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Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
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Mustangs Rolls Past Lancaster



#5 Kaden Brandley, Mustangs running back scores on a 47 yard run (Photo by Linda Jamail- Story below & in page 8

Yellow Jackets move into new field house

GPISD transformation beginning to take shape

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

GALENA PARK — The Galena Park Yellow Jackets moved into their new football field house this summer, marking one of the first visible milestones in a sweeping campus transformation that district officials say will reshape the high school for years to come.

The new athletic building, located on the west end of Dement Stadium, gives the Yellow Jackets a 22,941 square feet modern home with upgraded spaces for players and coaches, new technology, expanded weight-room areas and branding that reflects Galena Park's long-standing school traditions.

For head football coach Spiro Amarantos, who is



The new two-story field house at Galena Park High School is a state-of-the-art facility housing the Yellow Jackets football program. With an ever-growing program of 230 students this year, it couldn't have come at a better time.

both a Galena Park graduate and longtime coach in the district, the move carries more than just practical importance.

"To have graduated from here and been able to be here — this is my 23rd year in GPISD total and eighth as the head coach

here — it's very nostalgic," Amarantos said. "I was here in '04 when we moved into the new facility, and then to be here and move into this facility, it doesn't get any better."

The field house is part of what GPISD is calling Phase 3A of the high school

Continued. See NEW FIELD HOUSE LEADS GPISD TRANSFORMATION, Page 8

Negotiations fail with Anchor Glass prospect; City now faces data center questions



By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Negotiations between the owners of the former Anchor Glass facility in Jacinto City and a company city officials had hoped would bring a high-tech manufacturing operation to the site have fallen apart, leaving residents and city leaders now facing a different possibility: a data center.

City Manager Lon Squyres said the city had spent months re-

viewing a proposal involving Molten Industries, a high-tech start-up focused on producing hydrogen and synthetic graphite from natural gas.

After months of negotiations, city officials learned the Molten deal was no longer moving forward.

Squyres said he was told last Tuesday afternoon that the former

Continued. See DATA CENTER PROPOSAL RAISES CONCERNS, Page 2

Channelview ISD Board sets November propositions

Channelview ISD's Board of Trustees voted unanimously to include five propositions on the November 3, 2026 ballot during the August 13th School Board Meeting. Registered voters residing within the Channelview ISD attendance zone will be asked to consider Proposition A, a Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election (VATRE), and four bond propositions. A VATRE is the state's mechanism that allows school districts to adjust their maintenance and operations (M&O) tax rate. If Proposition A and the four

bond propositions are approved by voters, the projected tax rate could increase to a maximum of \$1.1164.

Together, the proposals focus on maintaining district facilities, supporting students and staff, addressing growth in key programs, improving safety and technology, and providing learning environments designed to serve Channelview ISD students for years to come.

Proposition A would provide approximately \$7.5 million annually to support teacher and staff pay in-



creases, add staff in high-need areas such as Special Education, and address the district's budget deficit.

Bond Propositions B, C, D and E would fund improvements to school facilities, technology, safety, and student programs. The proposals are designed to address growing enrollment in Early Childhood and Special Education programs,

replace aging equipment and building systems, and improve learning environments across the district.

Proposition B would provide \$106.8 million for facility improvements, safety upgrades, infrastructure repairs, and equipment replacement. More than half of the proposed costs are allocated to critical needs such as HVAC and roofing

projects and safety and security equipment to be installed in the district. It would also fund an expansion of the Early Childhood Center to create additional space for the district's growing Pre-K program.

Proposition C would provide \$19.1 million to replace and update student and staff technology devices used for teaching, learning, communication, and daily classroom operations.

Proposition D would provide \$8.8 million for repairs and upgrades to existing athletic facilities, including

projects needed to maintain and extend the useful life of HVAC, public address systems and elevators.

Proposition E would provide \$30.4 million to construct a multipurpose indoor facility that could be used year-round for student athletics, fine arts, physical education activities, practices, and other school programs.

"We understand that families are paying close attention to the cost of every-

FIVE PROPOSITIONS HEAD TO NOVEMBER BALLOT, Page 3

Woodland Acres Schools TEA Report Card

Follow up from previous week.

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX ~ On August 14, 2026 Mr. Mike Morath, the Texas Commissioner of Education representing the Texas Education Agency (TEA) came from Austin to compliment both Woodland Acres Middle School (WAMS) and Woodland Acres Elementary (WAES) School for getting an A rating.

Twelve other GPISD schools got an A rating, this

is merely a look at WAMS & WAEM. Visit TXschools.gov to review any Texas school.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) announced today (8-14-26) the release of 2026 A-F Accountability Ratings for public school systems and campuses across the state.

1,202 districts and 9,105 campuses were rated in 2026. 24% of both districts and campuses increased in rating compared to 2025. 585 cam-



Representatives of Ana Hernandez office presented certificates of congratulations to principals of Woodland Acres Middle School and Woodland Acres Elementary School for their school's getting an excellent TEA A rating. L-R: Daniel Vasquez, Deputy Chief of Staff, principals Sandra Rodriguez, (WAES), Dr. Yeri Villalobos (WAMS) & Linda Jamail, Community Liaison

pus across Texas improved from below an A to an A rating in 2026. In total, 85% of campuses that received an A-F rating statewide achieved acceptable academic performance (C or above).

A-F Ratings provide clear, accessible information on school and district performance, serving as an essential tool for parents, educators, policymakers and local communities to make informed decisions that support student success.

"This year's A-F ratings il-

lustrate the progress Texas public schools are making and acknowledge the hard work of our educators while illuminating areas of needed improvement to ensure that all students have access to a high-quality education. Through our commitment to transparency and accessibility, parents and the public can explore the ratings and associated resources to clearly understand the performance

Continued. See WOODLAND ACRES, Page 5

Defending Champion Mustangs Blank Tigers

North Shore 35 ~ Lancaster 0

By Allan Jamail

August 28, 2026 ~ Houston, TX. GPISD Stadium ~ The UIL 17- 6A defending state champion North Shore Mustangs had an easy warm-up game against the 5A Lancaster Tigers. They're a suburban community located in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex about 3 hours away from Houston with a student enrollment of 2,100+ compared to the Mustangs 4,100+.

Dave Campbell's 6A Texas Football Rating System predicts North Shore second in the state behind Waxahachie and C. E. King with a 3rd state ranking prediction.

Keeping par as in previous seasons the Mustangs known for excessive penalties racked up 8 costly penalties four for 15 yards, totaling

Continued. See MUSTANGS DOMINATE, Page 8



Mustangs #16 Darrell Haynes shrugs off Tiger defender for his 2nd TD.(Photo by Allan Jamail)

Yellow Jackets Strong Ground Game Falls Short

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. ~ August 27, 2026 at the GPISD stadium the Galena Park Yellow Jackets had home field advantage but lost in a hard fought battle to the visiting Porter Spartans 36-26.

The young Jacket squad took an early first quarter 6 - 0 lead but in the 2nd quarter were scoreless mainly due to four penalties costing them 40 yards and two scoring opportunities. The Spartans came from behind scoring two touchdowns (TD's) ending the first half 14 - 6.

Galena Park's powerful running game led by #4



Jackets #4 Jamile Hurks bulldozes down defenders to score.(Allan Jamail photo)

Jamile Hurks (junior) racked up 264 yards on the ground, he averaged 7.3 yds per carry for 204 yds

Continued. See YELLOW JACKETS OFFENSE SHOWS PROMISE IN LOSS, Page 8

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND
INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT
RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0010831001

APPLICATION. City of Galena Park, P.O. Box 46, Galena Park, Texas 77547, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0010831001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0057185) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed an annual average flow of 1,250,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located at 1107 5th Street, in the city of Galena Park, in Harris County, Texas 77547. The discharge route is from the plant site directly to Panther Creek portion of the Houston Ship Channel/Buffalo Bayou Tidal. TCEQ received this application on July 9, 2026. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying at Galena Park City Hall, Front Desk, 2000 Clinton Drive, Galena Park, in Harris County, Texas prior to the date this notice is published in the newspaper. The application and associated notices are available electronically at the following webpage: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.
<https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-95.231111,29.735833&level=18>

ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE NOTICE. Alternative language notice in Spanish is available at: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>. El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>.

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ’s Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director’s decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director’s decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group’s representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member’s location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group’s purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period.**

TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director’s decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners’ Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. All public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency’s public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from City of Galena Park at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Brian French, Project Manager, at 409-554-8972.

Issuance Date: August 7, 2026

Data Center
proposal raises
concerns,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Anchor Glass owner was instead pursuing a possible joint venture with a company connected to a data center project. The shift has stirred questions and concerns, particularly as data centers have become controversial in communities across Texas and elsewhere over electricity demand, potential noise, water use, backup generators, tax incentives and long-term neighborhood impacts. Squyres said one of the most important points he wants residents to understand is that Jacinto City did not recruit the data center company. “The mayor and council, nor I, went out and found a data center to come to Jacinto City,” Squyres said. He said the city had been working through the Molten proposal when it learned the property owner was considering another direction. The Anchor Glass property is privately owned, Squyres said, and the city’s focus now is on determining what authority it has and what protections can be required if the project proceeds. “It’s a private company and they own the building and they can, to a large degree, do what they want to do,” Squyres said. “We’re just going to craft ordinances to make sure they do it in a way that addresses all these concerns we’re hearing.” Squyres identified the data center company as Raeden and said the company has been involved in a project in Colorado Springs that, according to his review so far, has taken a public-disclosure approach to community concerns. Squyres said he met with the company’s co-founder, co-owner and president and also brought him in to meet the mayor. He said the company representative was questioned about noise, water use, generators and transparency. “I was loaded for bear,” Squyres said. “I haven’t asked the question yet that I didn’t like the answer to.” Still, Squyres said he is not taking verbal assurances as final. He said the city will need commitments in writing. According to Squyres, the company has said the proposed operation would use newer cooling technology rather than older approaches that have drawn complaints elsewhere. He said the system, as described to him, would use a closed-loop dielectric fluid at the chip level and would not require ongoing water use once initially filled. “The initial startup to get the plant fully functional is 200,000 gallons of water, one-time tank fill,” Squyres said. He said he told Raeden the city would want separate water meters: one for normal employee plumbing and one for the production side of the operation. Once the production system is filled, Squyres said, residents should be able to verify that water is not continuing to flow into that side of the facility. “That’s the kind of transparency we’re going to need on this,” he said. “And he agreed to it.” Noise was another major concern. Squyres said the company has represented that newer technology could keep sound levels far below older data-center operations and has agreed, at least verbally, to sound monitoring and sound attenuation walls. “We’ll sign a contract saying we’ll have sound monitoring and put a million-dollar bond up,” the rep told Squyres. Squyres said he also asked whether the company would agree to air monitoring because of backup generators, and said the company representative responded favorably. Even so, Squyres said he made clear that the city is not welcoming the project without scrutiny. “We will not, as a city, offer any tax incentives whatsoever,” Squyres said. The company representative told him he was not seeking city incentives and was not interested in taking money from the city. Squyres said the company indicated it may apply for state-level sales tax incentives, but that the city would oppose any application that would include Jacinto City’s local 2-cent sales tax. He said the company representative told him he did not want the city’s portion and intended to structure purchases so Jacinto City would receive its local sales tax revenue. Squyres said he also raised property taxes and told the company directly that the city would not grant an abatement. According to Squyres, the rep said the company would not ask the city for one and did not intend to seek one from the school district, either. Squyres said questions over electric capacity are also part of the discussion. He said his understanding is that part of the appeal of the Anchor Glass site may be existing power capacity already allocated to the property — what he described as “stranded power.” When asked, “Why us?” the company representative allegedly responded “The site is wonderful. It’s perfect for what I want to do, and it’s been bullet-proof through the ages, for decades. It hasn’t flooded, the storms, everything that’s come through, and it’s still standing. And then the other thing, it’s not in the floodplain, and it’s got power. And power is everything in this business.” Squyres said he is still researching the company, reviewing public information and seeking additional guidance. He said he is waiting on the legal department of the Texas Municipal League for advice on what options the city may have under state rules, including any current moratorium language involving data centers. The city has scheduled a town hall meeting for Thursday, Sept. 11, at 6 p.m. at Town Center. Squyres said the larger venue was chosen because officials expect a large crowd. He said the company representative has indicated he was willing to attend and address the concerns of the community. Squyres said the meeting will be structured to allow residents to speak first, with separate sign-in sheets for Jacinto City residents and non-residents. “We’re going from 6 to 9, and we’re calling it quits,” Squyres said. “And if we need to, we’ll do it again.” Above all, Squyres said, the city’s goal is to be open with residents. “We have not signed an NDA (non-disclosure agreement),” Squyres said. “We’re not going to sign an NDA or hide who they are or anything else.” Squyres said he understands the controversy that may come with the proposal. Still, he said, the city has to deal with the proposal in front of it. “We’re just going to try to weather the storm,” Squyres said. “We’re going to be as transparent as humanly possible.”

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Keep It Real

How often have you said, “Life is not fair!” or asked, “Why do I have to do the right thing when others do not?” Many times, I have been told not to expect me out of others and then I would not be hurt, yet I am trying to keep it real, no matter how many times we ask God to forgive us for our sins, we are still humans who have feelings and sometime this world gets the very best of us.

Too often the pain we experience comes from those who should love us the most. And as hard as it hurts, we still must remember that we all have flaws. I witnessed people I knew and loved stealing from others that I love. I did what I thought was the best thing, I reported it to a leader and unfortunately, I later found out he was part of the group who stole many items. Just weeks later my then teenage son was the target of a hate crime and instead of filing charges, I listened to someone that I respected and had to pray for the offenders. And now, 20 years later, the devi will still try to hurt me with memoires of the actions as well as using one of their family members to hurt me in many ways. In the flesh, I want to rip this person’s head off as they know they are hurting me, yet I heard God speak again this week, tell me to forgive her and be the better person.

Can you imagine how often God is disappointed by our thoughts, words, and actions Yet, He loves us anyway. He still takes that pain and can use it to allow us to be a better person and give us stronger testimony.

I have a friend who struggles financially yet despite that I have seen how God moves on their heart and they are among the first to step up and bless someone who has a need. If they saw someone walking, they offered a ride. Over the years, they have opened their home up to so many others, some of which do not bother to stay in contact unless they have another need. We cannot look at others’ fault but instead we must trust God to bless us and show up and show out.

There is a single dad in our community who has coached hundreds of young men on football teams and often gone without basic needs so that those other children would not feel left out or singled out. And how has God blessed him? His son has played football in college coached in the NFL and is now serving as an assistant coach for a HBCU football team. And as he does, his character shines through. The lesson of humility has been well learned and just like his father, his smile is known throughout the community. Never in all these years have I heard a negative word about either the father or the son

Five propositions head to November Ballot,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

thing right now,” said Board President Alex Ybarra. “That’s why we’ve worked to identify the most important needs and provide voters with clear information so they can make an informed decision.”

Channelview ISD Superintendent Dr. Tory C. Hill said: “I’ve seen firsthand the pride this community takes in its schools. Whatever the outcome, our focus remains the same: doing what’s best for students, supporting our teachers, and taking care of the facilities our community has built together.”

Board action follows an eight-month Long-Range Planning process that brought together parents, staff, community members, and district leaders to study the future needs of Channelview ISD. Throughout the process, committee members reviewed information, toured facilities, discussed opportunities and challenges facing the district, and worked to identify priorities that would have the greatest impact on students. Their recommendation, reflecting months of discussion and collaboration, was presented to the Board of Trustees in June, serving as the foundation for the proposals now being presented to voters.

NC FOOTBALL SCORES/SCHEDULES

LAST WEEK IN FOOTBALL
THURSDAY
PORTER 36, GALENA PARK 26

FRIDAY
#3 C. E. King 70, Conroe 10
#2 North Shore 35, #14 Lancaster 0
SPRING 40, CHANNELVIEW 27

THIS WEEK IN FOOTBALL
THURSDAY
CHANNELVIEW AT MACARTHUR, 7 P.M., THORNE STADIUM
GALENA PARK VS. KEMPNER, 7 P.M., GALENA PARK ISD STADIUM

FRIDAY
#3 C. E. KING AT CYPRESS RANCH, 7 P.M., CY-FAIR STADIUM
#2 NORTH SHORE AT #4 JOHN CURTIS, 7 P.M., CAJUN FIELD, OUR LADY OF LOURDES STADIUM, UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE



NEWS TIPS & ADVERTISING INQUIRIES
713-266-3444

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.100000 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of **HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 60**.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.100000 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.083183 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.101516 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.105371 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2026 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 from the same properties in both the 2025 tax year and the 2026 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 exceeds the voter-approval rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2026 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2026, AT 7:30 PM AT 7601 UVALDE ROAD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77049.

HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 60 SHALL TAKE ACTION ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2026, AT 7:30 PM FOLLOWING THE HEARING TO BE HELD.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed rate by contacting the members of the Board of Commissioners of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

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

Property tax amount= (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property)/100

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR the proposal:	Daron McCaslin	Dale Langdon
	Don Nesbitt	Richard Palacios
	Wyatt Kotal	
AGAINST the proposal:	None	
PRESENT and not voting:	None	
ABSENT:	None	

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

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

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 this year.

	2025	2026	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.084200	\$0.100000	Increase of 0.015800 per \$100, or 18.76%
Average homestead taxable value	\$230,781	\$225,148	Decrease of -2.44%
Tax on average homestead	\$194.32	\$225.15	Increase of \$30.83, or 15.87%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$6,045,926	\$7,329,593	Increase of \$1,283,667, or 21.23%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 60 at 713-274-8000 or visit www.hctax.net for more information.

ASK DIAMOND JIM



Diamond Jim: “How do I hint at what engagement ring I want?”

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

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

OPEN COMMUNICATION

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

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

GO WINDOW SHOPPING TOGETHER

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

WEAR JEWELRY THAT MIRRORS YOUR PREFERENCE

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

With Pineforest Jewelry’s dedication to a personalized customer experience, if you’re both open to it, consider choosing a placeholder ring. This grants you the joy of the proposal surprise and the subsequent adventure of co-designing your forever ring.

BE OPEN TO SURPRISES

While it’s great to hint, remember to stay open. Your partner and the expertise of Pineforest Jewelry’s team, armed with love and renowned expertise, might just choose a piece that perfectly encapsulates your essence.

CONCLUSION

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

Ready to explore our stunning collection<<https://www.pineforestjewelry.com/>>? Pineforest Jewelry offers not just jewelry but a promise of quality, service, and trust. From engagement rings to custom designs and expert jewelry repair, our team is dedicated to providing you with the “WOW Experience.”

Dive into the captivating world of jewelry with the “Ask Diamond Jim”<<https://www.pineforestjewelry.com/blogs/ask-diamond-jim>>” blog series and get inspired. And, if you’re in the military or a first responder, enjoy a special 10% discount on both online and in-store purchases.

For more insights and expert advice, schedule an appointment<<https://www.pineforestjewelry.com/pages/contact>> to experience personalized service like never before.

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

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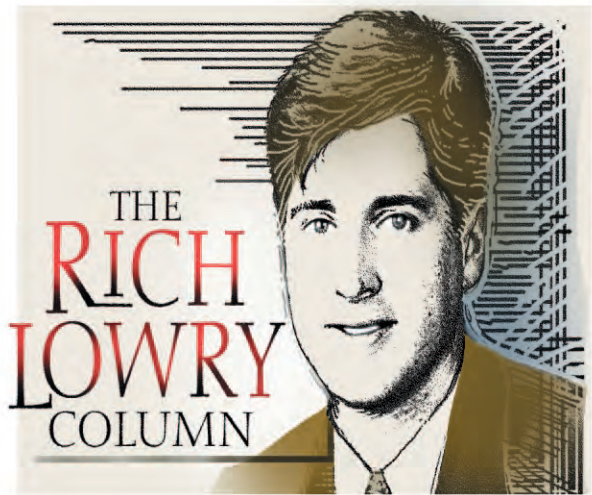


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Flock Cameras Spark Privacy Debate

We have met the enemy — and it is watching us. There’s a growing backlash against Flock cameras, the automated license plate readers that have become ubiquitous across the country.

The cameras take images of license plates, which are then stored in a searchable database that police departments can query in the course of investigations. Opponents of the cameras consider them an instrument of Big Brother, who’s not only watching, but constantly recording and tracking. Vandals have disabled and stolen the Flock cameras and even shot them. There’s a movement to get jurisdictions to cancel their contracts with Flock (the leading such company, but not the only one), and it has met with some success.

Los Angeles just let its contract with Flock lapse, citing “serious concerns around civil liberties and civil rights issues.” There’s a reason, though, that police departments so rapidly adopted the cameras — they are an extremely useful investigative tool.

It is certainly true that the technology, like any power we give the police, can be misused. According to The Washington Post, “Authorities have charged or accused at least 50 law-enforcement officers of using license-plate readers for unauthorized purposes, including to stalk their exes.” The Post calls the abuse “rampant,” but 50 documented cases isn’t a large number given the widespread use of these devices: There are 120,000 Flock cameras across the United States scanning license plates 20 billion times a month.

It is understandable that people don’t like the idea that they are, in effect, living in a panopticon. But license plate readers aren’t the only offender. There are all sorts of other surveillance cameras, many of them privately owned and operated, that the police access during investigations. We let our mobile phones and various apps track us all day long. And something like 60 million households have Ring or other security cameras that record what’s happening on their property and often in the immediate surroundings.

The only reliable way to ensure that you aren’t being recorded is to stay inside — and draw the curtains. Officers who abuse the license-plate readers deserve to be fired and, if appropriate, charged with crimes, which is often what happens. Strict rules around what constitutes a legitimate query of the system and routine audits should make it harder for rogue officers to use the cameras for nefarious purposes.

The police officials who are advocating for Flock aren’t doing it so the cops can track the average person’s trip to the grocery store or yoga studio. The cameras routinely aid in the identification and apprehension of the perpetrators of serious crimes, the location of missing persons and the recovery of stolen cars.

According to the Jacksonville, Florida, sheriff’s office, since 2024, the cameras have “helped solve 15 murders, 17 kidnappings, six forcible sex offenses, nearly 100 shootings and 172 missing-persons cases.”

A website set up by Charles Lehman of the Manhattan Institute is tracking news items about Flock contributing to successful police work. There are such stories every day, all over the country. Two recent entries related the arrest of an armed robbery suspect in Grass Valley, California, and the rescue of two kidnapped teenage girls in Bulloch County, Georgia. After getting a tip, the authorities used Flock to find the suspect in the Brown University shooting last year.

Perhaps these crimes would get solved anyway, but if even a fraction of them didn’t, Flock would be making a meaningful contribution to public safety. It used to be that America had, in effect, ungoverned spaces where malefactors could hide in plain sight. To use an extreme example, the Symbionese Liberation Army operated for a couple of years out of various safe houses in the San Francisco Bay area during the 1970s, something almost unimaginable in our technologically advanced age of constant information sharing.

Rolling back Flock won’t reverse this tectonic change that’s been decades in the making, but it will deny law enforcement a valuable asset.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Border Barrier Construction Halted in Big Bend

Amidst mounting public outcry, the federal government last week halted construction of border barriers through state park property in far West Texas, The Texas Tribune reported.

Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Rodey Scott personally stopped construction until he could visit the region.

Hundreds of people showed up at the annual meeting of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, gathering outside its headquarters in what resembled a tailgate party.

The federal government already has sent bulldozers into Big Bend National Park

Among those trying to rally people to the cause was former Republican Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson. “I have yet to encounter anybody in the Big Bend area who does not oppose a wall,” he said.

While Big Bend is a national park, several state parks could be affected by attempts to build border barriers, including Big Bend State Park and Seminole Canyon State Park.

TPWD chair Paul Foster addressed the concerns of those attending the annual meeting.

“I think we agree with most of you and are working with the governor’s office and the federal government,” he said. “Our goal is to minimize damage to the ecosystem and the natural beauty of not only the parks, but the whole area.”

PATRICK THREATENS SCHOOLS WHO RETAIN ‘INAPPROPRIATE’ BOOKS

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick threatened last week to lower ratings of schools who do not pull books marked as “inappropriate,” The Dallas Morning News reported.

“We’re coming for the books,” Patrick said in a message to superintendents. “We ask that you do it on your own and remove these books.”

Patrick controls the state Senate agenda and says school districts may eventually face funding cuts if those books remain in



school libraries. He did not say how that would occur.

Abbott last year signed a bill into law that gives school boards the authority to pull books from school libraries if parents or members of the public believe they are indecent or profane. Patrick said new penalties are necessary because school districts are not complying.

Democrats have said stricter oversight over books in school libraries threatens local control and access to books.

UP TO 25,000 PLUGGED OIL AND GAS WELLS COULD FAIL, GROUP WARNS

A new watchdog group’s analysis of Texas oil and gas well data claims 25,000 plugged wells across the state are at risk of failure, threatening to contaminate the aquifers many communities rely upon for their water supply, the Houston Chronicle reported.

The number of so-called “zombie wells” — plugged wells that rise from the dead — is about 50 times higher than previously reported.

Leaking zombie wells are a growing problem in Texas oil fields as a growing number of plugged wells fail, sending toxic wastewater up to the surface and contaminating aquifers.

The group, Future Heist, has created an interactive map to identify the wells at risk.

The group scraped state websites for information. It assigned each well a score based on several factors: the well plug’s age, well construction quality, compliance history and its

proximity to oil and gas wastewater injection. All the information is publicly available on websites belonging to the Texas Railroad Commission.

“I spent fifteen years reporting on what oil and gas did to Texas, and the facts were always right there in the public record — just buried where no one could use them,” Saul Elbein, Future Heist’s director, said in a statement. “Future Heist digs them out and makes them impossible to ignore, so people can see what was done to them and decide what comes next.”

TEXAS CRIME RATE FALLS FOR THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR

The state’s crime rate has declined for the past three years, according to data released by the Texas Department of Public Safety, including by 13% in 2025. The crime rate peaked in 2022 at 2,830.14 offenses per 100,000 people and has declined each year since.

Overall, the violent crime rate is down 13.19% from 2024. The property crime rate is down 13.31% for the same period.

Abbott touted anti-crime measures taken during recent legislative sessions.

“We passed the toughest bail reform package in state history, backed law enforcement, and targeted violent repeat offenders,” he said

SMUGGLED TEXAS FUEL IS BANKROLLING CARTELS

Fuel smuggling has likely surpassed narcotics as the Mexican drug cartels’ leading income source, according to DPS and reported by the Houston Chronicle. DPS reports the cartels smuggle fuel worth \$12 billion to \$17 billion a year from Texas into Mexico.

“Fuel trafficking is a threat that is operating in plain sight,” Col. Freeman Martin, the department’s director, told the state Senate Select Committee on Homeland and Border Security. “They’re loading fuel trucks or any container you can think of and hauling it south.”

Cartels have been known to drive empty trucks into Texas and fill them up with legally purchased and tax-free fuel from licensed terminals. The trucks are then driven to unregulated fuels sites, where cheaper products are blended into the fuel. Customs documents are forged or changed, and the fuel is taken to Mexico, Martin said.

One possible solution is to make it illegal for trucks carrying hazardous materials to deviate from pre-planned routes or to carry more than 80,000 pounds, according to state and industry officials.

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, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspess.com.



Bright and Shiny



My closet is full of sequins. No one knows how many sequins I own. Not even my husband, Peter, even though we share a closet. He gets one side and I get the other, which seems to me a little unfair, since I have so many more clothes than he does. He points out that if I were allowed use of his side of the closet, he would have no closet space at all—and I agree there is some truth to this.

So all my sequins are squashed into a surprisingly small area. Peter does his best to ignore the shiny territory, and even he does not know how many sequin-covered dresses and jackets I own.

The answer is: a lot.

And the surprising thing about owning so many sequins is that I never had a single item with sequins on it until quite recently.

I worked as an actor and never wore sequins. I acted so long ago that I played the “ingenue,” the young love interest. I had a lot of lovely clothes to wear on stage—but none of them had sequins. In real life, I wore very ordinary clothes. I don’t remember getting dressed up being something I wanted to do.

But now that I am in my sixties, I am no longer the “young love interest.” (Except to Peter. Peter is 10 years older than I am, so I will always be Peter’s ingenue.) And now I wear sequins—at least when I am presenting myself as a writer. I have been buying up sequin-covered clothing at my favorite consignment shop as if I were trying to corner the market.

Because I think writers can be kind of boring—and I don’t want to be.

Writers tend to be introverts, and a lot of them don’t really want to be out in public much; when they are, they often fade into the background until they are asked to read something. They will read and then do the skedaddle at the first opportunity.

I am not like that. I have the misfortune of being an extroverted writer.

Now that my first book has been out for six months and the second is on the way, I am starting to do some presentations, and unlike a lot of writers, I am really looking forward to this. I love talking to readers, and I can’t think of anything more exciting to talk about than stories. So it seems to me that the appropriate attire for doing anything this exciting is sequins.

Sequins set an expectation. When I am wearing sequins, whatever happens has to be memorable and fun. Sequins on a person my age are a sign that I do not take myself too seriously. But they also say that I don’t mind shining when the occasion is right. Sequins tell the audience that, yes, this is a special occasion. We are telling stories, and that is always special.

Every so often, if I’m feeling a little in the dumps—if I’m not feeling particularly glamorous, not anything like an ingenue—I’ll wonder, “Are these sequins over the top?”

The answer is “Yes.”

My sequins are over the top. They are too bright and a little silly and totally inappropriate for a serious-minded person giving a dignified presentation.

And that is exactly the point.

I am going to wear sequins every chance I get, just to let everyone know from the moment they see me that what we are going to do is special and fun, bright and shiny.

Till next time,
Carrie

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.05 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 12**.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.050000 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.046066 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.050443 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2026 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 12** from the same properties in both the 2025 tax year and the 2026 tax year.

The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 12** may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 12** is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2026 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 15, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at HCESD 12 Fire Station 14, 911 Hollywood Street, Houston, Texas 77015. **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 12** shall take action on the proposed tax rate on September 15, 2026, following the hearing to be held.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 12** is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 12** at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

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

Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property)/100

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR the proposal: **William Anders, Bryan Clements, Kenneth Wimbley, Don Nichols and David Proctor**

AGAINST the proposal: **None**
PRESENT and not voting: **None**
ABSENT: **None**

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

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

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 12** last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 12** this year.

	2025	2026	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.0500	\$0.0500	Increase of 0.0000 per \$100 or 0.00%
Average homestead taxable value	\$215,642	\$218,821	Increase of 1.47%
Tax on average homestead	\$107.82	\$109.41	Increase of \$1.59 or 1.47%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$2,263,214	\$2,448,626	Increase of \$185,412 or 8.19%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the District Counsel for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 12** at (713) 652-6500 or npierce@smithmur.com or visit www.hcesd12.net

NOTICE OF MEETING TO VOTE ON TAX RATE

A tax rate of \$0.05 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 50**.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.050000 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.053034 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.078447 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2026 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 50** from the same properties in both the 2025 tax year and the 2026 tax year.

The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 50** may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 50** is not proposing to increase property taxes for the 2026 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 10, 2026 at 12:30 p.m. at 1210 Dell Dale Avenue, Channelview, Texas 77530. **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 50** shall take action on the proposed tax rate on September 10, 2026, following the hearing to be held.

The proposed tax rate is also not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 50** is not required to hold an election to seek voter approval of the rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 50** at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

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

Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property)/100

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR the proposal: **Jim Owens, Michael Burr, Robert Ballew, Brenda Biggers and Alma Cedillo**

AGAINST the proposal: **None**
PRESENT and not voting: **None**
ABSENT: **None**

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

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

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 50** last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 50** this year.

	2025	2026	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.0500	\$0.0500	Increase of 0.0000 per \$100 or 0.00%
Average homestead taxable value	\$186,006	\$185,591	Decrease of -0.22%
Tax on average homestead	\$93.00	\$92.80	Decrease of -\$0.20 or -0.22%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$4,369,443	\$4,096,455	Decrease of -\$272,988 or -6.25%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the District Counsel for **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 50** at (713) 652-6500 or npierce@smithmur.com or visit www.hcesd50.org.

Woodland Acres School earn A’s,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of their schools,” said Commissioner Mike Morath.

Texas’ accountability system gives all campuses the ability to earn high ratings no matter where students begin. 49% of high-poverty campuses that received an A-F rating earned an A or B rating in 2026, up from 47% last year, while the percentage of F-rated campuses declined.

The A–F Accountability System was established in 2017 by the 85th Texas Legislature through House Bill (HB) 22 to provide clear and consistent information on how schools are performing in three key areas: Student Achievement, School Progress and Closing the Gaps. Designed to drive continuous improvement, the A–F system helps ensure that all students, regardless of background, have access to a high-quality education that prepares them for success after graduation.

A-F Ratings help educators and school systems celebrate successes and focus support where it is needed most, while the A–F Accountability System is structured to balance rigor, fairness and transparency; establishing goals for preparing students

for postsecondary success while acknowledging their effort and progress.

WAMS PARTIAL REPORT CARD:

Overall rating is 92 out of 100, this measures how much students are learning in each grade and whether or not they are ready for the next grade. It also shows how well a school or district prepares their students for success after high school in college, the workforce, or the military.

Student enrollment = 513 (94.3% Hispanic) / Economically Disadvantaged = 87.3% / Special Education = 18.1% / Emergent Bilingual-English Learner = 36.3% / Attendance Rate = 95.9% / Chronic Absenteeism = 9% / Number of Students Per Teacher 12.3.

2025 to 2026 COMPARISONS ~ School Performance Overview; up 3, from 89 to 92 / Academic Achievement; up 6 from 80 to 86 / School Progress; up 2, from 90 to 92/ Closing the Gaps; up 4, from 87 to 91.

WAES PARTIAL REPORT CARD:

Overall rating is 91 out of 100, this measures how much students are learning in each grade and whether or not

they are ready for the next grade. It also shows how well a school or district prepares their students for success after high school in college, the workforce, or the military.

Student enrollment = 420 (91.2% Hispanic) / Economically Disadvantaged = 83.1% / Special Education = 16.9% / Emergent Bilingual-English Learner = 49.3% / Attendance Rate = 96.5% /

Chronic Absenteeism = 6% / Number of Students Per Teacher 13.6.

2025 to 2026 COMPARISONS ~ School Performance Overview; up 5, from 87 to 92 / Academic Achievement; up 2 from 88 to 90 / School Progress; up 5, from 87 to 92/ Closing the Gaps; down 2 , from 92 to 90.

School Performance measures how a school’s performance compares to other schools with similar economically disadvantaged populations.

School Progress shows how students perform over time and how the school’s performance compares to other schools with similar economically disadvantaged student populations.

Academic Growth mea-

sures how many students at a school grew academically by at least one school year. It also includes students that successfully accelerated their learning from the previous school year.

Closing the Gaps tells how well a school is ensuring that all student groups are successful.

How is Overall Performance calculated?

Overall grades for schools are calculated based on performance in three key areas, or domains. TEA takes the higher score between how much students know (Student Achievement) or how much better students are doing than last year or than peers in similar schools (School Progress). TEA then considers whether performance gaps exist among different groups of students (Closing the Gaps).

This design reflects a commitment to recognizing high student achievement and the impact of highly effective educators while maintaining focus on the students most in need. Rating options for the overall score out of 100 are as follows: A= 90-100, B= 80-89, C= 70-79, D= 60-69 & F= 0-59.

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FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 1:

Labor Day weekend ushers in official start of college football season

Labor Day Weekend is here and along with a three-day break for many, it also means the 2026 college football season will kick off in earnest. Sure, there were a handful of games in Week 0, but nothing to get that excited about, unless you're a TCU or North Carolina fan.

Week 1 brings with it games from Thursday until Monday night and is shocked full of interesting intersectional matchups from Lambeau Field (No. 4-ranked Notre Dame vs. Wisconsin), to Baton Rouge for Lane Kiffin's debut asNo. 11-ranked LSU's head coach against Dabo Swiney and Clemson to Atlanta where Baylor will take on Auburn.

Also on the first real weekend of college action, No. 7 Miami, heads west on Friday night to take on a Stanford team that has not had a winning season since 2018. Former Stanford great and Indianapolis No. 1 draft choice Andrew Luck is now in charge of the football program in Palo Alto. It will be interesting to see how much, if any, the Cardinal are improved heading into their game with last year's College Football Playoff runnerup.

Speaking of the CFP, the reigning national champion, No. 6-ranked Indiana opens the season at home against a North Texas State team that finished 12-2 a year ago, but lost its head coach, Guy Morris, and star QB Drew Mestemaker (4,379 yards, 34 TDs) to Oklahoma State. Morris and Mestemaker joined a number of former NTSU players who followed Morris to OSU.

Other interesting games in Week 1 will feature No. 24-ranked Louisville taking on No. 9-ranked Ole Miss on Sunday



and the long football weekend will conclude on Labor Day night when No. 19 SMU | takes on Florida State in both teams' ACC opener in prime time on ESPN.

HIGH SCHOOL
Channelview at MacArthur - Blake Ware's Generals host Channelview on Friday night at 7 p.m. at Thorne Stadium. Ware is entering his third year as the Generals head coach and returns eight offensive starters and two defensive starters from last year's 2-8 team. Lance Nero returns at QB for the Generals, along with running backs Trinidad Espinoza (359 yards, 3 TDs) and Korey Fisher. The defense will be anchored by defensive lineman John McFarland and linebacker Josh Morales (46 tackles). Channelview is coming off a 1-9 season and returns 26 lettermen, including eight offensive and five defensive starters. My pick, MacArthur 23, Channelview 16

NCAA
Miami at Stanford - No. 7-ranked Miami, the national runnerup in 2025, opens its 2026 season on the road with a visit to Palo Alto, CA to take on a Stanford team that has not had a winning season since 2018. Former Stanford great and

Indianapolis Colts QB Andrew Luck is in charge of the football program and serves as General Manager. If anyone can turn its fortunes around, it's Luck. His team has a tough task in the opener when it takes on Mario Cristobal's loaded Hurricanes who finished 13-3 a year ago. After losing QB Carson Beck to the NFL, Cristobal brought in former Duke QB Darian Mensah (3,973 yards, 35 TDs). Miami also returns star running back Mark Fletcher (1,192 yards, 12 TDs) and speedy wide receiver Malachi Toney (109 receptions, 1,211 yards, 10 TDs). Toney also excels as a return man. Look for the Cardinal to hang around for at least a half, but Miami's overall talent will take over in the second half. My pick, Miami 34, Stanford 16

North Texas at Indiana - No. 6-ranked Indiana begins defense of its 2025 national title by hosting North Texas on Saturday in Bloomington, IN. Curt Cignetti's team finished 16-0 a year ago and lost a lot of talent, including Heisman Trophy-winning QB Fernando Mendoza. Cignetti is a master of using the transfer portal to restock his team and he worked his magic once again bringing in former TCU QB Josh Hoover (9,629 yards, 71 TDs in three years in Fort Worth). The

Hoosiers return four starters on both sides of the ball, but you can be sure Cignetti has added enough talent to make another CFP run in '26. North Texas lost its head coach, Eric Morris, to Oklahoma State, along with their starting QB in Drew Mestmaker, along with a host of other Mean Green players. Neal Brown is the new head man in Denton and brought in former Central Florida QB Tayven Jackson (2,151 yards, 10 TDs) to run the offense. My pick, Indiana 34, North Texas 14

Auburn vs. Baylor - Auburn and Baylor meet in Atlanta in the Mercedes Benz Dome on Saturday in an important opener for both programs. Both teams are coming off 5-7 seasons and Auburn has a new head coach in former South Florida head man Alex Golesh (9-3 a year ago). He brought with him one of the country's top dual-threat QBs in Byron Brown (3,158 passing yards, 28 TDs/1,008 rushing yards, 14 TDs). Baylor head coach Dave Aranda is definitely on the hot seat and probably needs a winning season to save his job. He will count from former Willis star QB DJ Lagway, a transfer from Florida (2,264 yards, 16 TDs), to have a big year leading the offense. Lagway will get help from running back Dawson Peredegass (671 yards, 6 TDs) and wide receiver Dre'lon Miller (20 receptions, 158 yards, 7 TDs). Look for Auburn's SEC style defense to be the difference maker in this one. My pick, Auburn 24, Baylor 18

Clemson at LSU - Lane Kiffin makes his debut as LSU's new head coach as he will lead the No. 11-ranked Tigers against Dabo Swiney's unranked Clemson team. Both teams finished 7-6 a year ago, which does not sit well with either team's fan base. Swiney could also be on the hot seat, but he has two national titles in his hip pocket. Kiffin's move from Ole

Miss prior to the start of the CFP playoffs caused a lot of bad vibes in Oxford, but brought smiles to those in Baton Rouge. Kiffin can be a polarizing character, but he's a darn good football coach and recruiter. He brought in former Arizona State QB Sam Leavitt (1,628 yards, 10 TDs in seven games last year). LSU returns running back Caden Duram (505 yards, 3 TDs). Clemson will break in a new QB in Christopher Vizzina, who will be tasked with replacing three-year starter Cade Klubnik, who departed for the NFL. This game will be on prime time on ABC starting at 6:30 p.m. Look for Kiffin to have a successful debut come Saturday night. My pick, LSU 30, Clemson 23

Louisville vs. Ole Miss - No. 24-ranked Louisville heads to Oxford to take on No.9-ranked Ole Miss on Sunday at Nissan Stadium in Nashville in prime time on ABC at 6:30 p.m. Jeff Brohm's Cardinals finished 9-4 a year ago and will break in a new QB in Lincoln Kienholz. He will have a veteran running back to count on in Isaac Brown (884 yards, 7 TDs) and a veteran wideout in Tre Richardson (46 receptions, 806 yards, 7 TDs). Ole Miss head coach Pete Golding took over after Kiffin bolted for LSU and led the Rebels to an upset of Georgia in the second round of the CFP before losing a tight one to Miami in the third round. Golding's team returns one of the top QBs in the nation in Trinidad Chambliss (3,937 passing yards, 22 TDs/527 rushing yards, 8 TDs), one of the most productive running backs in Kewan Lacy (1,567 yards, 24 TDs) and a dependable wideout in Deuce Alexander (44 receptions, 684 yards, 2 TDs). This should be a fun, high-scoring game to watch, but look for Chambliss and Lacy to be the difference makers for the Rebels on Sunday night. My pick, Ole Miss 36, Louisville 27

Notre Dame vs. Wisconsin

- No. 4-ranked Notre Dame takes on Wisconsin at Lambeau Field in Green Bay on Sunday night in prime time at 6:30 p.m. on NBC. Marcus Freeman's Fighting Irish finished 10-2 a year ago, but did not earn a CFP berth. ND lost its first two games to Miami and Texas A&M then ripped off 10 straight wins behind QB C.J. Carr (2,741 yards, 24 TDs). Carr looks like the real deal, but will be without running backs Jeremiah Love and Jadarian Price, who accounted for an astounding 2,046 yards and 35 TDs in '25. Aneayas Williams and sophomore Nolan James Jr. (224 yards, 5 TDs) will get first cracks at leading the running game. Carr does get back big-play wide receiver Jaden Greathouse (42 receptions, 592 yards, 4 TDs in 2024) and Jordan Faison (49 receptions, 640 yards, 4 TDs). Wisconsin head coach Luke Fickel's seat is definitely hot after going just 16-21 in his first three years in Madison. He will count on Old Dominion transfer Colton Joseph (2,624 yards, 21 TDs) to lead the offense. My pick, Notre Dame 31, Wisconsin 14

SMU at Florida State - The long Labor Day Weekend football fest concludes on Monday night with an ACC tilt as No. 19-ranked SMU visits Tallahassee to take on a Seminoles program that has struggled under head coach Mike Norvell. FSU finished 5-7 a year ago and Norvell has had just two winning seasons in his six years at FSU. He will face a SMU team that will contend for the ACC title and is led by QB Kevin Jennings (3,641 yards, 26 TDs) and running back Chris Johnson (479 yards, 4 TDs). The Noles will pin their turnaround hopes on quarterback Ashton Daniels and running back Quintrevion Wisner (597 yards, 3 TDs), who transferred from Texas. SMU picks up a hard-fought road win, but look for FSU to play a competitive game. My pick, SMU 26, Florida State 23

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Gal Gadot star in "The Runner."

"The Runner."

"Star Wars: The Mandalorian and Grogu" (PG-13) — Sometimes a film can have a notable director such as Jon Favreau ("The Lion King"), popular lead stars like Pedro Pascal ("Fantastic 4: The First Steps") and Jeremy Allen White ("The Bear"), and even a score composed by an Oscar winner like Ludwig Goransson ("The Odyssey") — and still not meet box-office expectations! It certainly didn't meet Disney's, as it was the lowest-grossing live-action "Star Wars" film of all time. This sci-fi film is a continuation of the three-season series "The Mandalorian" (2019-2023), which follows bounty hunter Din Djarin (Pascal) and his foundling, Grogu. Instead of a fourth season, its creators decided to move toward a feature film about the duo, who get recruited by the

New Republic to rescue Rotta the Hutt (White). Stream it on Sept. 2! (Disney+)

"Mayday" (PG-13) — Ryan Reynolds is back on our screens after the successful third installment of his "Deadpool" franchise! Trading in his skintight red suit for a United States Air Force uniform, Reynolds plays pilot Troy "Assassin" Kelly in this action-comedy film out on Sept. 4. After ejecting himself from his plane to survive a head-on collision, Troy lands in the Russian wilderness and quickly encounters ex-KGB carpenter Nikolai Ustinov (Kenneth Branagh). Nikolai, who greatly admires the American government and culture, agrees to help Troy get outside of enemy lines. Of course, even with their combat skills and the power of their two heads combined, it won't be an

easy feat. (Apple TV)

"The Runner" (PG-13) — Having gone under the radar for a bit after the catastrophe that was "Snow White" (2025), Gal Gadot has found herself in a new lead role for an action thriller that's way more up her alley. Gadot portrays Maia, an attorney, mother and running enthusiast. In the middle of her normal run after dropping her son, Noah, off to school, she receives what she assumes is an ordinary call from him, until she hears a man on the other end of the line. Startled, Maia listens intently as the caller tells her that he has abducted Noah, and only if she follows each of the caller's rules will Noah get to live. Damian Lewis ("Pressure") and Alfred Enoch ("The Critic") co-star. Premieres Sept. 2. (Amazon Prime Video)

In Case You Missed It "The Man Will Burn" (TV-MA) — This four-part documentary series that's out now on streaming takes on the radical week-long desert festival known as Burning Man. Originating in 1986 on Baker Beach in San Francisco, Burning Man has since evolved into a large-scale event consisting of more than 70,000 participants. Now held at its iconic venue of Black Rock City, Nevada, the festival brings together people from around the world with a foundation of 10 main principles: radical inclusion, gifting, deconstruction, radical self-reliance, radical self-expression, communal effort, civic responsibility, leaving no trace, participation, and immediacy. The series explores its history, the nonprofit that organizes the festival, and how celebrity culture has infiltrated Black Rock City. (HBO Max)

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Q: When is the new comedy series with Amy Poehler coming out? I loved "Parks and Recreation" and hope the new show is just as clever. — M.D.

A: Not only is Amy Poehler returning to television in a new comedy, she's teaming up with "Parks and Recreation's" co-creator, writer and director Mike Schur in said project! All 10 episodes of the first season of "Dig" will be available for your viewing pleasure on Peacock, beginning Nov. 23.

"Dig" is based on a novel called "Excavations" by Kate Myers. Poehler plays an archeologist at a dig site in Greece who, along with a group of women, stumbles on an artifact that leads to an international conspiracy. The show also stars Hugh Laurie ("House"), Geraldine Viswanathan ("Miracle Workers"), Antonia Thomas ("The Good Doctor"), and Fina Strazza ("Paper Girls").

Q:Is it true that Tom Selleck is returning to TV? Will it be on the "Blue Bloods" spin-off? — G.G.

A: Yes, one of television's biggest stars Tom Selleck ("Magnum P.I.") is returning to television, but not in the CBS spin-off "Boston Blue." Instead, he'll be in a guest-starring role for a new comedy. According to a recent article in TVLine, Selleck will appear in an upcoming Apple TV series, co-starring Elizabeth Banks ("The Miniature Wife"), and he'll be reuniting with his "Three Men and a Baby" co-star Ted Danson. A title for the show hasn't been announced yet, however.

The 81-year-old Selleck led all 14 seasons of the CBS hit series "Blue Bloods," but has understandably taken a break from the busy schedule that the show entailed. However, according to his IMDb page, he's also reportedly going to star in another "Jesse Stone" project — a franchise that has already consisted of nine TV movies. So, apparently, Selleck isn't averse to hard work!

Q: Did the actor who plays Kyle on "Lioness" used to be on a soap opera? I think it was "The Young and the Restless"? — D.I.



Amy Poehler (Upcoming in "Dig")

A: Yes, Thad Luckinbill is best known to daytime television audiences as J.T. from the CBS soap "The Young and the Restless." He first departed from the show in 2010, but returned briefly until 2023. This is the year that he became part of the Taylor Sheridan universe by joining the Paramount+ series "Lioness."

Luckinbill has also carved out an impressive career as a Hollywood producer. In 2013, he teamed up with producer Molly Smith to form the production company Black Label Media. While he hasn't personally won an Oscar in this role, the films that he helped produce have won many Oscars — most notably "La Land," starring Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone. Additionally, he produced two films that were written by the prolific Sheridan — "Sicario" and its sequel "Sicario: Day of the Soldado."

Luckinbill is still married to his former "Y&R" co-star Amelia Heinle, who plays Victoria on the soap. The two separated in 2017 but are reportedly back together.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU

				9	2	5	8		
8	9					4			
			2				9		
	5		9	3			2		
2			6				3		
		4			6	1			
		5		9	8		6	2	
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		6		7		5	8	3	

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!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Arm is not showing. 2. Hammer is longer. 3. Box is moved. 4. Cap is tilted back. 5. Lightbulb is smaller. 6. Stripe on sleeve is smaller.

August 31, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Actor Sharif

5 "Humbly!"

8 JFK guesses

12 Cape —, Portugal

13 In the style of

14 Seniors' gp.

15 Manhattan, for one

17 China (Pref.)

18 "The Sopranos" restaurateur

19 Brunch fare

21 Thick chunk

24 TV spots

25 Ancient invader

28 Uber competitors

30 Mas' mates

33 Chef Garten

34 Bo of "10"

35 Pen filler

36 — chi

37 Location

38 — B'rith

39 Young fellow

41 "Absolutely!"

43 Texas city

46 Caravan stops

50 Big rackets

51 Pulled-back hairdo

54 Icelandic epic

55 Chang's brother

56 "Andor" actor Diego —

57 Optimistic

58 Tic-tac-toe loser

59 Mountain ht.

DOWN

1 Sea predator

2 Heath

3 Ad agcy. client

4 Debonair

5 Sheep call

6 Boxer Laila

7 Angelic light

8 Allayed

9 Severe decline

10 "Rule, Britannia!" composer

11 Espy

16 Aviv preceder

20 Mardi Gras wear

22 Computer brand

23 Exposures

25 "Shoo!"

26 — tear (rag-ing)

27 Hindmost

29 Boyfriend

31 Comic Gaster

32 Enjoy Aspen

34 June honorees

38 Ringo, for one

40 Analyze

42 Trigger's rider

43 Baltic feeder

44 Queen of Carthage

45 Pinnacle

47 Biblical king

48 Aachen article

49 Serb or Croat

52 Musician Yoko

53 Private aid gp.

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King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

Weekly SUDOKU

8	9	5	2	7	4	9	1	6	
7	4	6	9	1	5	8	2	3	6
2	9	1	8	6	3	5	7	4	
6	1	9	5	2	8	7	3	4	
5	3	7	4	9	1	6	8	2	
4	2	8	7	3	6	1	9	5	
9	6	3	1	8	2	7	4	5	
1	7	4	5	9	5	2	6	8	
8	5	2	6	4	9	7	3	1	

Trivia Test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. HISTORY: When did Labor Day become a federal holiday?

2. ANIMAL KINGDOM: Which animal can hop from side to side but can't walk forward or backward?

3. MOVIES: What is the only international (non-English) movie to date that has won the Best Picture Oscar?

4. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin word "alibi" mean in English?

5. FOOD & DRINK: Which country is known for the soup called pho?

6. GEOGRAPHY: What is the largest bay in the world?

7. MUSIC: What 1996 song by Los del Rio became an international dance phenomenon?

8. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who is the only president to be elected unanimously by the Electoral College?

9. SCIENCE: How many times does the average human blink per minute?

10. TELEVISION: What is SpongeBob's pet named in the animated series "SpongeBob SquarePants"?

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New field house leads Galena Park HS transformation,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

project. GPISD Director of Facilities and Planning Ed Matir said the contract for the field house was about \$13.6 million, though he expects the final amount to be lower once unused allowances are accounted for.

Nearby, construction continues on Phase 3B, which includes a new indoor practice facility and a three-story academic classroom structure wrapped around it. Matir said that portion carries a cost of about \$88 million “and some change,” including allowances. The larger Galena Park High School campus project is budgeted at just under \$300 million.

Matir said the phased approach was designed to move the athletic program out of the old field house so demolition and construction could move faster on the rest of the campus.

“We need to get Spiro and his coaches out of there so we can get started on that,” Matir said. “It’s a very tight site.”

The change also accelerated the overall timeline. Matir said the district expects the project to be completed by 2029, saving about two and a half years from an earlier construction outlook.

“That saves us two and a half years,” Matir said, adding that the approach also limits disruptions for students and teachers. “It keeps it minimum.”

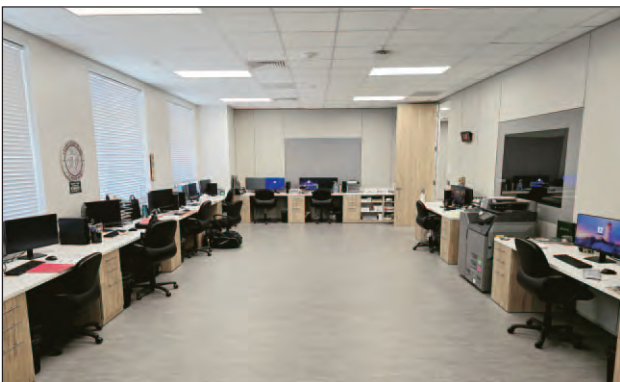
The future indoor practice facility will include a 60-yard practice field, a size dictated by limited space on the campus. Amarantos said the football program can still make it work.

“To be honest with you, we can do what we need to do in a space that size,” he said. “Absolutely. We can’t fit the entire team in there, but for what we need to get done, absolutely, we can make it work.”

Matir said the indoor



The centerpiece of the multi-million facility hosts the state-of-the-art weight room with 30 stations, reducing the amount of weight time. A sound system can blare music to charge up athletes and a wall of windows on one side allows them to see out onto the field. There is a remote controlled shade that can block the sun. The branding continues even with the hive on the ceiling.



The coaches offices feature windows that look out onto the football field, computers, office equipment, and a wide screen for viewing video.

facility will also serve a broader purpose while the campus is rebuilt. The three-story classroom structure around the practice facility will allow students and programs to be moved into new space before older areas of the campus are demolished.

“The original plan was going to be a lot of letting the kids walk through construction sites and construction areas, and I didn’t want to do that,” Matir said. “So this, I think, makes it effective.”

Amarantos said getting the team into the new field house first was key to clearing the way for the next steps.

“Selfishly, we’re super excited to be down there,” he said. “But getting us out is what allowed the old field house to go down. And

now they’re building 3B and the indoor at the same time, and that wouldn’t have been able to happen without us being out of there.”

The new field house includes updated technology and flexible wall systems that allow for future changes in data, electrical and room configuration. Matir said the building is currently among the most up-to-date facilities in the district.

“Spiro right now is in the best building in the district, the most up to date,” Matir said.

Amarantos said another major point of pride is the effort to restore and preserve Galena Park’s Yellow Jacket identity. He said the school has worked in recent years to bring back Mr. Jack, school col-



The entrance into the weight room has branding on the floor and throughout the building. The Fighting Yellow Jacket logo remains the center of GP branding with the boxing gloves on the hands.



This is one of several team rooms where key groups of the team can hold team meetings. The rooms are equipped with desks, chairs, and video wall capabilities.

ors and other traditional branding.

“We wanted to bring the Mr. Jack tradition back,” Amarantos said. “It was just a really concerted effort to try to make all that happen.”

He said the branding inside the field house was created with the future in mind.

“We were allowed to really put some time and some effort into making this facility not just look good for the next two or three years, but for the next head coach or the next two head coaches,” Amarantos said. “The branding is functional, it’s going to last, and it’s going to translate. So we’re super happy about it, and I think the kids are too.”

Matir said the district is also looking for ways to involve students in future campus branding, including having CTE students use equipment such as plasma cutters to create metal signs and logos.

“To me, that’s unbelievable,” Matir said. “It’s a good way to be responsible with money, and then the kids have an investment.”

The project is also expected to provide long-term benefits beyond football. Matir said the completed campus will include an indoor practice facility and three exterior practice fields, while the band and Jacketeers will have their own space as well.

Amarantos said sharing space during construction

will require cooperation, but he credited the campus community for working together.

“We work well together, everybody on the campus,” he said. “Anytime that the Jacketeers or the band need it, we’re happy to oblige. We figure it out, we make it work, and everybody seems to be happy in the end. You just gotta be flexible.”

Matir said the broader high school rebuild is possible because of voter support for the 2024 bond program. He said the district has also benefited from strong contractor interest and competitive bidding, including 18 bidders on Phase 3A.

“I’d like to thank the voters,” Matir said. “Without them, I couldn’t do what we’re doing right now. Once we’re done with Galena Park, and this is just the first step, it’s going to be very nice. The whole community is going to appreciate it.”

Amarantos said the new field house is already making an impact on students and the athletic program.

“This is a humongous investment in our kids, in our school, in our community,” he said. “They’re seeing the benefits of it every single day, like as we speak.”

Mustangs dominate lancaster 35 - 0 in preseason opener,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



#28 Nshore linebacker Kendrick Brown sacks Tiger quarterback.(Photo by Allan Jamail)



#12 Ja'Voris Taylor, Mustang quarterback scores on a keeper play. (Photo by Linda Jamail)



Defensive back #24 Lorenzo Lathan scores on a blocked punt. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

60 yards given away with penalties.

Willie Gaston, Mustangs head coach using preseason non-district games shifted players in and out of the game in order to evaluate their performance to help him determine his starters.

This year’s offense and defensive line looks light-

er in weight as previous seasons, this could make them faster off the snap but will that effect their stopping and blocking ability?

Mustang scorers: #16 Darrell Haynes (2), #12 Ja’Voris Taylor (1), #24 Lorenzo Lathan (1) & #5 Kaden Brandley (1). Extra point kicker # 81 Rey

Amezquita perfect 5 points. Linda Jamail statistician.

The Mustangs travel to Lafayette, La. to play John Curtis Christian Patriots, Louisiana’s ranked #4 in the state in a pre-season non-district game, Friday, Sept. 4th @ 7pm.

Yellow Jackets offense shows promise in loss,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and scored 2 TD’s and ran for a 2-point conversion.

Their passing game was much improved over the past seasons led by quarterback Jacob Muro (junior) completing 9 out of his 15 attempts with one for a TD for a 60% completion average.

If the Jackets Head Coach Spiro Amarantos can create a double or triple offensive threat this will be an unpredictable offense which will give opponents trouble.

Jacket scorers: #4 Jamile Hurks (2 td’s & 2 pt conversion), #5 Ayden Felder (soph) (1), #9 Nathan Esqueda (junior) (1). 3 extra point kicks failed. Linda Jamail statistician.

Galena Park will next play in a non-district game at home against Fort Bend (Sugarland) Kempner Cougars at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 3rd.



Swarming Yellow Jackets #20, #21 & #22 gang tackles Spartan's runner. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



Jamile Hurks Jackets #4 leading scorer & runner stiff-arms defender to score.



#9 Jackets Nathan Esqueda catches a Jacob Muro TD pass. (Photo by Allan Jamail)