



### Jackets Suffer Tough Loss Against Huskies

#18 Galena Park Yellow Jacket wide receiver Patrick Lee scores on a Juan Soto 62 yard pass. See Story on page 5

# NORTH CHANNEL STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

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

### NCA Chamber 49th Awards & Installation Gala

The North Channel Chamber invites you to the 49th Awards & Installation Gala "An Evening With The Stars." Friday, January 30, 2026 at the Hyatt Regency Baytown. Reception 6:30, Dinner 7:00pm. Attire: Cocktail Hollywood Vibes. Individual Tickets \$100, RSVP 713-450-3600 or yesenia@ncachamber.com. NCA Chamber Holiday Open House Dec. 9 12:00-3:00pm at the Chamber Office, 13301 East Freeway, Suite 100, Houston 77015. RSVP.

## 6A Powerhouses Clash; North Shore 42; Sheldon 27

Commentary by Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. ~ Friday, October 31, 2025 Halloween Night at the Sheldon ISD Panther football stadium the clash between the two 6A Region III District 23 first place powerhouse teams collided. The Trick or Treat night ended up with the Eastside Boys getting the treat of winning the showdown and spoiling the Panthers Senior Night 42 - 27 and extending their winning streak to 8 games.

Since both teams were undefeated in district play there was a lot of pregame hype which brought thousands out to watch to see which team would remain undefeated in district play.

The Mustangs took a 21 - 0 first quarter lead which the talented Panthers could not overcome, reducing their growl to a purr.

In the third quarter the scrappy courageous Panthers came within one



#30 Mustang linebacker Da'Sean Royal tackles Panther running back for a loss of yards. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



Mustang #2 Dorian Barnes catches a 32 yd. TD pass from Kaleb Maryland. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

point of tying the game 28 - 27 until a Panther "Trick" quick kick play backfired giving the Mus-

tangs a "Treat" when it was blocked by North Shore giving them the ball inside the Panthers 45 yard line.

Given the "Treat" of a short field Mustang's Hezekiah Johnson scored ending the 3rd quarter 35-

27. Mustangs defense shut-out the Panthers in the 4th quarter. Quarterback Kaleb Maryland on a keeper play added another TD ending the game 42 - 27.

North Shore's Hezekiah Johnson produced another solid effort rushing for 187 yards and three TDs on only 14 carries. Those 187 rushing yards gave him a new career-high. Kaden Brandley also helped out as he racked up 105 rushing yards.

Wins are hard to come by when you can't run against North Shore brick wall defensive line. They held the Panthers to a mere 3 yards per carry while they averaged 8.5 yards per run.

Eastside Boys Scorers: Hezekiah Johnson 3 TD's, Dorian Barnes 1 TD, Marcus Stewart 1 TD, Kaleb Maryland 1 TD & Continued. See NS CRUSH PANTHERS, Page 3

## Galena Park HS Breaks Ground on Transformative Master Plan, Ushering in a New Era

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

Galena Park High School marked a historic milestone with the ground-breaking of Phase 3A of its Master Plan, launching a new era of growth and opportunity for students and the community. Principal Juan C. Ramirez welcomed attendees.

"Today, we begin an exciting new chapter for Galena Park High School. This project is about building a future where our students can thrive," he said.

Superintendent Dr. John Moore reflected on the journey that led to this moment.

"Our comprehensive 2023 assessment identified over \$500 million in renovation and construction needs across Galena Park



The tour group including the Classes of '74, '75, and '76 was amazed, and maybe a little jealous, at the options students had for lunch each day. The new cafeteria seats close to 700 students.

ISD. Thanks to the dedication of the Long Range Planning Committee and overwhelming community support, the approval of a \$530 million bond package on May 4, 2024, has made this project a reality. This bond is now fueling the ongoing transformation of

many district facilities," Moore said.

The ceremony was attended by district leaders, including the Galena Park ISD Board of Trustees—President Ramon Garza,

Continued. See NS CRUSH PANTHERS, Page 6

## 2025 GP Yellow Jackets Girls' Varsity Cheerleaders



Top row L- R: Coach Stephanie Gonzalez, Andrea Aguirre, Jordyn Williams, Jayla Gonzales, Kylie Mayes, Melody Ramirez Middle row L- R: Roxana Gonzalez, Ruth Gonzalez, Paola Melgoza, Miracle Dominguez, Alissa Marie Rodriguez, Dayana Ramos Bottom row L- R: Allison Pina, Co-Captain Nina Ramos, Captain Mia Balderas, Melanie Rojas. (Photo by Linda Jamail)

## Jackie Medcalf Receives The UHCL's 2025 Early Achievement Award

HOUSTON - What began as a classroom discovery at the University of Houston—Clear Lake has evolved into a statewide movement for environmental justice. Jackie Medcalf, recipient of UHCL's 2025 Early Achievement Award, turned a deeply personal tragedy into a lifelong mission to protect public health and empower communities affected by pollution.

Jackie's path to environmental advocacy began during her undergraduate studies at the University of Houston—Clear Lake, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science with a concentration in Geology. While studying hydrogeology, she uncovered a devastating truth: the water her family relied on was contaminated, likely the cause of her father's can-



2025 EARLY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT Jackie Medcalf, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Texas Health and Environment Alliance (THEA)

cer, her own neurological and reproductive issues, and their animals' illnesses. That discovery changed the course of her life and launched her into a career rooted in science, public

service, and community engagement.

In 2015, Jackie founded THEA to support commu-

Continued. See JACKIE MEDCALF RECEIVES THE UHCL'S, Page 2

## Jacinto City Police NNO Award

Laura Alvarado, New Pct. 2 Liaison



Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia's staff presents Jacinto City Police Department and Chief Ayala appreciation certificate. L-R: Laura Alvarado, Community Liaison, Chief Joe Ayala, Maria Salazar, Senior Director of Content and Messaging & Leticia Salinas, Administrative Assistant. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, Texas ~ On October 15, 2025 representatives of Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia's office came together at the Jacinto City Police Department to present to Chief Joe Ayala in behalf of the department's recent National Night Out Crime Prevention event.

The certificate presentation was highlighted by Pct. 2 Maria Salazar, Se-

nior Director of Content and Messaging and Leticia Salinas Administrative Assistant introducing Laura Alvarado the new Pct. 2 Community Liaison for the North Channel Area to Chief Ayala and myself.

Alvarado said, "I am honored to represent Commissioner Adrian Garcia as the new Community Liaison for the North Channel Area in Precinct 2, an area that I am fond of and

I called home. I look forward to engaging with communities like Galena Park, Jacinto City, Northshore, Denver Harbor, and Manchester for the important work of building connections, addressing concerns, engaging with the community, and supporting residents."

Commissioner Garcia said, "The invaluable out

Continued. See JC POLICE NNO AWARD, Page 3

# Jackie Medcalf awarded,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Jackie Medcalf on stage (in black dress) at UHCL Awards Ceremony

nities affected by pollution and to help ensure they have a voice in environmental decision-making. Under her leadership, THEA has mobilized more than 60,000 people across Houston and the Gulf Coast region to advocate for the cleanup of some of the state's most dangerous Superfund sites, including the Jones Road Ground Water Plume and the San Jacinto River Waste Pits—now recognized as a state-confirmed cancer cluster.

Jackie's work centers on environmental health literacy—breaking down complex science and regu-

latory processes so that communities can participate in decisions that affect their health and future. Through strategic partnerships with academic institutions, government agencies, and grassroots organizations, she ensures residents have the data, tools, and representation they need to make informed decisions and hold polluters accountable. In addition to collaborating on community-engaged research, Jackie advises academic projects and currently serves on the National Academies of Scienc-

es, Engineering, and Medicine's expert committee on the State of the Science and the Future of Cumulative Impact Assessment.

Recognized for her leadership and impact, Jackie has received numerous honors, including the Houston Business Journal's "40 Under 40" and the Champion for Change award from environmental pioneer Lois Gibbs.

From classroom discovery to statewide advocacy, Jackie's work exemplifies how science, lived experience, and persistence can drive meaningful change.

# Food Bank distributes meals during Government Shutdown

HARRIS COUNTY – To help furloughed government workers and SNAP recipients who are not receiving benefits, the Houston Food Bank is partnering with organizations to expand its food distributions to 15,000 affected households. If you're a furloughed government employee or SNAP recipient, check our profile to get the link to apply for these special distributions.

**\*\*Registration is Required.\*\***

The 211 Texas/United Way HELPLINE is also available 24 hours a day for information on how to get food and other basic needs met, according to Amanda McMillian, president and CEO, United Way of Greater Houston.

The Houston Food Bank's community partners in this special endeavor are Houston Texans, Bethel's Heavenly Hands, Catholic Charities Mamie George, Heart and Hands of Baytown, Community Faith Church and West Houston Assistance Ministries.

Houston Food Bank President & CEO Brian Greene said, "This is not about politics, it's about people. We're ensuring

families impacted by the government shutdown have access to nutritious foods while also protecting the stability of Houston Food Bank's regular network. Our goal is to respond quickly, efficiently and with dignity for those

are also realistic that demand could outpace our normal supply the longer the shutdown continues, so to sustain this expanded effort, we will need the help of the community more than ever," says Greene. "Donate if you



in need of assistance, some of whom have never needed it before."

The Houston Food Bank also emphasized that food banks cannot make up for the disruption in benefits, stating that SNAP provides nine meals for every one given by a food bank.

"While we are confident in our readiness, we

can, volunteer if you are able, and be an advocate and share accurate information when possible.

Every dollar donated to Houston Food Bank provides three meals, and every volunteer hour helps us get food out to the community quickly and efficiently.

[https://www.houstonfoodbank.org/.../special...](https://www.houstonfoodbank.org/.../special.../)

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# Sheldon Transportation Pink Out



Our Transportation Department recently held a vital training session, focusing on safety and student mental health, all while recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month! Bus drivers are often the first and last school staff members students see each day, making them a crucial frontline in noticing signs of mental health challenges. This training highlighted how our drivers can be a tremendous positive influence during a student's troubling times. We were honored to hear about two of our own drivers who shared their powerful experiences in helping students get the mental health support they needed. Thank you to our dedicated bus team for being so committed to the well-being of our students, on and off the bus!

# Say 'Bon Voyage' to The Iconic Sam Houston Tour Boat

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

Cue the confetti and prepare for fond farewells: Port Houston's beloved tour vessel, the M/V Sam Houston, is celebrating its 67th birthday and preparing to retire in 2026. Since her first voyage on July 30, 1958, the Sam Houston has been more than just a tour boat—she's become a living symbol of Houston's rich maritime heritage.

As the Sam Houston approaches her final season, Port Houston is honoring her legendary service with a public storytelling campaign, inviting Houstonians to share their memories and experiences aboard the iconic vessel.



Over the decades, the Sam Houston has welcomed more than two million passengers, including out-of-town visitors, local students, leaders, celebrities, political royals, and astronauts. Each guest has had the chance to experience the pride and backbone of Houston—the Houston Ship Channel—up close.

"The Sam Houston is more than just a boat; she's a symbol of Port Houston's legacy, hospitality, and connection to the community," said Charlie Jenkins, CEO of Port Houston. "For 67 years, she's offered a front-row seat to the heart of maritime operations, helping guests understand the vital role our port plays in regional prosperity and global trade. As we celebrate

her final season, we also reflect on the impact she's made and the stories that will live on well after her last voyage."

Looking to the future, Port Houston has announced plans to build a new tour vessel. The new boat will expand maritime education outreach, better accommodate guests with restricted mobility, and reinforce the port's commitment to environmental sus-

tainability and carbon neutrality. The new vessel is expected to launch its maiden voyage within the next 12 to 14 months.

At 95 feet long and with a capacity of 100 passengers, the Sam Houston has been the backdrop for countless inspiring and uplifting stories. Families have enjoyed rewarding daytime outings, and the boat has even played

Cupid, sparking love stories that began on her decks and sailed into happily ever after.

"The Sam Houston has launched adventures, sparked lifelong friendships, and captured the spirit of our maritime community and our city," said Maria Aguirre, director of community relations. "As we mark nearly 70 years of memories, we're inviting everyone to share their favorite moments."

Port Houston encourages anyone with a special memory of the Sam Houston to send their stories—written, video, or audio—to [communityrelations@porthouston.com](mailto:communityrelations@porthouston.com). These memories will be compiled and shared through Port Houston's social channels as the Sam Houston approaches her well-earned retirement in 2026.

"While we don't yet have a specific date for the M/V Sam Houston to retire, it is expected to be in Q2 or Q3 of 2026, and the new vessel would begin tours at that time," said spokesperson Christine Abbruscato. Until then, guests can continue to make reservations on the 1st

of the month for the following month, and more info can be found at: <https://porthouston.com/community/tours/sam-houston-boat-tour/>

The new vessel doesn't yet have a name, but it will be hybrid-electric, aligning with Port Houston's sustainability goals. The capacity will be larger, and it will better serve guests with restricted mobility. The Port Commission approved this purchase at its March 2025 meeting at an amount just under \$7 million, with funds sourced from Port Houston operations.

The current M/V Sam Houston holds 90-100 people, and the new ship will hold 150. While there are no plans for a merchandise store on the new vessel, guests can expect soda, water, and a light snack to be served onboard.

As the Sam Houston prepares to sail into retirement, Port Houston invites the community to celebrate nearly seven decades of memories and look forward to a new chapter in Houston's maritime story.

## CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



### The Power of Community

Imagine driving down a residential street and seeing a sixty-year-old female wandering around dazed and confused, often missing shoes or even clothing. She was not a stranger to the community as she had grown up in the area. Yet after a series of events, including mental health diagnosis, as well as turning to other substances to numb the pain and confusion of life, she lost her home to unpaid school taxes and found herself out on the streets. She was frequently found on the bridge on Halifax Street near La Riviera. Neighbors would bring her food and bedding as well as clothing and shoes. Many in the community would pray for her. Others called authorities for a welfare check. Her daughter who lives out of state traveled to Houston several times to beg her mother to allow her to take her to the doctor, hospital or a treatment center, but each time she became angrier.

As her daughter tried to get a mental health warrant, she realized how many obstacles families face. As Ms. Charlotte had lost her home, she lost her possessions. Even worse, she had lost hope.

Without proper documentation, including identification, her Social Security card and other paperwork, the challenge seemed impossible. At one point her mother relocated to a shopping center near Woodforest and Charlie Voix, only to lose all the possessions people had given her. Next, she was seen on Woodforest at Normandy and thankfully between the GPISD bus drivers, members of the Jehovah Witness congregation on Halifax and members of various social media sites, HPD's Homeless Outreach Team became familiar with her. Several deputies from the Sheriff's department reached out to her frequently to be sure she had not changed her mind. When the winter weather became brutal, she was located on Uvalde near Indianapolis and the Harris County Emergency Center reported they had over fourteen calls from concerned neighbors before she agreed to be taken by ambulance to the hospital. She was suffering with frostbite in addition to her "normal" health issues.

Her daughter would stay in



constant contact with several community members who check on her and even when we offered to get her a phone, she refused the help. She had reached a place where she did not love herself and refused help from others. Community members continued to pray.

Once she was discharged from the hospital, we went for months without knowing her location. Eventually one community member called after seeing her off I-59 North. After work, I picked up a friend and we traveled to the reported location. Once we found her, we picked up her favorite meal, Whataburger, and took it to her. She kept asking how we had found her. And she was even more adamant wanting to know why we cared.

Shortly after that, her daughter contacted me and was on her way to Houston. Her mom had been located at a county hospital. Doctors reported that her mom had the worst case of gangrene on her feet that they had ever seen due to exposure to the weather for several years. Again, prayer warrior joined together praying for her.

Months have passed but God still listens. Last week, Ms. Charlotte was transported by an ambulance to Kentucky where she is now staying with her daughter and family. None of this would be possible without the power of Community and the Power of prayer.

## Adrian Garcia's staff awards JC police officer,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

reach and community building by Laura and my team of community liaisons cannot be overstated enough. They are the eyes, ears, and heart of our office. The feedback and interactions they have with Precinct 2 residents are what inform every vote I take at every Commissioners Court and the decisions I made every day. I am immensely thankful for their work and their unwavering commitment to make Precinct 2 the best place to live, work, and play for everyone."

National Night Out (NNO) is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. NNO 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.

Garcia's Certificate of Celebration said: Jacinto City Police Department in celebration of National Night Out, we proudly recognize your commitment to bringing neighbors together and creating a stronger, safer, and more connected community. Your dedication to neighborhood spirit and public safety reflects the best of civic engagement. On behalf of Harris County Precinct Two, thank you for your leadership and partnership in making our communities shine brighter.

On Tuesday evening of October 7, 2025 area residents went to the Jacinto City Police station on Market Street to join in celebration of the Annual National NNO program. Food was provided and

served by the city's staff and volunteers while a live band played.

The police and firemen displayed their emergency equipment (fire truck, ambulance & patrol car) for those interested in taking a closer look and to speak to the police and firemen.

Booths from supporters of NNO were there with helpful resources for the attendees. The Second Baptist Church's booth was passing out free pocket Bibles, their relatively new Minister Ken Durham was extending his greetings and introducing himself and inviting people to the church at 10501 Muscatine.

The Dean of the University of Houston Downtown with Dr. José G. Ricardo-Osorio and Fei Yang, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice was giving out literature and introducing the college to those interested (email:ricardoj@uhd.edu or yangf@uhd.edu) ([www.uhd.edu](http://www.uhd.edu)).

Chief Ayala has been with the city for over 44 years, 25+ years as Chief. He's Jacinto City's first and only Hispanic Chief. He's been in law enforcement for 47 years. He began his career in Fort Bend-Sugarland. Besides Chief he's served as patrolman, detective, Lieutenant-Operations Commander.

When I was mayor in the 80's I remember presenting Patrolman Ayala a commendation certificate for his valuable service to the city.

As Jacinto City's last city Marshal/Chief of Police in the 70's I hired the city's first Hispanic officer. Presently the department enjoys Hispanic officers as chief, patrolman, sergeants, detectives and communications-dispatchers. The Hispanic community has grown from a couple residents in 1946 to a majority now.

## ASK DIAMOND JIM



### Diamond Jim: "What are the birthstones for November?"

Those with November birthdays have two beautiful birthstones to choose from: topaz and citrine. Topaz comes in a rainbow of colors; citrine is prized for its charming yellow and orange hues. Both November birthstones are known to have calming energies while bringing fortune and warmth to the wearer. Most topaz and citrine birthstones are affordably priced, as good-quality gems are not as rare as for many of their counterparts. This means that those born in November have many options to choose from. Your challenge will be deciding which one to pick.

#### Topaz

The variety of topaz hues includes colorless, light blue, yellow, orange, pink, violet, brown and, very rarely, red. The vast majority of blue topaz seen today is the permanent result of treating colorless topaz with irradiation and heating. The rainbow effect seen in "Mystic Topaz" is created by coating colorless topaz with a thin artificial film. Some believe the word "topaz" comes from the Sanskrit word *tapas*, which means "fire." Others trace it back to the Greek *topazos*. This November birthstone was long thought to have many benefits. The ancient Greeks believed that topaz gave them strength. From the 1300s to the 1600s, Europeans thought it could thwart magic spells and dispel anger. The distinctly pinkish orange Imperial topaz has aristocratic cachet. It is commonly believed that the name originated with the Russian royal family's insistence on keeping the finest colors of this gem, which was mined in Russia's Ural Mountains, exclusively for their use.

#### Citrine

This November birthstone is the transparent yellow to brownish orange variety of quartz, which has been used in jewelry for thousands of years. Citrine has been a popular gemstone since ancient times and has shared a history of mistaken identities with the other November birthstone, topaz. As a result, people thought citrine had the same powers as topaz. They believed the citrine birthstone could soothe tempers and calm the wearer. The ancient Greeks carved rock crystal ornaments that glistened like permafrost. Roman pontiffs wore rings set with massive purple amethysts, and citrine has been reported in Roman jewelry. It was particularly popular in colorful Scottish jewelry from the Victorian era. Citrine, believed to derive from the French word for "lemon" (*citron*), is given for the thirteenth wedding anniversary. Today, most of the citrine in the marketplace results from the heat treatment of amethyst. With its ready availability in a broad range of sizes, citrine birthstone is one of the most affordable and desired yellow gemstones. The top sources for this November birthstone are Bolivia, Spain, Madagascar, Mexico and Uruguay. Amethyst that's typically heat treated to a citrine color is mined mostly in Brazil.

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

Diamond Jim is a master jeweler, diamond dealer and precious metals broker. Pineforest Jewelry has been a proud member of the Independent Jewelers Organization (IJO) and the Retail Jewelers Organization (RJO) for many years. See more at: [www.pineforestjewelry.com](http://www.pineforestjewelry.com).

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

## NS crush Panthers, stay undefeated in district,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Mustangs Team Captains. L - R: #97-Xavier Waters, #7-Kaleb Maryland, #94-Jayden Curry & #74-Isaac Aranda. (Photo by Linda Jamail)

kicker Daniel Cruz made 6 extra point kicks.

The Mustangs played and won against a 12th man Panthers team. Despite the unfair game announcer (being the 12th player) doing everything he could to intimidate the high school players of North Shore by blasting over the loudspeakers words that were intimidating, the Mustangs still won. He shouted words over the loud speakers like the Panther players like a cheerleader at a pep rally.

I've been attending and or covering high school sports for years and never have I ever witnessed so much partisan announcing as there was at the game. The announcer an obvious Panther supporter used the public address speaker in such an unfair way, this should be concerning to those who follow high school sports.

After the game many attendees who came to watch the game and who were not for or against either team said the unfair use of the public address system by the announcer against the



#7 Quarterback Kaleb Maryland runs for a Mustang TD. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

teenage Mustang athletes by use of the stadium's loud speakers by the announcer was grossly disgusting and unfair.

CE King fans were a friendly host, they were loud and proud of the outstanding performance of this year's Panthers. Expect future games between these two neighboring teams to be a new rivalry.

North Shore Head Coach Willie Gaston's team

won despite showing a lack of discipline with penalties. They gave up 125 penalty yards, had they not had so many penalties they would have easily won. The large amount of penalties kept the Panthers in the game. -Linda Jamail statistician.

North Shore's final game of the regular season is Senior Night, Friday, Nov. 7th @ 7pm @ GPISD Stadium against 3rd place Summer Creek Bulldogs.



Hezekiah Johnson running back #27 celebrates his 3rd Mustang TD. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



#30 Mustang linebacker Da'Sean Royal tackles Panther running back for a loss of yards. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

One thing



leads to another



Diamond Jim's Pineforest Jewelry Experience

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Final
North Shore	21	7	7	7	42
CE King	7	13	7	0	27

OPINION PAGE

**OPINION**  
By **BILL KING**



Extending the ACA Subsidies

Over the last week, the decision on whether to extend the enhanced ACA subsidies has increasingly become the defining issue of the shutdown. It is an issue that is fracturing the Republican Party and threatening to derail their midterm election prospects.

Unpacking the numbers-

From the outset, the Affordable Care Act subsidized the purchase of health insurance by some lower-income Americans on the health insurance exchanges. The subsidy was based on a sliding scale that set a maximum a person would pay as a percentage of their income. The ceiling for the subsidy originally was 400% of the federal poverty level (FPL). Today, that is about \$60,000 for an individual, a little over \$80,000 for a couple, and \$124,000 for a family of four. Anyone who exceeded that ceiling got no subsidy when purchasing their insurance.

For those below that ceiling, the government would pick up the cost of the insurance that was above a percentage of the person's income. That ranged from just over 2% to almost 10%. According to CMS Marketplace data, the subsidy typically covered 75-85% of the premiums for this group. Before the expansion, nearly 9 million Americans received the subsidy, and they accounted for over three-quarters of all Marketplace enrollment. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the subsidy was costing the federal government about \$50 billion annually.

During the pandemic, Congress expanded the eligibility criteria for the subsidy by eliminating the income limits. But the expansion was only temporary, scheduled to expire at the end of 2025. Since the expansion was adopted during the pandemic and was set to expire automatically, a narrative emerged that the expansion was a pandemic response that would no longer be necessary after the pandemic ended. But the truth is that the expansion had nothing to do with the pandemic. The pandemic was just a pretext to expand coverage, something Democrats had long sought to do. The automatic termination was included to reduce the projected effect on the deficit. This allowed Democrats to use the reconciliation process to avoid a Republican filibuster.

The expansion eliminated the 400% of the FPL limit. However, the benefit was capped by requiring that individuals must pay 8.5% of their income toward the premium before they could receive any subsidy. Furthermore, the premium is based on a particular level of coverage that currently costs about \$10,000 per year for a single adult.

The net effect of the expanded subsidy rules is to reduce the subsidy as a person's income increases. For most people, the subsidy goes to zero at an income of about \$120,000 for an individual and about \$240,000 for a couple. This opened the subsidy to millions of Americans who did not previously qualify. As a result, the number of Americans participating in the Marketplace leaped from 11 million to 21 million, and those receiving some subsidy went from about 8.8 million to 13.3 million. The average monthly subsidy went from \$525 to just over \$600. The expansion benefits have been costing about \$40 billion per year. That amount is consistent with the CBO's estimate late last year of the cost to extend the enhanced subsidy. An extension of the subsidy would add about 2% to the projected federal deficit.

Unpacking the politics-

The expansion was originally on a straight party vote. Not a single Republican voted for the original extension. However, it turns out Americans across the political spectrum came to strongly support the expansion of the subsidies.

A poll by the KFF (fka the Kaiser Family Foundation) found that 77% of Americans want Congress to extend the subsidies. The extension enjoys remarkable support across the political spectrum. Even self-identified MAGA Republicans favor the extension 56-43.

Earlier this year, KFF conducted a detailed analysis of the effect of the expiring subsidies by Congressional district. Those most impacted are skewed toward districts currently held by Republicans. In all but one district held by a Republican, voters over 60 who are currently receiving the subsidy would see an increase in their premium of over 100%. These individuals make up 7% of the population of those districts. Since those individuals are over 60, most are likely registered voters and would typically be more likely to vote Republican.

This is an interactive map that KFF prepared. This image shows the average premium increase, but you can click on it to get more detailed information. There is a remarkable overlap between the states facing the largest increases and the states President Trump won in the 2024 election.

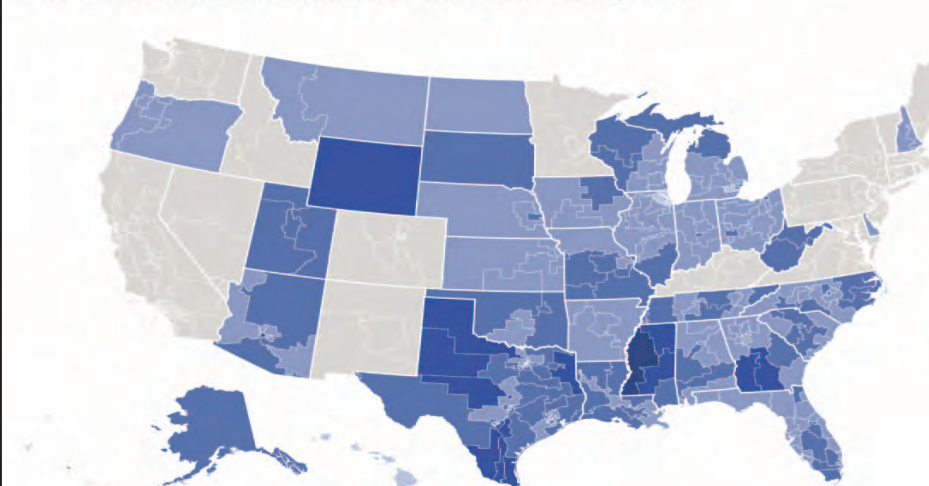
We are currently entering the ACA reenrollment period, and many Americans are learning for the first time how much their premiums may go up. As a result, Republican members of Congress are hearing from their constituents. It is, therefore, not surprising that a growing number of Republican members are breaking with the leadership on extending the subsidies. Most notable has been MAGA loyalist Marjorie Taylor Greene.

A compromise on subsidies may be the off-ramp to end the shutdown. President Trump has hinted that he might be open to a deal on healthcare. If the Senate were to pass a bill to end the shutdown that included an extension of the subsidies, it is hard to imagine the House would not do the same.

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, 5832 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.

Premium Payments for Subsidized Enrollees Will Increase Nationwide if Enhanced ACA Subsidies Expire

Percent Increase in Average Monthly Premium Payments Without Enhanced Subsidies, 2024



**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
By **Gary Borders**



Shutdown Could Halt SNAP for 3.5 M Texans

The continuing federal shutdown means food benefits provided to 3.5 million Texans could be cut off in November, The Texas Tribune reported. Of those affected, nearly half are children.

"SNAP has funding available for benefits and operations through the month of October," according to a letter written by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service to state agencies. "However, if the current lapse in appropriations continues, there will be insufficient funds to pay full November SNAP benefits for approximately 42 million individuals across the nation."

More than \$614 million is distributed monthly in Texas to recipients.

Currently, other assistance programs such as Medicaid and the Children Health Insurance Program, or CHIP, are not affected by the shutdown, which is in its fourth week.

OIL PRICES AT LOWEST LEVEL SINCE PANDEMIC

Oil prices have dropped to their lowest level since early 2021, the Texas Standard reported. In an interview with Matt Smith, lead energy analyst at Kpler, he said strong supply is driving the drop per barrel to about \$57.

Average gasoline prices in Texas stood at \$2.79 a gallon in September, down 67 cents from two years ago, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Smith said U.S. oil production in July, the latest monthly statistic available, was at a record high. He predicted the low oil prices could slow domestic production by next year.

FALL ENROLLMENT SETS RECORD AT TEXAS COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

More than 1.6 million students enrolled this fall at Texas colleges and universities — an all-time high, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board reported. The preliminary numbers cover all levels of higher education, both public and private, and represent a 4.7% increase from last fall.

"The record enrollment numbers will help the state's continuing efforts to build a talent-strong Texas and an increasingly educated workforce," said Commissioner of Higher Education Wynn



Rosser.

For the first time since the pandemic, enrollment numbers surpassed pre-pandemic numbers in each sector of higher education.

JUDGE TOSSES TEXAS BOOK RATING LAW

A Waco federal judge last week threw out a 2023 Texas law that required booksellers and publisher to rate their books based on sexual content and reference, kut.org reported. The ruling makes permanent a lower court's temporary injunction that was later upheld by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The firm representing the coalition of bookstores and publishers hailed the ruling as a "major First Amendment victory."

"The READER Act would have imposed impossible obligations on booksellers and limited access to literature, including classic works, for students across Texas," attorney Laura Lee Prather said in a statement.

HB 900 sought to restrict which books are available in school libraries. It also required booksellers to rate their own books. The bill's author, state Rep. Jared Patterson, R-Frisco, posted on X that he was "deeply disappointed" by the judge's decision. However, he said SB 412 passed in the last legislative session holds school personnel "accountable" for exposing a child to what he termed "harmful materials."

PROPOSITION WOULD FUND DEMENTIA PREVENTION RESEARCH

As early voting continues through Oct. 31, the Texas Medical Association is backing Proposition 14, which would provide \$3 billion in funding over a 10-year period for research into pre-

venting dementia. The proposal, if approved, would create the Dementia Prevention Research Institute of Texas.

Houston neurologist Reeta Achari, MD, who testified in favor of DPRIT's creation on behalf of TMA, said Proposition 14 has the potential to make Texas a leader in dementia research, and thus "attract much-needed physicians and subject matter experts and innovators from across the world."

Alzheimer's disease comprises 60-80% of dementia cases and is becoming a public health crisis, according to a report from the Texas Department of State Health Services. More than 450,000 Texans over the age of 65 are living with Alzheimer's, the report states.

Opponents of the measure, according to a nonpartisan analysis by the Texas Legislative Council, fear it would create a new state bureaucracy without sufficient accountability and an open-ended financial risk for taxpayers.

FEDS SLASH ACA ENROLLMENT PROGRAM'S BUDGET

With open enrollment set to begin for the Affordable Care Act, funding for a navigator program that helped 65,000 Texans enroll for health insurance has been slashed by 90%, The Tribune reported. As a result, nonprofits are seeking other ways to fund their efforts to help uninsured Texans find health care.

The state received \$17 million in navigator grants last year. Most of the nearly 4 million Texans covered by an ACA plan find coverage on their own. However, navigators enrolled about 26,533 Texans and helped nearly 39,000 others obtain Medicaid.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid said the return on navigator investment was too low.

"Despite receiving \$98 million in the 2024 plan year, Navigators only enrolled 92,000 consumers—just 0.6 percent of plan selections," according to a CMS statement in February.

About 17% of all Texans are uninsured, the highest rate of all states.

NEARLY ONE FOURTH OF TRAFFIC DEATHS IN OIL AND GAS REGIONS

The Texas Department of Transportation is urging drivers to be extra cautious when driving in one of the state's five main energy regions — the Permian Basin, Eagle Ford Shale, Barnett Shale, Anadarko Basin and the Haynesville/Bossier Shale. One in four of the state's 1,023 traffic fatalities in 2024 occurred in those areas.

"Oil and gas production activity means large trucks and heavy machinery share the road with local traffic on rural roads and highways," according to the news release. "Increased truck traffic can mean limited visibility for drivers and wear and tear on road surfaces, potentially creating hazards that are difficult to navigate and maneuver around."

Nearly 79,000 traffic crashes occurred in those five regions. Failure to control speed and driver inattention were the top two factors contributing to those crashes.

**THE POSTSCRIPT**  
By **Carrie Classon**

Memorable Gift



My sister and I told my mother we were throwing her a party for her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

"Not everyone knows I'm 90!" she said.

"Well, it's good we tell them," I said. "We told everyone that Dad turned 90 last year, and we don't want people to think he robbed the cradle."

Mom saw the sense in that, and we sent out invitations to friends and family, and even though a few people couldn't make it at the last minute, we still had 34 guests. A spattering of rain sent everyone indoors, but everyone found a place to sit and eat appetizers and snacks and salads and cake, and we toasted to Mom's 90<sup>th</sup> year.

Mom told a story about how, on her golden birthday, when she was 10, all the relatives had been invited over to the farmhouse. Mom came from a big family, with 10 siblings and dozens of cousins. They had a tradition that, on your birthday, you got to eat first, which would be a rare thing for a small child in such a large family. My mom and her cousins were out playing in the peat marsh, and when they came in to eat, the family had already started. Mom said she was so hurt that she has never forgotten it. She told this story 80 years later, and we all agreed she should get to eat first.

After the cake had been eaten and most of the guests had left, Mom opened a few gifts. We had told everyone not to bring gifts, but a few family members had disregarded the instructions. Her grandson, Beau, gave her a little bird that, when placed in a pie, blew steam out its beak when the filling was done.

"It's practical and cute!" my mother said, and that is high praise coming from someone who is both.

Just when the last of the guests were thinking it was time to head on home, my oldest friend, Andrew, arrived. He was going to take me to the theater, as I have season tickets and we always go together.

"Happy Birthday, Jone!" Andrew said as he walked into the house. "I have some presents for you!"

Andrew handed my mother two bags. In the first was a cookie that said, "Happy Birthday" on it, which was nice. "Open the other one!" Andrew urged. My mother did.

"There's food in here," my mother said, sounding very confused.

My mother had a right to be confused. There was an entire meal inside the bag. She pulled the items out, and there were three tacos, wrapped in tinfoil, a brownie and a couple of other items that were not identified.

"Someone from DoorDash left it at my door by mistake, and I thought it was providential, and I should bring it to you!" he said.

"Who is this person?" one of the remaining guests whispered to me.

Then, my sister started to laugh, and I did, too. And my mother shook her head.

"I just thought I should bring you a gift," Andrew explained.

"Well, you didn't buy this, did you?" my mother asked.

"That's not very nice, to ask about a gift!" Andrew replied. My father rolled his eyes, and my mother laughed.

My parents have known Andrew since before he had a driver's license. But even knowing someone for almost 50 years does not prepare you for getting pilfered DoorDash on your 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

"I brought the most memorable gift, didn't I?" Andrew asked on the way to the theater.

I could not deny it.

Till next time,  
Carrie

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# FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 11: Texans host Jags with hopes of remaining in the Hunt

We will focus on the college and NFL schedule for the remainder of the season starting with next week's column.

There are a number of interesting games on the college schedule this weekend, as No. 2-ranked Indiana visits a reeling Penn State team, which would like nothing more than to pull off the upset to make its season. The Nittany Lions started the season ranked No. 2 in the country, but four straight losses have left PSU scrambling for a minor bowl and also cost head coach James Franklin his job.

Speaking of coaches looking for work, LSU head coach Brian Kelly was sent packing two weeks ago after the Tigers were embarrassed at home by Texas A&M, 49-25, in prime time on national TV. The LSU fit never felt right for the arrogant Northeasterner and Tiger fans weren't crying in their Hurricanes after Kelly was dismissed the day following the blowout loss to the No. 3-ranked Aggies. LSU heads to No. 4-ranked Alabama on Saturday.

Speaking of the Aggies, they head to Columbia, MO on Saturday to take on the No. 19-ranked Tigers, who will be without starting quarterback Beau Pribalau, who suffered a season-ending dislocated ankle two weeks ago in their 17-10 loss at Vanderbilt. Pribalau's loss is huge for the Tigers as he was dual-threat with 1,690 yards passing and 11 TDs and 220 yards rushing and five TDs.

The Aggies proved two weeks ago with their win at LSU that they can win on the road in a hostile environment. It also helps that they will have an extra week to prepare for this one.

The biggest game on this weekend's college schedule comes in the Big 12 when No. 10-ranked BYU visits No. 13-ranked Texas Tech. The winner should be in perfect position to land a spot in the Big 12 title game the first Saturday in December in Arlington.

In the NFL, the Texans host Jacksonville in a key AFC South game for both teams. Two weeks ago, the Texans may have saved their season with an impressive 26-15 home win over San Francisco. Quarterback C.J. Stroud had one of his best games in his young three-year career, passing for 318 yards and two TDs, while the defense held SF star running back Christian McCaffrey in check most of the day.

Other key games have the surprising New England Patriots visiting the rested Tampa Bay Buccaneers, while there are two good ones on Sunday Night Football and Monday Night Football. On SNF, the struggling Pittsburgh Steelers will visit the Los Angeles Chargers, while Week 11 concludes on MNF as the Philadelphia Eagles visit the Green Bay Packers. The outcome of that one could go a long way in determining who earns the No. 1 seed in the NFC. The Cowboys have the week off.

Before we take a look at this weekend's schedule, let's review last week's record. An 8-4 week upped the season record to 66-40 (62%).

Now, onto this weekend's games.

## NCAA

Indiana at Penn State - This is the tale of two teams heading in opposite directions as the No. 2-ranked Indiana Hoosiers visits a beaten down Penn State team that entered last week's game against No. 1-ranked Ohio State riding a four-game losing streak. Many thought the Nittany Lions would contend for a national title this year, but sub-par play and injuries have doomed this team. PSU fired head coach James Franklin and needs a signature win to save its season. Good luck with that against an Indiana team that is loaded, led by QB Fernando Mendoza (1,923 yards, 24 TDs), running backs Ramon Hemby (513 yards, 4 TDs) and Kaelon Black (509 yards, 3 TDs) and big-play wide receivers Omar Cooper (40 receptions, 607 yards, 7 TDs) and Elijah Suratt (44 receptions, 585 yards, 10 TDs). Penn State has lost starting QB Drew Allar for the year, so look for the Nittany Lions to try and run the ball with Kayton Allen (612 yards, 9 TDs) and



**KEENEY'S KORNER**  
By  
**MIKE KEENEY**

Nicholas Singleton (274 yards, 6 TDs) to control the clock and keep Mendoza off the field. Good luck with that. My pick, Indiana 31, Penn State 18

LSU at Alabama - Speaking of teams that have fallen apart this year, the LSU Tigers are just that. Two weeks ago, they were blown out at home by Texas A&M, 49-24, which cost Brian Kelly his job. This week, they face a hot team when they take on No. 4 Alabama in Tuscaloosa. The LSU offense has struggled this year behind QB Garrett Nussmeier (1,804 yards, 12 TDs). He will need to make plays to wide receivers Aaron Anderson (29 receptions, 382 yards) and Barion Brown (36 receptions, 361 yards, 1 TD). Those two have combined for a whopping one touchdown catch this year. The 'Bama offense is rolling behind QB Ty Simpson (2,184 yards, 20 TDs), running back Jam Miller (308 yards, 2 TDs) and big-play wide receivers Germie Berard (38 receptions, 526 yards, 6 TDs) and Ryan Williams (33 receptions, 495 yards, 3 TDs). Look for the Crimson Tide to continue to extend the Tigers' misery this year. My pick, Alabama 34, LSU 17

Texas A&M at Missouri - Mike Elko's Aggies come off their bye week with a tough road game at Missouri. After their blowout win at LSU two weeks ago, the Ags received a well-deserved week off, as did the banged-up Tigers, who have lost dual-threat QB Beau Pribalau (1,690 passing yards, 11 TDs/220 rushing yards, 5 TDs). Backup Matt Zollers (213 yards, 2 TDs) will run the Mizu offense, which will feature a heavy dose of productive running back Ahmad Hardy (937 yards, 11 TDs) and productive wide receiver Kevin Coleman Jr. (51 receptions, 558 yards, 1 TD). The Tiger defense will have its hands full taking on an explosive Aggie offense led by QB Marcel Reed (1,972 passing yards, 17 TDs/349 rushing yards, 6 TDs), running back Rueben Owens II (440 yards, 3 TDs) and big-play wideouts Mario Craver (39 receptions, 710 yards, 18.2 yards per catch, 4 TDs) and KC Concepcion (36 receptions, 545 yards, 9 total TDs). Look for the Ags to continue their magical season as they pick up a big road win on Saturday. My pick, Texas A&M 36, Missouri 20

BYU at Texas Tech - This is a big one in the Big 12 for both the Cougars and Red Raiders, with the winner having a good chance of reaching the Big 12 title game Dec. 6 in Arlington. BYU has been one of the surprise teams in the nation this year, which improved to 8-0 two weeks ago with a 41-27 win at Iowa State. The Cougars have gotten excellent play out of true freshman quarterback Bear Bachmeier (1,693 passing yards, 11 TDs/408 rushing yards, 9 TDs), running back LJ Martin (789 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receivers Chase Roberts (32 receptions, 591 yards, 4 TDs) and Parker Kingston (34 receptions, 514 yards, 4 TDs). BYU will face perhaps its biggest test this year when it faces a Tech defense that has allowed just 12 points a game through its first eight contests. The Red Raiders also have some weapons on offense, and should have starting QB Behren Morton (1,501 yards, 13 TDs in six games) back for this game. Morton missed two games with an ankle injury, and Tech will need him back under center after losing backup QB Will Hammond to a season-ending ACL injury two weeks in Tech's 42-0 win over Oklahoma State. Look for Tech to give running back Cameron Dickey (680 yards, 9 TDs) and J'Koby Williams (388 yards, 7 total TDs), plenty of action early, then turn Morton loose to hook up with wideouts Caleb Douglas (34 receptions, 511 yards, 2 TDs), Coy Eakin (34 receptions, 455 yards, 4 TDs) and Reggie Virgil (32 receptions, 363 yards, 5 TDs) and

tight end Terrance Carter Jr. 23 receptions, 297 yards, 5 TDs) to make plays in the passing game. This could be Tech's biggest home game since its upset of then No. 1-ranked Texas in 2008. My pick, Texas Tech 34, BYU 30

## NFL

Jacksonville at Houston - The Texans host the Jaguars in a key AFC South game for both teams. The winner keeps its fledgling playoff hopes alive, while the loser will probably begin looking to the 2026 season. Two weeks ago, the Texans picked up a big win, downing the 49ers, 26-15. QB C.J. Stroud (1,623 yards, 11 TDs) had one of his best games in years, doing it without star wide receiver Nico Collins (26 receptions, 339 yards, 3 TDs), who missed the game with a concussion. In the win over SF, Stroud passed for 318 yards and two TDs. The Houston defense, which has 16 sacks in its first seven games, will look to force a turnover or two from Jags QB Trevor Lawrence (1,620 yards, 9 TDs, 5 interceptions). If the defense can slow down running back Travis Etienne (514 yards, 2 TDs), then the pass rush can bow up and get after Lawrence. My pick, Houston 27, Jacksonville 16

New England at Tampa Bay - The Patriots have been one of the biggest surprise teams so far this season. After winning just four games a year ago, Mike Vrabel has turned the Pats into a serious playoff contender. They entered last week's game against Atlanta with a 6-2 record and atop the AFC East standings. NE has turned things around thanks to second-year QB Drake Maye (2,026 yards, 15 TDs) and wide receivers Stefon Diggs (42 receptions, 470 yards, 1 TD) and Kayshon Boutte (22 receptions, 431 yards, 5 TDs). This will be a good road test when they take on Baker Mayfield (1,919 yards, 13 TDs), whose team is coming off their bye week. They should get some injured receivers back, which should help rookie sensation Emeka Egbuka (34 receptions, 562 yards, 5 TDs). Look for a stout TB defense to be the difference maker in this one as the Patriots roll is slowed down just a bit. My pick, Tampa Bay 23, New England 20

Pittsburgh at Los Angeles Chargers - A good one for the Sunday Night Football crew as the Steelers visit the Chargers in an important game for both teams. Two weeks ago, the Steelers defense, especially its secondary, was exposed once again in a 35-25 home loss to Green Bay, while the Chargers offense rolled to a 37-10 wipeout of the Vikings. The Pittsburgh defense will face another tough test Sunday when it faces LA QB Justin Herbert (2,140 yards, 16 TDs) and big-play wideouts Keenan Allen (48 receptions, 479 yards, 4 TDs) and Ladd McConkey (43 receptions, 469 yards, 3 TDs). The Steelers will need QB Aaron Rodgers (1,489 yards, 16 TDs) to be on, along with running back Jaylen Warren (373 yards) and wide receiver DK Metcalf (27 receptions, 461 yards, 5 TDs). My pick, Los Angeles Chargers 27, Pittsburgh 24

Philadelphia at Green Bay - Week 10 concludes with a really good one as the Eagles visit the Packers. Philly appears to have figured things out on offense as running back Saquon Barkley (150 yards, 2 TDs in win over Giants two weeks ago, 519 yards, 5 total TDs for year) looked like the '24 version. If he gets rolling, that will set up the passing game for QB Jalen Hurts (1,677 passing yards, 15 TDs/207 rushing yards, 5 TDs) and wide receivers DeVonta Smith (44 receptions, 588 yards, 2 TDs) and A.J. Brown (29 receptions, 295 yards, 3 TDs) and tight end Dallas Goedert (30 receptions, 289 yards, 7 TDs). This is the type of game why the Packers traded for edge rusher

# GP Yellow Jackets Suffer Tough Loss Against Huskies

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. November 1, 2025 at the HISD Delmar Stadium Galena Park Head Coach Spiro Amarantos's Yellow Jackets were overwhelmed by the Houston Westbury Huskies 48-21.

At the end of the first quarter the Jackets led 7 - 0. At the close of the first half it was a close game only on TD apart, Huskies 20 - Jackets 14. By the end of the contest the Huskies prevailed 48 - 21.

Jackets scored 2 TD's on QB Juan Soto passes to Patrick Lee and one rushing TD made by Cary Clay. Linda Jamail statistician.

Galena Park closes out their season at home Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup> on Senior Night 7PM against Houston's Austin Mustangs.



#18 Galena Park Yellow Jacket wide receiver Patrick Lee scores on a Juan Soto 62 yard pass. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Final
Galena Park	7	7	0	7	21
Westbury	0	20	21	7	48



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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCORES/SCHEDULES

**LAST WEEK'S SCORES**  
Friday, Oct. 31  
North Shore 42, C. E. King 27

**Saturday, Nov. 1**  
Houston Westbury 48, Galena Park 21  
Humble Atascocita 70, Channelview 0

**THIS WEEK'S GAMES**  
Thursday, Nov. 6  
Galena Park vs. Houston Austin (Senior Night) at 7 p.m., at Galena Park ISD Stadium

**Friday, Nov. 7**  
C. E. King at Channelview at 7 p.m., at Ray Maddry Memorial Stadium in Channelview  
North Shore vs. Summer Creek at 7:30 p.m., at Galena Park ISD Stadium



Micah Parsons (6.5 sacks). Look for Parsons to focus on Hurts most of the night to keep him in check and to keep him from hurting the Pack with his legs. The Packers have a lot of weapons of their own on offense led by QB Jordan Love (1,798

yards, 13 TDs), running back Josh Jacobs (447 yards, 9 TDs) and big-play tight end Tucker Kraft (30 receptions, 469 yards, 6 TDs). Love also has capable receivers in Romeo Dobbs (27 receptions, 350 yards, 4 TDs) and getting Christian Watson

back just gives Love one more weapon in his arsenal. Look for Parsons to be the difference maker in this one as Green Bay picks up a big win that could be key to them earning the NFC's top seed. My pick, Green Bay 31, Philadelphia 27

# Galena Park High breaks ground on transformative campus expansion,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Vice President Linda Clark Sherrard, Secretary Jose Jimenez, and Trustees Adrian Stephens, Noe Esparza, Norma Hernandez, and Amanda Erebia. Principal Ramirez expressed gratitude for their leadership.

"We are grateful for the vision and steadfast leadership of our Board of Trustees. Their commitment has been instrumental in making this dream come true," he said.

Special recognition was given to the Superintendent's Student Advisory Board.

"Their participation today demonstrates our commitment to amplifying student voices and fostering a student-centered educational environment," Ramirez noted.

Collaboration was key to the project's success.

"We also thank PBK Architects, Rice and Gardner Consultants, and Satterfield and Pontikes Construction Company for their expert collaboration. Their work has been instrumental in bringing the Master Plan to life," Ramirez said.

With the ceremonial first shovel of dirt, Principal Ramirez and Dr. Moore officially began construction, symbolizing the foundation being laid for a brighter future.

"This is more than just a building project. It's an investment in our students, families, staff, and supporters. Together, we are building a stronger, more vibrant future for generations," Ramirez said.

The renovation, designed and constructed in phases, includes a new 95,000-square-foot building to house CTE classrooms, dining commons, kitchen, central plant, and support spaces. The CTE

spaces will offer instruction in FFA, floral, welding, automotive, robotics, engineering, CAD/BIM modeling, culinary, criminal justice, business, pharmacy and medical technician, computer, graphics design, and broadcasting. The indoor welding shop features 52 welding booths, a computer-operated plasma cutter, and space for large projects. The automotive shop includes vehicle lifts, a simulated inspection station, alignment machine, brake lathes, wheel balancers, and tire changers. Robotics and engineering spaces consist of classrooms, shop spaces, and an open playfield for testing and competition. Criminal justice spaces include virtual reality simulators, 911 dispatch simulators, portable prisoner cells, and mock trial proceedings. Pharmacy and medical spaces feature classrooms, a pharmacy lab, phlebotomy stations, blood pressure machines, and patient beds with mock headwalls.

Satterfield & Pontikes Construction (S&P) joined the celebration, marking Phase 3A as a transformative milestone in the campus's modernization.

"We're proud to be a part of bringing Galena Park ISD's vision to life," said Nic Flannery, S&P President. "This new facility will positively impact students and faculty for years to come."

Phase 3A will deliver a 33,000-square-foot field-house replacement, featuring locker rooms, a weight room, hydrotherapy tubs, film rooms, and group instruction areas.

"This latest phase marks a significant step forward in a five-phase re-development strategy designed to rebuild the high school while maintaining



Mr. Jack, for fear of his demise after decades of use, was retired to a showcase in 2012. He will forever be preserved as an icon of Jacket history for future classes to observe.



Final Walk. Graduates from the Class of 1975 take a final walk through the hallowed halls of Galena Park High School before the ultimate changes come. The oldest section is slated for demolition in the next year.



The seal for Galena Park High School, a symbol that has been shined with dollar bills by incoming sophomores for years, will be preserved and put in The Timeless Jacket area of remembrance.

uninterrupted school operations," said Director of Facilities Planning Ed Martir.

One unique feature will be "The Timeless Jacket," a dedicated area showcasing memorabilia from earlier years of the school, both physical and digital.

Alumni and current students will be able to type in a student's name and see their photos on a screen. All yearbooks will be digitized and available for students to view.



The alumni also visited one of the most 'happening' places in east Harris County. The auditorium, later named after board member Johnnie Rountree, was home to major productions and fun activities including pep rallies, the world's greatest high school beauty pageants, and musical performances that included Galena Park resident Mickey Gilley, ZZ Top, famed trumpeters Doc Severinson and Rafael Mendez, the Westminster Choir, and numerous other acts at the annual Black and Gold Review.



GPHS alumni get a look at the incredible equipment provided for welding students. There are 52 cubicles for students to work in and state-of-the-art equipment and welding supplies for classes. Students can graduate with a certificate in the welding program and earn their way into apprentice programs and jobs following graduation.

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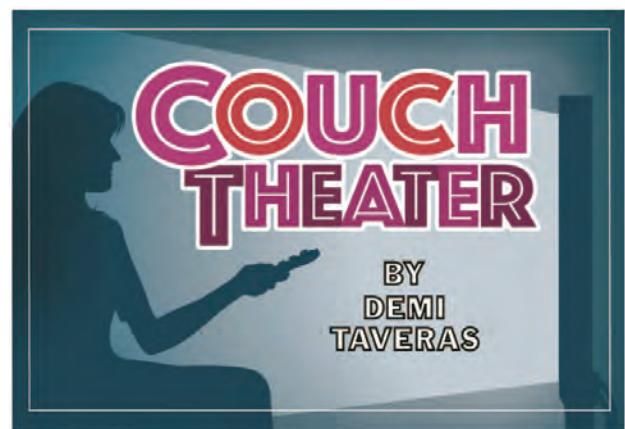
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Oscar Isaac stars in "Frankenstein."

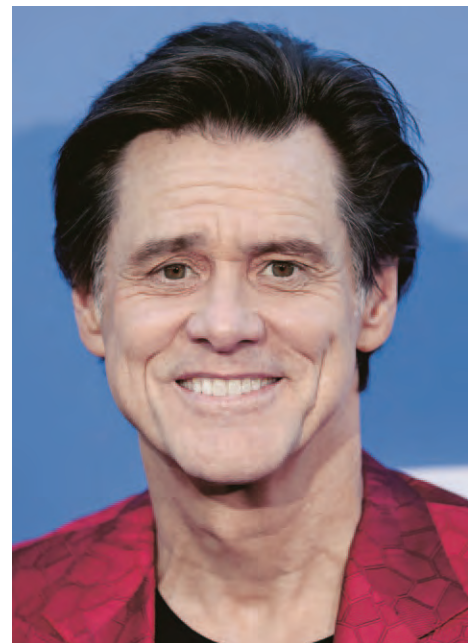
"Frankenstein"

"Frankenstein" (R) — Jacob Elordi ("Saltburn") is taking a page out of Bill Skarsgard's ("Nosferatu") playbook and completely transformed himself for the role of "The Creature" in this gothic sci-fi film from director Guillermo del Toro ("Pinocchio").

involved. (Netflix) "All Her Fault" (TV-MA) — Sarah Snook ("Succession") suited up for another tense leading drama role, which seems to be the actress's forte.

premiere. (Peacock) "I Love LA" (TV-MA) — Actress and comedian Rachel Sennott ("Bottoms") not only stars in the lead role for this new comedy series, but she's the creator and writer behind the series as well.

HOLLYWOOD by Tony Rizzo



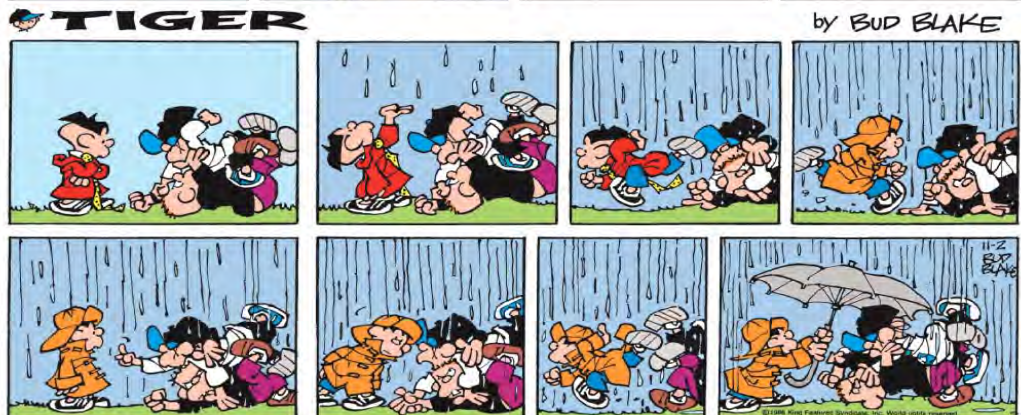
Jim Carrey ("Sonic the Hedgehog")

HOLLYWOOD — Jim Carrey made 39 films between 1983 and 2016, but suddenly in 2022, after playing Dr. Robotnik in "Sonic the Hedgehog" (2020 and 2022), he announced his retirement from acting.

that are awaiting release: the thriller "Stone Cold Fox," with Kiernan Shipka, and the action thriller "Sierra Madre." He also filmed the British Christmas comedy "Tinsel Town," with Rebel Wilson and Derek Jacobi, back in January in England.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU grid and difficulty instructions

HOCUS-FOCUS comic strip by Henry Boltinoff with a 'Find at least six differences' puzzle

King Crossword puzzle grid and clues for November 3, 2025

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez with 10 questions on various topics

Trivia Test Answers: 1. 2006; 2. Uniform Resource Locator; 3. Aegean Sea; 4. Garth Brooks; 5. Penelope Featherington; 6. 360; 7. "On Golden Pond"; 8. Having an extra nipple; 9. Ina Garten; 10. Tungsten (W)

