39 receptions, 456 yards) and Kayshon Bouette (20 receptions, 356 yards, 4 TDs). Their defense is solid as well, and will get tested by perhaps the best offensive player in the league in Falcons running back Bijan Robinson (524 rushing yards, 11 TDs/30 receptions, 390 yards, 2 TDs). Look for the Pats defense to limit Robinson as New England picks up another win. My pick, New England 26, Atlanta 16

Denver at Houston - These are tough times for Texans fans. Two weeks ago, Houston fell to 2-4 after its 27-19 loss on Monday Night Football at Seattle. Their playoff hopes took a big hit with that loss and this week they face a Denver team that has one of the best defenses in the NFL. This will be a tough test for the beleaguered Houston offensive line, and could be a long day for QB C.J. Stroud (1,305 yards, 9 TDs). Stroud needs a big day from wide receiver Nico Collins (26 receptions, 339 yards, 3 TDs) as the run game is non-existent. The Houston defense is decent, but will take on a Denver offense that scored 33 points in the fourth quarter two weeks ago in a thrilling 33-32 comeback win over the Giants. Denver has a dual-threat QB in Bo Nix (1,556 passing yards, 11

Million dollar meal serves up success for GPHS students,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



The North Shore Rotary Club with Dr. Tom Kelochner. District 5890 Governor



Congress Woman, Silvia Garcia and her associates.



Ass. Governor Stan Galanski, Galena Park /Jacinto City Rotary Club President, James Cline and Tom Kelchner.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCORES/SCHEDULES

LAST WEEK'S SCORES
Thursday, Oct. 23
C. E. King 65, Kingwood 35

Friday, Oct. 24
Goose Creek Memorial 44, Channelview 28
Galena Park, BYE
North Shore 47, Atascocita 28

THIS WEEK'S GAMES
Friday, Oct. 31
North Shore at C. E. King at 7 p.m., at Panther Stadium

Saturday, Nov. 1
Channelview at Atascocita at 6 p.m., at Turner Stadium in Humble
Galena Park at Houston Westbury at 12 noon, at Delmar Stadium



TDs/172 rushing yards, 3 TDs), running back J.K. Dobbins (523 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receiver Courtland Sutton (33 receptions, 469 yards, 3 TDs). My pick, Denver 24, Houston 20

Indianapolis at Pittsburgh - The Colts have been one of the biggest surprise teams thus far, winning six of their first seven games to sit atop the AFC South standings. Indy has revived QB Daniel Jones' career (1,790 passing yards, 10 TDs/83 rushing yards, 4 TDs) and running back Jonathan Taylor (697 rushing yards, 10 TDs/23 receptions, 185 yards, 1 TD) is having one of the best years of his career. The Colts also have a big-play rookie tight end in Tyler Warren (33 receptions, 439 yards, 3 TDs). Jones will get a real test against a very solid Steeler defense, as will the Indy defense when it takes on Aaron Rodgers (1,270 yards, 14 TDs) and wideout DK Metcalf (22 receptions, 406 yards, 4 TDs). Look for the Pittsburgh defense to be the difference maker as the Colts march to the division crown hits a bump in the road. My pick, Pittsburgh 23, Indianapolis 20

Seattle at Washington - The Seahawks visit the Commanders on Sunday Night Football and bring their high-powered offense and stifling defense to the nation's capital. Two weeks ago, both units were key factors in Seattle's 27-19 home win over the Texans, while Washington suffered a 44-22 blowout loss to the Cowboys in Arlington. In that game, star QB Jayden Daniels (1,031 passing yards, 8 TDs/211 rushing yards, 1 TD) suffered a right hamstring injury, so his status for this game is unknown. If he's unable to go, Washington could be in a world of hurt against one of the league's top 10 defenses. Seattle also has a solid offense led by QB Sam Darnold (1,754 yards, 12 TDs), running back Kenneth Walker III (430 yards, 3 TDs) and electrifying wide receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba (50 receptions, 819 yards, 4 TDs). Seattle is not afraid to play on the road, as evidenced by their three road wins so far this season. Look for the 'Hawks to pick up another road win on Sunday night. My pick, Seattle 30, Washington 22

Arizona at Dallas - Week 9 concludes with

Monday Night Football when the Cowboys host the Cardinals. Two weeks ago, the Dallas offense rolled once again, with a 44-22 home win over Washington. It marked the third time the Cowboys have scored 40 points in a game this season. QB Dak Prescott (1,881 yards, 16 TDs) is having an MVP-like season and he has a load of weapons around him in running back Javonte Williams (592 yards, 7 total TDs), big-play wideouts George Pickens (36 receptions, 607 yards, 6 TDs) and CeeDee Lamb (21 receptions, 332 yards, 1 TD in 4 games) and dependable tight end Jake Ferguson (51 receptions, 334 yards, 6 TDs). The Dallas defense is playing a bit better and will get tested by dual-threat QB Kyler Murray (962 passing yards, 6 TDs/173 rushing yards, 1 TD in five games) and big-play tight end Trey McBride (47 receptions, 421 yards, 4 TDs). Look for the Dallas offense to roll once again. If the Cowboys hope to remain in the playoff hunt, they must win games they are supposed to win, and they are supposed to win this one in prime time. My pick, Dallas 36, Arizona 23.

New Sheldon Community Fire and Rescue Station No.5,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Improved response times are a key benefit of the new station.

"The distance between our Station 3 and getting up to the north was just too far. The response times needed improvement," Webb said. He added that the district's ISO rating, which affects insurance rates for residents, recently dropped to Class 2, but with the new station, "we should be at Class 1. It's not that much difference other than a Class 1 gives you bragging rights and it does help a little bit on people's insurance," he said.

The station's strategic location also supports major local developments. Generation Park's expansion, including facilities for Eli Lilly, IKEA, and a new surf park, requires robust emergency services.

"Eli Lilly, a \$6.5 billion dollar corporation, will require significant emergency services. We already had Station 3 down the street from them, and they told us what they expected, and we exceeded what they required," Webb noted.

The station itself is designed for modern needs, featuring three bays with two tiers, allowing for six trucks, all with drive-through access. It will house a crew of eight full-time firefighters plus a district chief, with amenities including a larger commercial kitchen, day room, eight bedrooms, four showers, offices for the captain and district chief, a weight room, exercise room, data room, and a medical "any room" for walk-ins. The station will also be equipped for future needs, including a baby Moses area for safe infant surrender.

The total cost of the new



An artist's rendering of the new Station No. 5 in Sheldon close to Generation Park. The \$11 million station will open in August 2026.



On Thursday, October 2, local officials, firefighters, and community members gathered to celebrate the groundbreaking of the new Sheldon Community Fire and Rescue Station No. 5, located at 11159 W. Lake Houston Parkway, just west of Lockwood Drive.

station is projected to reach \$11 million, with additional expenses for utilities.

"CenterPoint Energy is running the electrical at \$1,000,000, and the sewer line is coming in at about \$1,000,000 too. That's outside the \$11 million," Webb explained.

As the district continues to grow, the new station will play a vital role in supporting both residential and commercial develop-

ment. "It's just going to be a very nice station and serving that part of the district. A long time coming, I should say," Webb reflected.

With the groundbreaking of Station No. 5, Sheldon Community Fire and Rescue is poised to meet the challenges of a dynamic future, ensuring safety for all who live and work in the area.

OBITUARY

Clara Ruth Hollaway

Clara Ruth Hollaway, a beacon of light and love, left this earthly realm on October 14, 2025, at the age of 99, in The Woodlands, Texas. Born on July 23, 1926, in Velasco, Texas, to Jessie Alice (Holmes) and James Gaither Kyle, Clara's life was a testament to the power of faith, love, and determination.



ment in the people we hold dear. Her presence was a source of strength and joy, and her absence will be felt deeply by all who were fortunate enough to know her.

In every sense, Clara Ruth Hollaway was a woman of passion. Her adventurous soul, spirited heart, and passionate embrace of life's journey inspired all who crossed her path. She lived fully, loved deeply, and left a legacy of strength and kindness that will continue to guide her family and friends.

Today, we celebrate Clara, not with tears of sorrow, but with the joy of knowing she has entered the kingdom of Heaven and has been reunited again with her children, where she is surely greeted with the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Her story does not end here, for the love she shared and the lives she touched will resonate for generations to come. Clara Ruth Hollaway, your spirit dances on, and we are all better for having been part of your remarkable century.

You are welcome to join Clara's family at Carter-Conley Funeral Home to celebrate her life on Thursday, October 23rd, 2025 at 11:00 A.M. in the funeral home's chapel. She will privately be laid to rest at Brookside Memorial Park Cemetery under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home. For those unable to attend in person, Clara's funeral service will be livestreamed, the link to watch the service will be posted on her Tribute Wall at CarterConleyFH.com.


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Clara's journey began with a bold step as she left her hometown after high school and boarded a train to work at the Pentagon in Washington D.C. This marked the start of a life characterized by adventure and service. She later dedicated 38 years to the Southern Pacific Railroad and a further 29 years to San Jacinto College, retiring there at the age of 92. Her work ethic was unparalleled, and her impact on those institutions was indelible.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her beloved partner, "Bruce" Carol Broussard, her cherished children, Lou Ann Box McClendon and Michael Lenvil Box, and her siblings, James Gaither Kyle Jr., Thomas Elwood Kyle, Bernice Marie Jordan, Gladys Mae Kyle Harsdorff, and Lucile Kyle South. Clara's legacy continues through her daughter-in-law, Linda Box; her grandchildren, Kyle Box and his wife Jennifer, Mykel Anne Baumann and her husband Michael, Ashley Cunningham and her husband Matt, Lori, and Jack; her great-grandchildren, Kylie, Kacie, Joshua, Alyssa, Connor, Reed, Brock, McKenzie and her husband Anthony, Chandler, Kyndall, Carsyn, Copeland; and her great-great-grandchild, Jones. Clara also will be remembered

by her "daughters-of-the-heart", whom she loved and cared for as her own, Sherie Ann Gillum and Janice Norrell South.

Clara was a devout Christian and a member of the Ralston Memorial Presbyterian Church, where her faith was as unwavering as her spirit. Her involvement in the National Association of Railway Business Women, the Women's Transportation Club of Houston, and as a lifetime member of the Old Spanish Trail Riders Association, spoke of her commitment to community and her passion for the open road.

Clara and Bruce shared a love for the RV lifestyle, traversing the country as members of the Good Sam Club. She was equally found at home enjoying a cold margarita or glass of wine, or spent the afternoon riding horseback, a true reflection of her adventurous and spirited nature. Clara's red VW Beetle was more than a vehicle; it was a vessel of memories, taking her family on cross-country voyages that would become the fabric of their collective story.

Her love for her family was as vast as the Texas sky. Clara's life was a living example that love is an action, an invest-

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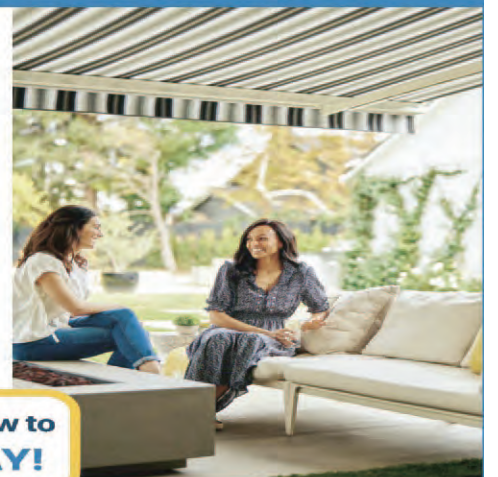
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COMMUNITY WATCH

Deadly Chain-Reaction Crash Shuts Down I-10 East for Hours

HOUSTON — A deadly chain-reaction crash early Friday morning caused major delays along the East Freeway, leaving one woman dead and two others hospitalized, according to the Houston Police Department.

The crash was reported just before 6 a.m. on the westbound lanes of I-10 East near Waco Street and Lockwood Drive, Houston TranStar officials said. All lanes were closed for several hours as investigators worked the scene, with the freeway reopening shortly before 10 a.m.

Aerial footage from Sky-Eye showed multiple heavily damaged vehicles scattered across the roadway. HPD confirmed that five cars were involved in the collision.

According to Lt. Va'Shawnda McLean with HPD's Vehicular Crimes Division, the crash began when the driver of a sedan veered off the feeder road and went down an embankment.

"The vehicle went airborne and landed in the



main lanes of traffic," McLean said. "It struck at least one car, triggering a chain reaction involving several others."

Police said the initial driver — a woman believed to be in her 30s — died at the scene. Two people from separate vehicles were taken to Ben Taub Hospital and Memorial Hermann with serious injuries.

"We do have a unit at

the hospital awaiting updates on their condition," McLean added. "At this time, it's unclear if there will be additional fatalities."

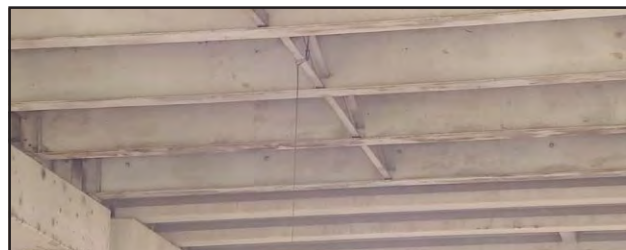
Investigators have not yet determined what caused the woman to lose control of her car. The Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences will conduct an autopsy to confirm her cause of death.

Hanging Death under I-610 Overpass in NE Houston

HOUSTON, - A homicide investigation is underway after a man was found hanging underneath the I-610 North Loop overpass in northeast Houston late Thursday night, according to the Houston Police Department.

HPD says officers responded to the scene with the Houston Fire Department at 7600 North Loop East. According to HPD Homicide Division, the man was found hanging underneath the middle of the overpass and had suffered burns to his body.

"The call originally came through from Union Pacific. They called in a brush fire to the Houston Fire Department and when they arrived, they say what they saw - took care of the fire, and of course, unfortunately, the victim is deceased," Lt. Khan with the Houston Police Department said.



A rope was thrown over the Bridge structure, seen above. The body was also set on fire.



The body was hanging from the overpass structure when firemen arrived.

The identity of the victim, believed to be a man between 40 and 50 years old, is not being disclosed at the moment, HPD says. They added that the man's cause of death is pending autopsy results by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

When asked if this could be a suicide, investigators said, "It seems very unlikely." HPD Homicide Division urges anyone with information on the case to contact them at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS. A reward is possible.

HCC ANNOUNCES A NEW NAME

AFTER 54 YEARS OF OPERATION. THE COLLEGE WILL BE KNOWN AS HOUSTON CITY COLLEGE

HOUSTON (June 19, 2025)—After 54 years of service to area students, Houston Community College (HCC) will be known as Houston City College, following a vote of the college's Board of Trustees in regular session on June 18.

"This new name reflects our expanding mission of offering baccalaureate degrees while maintaining the value and qualities people know and expect from HCC," said Chancellor Mar-

garet Ford Fisher, Ed.D. "As Houston City College, we will continue to provide quality, affordable instruction through certificates, associate and baccalaureate degrees at a community college price. This new name represents all the communities the college represents and positions the institution to serve with a 'local focus and global reach.'"

The announcement follows a year-long comprehensive research and

stakeholder engagement initiative and marks a strategic step forward in the college's commitment to expand access to affordable, high-quality education while equipping students with the skills and credentials needed to succeed in competitive academic and workforce environments.

In 2022, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) approved HCC to offer workforce-

focused Bachelor of Applied Science degrees. The inaugural graduates from these programs received diplomas at Spring Commencement May 2025.

"This is not just about changing a name," said Chancellor Ford Fisher. "It is about embracing the institution we have become and signaling the future we are prepared to lead. While the name is changing, HCC's identity and purpose

remain the same.

"The institution will continue to serve as a trusted educational partner, preparing students to meet the needs of a rapidly evolving economy through relevant programming, strategic partnerships, and a strong commitment to student outcomes," she said.

ABOUT HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE: HCC is composed of 14 Centers of Excellence and nu-

merous satellite centers that serve the diverse communities in the Greater Houston area by preparing individuals to live and work in an increasingly international and technological society. HCC is one of the country's largest singly accredited, open-admission community colleges offering associate degrees, certificates, workforce training and lifelong learning opportunities.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

TIGER



by BUD BLAKE



by Jeff Pickering

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

Weekly SUDOKU

9x9 grid for Weekly Sudoku with numbers 1-9.

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Music note is moved; 2. Egg is moved; 3. Chords are missing; 4. Sheet is longer; 5. Window is wider; 6. Arm is not showing; 7. Arm is not showing; 8. Opposite; 9. Jan; 10. Pennsylvania; 11. Six (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Rhode Island); 12. District; 13. Sclafan; 14. Vibratum; 15. Subhation; 16. 1979; 17. Cullen;

October 27, 2025 Posting Date

King Crossword

King Crossword grid with clues for Across and Down.

- ACROSS: 1 Dandies, 5 Patient's need, briefly, 8 Small town, 12 "Yeah, right!", 13 Brazilian city, 14 Screenwriter James, 15 Buyer's offer, 17 "Pinocchio" fish, 18 Six, in Milan, 19 Devoured, 20 Dexterity, 21 "See ya!", 22 Knock, 23 Apiary homes, 26 Business magnates, 30 "Shake —!" ("Hurry!"), 31 Singer Carly — Jepsen, 32 Aussie hoppers, 33 Lend a hand, 35 Composer Joplin, 36 Priestly garment, 37 "Humbug!", 38 Music category, 41 JFK Library architect, 42 "— the season ...", 45 During, 46 "Troy" actor, 48 Flintstones' pet, 49 Long, crosser, 50 Skin care brand, 51 Ollie's pal, 52 Corp. symbols, 53 Conference leader?, 5 Banal, 6 Grown-up nits, 7 Iowa college, 8 Rear veranda, 9 Hybrid fruit, 10 Stagger, 11 Earth sci., 16 Light beams, 20 Pouch, 21 "Excuse me?", 22 Deli bread, 23 "So there!", 24 — -de-France, 25 Speed (Abbr.), 26 Make lace, 27 Tic-tac-toe win, 28 "— so fast!", 29 Retired jet, 31 Barbecue coating, 34 World Cup cheer, 35 Stated piece, 37 Pulsates, 38 Wanders, 39 Send forth, 40 Jazz singer Simone, 41 Baby carriage, 42 Scrabble piece, 43 Slanted type (Abbr.), 44 Ocular woe, 46 Crunchy sandwich, 47 Soup cooker

Trivia test

- 1. GEOGRAPHY: How many U.S. states are part of New England?
2. LITERATURE: What district does Katniss Everdeen represent in "The Hunger Games"?
3. ANATOMY: What is the longest nerve in the human body?
4. COMICS: What is Captain America's shield made of?
5. SCIENCE: What is the process called when a solid becomes a gas?
6. HISTORY: In what year did the Three Mile Island nuclear accident happen?
7. MOVIES: What is Edward's last name in the movie "Twilight"?
8. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the only marsupial found in North America?
9. TELEVISION: Which character on "The Brady Bunch" is famous for saying, "Marcia, Marcia, Marcia!"
10. ENTERTAINERS: Pop singer Taylor Swift was born in which U.S. state?

Solution time: 23 mins. © 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.



CONVENIENT, ADVANCED MAMMOGRAMS FOR YOU

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- Online scheduling available when you are
- 13 convenient locations across Houston

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