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Mayor John Whitmire Kicks Off Re-election Campaign Race for Houston's 63rd Mayor

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. ~ May, 28, 2026 at Houston's Post Oak Hotel Mayor John Whitmire's Houston's 63rd Mayor held his re-election fund raising kickoff event. The crowd of enthusiastic supporters gave numerous cheers and applause to the mayor's presentation to some of his accomplishments in his first term's election in December of 2023.

To begin the evening event Whitmire was introduced by council members, Joaquin Martinez,

Sallie Alcorn and Mayor Pro-tem Martha Castex-Tatum. They each praised him for his sincere dedication of service to the citizens and his willingness to work across the aisle in Houston's non-partisan government. They said he was willing to meet them halfway to support their goals and his too in order to get things done to improve city services.

Upon taking the stage and podium the 76 year old Whitmire; Houston's oldest mayor just stood in silence and



Houston Mayor John Whitmire with North Channel Star Photojournalist Allan Jamail. The two exchanged pleasantries, Mayor Whitmire thanked his longtime friend Jamail for covering his event. (Photo by Houston Mayor John Whitmire staffer)

gazed out at the large crowd... he said he just wanted to take a moment before speaking to see those in attendance. He stated such a large attendance of well wishers makes him feel that all his long hours of work at city hall and late night hours and weekend time he's put in has been worth it.

Whitmire emphasized his record of goals accomplished wasn't just his record of service but that of the team of council members, administrative officials and Houston's personnel. He said the way our team succeeds is, "we don't politicize the problems and or issues."

A loud uproar of approval was given when Whitmire announced the completion of this year's budget without tax increases and concluding in saying, Houston's on a roll, I'm fired up and looking forward to completing my eight years as your mayor."

The mayor said public safety was still his top priority as it was when he campaigned in 2023. He said in his first term there's been a rise in public safety personnel hiring. He said over 800 police and over 600 fire department cadets have been trained. When he took office there were over a 1,000 broken water main lines and now it less than 100.

Whitmire stated he's working to improve trash

Continued. See NC STAR SPECIAL COVER STORY:, Page 8

CHANNEL CURRENTS

DPS Announces Changes to CDL Knowledge Testing

AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) announces changes to the state's commercial driver license (CDL) testing process.

Effective today, all Texas CDL and commercial learner permit (CLP) knowledge examinations will be administered in English only.

This change aligns Texas' testing procedures with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) English language proficiency requirements and will help ensure that all newly licensed commercial drivers have the communication skills necessary to operate these vehicles safely on Texas roads. Previously, CDL knowledge tests were offered in both English and Spanish. The hands-on CDL skills test, which includes pre-trip inspection, basic control skills and the road test, has always been conducted in English only.

Applicants scheduled for CDL/CLP knowledge testing on or after June 1, 2026, should be prepared to complete all written and automated knowledge exams in English.

Interpreters for these exams are prohibited. Updated study materials for these exams, as well as the Texas Commercial

Continued. See story on, Page 3

Federal Jury Awards Former Pct.2 Deputy \$1.65 M

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

A federal jury awarded former Harris County Precinct 3 Constable's Office deputy Bert Whittington III \$1.65 million in his harassment lawsuit against Harris County, according to court records and an interview with Whittington.

The verdict, returned last month, followed a trial in which jurors found that Whittington, who is Black, was harassed because of his race by supervisors, according to court documents. The decision came nearly five years after Whittington sued the county and the Precinct 3 Constable's Office in October 2021.

In his lawsuit, Whittington alleged that two supervisors and a group of deputies in his unit made "exceptionally offensive



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jokes and comments," and that the "core of the jokes and comments were that African Americans with dark skin color were an inferior race," according to court filings.

Whittington, who joined the constable's office in 2017, said in the lawsuit that he was the only "dark skin color African American" in his unit at the time and that the group was made up of deputies with "light color skin."

Whittington said the verdict was meaningful because it cleared his name.

"For me, it wasn't about the money," he said in an interview. "It was all about clearing my name."

He also said he was grateful for the jury's decision. "If I had the opportunity, I would shake each and every one of their hands and tell them thank

you," Whittington said. "Yes, I am thankful for the verdict."

Whittington said he initially viewed the case as a wrongful-termination dispute, but his attorneys pursued discrimination and retaliation claims.

"My initial thought process was, 'Hey, man, this is all about wrongful termination for me,'" he said. "My attorneys kept saying, 'Yeah, it may be wrongful termination, but this is discrimination and retaliation.'"

Whittington, a 24-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, and his cousin was interviewed by Eagleton who offered him the job of his lifetime as a K-9 officer.

"I froze because that's what I really wanted to

Continued. See FORMER DEPUTY AWARDED \$1.65M, Page 5

Month-long LyondellBasell Water Pipeline Leak Finally Stopped in Northeast Harris County

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

A water leak from a LyondellBasell pipeline in northeast Harris County that had been spewing thousands of gallons for more than a month was finally shut off this week, according to what company representatives told ABC-13 and local fire officials. The leak, spotted near Beltway 8 and Uvalde, not far from Gene Green Park, was traced to a failed safety relief valve on an industrial surface water line that feeds the company's Channelview complex.

"This piping brings water from a canal connected to Lake Houston to our Channelview Complex,"



said Susan Scott, spokesperson for LyondellBasell.

"The water leaked intermittently over several weeks directly into Carpenter's Bayou and did not reach any roads, businesses or homes."

Once determining the source, the company formulated plans to isolate the pipe.

"Given where it was located, our team had to build a scaffold to reach the valve before we could begin the investigation.

The leak was fixed May 19," Scott said.

Sheldon Fire Chief Sidney Webb said his department first learned of the problem after receiving calls from concerned residents on 9-1-1 calls. "It's been blowing for over a

month," Webb said. "They were worried about the flooding and not having water or so many hundreds of thousands of gallons of water being wasted."

Webb said he went to the site himself to inspect the line. "I came over here and investigated myself," he said. "I actually walked all the way down the pipeline." Based on what he saw, Webb said the damaged line appeared to be "about a 48-inch surface water line" with a failed relief valve or gate valve.

For days, residents and responders struggled to determine who owned the pipeline. Webb said

Continued. See MONTH-LONG PIPELINE LEAK FINALLY, Page 5

50-280 (Rev. 01-26/8)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS
BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

Sheldon Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 7:00 pm, June 16, 2026 at Donald P. Ney Administration Building in Houston, Texas 77044. This meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate the school district will adopt.

The school district invites public participation in the discussion.

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

Maintenance Tax \$ 0.75520 /\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax Approved by Local Voters \$ 0.50000 /\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

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

Maintenance and operations	1.50	% increase	or	-	% (decrease)
Debt service	8.45	% increase	or	-	% (decrease)
Total expenditures	2.95	% increase	or	-	% (decrease)

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

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 9,675,446,711	\$ 9,324,278,723
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 145,368,564	\$ 176,022,119
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 7,322,766,168	\$ 7,056,988,149
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 110,020,760	\$ 133,220,600

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

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$ 484 MM

* Outstanding principal.

50-280 (Rev. 01-26/8) (Back)

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance and Operations	Interest and Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ 0.75520	\$ 0.50000*	\$ 1.25520	\$ 9,419	\$ 5,450
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 0.87617	\$ 0.51817*	\$ 1.39435	\$ 10,382	\$ 5,340
Proposed Rate	\$ 0.75520	\$ 0.50000*	\$ 1.25520	\$ 9,872	\$ 5,471

* The interest and sinking fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

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

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 212,839	\$ 201,052
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 93,477	\$ 90,016
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.25520	\$ 1.25520
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 1,173.32	\$ 1,129.88
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ (43.44)

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

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.25520. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of 1.25520.

Fund Balances

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

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 32.3 MM
Interest and Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 25.5 MM

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

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

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

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



What to Expect

I learned a long time ago not to expect my self from others and I have learned not to expect to know every answer, yet there are things happening each day in our own communities that still make my head spin. I often wake up and read the morning headlines and wonder if this is real or am I dreaming.

How can a young father be on his way to work and an unlicensed tow truck be so busy dumping trash that he fails to pay attention and pulls out and kills the motorcyclist? Or how can a young person who has never traveled outside of their own community develop a hate towards someone who looks different from them or speaks another language? I remember years ago when a group of individuals in our area wanted to open a crisis pregnancy center near Uvalde Road. Neighbors were upset as they did not think this was needed in their neighborhood. Yet less than a block away was an automotive business, a day care and several restaurants and less than a half a mile was a “gentleman’s club.” Sadly, without a resource center for unplanned pregnancies, many lives were hurt or even lost to abortions.

Yet in our area, we continue to have businesses such as “gentlemen’s clubs”, after-hours clubs, game rooms operating illegally and then some. Where is the uproar? We have a nationwide shortage of law enforcement officers largely in response to the lack of respect for their service and there is no way they can respond as quickly as they are needed for emergencies when too often, they are out on calls that should never happen in the first place. An example of this is the increasing number of “take-over” parties that are being held throughout the county. Young people advertise parties on social media and uncontrollable crowds show up.

Too often alcohol is served and reports of illegal drugs and no responsible adults present. Fights break out and even as recently as last weekend, adults are targeted by youth, and the violence is out of control. Why? Where does the breakdown happen?

For years we heard it was the absence of a parent in the home. Yet sadly now there are often when neither parent is around and the children are being raised by older grandparents or others who are not even family. The youth are looking up to those who they see in the media, yet they do not have the critical thinking skills to realize that not all that shine is gold. The “fast life” will eventually catch up with them, and they will ultimately pay way more than they have. Please as summer progresses, do your part. Encourage the youth to get involved in positive youth activities, community service projects and church activities. Be an example.

As one of my elder friends often states, “If a young person sees a clean community, they feel better about themself”. Show them how to make a difference. Praise them when they do good and teach them to expect the best.

Community Events

Thursday, June 4

Registration open for Pipeline Hoops ALL WORK NO WHISTLE Youth Hoop Camo. Ages 6 & up. June 9 - 23, afternoons. For more information, please call 832-272-1680

June 5

7 p.m. Houston Eastside Prayer Gathering,

Saturday, June 6

9 a.m.- Car Wash Fundraiser for Jayden’s Pathway to Purpose to be held at W.D.Ley Family YMCA, 15055 Wallsville Road

DPS changes CDL written test,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Motor Vehicle Driver’s Handbook, are available to applicants free of charge on the DPS website.

DPS personnel on Texas roads, along with other certified commercial vehicle inspectors, will continue to conduct English language proficiency evaluations during routine traffic stops and at weigh stations. These evaluations are a critical measure to ensure drivers possess the necessary communication skills for on-road safety and compliance with federal regulations, and any commercial vehicle driver who does not meet the proficiency standard will be placed out of service.

All these actions, and others like them, are part of the department’s continued efforts to make roads safer across the state and nation.

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ASK DIAMOND JIM



Diamond Jim: “Why should I avoid mall jewelry stores?”

That is an excellent question and one I’m happy to answer! There are many reasons why buying jewelry at your local mall isn’t a good idea. Lower quality is the name of the game for most mall jewelry stores.

Here are some of the best reasons why you don’t want to buy jewelry, especially a diamond ring, from a jewelry store in the mall:

Most mall jewelry stores sell mass produced, lower quality rings.

Most mall jewelers are huge chains or department stores. Think of them as the “Walmart” of jewelry companies. They offer mass-produced jewelry that is quickly (and not skillfully) made. They have to make thousands of identical rings to supply all their stores. In order to cut costs, they manufacture in China and Asia. These workers are not highly trained, nor are they highly paid and the quality suffers.

Some of their diamonds are off-color, usually grayish colored.

When you purchase a diamond ring, you expect to see the ‘WOW’ factor (the brilliance, sparkle, and fire in a diamond), not the ‘Blah’ factor! The diamond color grading scale starts at D, which is colorless. Most high-quality engagement rings will be made with F-I color grade diamonds, which is colorless to near colorless. This means they look “clear and white”.A light, grayish-colored diamond costs about half as much as a colorless diamond. Jewelry chain stores buy these and pass them off to their customers. When the entire store sells this low level of quality stones, it’s hard for you to compare them when that’s the only selection you find (and when store after store presents the same offering).

Most do not sell G.I.A. graded diamonds.

Every industry has their own organization that many consider the preferred source for defining standards and benchmarks. For the diamond industry, it’s the Gemological Institute of America or the GIA. Most stores in the mall **do not** sell diamonds that are independently lab-graded by GIA, which is recognized as the most accurate grading lab in the world. It was the GIA that created the “4 C’s” in the 1940’s. These universal and objective standards grade each individual diamond based on Cut, Color, Clarity, and Carat weight. If the mall jewelry stores do offer a “certified” diamond, it’s usually by a second-rate grading lab. The problem is these other labs over-grade the diamond’s color and clarity by 1 to 3 grades! The stores sell you a 1carat, G color, SI1 clarity diamond. But you end up with an I to J color and I1 clarity stone. This is unethical, to say the least!

Cookie cutter designs.

Take a stroll in the mall and pop in the jewelry stores. Look at their engagement rings. After hitting two or three stores, do you notice a pattern? That’s right... all the rings look identical! Do you really want the same engagement ring as your neighbor? Or the same one the lady in front of you at the grocery store has on her finger? Just imagine how it feels to hear someone say, “Oh, I’ve got that same ring!”

Want a custom design?

Say you see a ring in a style magazine that a celebrity is wearing. It inspires you to create your own one-of-a-kind ring. Or you have an idea for your dream ring. Guess what? Mall stores can’t make it for you. Customized consumer items have become very popular over the past decade. More and more people want something that has their own “special something” added to it. Jewelry is no different.

Fake sales and inflated prices.

Did you know the mall jewelers have a sale every single day? You’ve seen the 50% - 70% off sale signs in their store. But here’s the truth. It’s fake. The prices are deliberately marked up 600%, 700%, and more so they can slash the price by 70%. They *never* intended to sell it at the “regular” price in the first place. It’s a scam. But it “works” on most unsuspecting people. Don’t let it “work” on you.

They employ salespeople, not educated diamond and gem professionals.

Most of the mall jewelry stores have commission-driven sales employees. Typically, they have only a few months (or possibly a couple of years) in the jewelry industry. The employee turnover rate is high. And their gemology education is almost non-existent. Do you really want this type of person guiding you in the purchase of a valuable diamond? If you conduct even a small amount of research on diamonds, there’s a very good chance you’ll know more than the average salesperson at a mall jewelry store. Work with a professional jewelry staff like the folks at **Pineforest Jewelry**, instead. It’s a better investment of your time *and* money.

Mall stores pay huge overhead costs. And it’s passed on to you.

You would be amazed at what a mall charges for rent. It’s astronomical. In addition, the stores have to pay the mall ownership a percentage of every dollar that is sold in the store. (Kind of explains all those “sales,” doesn’t it?)

These mall stores have so many expenses that the price of jewelry is bloated in order to pay for everything. Do you really want your hard-earned dollars going toward low quality jewelry and high overhead costs? Or would you rather get the best diamond ring for your money?

If you are looking to purchase that amazing engagement ring or just something nice for yourself, come see us. If you need to sell some old jewelry, coins, or diamonds to pay the bills, look no further than **Pineforest Jewelry**. Contact us or simply stop by our store and discover how we can be of service to you.

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.

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OPINION PAGE

OPINION

By BILL KING

Whitmire's Budget Proposal Buys the City Time

You may have seen my **op-ed in the Houston Chronicle**, regarding my views on Mayor Whitmire's budget proposal for the upcoming year. Because the paper has limited space for an op-ed, I wanted to provide my regular readers with some additional details and context.

My basic takeaway is that it buys us a couple of years to address the City's more fundamental financial challenges. It is not a permanent fix.

The City's finances are wickedly complex and involve several different funds. Its largest and most pressing challenge for the last two decades has been the General Fund. The General Fund pays for most of the services the City provides, such as police, fire, parks, etc. Importantly, it does not fund the water and sewer system, which in City lingo, is the Combined Utility System ("CUS"). State law requires that utilities, such as water and sewer, be accounted for and operated separately. Think of it as a separate entity or subsidiary of the City.

The City entered the current budget cycle, needing a little over \$200 million to balance its General Fund. Its **five-year projection** shows that number ramping up to over \$500 million by 2030 (see p. 51).

Current Budget Gap FY2027 - FY2031
(\$ in Thousands)

Fiscal Year	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
FY2024	180,856	25,293	13,549	13,549	13,549	13,549
FY2025	25,293	25,293	25,293	25,293	25,293	25,293
FY2026	25,293	25,293	25,293	25,293	25,293	25,293
FY2027	25,293	25,293	25,293	25,293	25,293	25,293
FY2028	25,293	25,293	25,293	25,293	25,293	25,293
FY2029	25,293	25,293	25,293	25,293	25,293	25,293
FY2030	25,293	25,293	25,293	25,293	25,293	25,293
FY2031	25,293	25,293	25,293	25,293	25,293	25,293

Of course, a structural deficit in the General Fund is nothing new. Since the City's ill-fated decision to dramatically increase its pension benefits in the early 2000s, a succession of City Controllers have been warning that the deficits would ultimately become unsustainable, either requiring massive property tax increases or a reduction in expenditures.

The plan that the Whitmire administration laid out involves three basic elements. The one that has gotten the most attention, but is by far the least consequential, is an entry-level garbage fee of \$5 per month. The City currently has only 393,000 garbage customers, so at \$60 per year, the fee will only bring in about \$23.24 million. After collection losses and exemptions that Council will likely add for seniors and potentially others, the real number will probably be closer to \$20 million.

The real General Fund relief comes from transferring all garbage collection to the CUS and imposing a fee on the CUS for use of the City's rights-of-way. Transferring the Solid Waste Department to the CUS will transfer about \$100 million in expenses from the General Fund to the CUS.

State law dictates that a municipality cannot make a "profit" from its utilities to use for other purposes. However, it does allow municipalities to charge a utility for various items. Specifically, cities are allowed to charge a utility for the right-of-way it uses to run its lines. Every major city in Texas imposes such a charge on its water and sewer utility, and other utilities, such as Comcast and CenterPoint, pay similar fees. They are generally set as a percentage of the utilities' revenues. Whitmire's budget proposal calls for a 5% charge, which is toward the lower end of what other Texas cities charge their utilities (see p. 19). This will move about \$100 million from the CUS to the General Fund.

So, moving the Solid Waste expenses to the CUS and charging it for the rights-of-way will generate about \$200 million in relief for the General Fund. Because this is a permanent change and not a one-time fix, it reduces the projected General Fund deficit in 2031 to under \$200 million.

The principal question that this proposal raises is whether the CUS can afford this \$200 million hit. My judgment is that it can in the short- to medium-term, but whether it can in the longer term is an open question.

There was a time when the CUS was in dire straits. During the early 2000s, it was technically insolvent as its liabilities exceeded its assets. However, since then, water and sewer increases under Mayors Parker and Turner in 2010 and 2021, respectively, have dramatically improved the CUS's finances. From being insolvent in the early 2000s, it reached a fund balance of \$4.4 billion last year, with almost \$2 billion in liquidity. In addition, over the last three years, it has invested \$2.4 billion in capital improvements to the system and reduced its bond debt by almost \$1 billion.

Also, last year the City obtained a **\$1 billion loan from the Texas Water Development Board** on favorable terms to repair the dilapidated East End Water Plant. According to my sources, more help from the State may be on the way. Which, by the way, is one of the reasons that poking the Governor in the eye over 33 people being turned over to ICE was such a stupid idea.

So, the CUS is flush for now. However, in the longer term, it faces significant challenges. Our wastewater system leaks like a sieve, which means we regularly dump untreated sewage into our bays and streams. The City has been under a series of consent decrees with the EPA since the 1980s for violating the Clean Water Act. And, of course, we have all heard reports that the freshwater system loses billions of gallons each year through leaks. So, there is still a lot of work to be done. Some estimates put the amount of investment needed in the \$14 billion range.

Although not officially part of this year's budget, the Whitmire administration has signaled its intent to begin to increase the garbage fee in 2028 by \$5 per year, eventually raising it to \$25 per month. If that were to happen, it would take about half of the burden off the CUS.

The Whitmire administration is also promising to use the new resources to improve garbage pickup. You will have to excuse me for being skeptical. I have heard a similar promise from every mayor in my lifetime. None has succeeded.

This is primarily because the City's operations do not operate on a viable economic scale. The City picks up only a relatively small portion of the total garbage. It does not service apartments or businesses, and about a quarter of households have already fled the City's abysmal service in favor of private haulers. I suspect that many others will follow suit as the fee begins to ramp up.

This leaves the City with a patchwork of fewer than 400,000 customers spread over 600 square miles. That means routes are impossibly long and inefficient. The only logical solution is to outsource the entire thing, which I suspect will ultimately be the case. Indeed, the imposition of the garbage fee may accelerate that day. But if the City insists on continuing to operate a fundamentally inefficient garbage model, it will ultimately need to ramp up the garbage to keep from impairing the CUS fund.

On balance, I think the proposal is a reasonable stopgap. But make no mistake, this is not a permanent solution to the City's financial woes. And they are not problems we can tax our way out of. To cover the currently projected General Fund deficit, not to mention catching up on our woefully antiquated infrastructure, would require nearly a 60% increase in property taxes over the next five years. That would violate the city charter and state law and prompt a taxpayer revolt.

We will eventually have to face some difficult choices. I do not believe that dramatically increasing property taxes is the answer, and that it would only serve to drive more Houstonians to the suburbs.

Instead, we need to reconsider giving away half of our sales tax (~\$1 billion) to a transit agency that carries fewer riders than it did in 2004 and giving away \$200 million in our property taxes to TIRZs that mostly lavish projects on wealthy neighborhoods.

Whitmire should come down hard on overtime. Large recurring overtime is a management failure. Whitmire should make it clear to the managers of the departments where this has been a problem for years that their jobs are on the line if it continues.

In fact, we need to completely rethink our models for public safety. For years, we have just thrown more money at HPD and HFD, with little to show for it. Those departments are still about the same size today as they were 20 years ago. No "boots on the ground" have been added. HPD's clearance rates remain at abysmal levels. The Ernest & Young efficiency study indicated that HPD and HFD were, by far, the most top-heavy departments in the City.

These will be the real challenges. Hopefully, the City will use the time this proposal buys to do the hard, and sometimes unpopular work, to actually address the City's long-term financial viability.

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.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

Texas Oil Industry at War with Itself

The GOP runoff race for a seat on the Texas Railroad Commission is pitting oil industry leaders against each other. Many small-scale oil companies are supporting former Tarrant County Republican Party chair Bo French because of incumbent Jim Wright's efforts to lead reforms at the Commission, the Houston Chronicle reported.

"I can't support Jim Wright, because Jim Wright makes rules that are silly for lots and lots and lots of operators," said Lance Thomas, manager of Albany-based Stasney Well Service. His company is suing the Railroad Commission over new rules about how oil operators manage onsite waste pits.

A political action committee associated with oil billionaire Tim Dunn, a conservative megadonor, has contributed at least \$350,000 to French's campaign. On the flip side, Chevron, Exxon Mobil, and other major oil companies have contributed to PACs backing Wright.

French has drawn controversy for public comments he has made about Muslims and DEI.



maps, birthright citizenship and foreign influence, according to The News report. A spokesman for Paxton's campaign called the review of Paxton's investigations "garbage" and not "worth printing."

LOTTERY COMMISSION, EX-DIRECTOR FACE CRIMINAL CHARGES

Former Texas lottery director Gary Grief and the Texas Lottery Commission have been charged with misusing their positions in a 2023 Lotto Texas drawing worth \$95 million, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The criminal charges assert the agency helped international gamblers engineer a guaranteed win.

Agency officials helped professional bettors purchase nearly every possible six-number combination — more than 25 million tickets — assuring they would win the \$95 million jackpot, according to the charges. However, Grief's attorney issued a statement saying, in part, "When all facts are revealed in court, the public will see that Gary's leadership at the Lottery Commission generated millions of dollars for Texas schools and veterans and there was no crime."

Grief and the commission are charged with abuse of official capacity, a broadly worded offense alleging "intent to harm or defraud another" by misusing "government property, services, personnel or any other thing of value belonging to the government," the Statesman reported.

TEXAS' MIGRANT DEPORTATION LAW LIKELY TO BE BLOCKED

A new law allowing state officials to arrest and deport undocumented immigrants took effect last week, but it appears likely a federal judge will soon move to block it, according to the Houston Chronicle. U.S. District Judge David A. Ezra has previously called the law "patently unconstitutional," but delayed making a ruling.

Senate Bill 4 has been stymied since its passage by legal challenges arguing that immigration enforcement is under the purview of the federal government, not state governments.

"Gov. Abbott is the sovereign governor of the state of Texas. He is not the president of the United States," Ezra said. "DPS officers are not ICE agents."

The GOP majority in the Texas Legislature passed the law during an immigration surge during the Biden administration. That surge has since receded, and few GOP lawmakers have been pushing for the law to be implemented, according to the Chronicle.

GRIMES COUNTY RESIDENTS QUESTION PROPOSED CHIP FACILITY

Elon Musk's bid to build what he calls the world's largest computer chip manufacturing facility in Grimes County, southeast of College Station, is drawing opposition from some residents, according to the San Antonio Express-News. Musk is seeking tax breaks to build the facility, dubbed Terafab.

Supporters say the initial \$55 billion investment would later double in subsequent phases, which is too good to pass up. Opponents question the track record of Musk's businesses, such as SpaceX, and whether the huge company needs tax breaks.

"I believe it would be immoral to give this company tax abatement when we have serious concerns about health issues and safety issues," county resident Jacqueline Ross told Grimes County commissioners.

SpaceX was fined nearly \$150,000 in 2024 for breaking clean water laws after a fuel spill at its South Texas launch site. It also was cited for illegally discharging wastewater into wetlands near its Boca Chica facilities.

The company is seeking a \$1.75 trillion valuation when it goes public in a few months, prompting some residents to question why it needs a tax break.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Cadocdoches, Lufkin and Nacogdoches. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

A Mother who reads



"I had a mother who read to me Sagas of pirates who scoured the sea, Cutlasses clenched in their yellow teeth, 'Blackbirds' stowed in the hold beneath."

I am "up north," as people say, spending time with my parents at their cabin. My parents are spending more time in town, especially in the winter. But now it is spring, and to hear them tell it, being a nonagenarian is no reason to stay away from the place they love best.

I help out a little with things that are getting harder for them to do, but honestly, I don't do much more than enjoy their company and fold into their life for a few days, talking and running errands and sharing thoughts about the news of the day and memories of the past.

And I listen to my mom reading.

My mom has always read aloud. Reading was a daily habit for my mother, and she made it clear from the time I was small that there was nothing unusual about reading aloud — a children's story, an editorial or the Bible. My mom read aloud to us nearly every day, as I recall.

The stories left an indelible mark. I remember the sweetness of Laura Ingalls Wilder describing Pa playing the fiddle by firelight in the middle of the Wisconsin woods, and I remember the horror of Hans Christian Andersen describing the house where the witch lived at the bottom of the sea, built with the bones of drowned sailors. My mom took me to all these places, my sister and I, and my father was listening, more often than not.

Perhaps for a while my mother read a little less. I honestly don't know if she read aloud as much when they were busy building their cabin in the woods. But not long after, perhaps even before my father's eyesight began to fade, my mother began reading aloud again every day.

My mother complains, "I read it, but your father remembers it!" And it's true, my dad listens carefully and has an excellent memory.

She reads a daily devotional aloud. She reads an essay by a nature writer. She reads a chapter in a book they are working through. She reads a meme she thinks is funny. She reads an article from the local paper. She reads to my dad, and when I visit, I hear her read.

Yesterday, I went to my mother's book club. There were nearly 20 women reading the poems of a local poet. And I realized that my beliefs about writing and the value I place on books come almost entirely from my mom.

She felt that books should be shared. She let me know that stories brought people together. She was honest if she didn't understand what a writer was trying to say or if they used a word she didn't know. There was no shame in that. Read the passage aloud. Talk about it. Look up the word. How else can you learn? Years ago, I helped organize a reading for Mother's Day. There were short stories about mothers and poems about a mother's love. I honestly don't remember what all we read. But one poem, "The Reading Mother," by Strickland Gillilan, stayed with me. Even though the poem was old and a little sentimental, it stuck in my mind because it was still so deeply true for me.

"You may have tangible wealth untold; Caskets of jewels and coffers of gold. Richer than I you can never be —

I had a Mother who read to me." Till next time, Carrie

HIGHLANDS

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Former Deputy awarded \$1.65M after jury finds Harris County,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

do,” he said. “I had been training dogs and dealing with them all my life.”

He went through the Field Training Office program, drove to San Antonio and got his first dog. He was immediately assigned to the criminal interdiction unit.

His excitement became dampened when he was the recipient of a racial slur from a fellow deputy.

Chief Deputy Kirk Bonsal said Sgt. Jason Hutchins sent an “inappropriate comment via a text message” on May 9, 2020 while working an off-duty job during COVID.

“The comment in question appeared to have a racial undertone and was extremely disappointing as it does not reflect the heart and commitment to excellence of our agency,” Precinct 3 released in a statement.

Hutchins was subsequently relieved of duty without pay pending an internal investigation.

A few hours later, Hutchins resigned. Whittington said Hutchins was sitting in his car at a COVID-19 testing site as several other deputies were setting up cones in the parking lot.

He received an unintentional text from Hutchins, who Whittington said he thought he was sending to another Caucasian officer, saying the officers looked like “monkeys” setting up the cones.

The disparaging remark, according to Whittington, was only the first of many alleged derogatory events that occurred



Whittington, a 24-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, and his cousin was interviewed by Eagleton who offered him the job of his lifetime as a K-9 officer.

after the COVID incident. Despite trying to avoid those officers and comments, he felt like he was eventually targeted.

While the jury did not rule that Whittington was wrongfully terminated based on race, they found the department liable for fostering a racially hostile work environment.

Whittington said he will use some of the money to help countless other officers who have reached out to him on his case.

Neither the Harris County Attorney’s Office, which represented the county in the lawsuit, nor the Precinct 3 Constable’s Office responded to requests for comment on the verdict.

Month-long water pipeline leak finally stopped in,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“everybody denied it was theirs” before the line was finally identified as belonging to Lyondell-Basell. “That line belongs to them,” Webb said. “They took ownership and went out there and fixed it after the news got

involved.”

The exact amount of water lost has not been publicly disclosed. Even so, the sight of water gushing for weeks raised concerns among residents and firefighters during a time when wa-

ter conservation remains a sensitive issue across Texas. By late Tuesday, however, the leak had been stopped, ending a month-long waste of industrial water that had drawn growing public at-

SUMMER SCHOOL

June 1-24, 2026

BILINGUAL PROGRAM @ Early Childhood Center PH: 281-460-3827	STUDENT HOURS 7:10 AM 3:40 PM	🌞
ELEMENTARY PROGRAM @ McGhee Elementary PH: 281-452-2880 Parent Meeting: May 28, 2026, 6:00 PM at McGhee Elementary	STUDENT HOURS 7:30 PM 3:30 PM	🌞
JUNIOR HIGH PROGRAM @ Channelview High School PH: 281-452-1450	STUDENT HOURS 7:30 AM 3:30 PM	🌞
HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM @ Channelview High School PH: 281-452-1450 Late applications may be submitted on May 28 at CHS from 6:00-7:30 PM.	STUDENT HOURS 7:30 AM 3:30 PM	🌞
EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR @ Early Childhood Center & CHS PH: 281-460-3827 & 281-452-1450	STUDENT HOURS 7:10 AM 11:10 AM	🌞

CHANNELVIEW INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS DISTRICT

BID NOTICE	BID NOTICE	BID NOTICE	BID NOTICE	BID NOTICE	BID NOTICE
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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to The Mayor and City Council, City of Jacinto City, Texas, Harris County, will be received at City Hall, 1301 Mercury Drive, Houston, Texas, 77029 until 4:00 P.M., Tuesday, June 25, 2026, and then publicly opened and read during the Tuesday, June 25, 2026, City Council Meeting at 6:00 P.M. held at the Council Chambers, 10301 Market Street, Houston, Texas, 77029, for furnishing all labor, material, and equipment and performing all work required for the construction of the “**City of Jacinto City Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements GLO DRRP Project No. 25-109-001-F043 (Yellow)**”.

BIDS will be submitted in sealed envelopes upon the blank forms provided and marked in the upper left-hand corner "Bid for Construction of City of Jacinto City Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements GLO DRRP Project No. 25-109-001-F043 (Yellow)" to be opened at 6:00 P.M., Tuesday, June 25, 2026. BIDS received after closing time will be returned unopened.

The project to be constructed will be financed with assistance from the General Land Office (GLO) under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program and is subject to all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations. Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing Davis-Bacon and Related Acts wage rate, as issued by the Department of Labor and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. Adherence to the City of Jacinto City Section 3 Policy is required for all contracts.

All Bids shall be accompanied by a cashier's or certified check upon a national or state bank in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total maximum bid price payable without recourse to the City of Jacinto City, Texas, or a bid bond in the same amount from a reliable surety company, as a guarantee that bidder will enter into a Contract. The notice of award of Contract shall be given by the Owner within sixty (60) days following the opening of bids. Checks submitted as bid security will be returned to the respective bidders within ten (10) days after bids are opened, except checks, or bonds, which the Owner elects to hold until the successful bidder has executed the Contract. Thereafter, the remaining checks, including security of successful bidder, will be returned within five (5) days. Remaining bid bonds will not be returned unless requested by Bidder.

The successful bidder must furnish Performance Bond and Payment Bond upon the forms which are attached hereto in the amount of one hundred (100%) percent of the contract price within 15 days after receipt of the contract documents. Payment and performance bonds shall be issued from sureties with a minimum "A" or "A-" rating from Best's Key Rating Guide and who are licensed by the Texas Department of Insurance to do business in Texas and to issue said bonds. The bonds must be signed by an authorized representative of the surety, and licensed by the State Board of Insurance.

Secure Plans and Specifications from LJA Engineering, Inc., at <https://bids.lja.com> and at <https://civcastusa.com> for No Cost for an electronic copy for each set of documents.

Examine documents at the East Houston office of LJA Engineering, Inc, Amtek Plan Room, Dodge Data & Analytics, AGC of Texas, Construct Connect and the City.

In conformance with applicable statutes, the general prevailing wage rates in the locality in which the work is to be performed have been ascertained, and such rates shall be the minimum paid for labor employed upon this project.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities in bidding. In case of ambiguity or lack of clearness in stating the prices in any bid, the Owner reserves the right to consider the most advantageous construction thereof, or to reject the bid. The award will be made to the responsible bidder submitting the lowest acceptable bid.

A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 2:00 P.M. at City of Jacinto City Wastewater Treatment Plant, 12202 Market Street, Houston, Texas 77015 and virtually through Microsoft Teams. To Join virtually, the link is <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/262795471294566?p=8IDzF4BeazDZKdRNpJ> or join by phone by calling [+1 346-202-6170](tel:+13462026170) and entering Conference ID: 705 432 543#.

City of Jacinto City
Ana Diaz
Mayor

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Channelview Independent School District (CISD) requests sealed proposals for the purchase, delivery and installation of ten (10) combi ovens (five (5) double-stacked sets) and the retrofiting of one combi oven with a smoker box and chip tray with the specifications listed below. All specifications listed are based on Alto-Shaam designs in order to indicate type, function, minimum standard of design, efficiency and quality desired. Although Alto-Shaam is district standard, alternative bids may be submitted with comparable quality, design and efficiency. All alternative bids must include backup specification sheets. Channelview ISD will determine if the alternative meets or exceeds the specified product.

RFPs will be received until **5:00 p.m., Sunday, June 16, 2026** through the Electronic Bidding Website at <https://cvisd.ionwave.net>. All necessary information may be obtained by calling the Business Office at (281) 452-8003, or the district website www.cvisd.org, under Departments → Business Office → Purchasing. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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CEMETERY LOTS

CEMETERY LOTS

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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Please be advised that Galena Park ISD will hold a Zoom meeting for administrators of all Private Nonprofit Schools with students residing in the Galena Park ISD attendance area. Information on the 2026-2027 program planning, availability, and eligibility criteria of Federal funds and services (Title I, II, III, IV, and Special Education programs) will be held on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 1:00 pm. For additional information about this meeting, please contact Amy Cole at 832-386-1028 or acole@galenaparkisd.com.

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Jennifer Lopez & Brett Goldstein star in "Forbidden Fruits."

“Forbidden Fruits”

“The Roses” (R) — This black-comedy film, led by Oscar winner Olivia Colman (“The Favourite”) and Oscar nominee Benedict Cumberbatch (“The Phoenix Scheme”), is a reimagining of the 1989 film called “The War of the Roses.” The original film starred Michael Douglas, Danny DeVito and Kathleen Turner and was directed by DeVito; but the remake went under the radar during its theatrical release this past August. Colman and Cumberbatch, respectively, play Ivy and Theo Rose, an ambitious married couple whose marriage begins to collapse after Theo loses his job. Tension and resentment between the spouses build due to their different parenting styles and Theo’s jealousy of Ivy’s success, leaving viewers watching between their fingers as the Roses duke

it out in their own personal war. Out now. (Hulu)

“Off Campus” (TV-MA) — This romantic-drama series, based on Elle Kennedy’s books, premiered in May and has already generated a huge fan following online. Ella Bright, who once played a young Kate Middleton in “The Crown,” portrays music student Hannah at the fictional Briar University. When hockey team captain Garrett (Belmont Cameli) needs help studying, Hannah volunteers to help him under the guise that he pretends to be her fake boyfriend so she can impress the guy she truly likes. (Ah, young love!) Of course, anyone who’s seen anything with a similar plot knows where this is going. Steve Howey (“Shameless”) and Antonio Cipriano (“The Alto Knights”) co-star in the series, and all eight episodes are out now with a second

season already in the works! (Amazon Prime Video)

“Margo’s Got Money Troubles” (TV-MA) — This comedy-drama series has quite the cast to carry its interesting plot off the ground: Elle Fanning (“A Complete Unknown”) leads the series with Nick Offerman (“Parks and Recreation”), Michelle Pfeiffer (“The Madison”), and Nicole Kidman (“Scarpetta”) rounding out the rest of the main cast. Fanning plays the titular character — 20-year-old Margo — an aspiring writer and new mom who turns to OnlyFans for financial support after the birth of her baby. Although some people don’t approve of her stream of income, Margo is successful and suspends all logic of what she “should be” doing in life so that she can figure out who she really is inside. All eight episodes are out now to stream. (Apple TV+)

“Office Romance” (R) — This sexy rom-com hitting Netflix on June 5 stars Jennifer Lopez (“Kiss of the Spider-Woman”) and Brett Goldstein (“Shrinking”), who also co-wrote the screenplay. Lopez plays Jackie Cruz, president and CEO of the airline Air Cruz, and she’s a no-nonsense type of executive with most of her employees fearing her, a la Miranda Priestly. When new lawyer Daniel (Goldstein) starts working at the company, his warm, kind energy pierces the chilly ice queen in an impactful way. Because of this new relationship with Daniel, Jackie’s finally able to turn over a new leaf in life and learn that there’s more to it than work and financial success. (Netflix)

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Q:What ever happened to actress Brooke Burns? I saw her hosting a game show recently, but I don’t know if it’s a new or old show. — M.G.

A: Actress Brooke Burns went from “Baywatch” and “North Shore” to starring in a series of Hallmark Movies & Mysteries Originals, like “Gourmet Detective” and its sequels. The last of these TV films was in 2020, and she has since transitioned to a very successful career as a game-show host. You can find her hosting episodes of “Master Minds” and “Tic-Tac-Dough” on the GSN (Game Show Network) channel.

Q:Is it true that there’s going to be a “Real Housewives of Austin” on Bravo? What ever happened to the one in Dallas? — K.L.

A: Most “Real Housewives” franchises have been successful. For example, “Orange County” will be celebrating its 20th season on the Bravo network this year. Others just never really caught on like “Dubai,” which was canceled after two seasons, and “Dallas,” which was placed on “indefinite hiatus” in 2021 after five seasons.



Brooke Burns in "Roux the Day: A Gourmet Detective Mystery"

There have been rumblings of a possible franchise based in Austin, Texas, but nothing has officially been announced. Ronnie Karam, co-host of the podcast “Watch What Crappens” and resident of Austin, was asked about it at this year’s iHeart Podcast Awards. He believes that the show would excel if they simply cast housewives who’ve recently relocated from California with old-school Austinites and “just watch the sparks fly.”

Someone’s ears must have been burning because Bravo recently announced an upcoming reality show titled “Secrets, Lies, Texas Wives,” which will be set in the Texas Hill Country town of Boerne and follow its wealthy inhabitants. However, a big chunk of the population is opposed to seeing their town being given the Bravo treatment. In fact, there’s already a petition on Change.org from those who fear that it’ll harm the small town’s reputation.

As for “Dallas,” I don’t see it returning. Bravo has a new hit on its hands with “Rhode Island” and is also redeveloping its “New York” franchise again.

Q: Is the “Yellowstone” spin-off “Marshals” coming back for a second season, or has it been canceled? I didn’t hear much talk about it when it was on. — B.E.

A:Yes, despite season one ending in a cliffhanger for several of its characters, “Marshals” will be back on CBS this fall on Sundays at 8 p.m. ET. Its series premiere this past March was “the most-watched CBS original series debut without a football lead-in since ‘Young Sheldon’ premiered in 2017,” according to CBS Entertainment.

I’m not sure why you didn’t hear much buzz about the series throughout the season, but it finished just as strongly as its debut in terms of ratings. While it’s certainly not Emmy-worthy, “Marshals” has performed quite well for CBS and doesn’t appear to be in danger of a cancellation.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU

3		4	1	6	7	2	5
4	5		7		9		6
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

1. Blossom, Buttercup and Bubbles; 2. Indian Ocean; 3. 2,026; 4. Olivia Dean; 5. Hawaii; 6. “Double Indemnity”; 7. 10; 8. The Sun’s solar winds and magnetic fields create a protective bubble around our solar system; 9. The study of flags; 10. Charles I in 1649

June 1, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Idle of Monty Python
- 5 Homer’s lament
- 8 Grate
- 12 Sprint
- 13 Geological period
- 14 Intro studio class
- 15 Met melody
- 16 Knee cartilage
- 18 Cough drop flavor
- 20 Valerie Harper sitcom
- 21 Light brown
- 22 Fluffy neck-piece
- 23 Streep of “The Post”
- 26 Patching up
- 30 Lab eggs
- 31 Witty one
- 32 Wrigley product
- 33 Proteges
- 36 Accra’s country
- 38 Stein filler
- 39 Zadora of “Hairspray”
- 40 Huge success
- 43 H.L. — (The Sage of Baltimore)
- 47 Cites
- 49 Comic actor Danny

DOWN

- 1 Dutch cheese
- 2 Exceptional
- 3 “The doctor —”
- 4 Talkative
- 5 Fiend
- 6 Pitcher Hersher
- 7 Solo in space
- 8 Actress Phylcia
- 9 With the bow, musically
- 10 Poker type
- 11 Galileo’s birthplace
- 17 Pressing need
- 19 Actor Linden
- 22 Plead
- 23 Soccer —
- 24 Prior night
- 25 Campaigned
- 26 More, to Manuel
- 27 Polish tennis star Swiatek
- 28 Convent head
- 29 “Today” rival, briefly
- 31 Pint-sized
- 34 Flavors
- 35 K thru 12
- 36 Tom Collins liquor
- 37 Website invader
- 39 Green sauce
- 40 Urban haze
- 41 Apportion
- 42 Shortly
- 43 L-Q bridge
- 44 Designer Spade
- 45 Literary Jane
- 46 Must have
- 48 British singer Rita

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Answers

King Crossword

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. TELEVISION: What are the names of the three girls in the animated series “Powerpuff Girls”?
- 2. GEOGRAPHY: Which ocean lies between Australia and Africa?
- 3. MATH: What is the Arabic equivalent of the Roman numerals MMXXVI?
- 4. MUSIC: Who won Best New Artist at the 2026 Grammys?
- 5. U.S. STATES: Which state is an archipelago?
- 6. MOVIES: Which classic movie has the tagline, “From the moment they met it was murder”?
- 7. GAMES: How many basketball players can be on the court at the same time?
- 8. SCIENCE: What is the heliosphere?
- 9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is vexilology?
- 10. HISTORY: Who was the only English king to be executed for treason?

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Dr. King R. Davis Jr. Educational Support Center Ribbon Cutting Event



CHANNLEVIEW - On May 5, Sheldon ISD celebrated the ribbon cutting of the new Dr. King R. Davis Jr. Educational Support Center! The newly renovated building adds over 23,000 square feet of space including, a large group instruction area with adjacent breakout rooms designed to support collaborative learning.

The center will house Sheldon ISD's Advanced Academics, Career & Technology Education, Guidance & Counseling, Multilingual Programs and Special Education departments. In addition to housing these teams, the facility includes dedicated testing spaces and meeting rooms, further equipping staff to provide high-quality, responsive services to our students.

The event was attended by Dr. King R. Davis Jr. and his family, the SISD Board of Trustees current and former members, GPD Group (the project architects), Sterling Structures and LAN, district administrators, staff and the public.

The District look forward to the expanded opportunities this facility will provide as we continue to enhance personalized learning experiences for all Sheldon ISD students. (Source Sheldon ISD page)



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Crowd roars as Whitmire vows no tax hikes, celebrates public safety gains at re-election kickoff,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

pickup services, water and sewer services, the homeless issues, never ending potholes and others.

Sixty percent of Houston's water supply is coming from the original water purification plant built in 1954. The plant also provides 100% of the water to ship channel industries. The plant is old and will eventually be in need of upgrading he remarked.

N. C. Star writer Allan Jamail said, "John and I have been friends for about fifty-five years. He's a no-nonsense "public servant". He literally takes the words "public servant" to heart. I don't know of any other elected official who's is more determined to help people regardless of the person's standing of importance in relation to others within our society."

During his 2023 victory speech Whitmire told supporters, "The first way you solve your problem is admit you have one, and I don't mind telling folks what a great city we have, but we've got great challenges," "We'll meet our challenges. It will be an opportunity for us to show the nation what the city of Houston can do. We will not kick our cans down the road any longer."

Whitmire was born August 13, 1949 in Hillsboro, Texas, north of Waco, to James Madison Whitmire, the Hill



Houston's Mayor John Whitmire addresses the crowd of supporters at Houston's Post Oak Hotel, May, 28th. Whitmire thanked them for coming to his re-election fund raising event saying they've inspired him to continue serving Houstonians. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

County clerk, and the former Ruth Marie Harris, a nurse. His parents divorced when he was seven years old, and the family moved several times, facing difficult financial circumstances.

In his early teenage years, he moved to North Houston and attended Waltrip High School. Whitmire attended college at the University of Houston to study political science while paying for his education by working for the Texas State Wel-

fare Department, where he interviewed food stamp recipients for compliance.

Whitmire known for working across the aisle with Republicans is a member of the Democratic Party, and he was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in January of 1973 and served until January 1983. In 1983, he won the Senate District 15 seat, and resigned it effectively December 31, 2023 after his election as Mayor of Houston.



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