



Backing up across the goal while dragging Panther defenders Galena Park's Yellow Jacket #4 Jamile Hurks score his 2nd TD. (Photo by Allan Jamail) See story in page 6.

NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

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Jacinto City weighs guardrails after marathon data center town hall

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

JACINTO CITY — A town hall over a possible new data center stretched beyond three hours Friday as residents repeatedly pressed city officials and project representatives about water use, noise, wastewater, air quality and the strain a large industrial customer could place on the electric grid.

City Manager Lon Squyres said the meeting underscored the depth of public opposition and clarified the safeguards residents want included in a proposed ordinance.

“It confirmed what we already knew, that we had a lot of opposition,” Squyres said in an interview after the meeting. “It also gave us specific in-

sights as to what some of their concerns were.”

The proposal involves property currently owned by IRGRA and future joint venture and data center company Raeden, according to Squyres. He said the city has not yet received a formal proposal, building plans or other project submittals from Raeden following the meeting.

That leaves many key details unresolved. But Squyres said Jacinto City is already working on an ordinance that would amend its zoning rules and require a specific use permit for a data center. The permit could spell out requirements involving water, noise, wastewater, power, pollution, monitoring and eventual decommissioning of the facility.

“If we can’t prevent it,



Jason Green, Co-Founder and President of RAEDEN. Speaking at JC Town Hall where people raise concerns about plan for new Data Center.

let’s limit any potential consequences of it,” Squyres said.

Squyres acknowledged that Jacinto City may not have the legal authority or financial resources to stop the project outright. He said the City Council remains firmly opposed, but officials are shifting their focus toward enforceable limits in

case the development moves forward.

“The city is not in a position to stop them,” he said. “We just don’t have the legal authority. We don’t have the deep pockets to spend the next years in court.”

The meeting’s length reflected the intensity of residents’ concerns. Squyres said the city chose a three-hour format after seeing town halls in other communities run as long as 12 or 13 hours. Even so, participants became frustrated and some questions were repeated.

“We said three; we should have done two, just because people start getting frustrated after a couple hours,” he said.

Water promises would be put in writing

Water use emerged as one of the most closely watched issues. Squyres said Raeden representative Jason Green repeatedly stated that the proposed data center would use a closed-loop cooling system.

For some residents, that answer eased concern. For others, Squyres said, distrust of the broader data center industry remained.

“He confirmed that verbally the other night, several times, in fact,” Squyres said. “I think everybody’s response was, good, that’s off the table for some. But then for others, it’s just a lack of believability because he’s representing a data center.”

Squyres said the city would seek separate meters for cooling-related water and ordinary uses such as toilets and sinks. Officials are also studying penalties or other enforcement tools if actual water consumption exceeds what the company promises.

“I’m very comfortable that we can hold their feet to the fire on the water issue,” he said.

The broader point,

Continued. See JC RESIDENTS
PUSH BACK AS, Page 3

Harris County Commissioners unite on local priorities

Historic Highlands Chamber luncheon brings two county commissioners to one table

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

The Greater Highlands Chamber of Commerce made history at its September luncheon, hosting Harris County Commissioners Adrian Garcia and Tom Ramsey together for the first time in the organization’s history.

During an extended question-and-answer session, the Precinct 2 and Precinct 3 commissioners discussed transportation, homelessness, water and drainage infrastructure, environmental cleanup and their priorities for Highlands.

Ramsey said Main Street generally divides the two precincts in the community, with Precinct 3 extending north and Gar-

cia’s Precinct 2 covering areas to the south and west. But both emphasized that government services—and especially emergency response—do not stop at precinct lines.

“When we have some kind of weather event coming our way or that’s been here and gone, that’s when we don’t care where Main Street is at,” Garcia said. “We don’t care where the lines are at. We’re both in it to help each other out to help you.”

Ramsey agreed, saying the precinct offices regularly support one another on road maintenance, drainage and other infrastructure work.

“Our offices work well together,” Ramsey said. “When you’re maintaining roads or you’re cleaning



Pct. 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey addresses the chamber audience last Thursday at the monthly luncheon on projects in the area and answering questions.



Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia answered questions at the recent Greater Highlands Chamber of Commerce luncheon featuring himself and his Commissioner’s Court colleague Pct. 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey.



Chamber leadership welcomed Harris County Commissioners Tom Ramsey and Adrian Garcia to their September luncheon for a conversation on issues related to the greater Highlands community.

out ditches or whatever, you’ve got precincts working, backing each other up a lot.”

Transportation emerged as one of the luncheon’s central topics. Both commissioners described TxDOT as an essential partner but voiced frustration with the time

required to advance major projects.

Garcia singled out State Highway 225 as a regional economic priority because of its role in moving freight from the Port of Houston.

“225 is a mess,” Garcia said. “The food you eat, the cookies, the water, the Topo Chico—everything is

generally coming through the Port of Houston. And if we can’t get that freight out to the stores so that you can buy it fast enough, the price goes up.”

Ramsey criticized the projected timeline for im-

Continued. See HISTORIC
HIGHLANDS CHAMBER, Page 6

CHANNEL CURRENTS

Community Events

Thursday, September 17
7 p.m. HTX Stroll Sisters Walking Club, Gene Green Park (Info@HTXSTROLLSISTER)

Saturday, September 19
11 a.m. Hands of Hope Community Meal at First Assembly of God Church

Tuesday, September 22
8 a.m. HTX Stroll Sisters Walking Club, Gene Green Park (Info@HTXSTROLLSISTER)
6 p.m. Gospel Night of Worship, San Jacinto Community Center, Highlands
6:30 p.m., San Jac Community Connections After Hours Lecture Series, Grant Fine Arts Center, Room N-1-103, 5800 Uvalde Rd.

Wednesday, September 23
11:30 a.m., Senior Adult Bible Study, Next generation Church
12 p.m. Mid-Week Mid-Day Bible Study, Fellowship of Purpose
6:30 p.m. North Channel Toastmasters International Meeting, (Call for details 832-896-1633)

Tuesday, September 22
San Jacinto College North Campus is offering a free evening lecture as part of its “San Jac Community Connections” series. Government Professor Cody Pogue will present “From Akokisa Homeland to Frontier Community: The Early History of the Sheldon, Crosby, Channelview and North Shore Communities.”

2026 State Football Battle of Champions

Mustangs 23 - Golden Bears 21



#81 Junior kicker De'Auntae Smith 3 point field goal. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

On Saturday, September 12, 2026 in Dallas, Texas at the historic Cotton Bowl Stadium the second Annual Roland Parrish Classic was held between the 4 teams which made up the 2025/2026 UIL 5A & 6A state championship final playoff games. Over five thousand spectators came to watch the four dueling teams square off.

The two game matchups were between the visiting 6A Champion North Shore Mustangs (NS) and the home field advantaged 5A Champion Dallas South Oak Cliff Golden Bears (SOC) and the 6A Duncanville Panthers and 5A DeSoto Eagles. The Eagles won 21 to 20 in the 12pm 1st game.

At 5pm the Nshore’s Head Coach Willie Gaston Eastside Boys Brotherhood and SOC’s Golden Bears hotly contested battle began with the Mustang’s kicking to SOC.

This game was predicted to be one of the season’s most fierce and competitive games for this season. AND IT WAS!

With the scorching sun beating down on the players, coaches, media and fans it took an extra effort to keep everyone healthy.

Serious dehydration cases from the 107 heat indexed temperature kept the emergency medical

technicians’ busy throughout the contest. At time’s severe dehydration fan victims were taken from the stadium into the shaded stadium’s tunnel where they were submerged while clothed into a huge ice water laden metal tub

until they had fully recovered.

Linda and I were able to procure enough liquid to stay hydrated and a Good Samaritan gifted us with towels which we wet and kept on top of our heads, we continually had to keep them wet as they quickly became dry from the blistering sun.

Nshore offense owned the first quarter by scoring two touchdowns (TD’S) while their defense kept SOC scoreless. The Eastside Boys scored first when QB Ja’VorisTaylor connected on a 42 yd TD pass to La’Damian Defreeze. Moment later the two teamed up again on a 25 yard TD pass for the game’s second score to give North Shore a 14-0 lead when the quarter ended.

The second quarter was much different with SOC’s defense keeping Nshore off the scorekeeping. The Golden Bears running game made two big TD scoring plays for 61 yds and 56 yds by running back Kenneth Young, both around the right end, their extra point

kick failed.

Mustang’s senior defensive back Tony Guillory, made an interception on a SOC pass near the Nshore’s end of the field with less than a minute in the half to give them a 14 – 13 halftime lead.

In the second half Nshore’s offense stalled on SOC’s end of the field against the tough SOC defense, facing a fourth down. Coach Gaston wisely sent in his junior kicker De’Auntae Smith who split the uprights giving them a 17 – 13 lead as the third quarter ended. Gaston’s decision and Smith’s kick ended up being the difference in the game’s final score.

Early in the fourth quarter SOC rallied and took a brief 3 minute lead on another big running play this time by Demaj Bass for a 58 yd TD around the left for a 21 to 17 four point lead.

The gutty fighting champion Eastside Boys

Continued. See NS WINS COTTON
BOWL THRILLER, Page 2

North Shore Mustangs wins cotton bowl thriller 23-21

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

didn't wait long to regain their lead when QB Ja'Voris Taylor hit a wide-open junior wide receiver Demont Jones on a 30 yd TD play, giving them back their final lead 23 – 21.

Give a hat off to the Mustangs offensive line coaches Jose Carranza, Colby Green and Cornell Gray that held back the SOC defensive rush that allowed QB Taylor to connect on the 3 long TD passes of 42 yds, 25 yds and 30 yds. Taylor's average completions were 0.562%. And as always Defensive Coordinator Garrett Cross's coaches kept the stingy Nshore defense aggressive to help with the win.

The 5A state champion Golden Bears had a chance for a late game winning score after their QB Jayden Williams scampered through Mustang defenders for 29 yds for a first down. Four plays later SOC was facing 4th & 1 with 23 seconds left in the game.

Coach Gaston realizing the SOC's 4th & 1 next play was a crucial game deciding play smartly

called timeout. The East-side Boy's brotherhood manned up and held the line for no gain, taking over the ball on downs; QB Taylor took a knee to the ground letting the game clock expire.

Mustang's offense: 402 total yds. ~ rushing 227 ~ passing 175. SOC offense: 329 total ~ rushing 298 ~ passing 31. ~ Linda Jamail Statistician.

The 3-0 ~ 17 – 6A North Shore the state's No. 1 team extended their winning streak to 9 games, next they play the 2 -1 Crosby Cougars who just recently were moved up into the 17- 6A division.

The Cougars defensive coach Jabara Williams takes over as the new head coach since Coach Joe Willis stepped down in the off season.

This is both teams first district conference game being played at Cougars Stadium on Friday, September 18th @ 7pm. North Shores student enrollment is 4,152; Crosby's is 2,217.



#8 La'Damian Defreeze catches a 42 yd td pass from QB Ja'voris Taylor game's1st score. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



Mustangs #30 De'Sean Royal & #28 Kendrick Brown gang tackle Golden Bear. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



Sept. 12, 2026; North Shore Team Captains verse South Oak Cliff / Mustangs won 23 – 21 L – R: #28 Kendrick Brown, #40 Jayden Allen, #14 Jaden Kendrick & #12 Ja'Voris Taylor. (Photo by Linda Jamail)



Mustangs defense gang tackle #30 Da'Sean Royal & #4 Mikhael White. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



Mustang #17 Demont Jones hauls in a 30 yd td pass from QB Ja'Voris Taylor. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



North Channel Star photojournalist Linda & Allan Jamail covering the Cotton Bowl Battle of the 2026 State High School Champions, 9-12-26.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.639585 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of City of Jacinto City.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.639585 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.590739 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.639586 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 City of Jacinto City 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 City of Jacinto City 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 City of Jacinto City is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2026 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON 09/24/2026 AT 6:00 PM AT 10301 Market Street Houston, TX 77029.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, City of Jacinto City 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 the City Council of City of Jacinto City 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

FOR the proposal:

Mayor Ana Diaz	Councilman Jimmy Rivas
Councilman Gregg Robinson	Councilman Allen Lee
Councilman Carmela Garcia	Councilman Mario Gonzales

AGAINST the proposal:

PRESENT and not voting:

ABSENT:

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 City of Jacinto City last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by City of Jacinto City this year.

	2025	2026	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.603444	\$0.639585	increase of 0.036141 per \$100, or 5.99%
Average homestead taxable value	\$126,571	\$136,906	increase of 8.17%
Tax on average homestead	\$763.79	\$875.63	increase of \$111.84, or 14.64%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$4,514,984	\$4,778,786	increase of \$263,802, or 5.84%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for City of Jacinto City at 713 274 8000 or tax.office@tax.hctx.net, or visit www.hctx.net for more information.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.029275 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.029275 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.027190 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.029275 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. 6 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. 6 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. 6 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2026 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON 9/28/2026 AT 5:30 PM AT 332 Freeport St., Houston, Texas 77015.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 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 the Board of Commissioner of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 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

FOR the proposal:

Commissioner Danny Naramore	Commissioner Rober Hamilton
Commissioner Margie Buentello	Commissioner Mickey Berguin
Commissioner Vinh Lam	

AGAINST the proposal:

PRESENT and not voting:

ABSENT:

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.

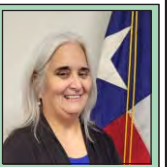
The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 this year.

	2025	2026	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.030000	\$0.029275	decrease of -0.000725 per \$100, or -2.42%
Average homestead taxable value	\$220,153	\$223,455	increase of 1.50%
Tax on average homestead	\$66.05	\$65.42	decrease of \$-0.63, or -0.95%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$1,371,867	\$1,471,751	increase of \$99,884, or 7.28%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 6 at 713 274 8000 or tax.office@tax.hctx.net, or visit www.hctx.net for more information.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Self-Care

“We get so busy taking care of others that we fail to slow down and take care of ourselves.” Ouch. As I heard those words on the radio this morning, I rolled my eyes and found myself saying, “Yes Lord, I am listening.” For some reason, every meeting I have attended, every sermon I have heard and even strangers have mentioned that same sentiment.

Having three immediate family members hospitalized within 36 days, as well as adding to the list of hospitals I have visited and funeral I have attended, I have learned to listen to my body and rest. Not to mention, I have started prioritizing what I want, not just need.

Some people do not seem to understand me when I tell them no. A few have seemed offended that I was not picking up my car keys and heading out the door. I have had some that questioned my priorities, reminding me that this is an election season and responsibilities as a Precinct Chair or those shaming words “But if you don’t do this, who will?” My response? It is not my responsibility to do everything.

Saturday afternoon, I received an invitation to an event on Sunday that was described as an “opportunity of a lifetime” by someone trying to convince me to attend an evening event across the city. The funny thing is that it was an invitation from someone that I have reached out to on many occasions asking for assistance for senior adults, who unlike me, live in his area of service....and have rarely received a phone call or email in return, must less the needed services for the seniors.

Ironically, as I sat in church on Sunday morning, I had a gentleman ask if the seat next to me was taken. I assured him that he was welcome to sit there, gave him a hug and introduced myself to him, yet it was not until the end of our service that he was introduced to the congregation. This young man, Yusef Jackson, was the son of the late Rev. Jesse Jackson; someone I had followed much of my life. The work that Rev. Jackson had been active with has certainly had an impact on my life and in turn, I hope I have shared some of those same values with others who I have been an influence on. And think, this “meeting” was not planned, and I was not coerced to be somewhere I did not want to be. And guess what? I felt good not having to go somewhere I did not really want to be.

It is okay to say no, and it is okay to stop and rest. It is even okay to set boundaries. In the past year, I have emphasized that if it is important enough for me to be someplace, then I should have had an invitation at least two weeks in advance. As we age, our priorities shift and for now, my focus is on self-care which includes plans to go skydiving for my 65th birthday. Want to join me?

ASK DIAMOND JIM



Diamond Jim: “What is an “inclusion” found in gemstones”

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

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



Photo courtesy of the Gemological Institute of America

An example of nature imitating nature was seen in a 0.73 carat faceted alexandrite showcasing an inclusion reminiscent of a rain cloud (see above). The “cloud” was composed of white particles oriented as parallel bands that displayed a cloud-like silhouette when viewed at an angle. The “rain” was composed of fine oriented reflective needles commonly referred to as silk. Fiber-optic lighting allowed for a concentration of

white light to be seen under the cloud, creating an appearance of lightning. The inclusion scene observed in this gem is an interesting novelty that any gemologist can appreciate and perhaps even a willing buyer. This group of inclusions are truly unique but, do they add to or lessen the stone’s price? Remember, “beauty is in the eye of the beholder”, and so too is the value.

For more insights and expert advice, [schedule an appointment](#) to experience personalized service like never before. Visit us at Diamond Jim’s PINEFOREST JEWELRY Experience.

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

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

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

She still makes you
laugh like no one else



Happy anniversary to the
happiest part of your life.



**Diamond Jim's
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6840 E. Sam Houston Pkwy N
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(713) 451-1321 PineforestJewelry.com

JC residents push back as data center debate heats up,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Squyres said, is to convert verbal assurances into enforceable requirements.

“It’s not just a handshake, a gentleman’s agreement or anything like that,” he said. “There’s got to be some teeth to it.”

City gathers noise baseline

Noise from cooling equipment and backup generators was another major concern. Squyres said city staff and Councilman Greg Robinson traveled streets near the proposed site Saturday to collect baseline sound readings.

The city measured both A-weighted and C-weighted decibel levels after Squyres consulted a Vermont specialist recommended by several people familiar with sound ordinances.

“What we’re doing is establishing a baseline before anybody even does anything,” Squyres said. “What’s the sound level now?”

Squyres said the city is considering limits tied to existing ambient noise levels so the project would not be allowed to increase neighborhood sound. He said the developer has claimed the facility, including generators during testing, would remain below those levels.

“He should be okay with it, but again, it’s got to be in writing,” Squyres said. “It’s got to be something that’s enforceable.”

Questions remain about power and air monitoring

Residents also asked whether the data center could raise public costs for electrical infrastructure or worsen outages during periods when the ERCOT grid is under stress.

Squyres said CenterPoint indicated that the data center company may pay for its own electrical



infrastructure. He cautioned that the city has little firm information so far.

“Our biggest concern is, will they steal power?” Squyres said. “One, is the public going to have to fund anything there on the power side? And then two, is it going to put us in a position, if ERCOT is stressed, is it going to knock us out of power?”

He said the city wants a written agreement requiring the data center to shift its load to on-site generation during grid emergencies.

“We want to see that in writing to protect our citizens,” Squyres said. “Because you think about the winter storm when we lost power on that occasion, we don’t want to go through that again.”

Jacinto City is also considering independent monitoring of air emissions and noise. Squyres said officials have approached Air Alliance Houston, which already operates an air monitoring device on the roof of City Hall, about either providing monitoring or helping identify a trusted third party.

“The biggest thing we kept hearing is, yes, all that sounds good, Mr. Data Center, but how do we know you’re telling the truth?” Squyres said.

Another meeting expected

Squyres said at least one more public meeting is

expected. The city is soliciting comments from residents and subject-matter experts while drafting the ordinance.

“Our biggest fear is what we don’t know,” he said. “The wider net we cast, I think the better off we’re going to protect our citizens.”

He hopes the proposed ordinance can reach the city council by its first meeting in October. The city charter requires two readings, giving the public additional opportunities to support, oppose or recommend changes.

Officials also plan to create a dedicated section on the city website where project documents would be posted as soon as they are received, including permits, site plans, equipment specifications and other submissions.

“We want to be as transparent as humanly possible,” Squyres said. “We don’t want to hold it. We don’t want to hide it. We’re not going to do any nondisclosure agreements whatsoever.”

For now, Squyres said the city is preparing regulations before an application arrives.

“We are drafting an ordinance which will augment the city zoning ordinance,” he said. “Basically, we’re going to codify everything that we’ve all been talking about and wanting to limit.”

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, on Bid Forms provided, addressed to the Mayor and City Council, City of Jacinto City, Texas, Harris County, will be received at City Hall, 1301 Mercury Drive, Jacinto City, Texas, 77029 until **5:00 P.M. Thursday, October 8, 2026**, City Council Meeting at **6:00 P.M.** and then publicly opened and read during the **Thursday, October 8, 2026** held at the Council Chambers, 10301 Market Street, Jacinto City, 77029, and then publicly opened and read for construction of the **"Emergency Communications Improvements."**

Scope of Work: Upgrading the emergency radio communications equipment for the City of Jacinto City

Accompany Bids with acceptable Cashier's or Certified Check in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total amount bid, payable without recourse to the City, or a Bid Bond of like amount from an approved surety company, as a guarantee that bidder will enter into a contract.

Plans, specifications and bidding documents for the project are available at <https://bids.lja.com>. For each set issued a non-refundable charge of \$50.00 for an electronic copy / \$100.00 for a hard copy. The hard copy may be obtained at LJA Engineering, Inc., East Houston Office, 11821 East Freeway, Suite 360, Houston TX 77029.

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.

A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at 10:00 A.M.** at the City of Jacinto City Police Department, 10429 Market Street, Houston, Texas 77029

City of Jacinto City
Ana Diaz
Mayor

Galena Park Branch Library September Events

Hispanic Heritage Events for Families- Fiesta - September 15,
Music of Mexico - September 22, Hispanic Folktales - September 29
Career Day—Twens, teens, and their families are welcome to come meet professionals in different fields and ask them questions about their careers.
When: Monday, September 21st at 3:30pm

JACINTO CITY LIBRARY

**Fall English
Classes**

REGISTER AT
THE FRONT DESK
REGISTRARSE EN
LA RECEPCION



JOURNAL CLUB
5 PM, 09/24



**Teen Anime
Night**

SEPT 16TH 2026
4-5:30PM

**BOOK
buddies**

Book Buddies is a **FREE** literacy program that brings child and adults together to share the joy of reading. It pairs trained adult volunteers (Big Buddies) with children in K-3rd grades (Little Buddies).
Starting Sept 10 @4:30pm
Apply in person

**Pokémon
CRAFT
NIGHT**
September 18 @4pm

**Story
time**
Wednesday's @10:30am

**Jacinto City Library
September
Events Calendar**

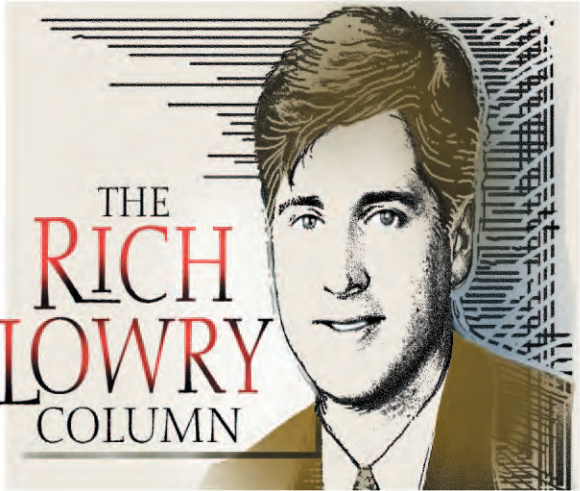
HOURS
MON 11-6 PM
TUE 10-6 PM
WED 10-6 PM
THU 10-8 PM
FRI 1-6 PM
SAT 10-5 PM

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Ten years later, Kaepernick remains unpersuasive

A decade later, Colin Kaepernick is as tiresome as ever. To mark the 10-year anniversary of his kneeling during the National Anthem, the former San Francisco 49ers quarterback is out with a new memoir, “The Perilous Fight.” (Get it?)

In an interview with NBC News in advance of the book’s release, which he clearly imagines as part of a vindication tour, he proved himself as committed to woke racial politics as ever.

He told NBC that his protests were about fighting “police killing black folks” and “systemic oppression.” He added that he was thinking — not very modestly — about the Montgomery bus boycotts, Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King while he took a knee.

It’s certainly true that Kaepernick sacrificed his career to his protests, although he was a marginal player by the end. In his prime, Kaepernick was a top-notch athlete and electric performer. No one can take his exemplary 2012 and 2013 seasons away from him. In one playoff game in 2012, he passed for 263 yards and ran for 181, a single-game record for rushing by an NFL quarterback.

He couldn’t maintain this level of performance, though. In 2015, he lost his starting job to journeyman Blaine Gabbert. He won it back for a time in 2016, although he got benched during one game after throwing for all of 4 yards. The 49ers went 1-10 when he started, and by one metric, he ranked 23rd out of 30 qualifying quarterbacks. So he was hardly the GOAT, instead once-very-good, now-mediocre. Then there was the issue that his style of play didn’t necessarily fit in most of- fensive schemes.

Layer on top of this the circus he’d bring to town with his kneeling and it’s understandable that teams didn’t find him an alluring proposition in 2017 when he was a free agent. There were myriad options available as backup quarterbacks who weren’t notorious for disrespecting the national anthem immediately prior to games.

TITLE: None of this would have mattered if Kaepernick had maintained his 2012 level of play; in that hypothetical, teams would have signed him even if he started to do the black power salute during huddles.

Kaepernick has now worked himself into a position where he’s compared NFL players to enslaved people (in an absurd Netflix documentary), and he’s bitter that he isn’t numbered among them as a 38-year-old who hasn’t played in 10 years.

Then there’s the substance of his advocacy. The high-water mark for Kaepernick’s anti-police worldview came in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd, when the NFL basically apologized for not listening to his supposed wisdom and the police were put on their back foot in many cities around the country.

The result was an increase in violent crime that, of course, disproportionately victimized black people. The country has now recovered from this idiocy — based on the lie that the police indiscriminately kill black people — and the country is much safer for the people who Kaepernick purports to care most about. If we ever go anywhere near his preferred policy of abolishing the police and prisons, we’d instantly create the worst crime wave in the country’s history.

Kaepernick is sometimes compared to Muhammad Ali. The legendary boxer sacrificed part of his career by claiming conscientious objector status during the Vietnam War. Ali was hated for a time, but his true greatness as a boxer, his incandescent charisma and his outsized place in the culture allowed him to transcend that political controversy and become a beloved American figure.

That is not going to happen to Colin Kaepernick, whose claim to fame is kneeling on the sidelines during some NFL games. He’s very dismissive of the enduring change wrought in the NFL by his protests and the tumult after 2020. The league has painted the words “End Racism” in end zones. Kaepernick rightly considers these pointless messages performative, but so was his scorn for the anthem of his own country a decade ago.

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

By Gary Borders



More than a dozen school districts face state takeover in 2027

More than a dozen Texas school districts could be taken over by the state next year if they do not improve student performance before next year’s A-F accountability ratings, according to The Texas Tribune. At least 14 districts had at least one school campus with a failing grade, according to this year’s preliminary ratings. Under state law, the Texas education commissioner must take over any district that receives five consecutive failing ratings — or close that failing school.

After a takeover, the district’s elected board of trustees is replaced with an appointed board of managers for at least two years.

Campuses under threat of closure next year are in the following districts: Clarksville, Cleveland, Coldspring-Oakhurst, Elgin, Judson, Kingsville, Manor, Nacogdoches, Po-teet, Runge, San Angelo, San Antonio, Spring and Waco.

Districts have until Sept. 11 to appeal a school’s grade rating.

NEW LAWS TOOK EFFECT IN TEXAS ON SEPT. 1

A bevy of new laws took effect Sept. 1, according to the Standard, including changes to how consumers can repair electronic devices, greater regulation of residential solar sales, and the allowance of certain forms of gold and silver as legal tender.

House Bill 2963 requires electronics manufacturers to provide owners and independent repair businesses with the parts, tools, and documentation they need on “fair and reasonable terms.” That requirement applies to consumer electronics with a wholesale price of at least \$50, but only to items offered for sale in the state after Sept. 1.

The measure contains numerous exemptions, including many motor vehicles, farm equipment,



large home appliances, and video-game consoles.

Another legal change requires residential solar system salespeople to register with the state and to work for a registered solar retailer. Consumer advocates said complaints about solar panels submitted to the attorney general increased by 818% between 2018 and 2023.

Another law recognizes qualifying privately produced silver and gold specie as legal tender in the state. The state comptroller is responsible for approving a system allowing electronic payments backed by bullion.

LAWMAKERS LOOKING TO FURTHER CUT SCHOOL PROPERTY TAXES

A Senate analysis indicates that nearly 40% of Texas homeowners pay no school property taxes. Some legislators hope to increase that share in the upcoming regular session, which begins in January. The Houston Chronicle reported that Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick directed a Senate committee to assess the impact of increased homestead exemptions in past years, with the possibility of raising them further next session.

Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston, chairs that committee and has been at the forefront of efforts to expand homestead exemptions. Currently, the first \$140,000 of a residence’s taxable value is exempt. For those over 65 or with

disabilities, the exemption rises to \$200,000.

Patrick hopes to raise the homestead exemption to \$180,000 and to lower the age at which homeowners qualify for a senior exemption from 65 to 55. For his part, Abbott is pushing a constitutional amendment that would eliminate school property taxes for homeowners.

“The state will fully fund public education without you having to pay for it in your homestead,” Abbott said. “The amount you get on your bill from the local school district that you pay in property taxes should be zero dollars for the rest of your ownership of that house.”

GOP SET TO GATHER IN DALLAS FOR MIDTERM CONVENTION

President Trump and other GOP leaders hope this week’s midterm convention in Dallas will help the party win roughly 35 races that could determine control of Congress, according to The Dallas Morning News. The Senate race between Ken Paxton and James Talarico is, by all indications, among the biggest.

Trump appeared on Patrick’s podcast to promote the convention being held at American Airlines Center, home of the Dallas Mavericks. It is expected to draw 20,000 attendees over two days.

The first-of-its-kind midterm convention is intended to generate enthusiasm for the GOP candidates in what is predicted to be a tough election year for the party.

TALARICO ACCEPTS CNN DEBATE INVITATION; PAXTON MUM

Talarico last week accepted CNN’s debate invitation, marking the fourth time the Senate Democratic nominee has agreed to debate Paxton, the Republican nominee. Paxton has indicated he would debate his opponent but hasn’t committed to a specific event, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

“I’ve accepted the debate because I answer to the people of Texas — [Paxton] won’t because he answers to his billionaire holders,” Talarico said.

Paxton has not debated an opponent since before he was elected to statewide office in 2014. His senior adviser said in mid-August that Paxton would debate Talarico, and expected an announcement to be “forthcoming shortly.”

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.

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Interesting as a Caterpillar



It’s caterpillar season. I remembered this yesterday as I sat out on the deck with my parents and two of their oldest friends at their cabin “up north.” We noticed as a tiny, furry ball began descending from the trees far overhead. Lower and lower it dropped until it was just over our heads.

“What is that?” my mother asked. We didn’t know.

At this point, the furry ball seemed to know it had an audience and began to swing, just a little at first, but soon in wider and wider arcs as the wind picked up. It lowered and then raised itself on its invisible line as it swooped forward and back and around. It was an impressive aerial show, and all the more so when I learned it was a tiny, furry caterpillar.

The caterpillar was engaged in something called “ballooning,” a verb I had only heard used to mean when something got bigger. In this case, it meant swinging in the wind at the end of a long silk line from the tree branches high overhead. The goal of ballooning, I learned, was to find a new and suitable place to live. It was the most exciting form of house hunting I’d ever seen.

Five adults, four of them over 90, sat transfixed by this little caterpillar zooming overhead in circles.

“If anyone asks what I did today, I’ll tell them I watched a worm,” my mother’s friend, Char, observed.

“There are worse ways to spend a day,” I noted.

The tiny moth caterpillar, flying around like a miraculous aerial artist, finally landed in Char’s hair. Char did not think she would be a suitable home for this tiny, adventurous creature, and the caterpillar disappeared under the deck. We will never know what it did after that.

I’d just been thinking a lot about caterpillars, as the monarch caterpillars are hard at work eating milkweed and making chrysalises. I remember as a second grader having a monarch caterpillar in a jar in our classroom. We started with an egg, already attached to milkweed. The caterpillar emerged from the egg and got busy eating immediately. It grew with astonishing speed and eventually hung off the milkweed in the shape of a J.

Then the fascinated second graders watched it spin its chrysalis, a bright green pea pod with a golden seam. The chrysalis would gradually change color, becoming more and more transparent until, one day, the butterfly emerged from the chrysalis, fully formed. We watched it slowly stretch and spread its beautiful orange wings, and then the second graders would troop out onto the playground to release this magnificent creature.

It was astonishing. But it was not as astonishing as what happened next. After that, the caterpillar, who had spent her early autumn turning herself into a butterfly in our second-grade classroom, would fly all the way to Mexico.

All of this leads me to believe that my life will never be as interesting as a caterpillar’s.

We compare ourselves to butterflies when we talk about making big changes or becoming a better version of ourselves. I think it is a good metaphor, and I find butterflies inspiring—particularly when they head off to Mexico, fresh out of a jar, without a GPS or map.

But it’s good to remember that before there was a butterfly, there was a daring and diligent little caterpillar. They are not as beautiful as butterflies, perhaps, but they get the work done—whether it’s spinning a chrysalis or ballooning from a 60-foot thread, dancing in the wind.

Till next time,
Carrie

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SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 3

UH, Tech face off in early-season Big 12 showdown:

Texans face another top QB when Burrow and Bengals visit

The No. 23-ranked Houston Cougars head to Lubbock for a Friday night showdown with No. 12-ranked Texas Tech in a key early season Big 12 game. It's only week three for both teams, but the winner of this game could be in position to control the conference.

The game will be nationally broadcast on FOX at 7 p.m. A year ago, the Red Raiders came into the Coogs' house and left with a dominating 35-11 victory. Both teams opened their 2026 seasons with wins in Week 1 as UH held off Oregon State at home 33-20, while Tech took care of business at home against Abilene Christian with a 33-10 victory. It should be noted the Tech defense did not give up a touchdown (Abilene Christian scored their lone touchdown on a kickoff return late in the game) and looks just as good as the 2025 squad did. That's not good news for the rest of the Big 12.

The offense did struggle in the Red Zone as Tech only scored three touchdowns and settled for four field goals when it got in close. Something tells me head coach Joey McGuire and his staff will get things figured out on that side of the ball. UH might benefit from the fact that the Red Raiders have to a long trip to Oregon State the week before this game, then head back early Sunday to prepare for a short week to take on a very talented UH team.

While the UH-Tech game is one of the marquee games of Week 3, there's another big win in the SEC as No. 11-ranked LSU visits No. 9-ranked Ole Miss, as former Rebels coach Lane Kiffin returns to his old stomping grounds after bolting for Baton Rouge last December prior to the College Football Playoffs. You had better bet Ole Miss fans will be at full throat and give Kiffin all he can handle come Saturday night in the nationally televised game at 6:30 p.m. on ABC.

Kiffin got his new team off to a very solid start in Week 1 with a 51-10 thrashing of Clemson, while Ole Miss won a thrilling 41-38 barn burner over Louisville.

Speaking of Louisville, the No. 24-ranked Cardinals will host No. 14-ranked SMU in a key ACC game.



Other top games this weekend will pit No. 3-ranked Georgia visiting Arkansas in their SEC debut against the Razorbacks new head coach Ryan Silverfield, who won his first game in Little Rock by defeating Northern Alabama 31-14, while Kirby Smart's team rolled to a 63-3 route of Tennessee State.

There could be a good one in the SEC as Florida visits Auburn in a meeting of new head coaches. The Gators new head man, Jon Summerall, got off to a solid start in Gainesville with a 66-21 thrashing of FAU, while Auburn's new head coach, Alex Golesh, saw his team win a squeaker over Baylor, 17-16, as the defense snubbed out a two-point attempt with just nine seconds to go.

Week two in the NFL starts with Thursday Night Football as Detroit visits Buffalo as the Bills open their new digs, Highmark Stadium on Netflix.

The Texans host another top 10 QB when Joe Burrow and the Cincinnati Bengals visit NRG Stadium at noon on CBS.

Other interesting games have Jacksonville visiting Denver, Pittsburgh visiting New England and the Cowboys hosting Washington in their home opener. Indianapolis visits Kansas City on Sunday Night Football on NBC, and Week 2 concludes with the New York Giants visiting the Los Angeles Rams on Monday Night Football on ABC.

NCAA
Houston at Texas Tech - A big early-season showdown for these two Big 12 contenders on Friday night in Lubbock. The game will be nationally televised on FOX (Channel 26 locally) and begin at 7 p.m. A year ago, the Tech defense dominated UH in Houston as the Red Raiders rolled to a 35-11 win. Both teams opened their respective seasons with wins as the Coogs defeated Oregon

State, 33-20, while the Red Raiders took care of Abilene Christian, 33-10. UH struggled in the secondary against the Beavers, allowing 376 passing yards, while the Tech offense struggled in the Red Zone and settled for four field goals instead of touchdowns. Tech QB Will Hammond looked solid (298 yards, 1 TD) in the opener, but the running game struggled. Look for J'Koby Williams (71 yards, 1 TD) and Cameron Dickey to get rolling against UH. The Coogs will look for another big game from QB Conner Weigman (305 yards, 1 TD) and running backs Makhi Hughes (98 yards, 1 TD) and Re'Shaun Sanford II (75 yards, 1 TD). Look for the Tech defense (3 sacks, one interception) to be the difference maker in this one as the Red Raiders pick up a big league win. My pick, Texas Tech 34, Houston 14

Georgia at Arkansas - No. 3-ranked Georgia heads to Arkansas to take on the Razorbacks and their new head coach, Ryan Silverfield. Silverfield had a successful debut two weeks ago leading his team to a 31-14 win over Northern Alabama, but they face a totally different beast this Saturday when the Bulldogs come calling. The 'Dawgs rolled to a 63-3 win in their opener. Look for Georgia QB Gunner Stockton (202 yards, 3 TDs), running back Nate Frazier (72 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receivers Jeremy Bell, Jordan Reddola and Elyss Williams (all caught TDs in the opener) to have big days in Fayetteville. My pick, Georgia 36, Arkansas 13

SMU at Louisville - No. 17-SMU meets No. 24-ranked Louisville in a big early-season ACC game as the Mustangs hit the road for the second time in three weeks. SMU opened the season with an exciting 27-24 road win at Florida State, while the Cardinals dropped a heartbreaker to Ole Miss, 41-38. The Ville will look for another big game from QB Lincoln Klienholz (307

passing yards, 2 TDs/69 rushing yards, 1 TD) and wideout Tre Richardson (4 receptions, 83 yards, 1 TD). SMU has a few offensive weapons itself in QB Kevin Jennings (430 yards, 3 TDs), wide receiver Yannick Smith (5 receptions, 107 yards, 1 TD) and tight end Randy Pittman Jr. (5 receptions, 75 yards, 1 TD). This should be an offensive shootout. Look for Jenning to make a few more plays than his Louisville counterpart as the Mustangs pick up another big road win. My pick, SMU 34, Louisville 31

Florida at Auburn - The Gators and Tigers open SEC play with new head coaches as Jon Summerall leads Florida and Alex Golesh will lead the Tigers. Both men won their first games at their new schools as the Gators rolled to a 66-21 win over FAU, and Auburn eked out a 17-16 win over Baylor. Florida will look for another big game from running back Jaden Baugh (160 yards, 3 TDs), QB Aaron Philo (275 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver Vernell Brown III (6 receptions, 117 yards, 1 TD). Auburn will look for dual-threat QB Byron Brown (259 passing yards/27 rushing yards, 1 TD) to be a difference maker come Saturday. My pick, Florida 25, Auburn 23

LSU at Ole Miss - No. 8 LSU visits No. 9 Ole Miss as Lane Kiffin returns to Oxford, from where he bolted for his new gig last December prior to the CFP. Kiffin and his team can expect a very hostile greeting and will take on a fired-up Rebels team that opened the season with a 41-38 last-second win over Louisville two weeks ago. Kiffin got his LSU career off to an impressive start with a 51-10 beat down of Clemson. This game will feature two of the top dual-threat

QB's in the Tigers Sam Leavitt (230 passing yards, 1 TD/113 rushing yards, 2 TDs) and Ole Miss' Trinidad Chambliss (336 passing yards, 3 TDs/60 rushing yards, 1 TD). LSU will also look for big games from running back Dillon Jones (113 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receiver Winston Watkins Jr. (7 receptions, 110 yards, 1 TD). Ole Miss hopes running back Kewan Lacy (61 yards) will be able to play in this one. He sustained a bruised knee in the first half against Louisville, but the injury does not appear to be serious. Chambliss will also look to make plays in the passing game to wide receiver Deuce Alexander (5 receptions, 159 yards, 2 TDs).

Look for the Ole Miss crowd to be the 12th man in this game as the Rebels win a shootout. My pick, Ole Miss 36, LSU 33

NFL
Detroit at Buffalo - Week 2 kicks off on Thursday Night Football on Amazon Prime with a good one as the Lions visit the Bills, who will be playing their first regular season game in their new home, Highmark Stadium. This game will pit two of the league's top offenses. Detroit is led by QB Jared Goff, running back Jahmyr Gibbs, wideouts Amon-Ra St. Brown and Jameson Williams and tight end Sam LaPorta. The Bills will counter with Josh Allen, perhaps the top signal caller in the league, productive running back James Cook and new wide receiver D.J. Moore. This should be a fun game to watch. Look for Allen to make a few more plays down the stretch than Goff to lead his team to the win. My pick, Buffalo 33, Detroit 30

Cincinnati at Houston - The Texans face their second top 10 QB in two weeks when Joe Burrow and the Bengals visit NRG Stadium at noon on CBS. The Texans top-ranked defense will have its hands full with Burrow, running back Chase Brown and wideouts Ja'Marr Chase and Tee Higgins. The Texans offense should be able to make plays against a suspect Bengals defense. Look for QB C.J. Stroud to make plays downfield to Nico Collins, while running back David Montgomery has a big day on the ground. My pick, Houston 24, Cincinnati 18

Jacksonville at Denver - The Jaguars head to the Rocky Mountains to take on a solid Denver team. Look for the Denver defense to make this a long afternoon for Jaguars QB Trevor Lawrence. Their pass rush will harass Lawrence all afternoon and very well could force a turnover or two. On offense, the Broncos will look for a big day from QB Bo Nix and his two solid wideouts, Cortland Sutton and Jaylen Waddle. Look for the Broncos to send an early-season message to the rest of the AFC that they are indeed the team to beat in the conference this year. My pick, Denver 31, Jacksonville 13

Pittsburgh at New England - Aaron Rodgers and the Steelers head to Foxborough to face the defending AFC champs in their home opener. New England had a few extra

days to prepare for this game after opening the season at Seattle last Wednesday. Look for NE QB Drake Maye to attack the Steelers defense with strikes downfield to wide receiver A.J. Brown. Rodgers will look to make plays to his two dependable wideouts in DK Metcalf and Michael Pittman Jr. Look for NE to protect its home field as its defense is the difference maker in this game. My pick, New England 26, Pittsburgh 17

Washington at Dallas - The Cowboys host the Commanders in their home opener at 3:25 p.m. on Sunday and will look to make it two in a row over NFC East foes (Dallas opened the season against the Giants). Look for the Cowboys offense to roll against a suspect Washington defense as QB Dak Prescott will have a big day throwing to CeeDee Lamb and George Pickens. Running back Javonte Williams will take care of the ground game. The revamped Dallas defense will need to contain Washington dual-threat QB Jayden Daniels, but something tells me that unit will get the job done. My pick, Dallas 33, Washington 17

Indianapolis at Kansas City - The Colts visit the Chiefs on Sunday Night Football on NBC. Look for KC QB Patrick Mahomes to have a big night against a so-so Indy defense. He should get a lot of help from new running back Kenneth Walker III, wide receiver Rashee Rice and tight end Travis Kelce. Look for the revamped Chiefs defense to make it a long night for Colts QB Daniel Jones. My pick, Kansas City 27, Indianapolis 13

New York Giants at Los Angeles Rams - Week 2 concludes on Monday Night Football as the Giants head across the country to take on a Rams team that opened the season last Thursday against the 49ers in Melbourne, Australia. LA should be over its jet lag and will be playing its home opener. Look for QB Matthew Stafford, running back Kyren Williams and big-play wideouts Puka Nacu and Davante Adams to have a field day against a suspect NY defense. The Rams defense should also have a big night against turnover-prone Giants QB Jaxson Dart. This one could be over by halftime. My pick, Los Angeles Rams 38, New York Giants 16

NC FOOTBALL SCORES/SCHEDULES

LAST WEEK IN FOOTBALL THURSDAY

Humble Kingwood Park 40, Galena Park 14

FRIDAY

Clear Creek 47, Channelview 9

C. E. King 58, The Woodlands College Park 7

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE FRIDAY, SEPT. 18

C. E. King vs. Kingwood, 7 p.m. Panther Stadium

Galena Park at Huffman Hargrave, 7:30 p.m., Falcon Stadium

North Shore at Crosby, 7 p.m., Cougar Stadium

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19

Channelview at Summer Creek, 7 p.m., Turner Stadium



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Historic Highlands Chamber luncheon brings two county commissioners to one table,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

provements. “I think it’s outrageous that it’s not going to be fixed until 2032,” he said, adding that county toll-road resources may offer a faster way to improve freight movement between port terminals and the Beltway.

The commissioners also addressed homelessness and its effect on businesses and neighborhoods. Ramsey credited the Harris County Sheriff’s Office with balancing enforcement and assistance, saying officers try to connect people with services while also making clear that they cannot camp on property they do not own.

Garcia described the county’s Employ to Empower initiative, which recruits people from encampments for paid work such as power-washing facilities, cutting weeds and collecting trash while connecting them with mental-health services and permanent supportive housing.

“We take them where they’re at,” Garcia said. “We put them to work ... but then we also use that time that they stay engaged with us to get them plugged into mental health services.”

On water and infrastructure, Ramsey warned that continued reliance on groundwater can cause subsidence as development expands in unincorporated Harris County. He said municipal utility districts must plan for long-term maintenance and surface-water needs.



Recently, thieves broke in to the Highlands Little League facilities and cut out all the cables from their main power system. The thieves got away with approximately \$50 worth of copper, but cost the league \$28,000 in repairs. The Greater Highlands Chamber of Commerce contributed \$1,000 toward the effort to restore the facilities.

“Water can be your friend or it can be your enemy,” Ramsey said. “You’ve got to be putting money back for maintenance. Don’t wait till it all blows up.”

Garcia said flood mitigation must remain a shared priority because runoff from several counties passes through Precincts 2 and 3.

“Water doesn’t care whose precinct you’re in,” he said. “It’s important for us to work together to ensure that our projects are coordinated.”

Asked what major goal they wanted to accomplish for Highlands, Ramsey pointed to the San Jacinto River Waste Pits. He said construction of a cofferdam and excavation work is expected to begin in the second quarter of 2027.

“I’m going to see the waste pit on the San Jacinto River get cleaned up,” Ramsey said.

He also highlighted completed work on Main

Street, planned 2027 street improvements and an effort to expand lighting in Highlands.

Garcia pledged continued support for the waste-pit cleanup and identified restoring acute-care capacity in East Harris County as a major objective following the loss of a local hospital after Hurricane Harvey. He also supported expanding community lighting and said Highlands residents should guide the area’s future.

“You have that small-town feel,” Garcia said. “Whatever the vision of Highlands is, is the direction that Commissioner Garcia is going to be.”

The historic joint appearance presented a recurring message: Although Highlands is divided politically between two precincts, its roads, waterways, public-safety needs and future remain shared responsibilities.

Panthers 37 GP Jackets 14

By Allan Jamail

September 10, 2026 at the Galena Park (GP) home stadium Head Coach Spiro Amarantos’ team fell apart in the second half. With the Jackets and Panthers tied 14 -14 at half-time the Jackets failed to put any points on the scoreboard in the final 2 quarters. Final Panthers 37 – Jackets 14.

Yellow Jackets junior running back Jamile Hurks continues to lead the Jackets offensive scoring by making the game’s only TD’s for GP. Junior Quarterback Jacob Muro is showing signs of improvement in passing and running which has helped present a dual threat unlike previous years where their offensive were mostly running plays.

The downside of consistently calling on Kurks for a majority of the plays it allows defenses to predict who’s going to take the ball and so then they target their defense to key up on him.

Their season’s schedule is tough but they’ve always shown to be fighting Yellow Jackets to the game’s end regardless the score. Linda Jamail statistician.

Jackets travel to Huffman to play the Hargrave



Galena Park Yellow Jacket #4 Jamile Hurks sprints across the Panthers goal for a TD. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Falcons at the Falcons stadium, Friday, September 18 at 7:30pm. The Yellow Jackets have a 1-2 record, the Falcons record is 0-3.

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Ella Beatty star in "Monster: The Lizzie Borden Story."

“Monster: The Lizzie Borden Story.”

“The 78th Primetime Emmys” (TV-PG) — It’s time for the night of the year where primetime television gets its flowers! Premiering live on Sept. 14, the Emmys will be hosted by Mariska Hargitay (“Law & Order: Special Victims Unit”), and the categories are stacked with nominees from multiple HBO shows like “The Pitt,” “Hacks,” “A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms,” and “Euphoria.” Netflix scored with nominations for shows like “Beef,” “The Beast in Me,” and “Black Rabbit.” Not to mention Apple TV’s “Widow’s Bay” and “Pluribus” with 19 and 18 nominations, respectively! In addition, Michael J. Fox will be honored during the ceremony with the Bob Hope Humanitarian Award for his charitable efforts toward Parkinson’s disease research. (Peacock)

“Monster: The Lizzie Borden Story” (TV-MA) — This could be just me, but I do enjoy seeing a nepo baby flourish in the TV and film industry every once in a while, especially when their parents are as iconic as Ella Beatty’s (“Feud: Capote vs. The Swans”). Daughter of acting legends Annette Bening (“Lucky”) and Warren Beatty (“Rules Don’t Apply”), Ella takes on the lead role of Lizzie Borden in the fourth season of the crime-drama anthology series “Monster.” Starring opposite her are Charlie Hunnam, who played the titular role of Ed Gein in the third season of “Monster,” as well as Billie Lourd and Sarah Paulson of “American Horror Story” fame. This season follows Lizzie in 1892 Massachusetts, as she becomes a primary suspect after her parents are found mur-

dered in their home with a hatchet. All eight episodes release Sept. 17. (Netflix)

“Dancing with the Stars: Season 35” (TV-PG) — Thirty-five seasons is an unbelievable feat for any television show, and with the buzz surrounding its new cast of contestants, “DWTS” still seems far from facing cancellation. (I’m not complaining, though!) “Summer House’s” Ciara Miller, who just came out of a recent scandal as a reality TV darling, was one of the first of the 16 contestants to be announced, along with “Love Island” presenter Maura Higgins. But the cast announcements that have truly rocked the world of “DWTS” fans were regarding to actress Julia Stiles from “10 Things I Hate About You,” actress/dancer Jenna Dewan from “Step Up” (get ready for all the “Wait, she can dance!” comments), and “Glee’s” Harry Shum Jr. The season’s set for a two-night premiere, beginning Sept. 15! (Disney+)

“Jay-Z in 8” (TV-14) — “Allow me to reintroduce myself,” teases Jay-Z in the trailer for this new eight-part docuseries. Sitting down with record producer/co-founder of Def Jam Recordings Rick Rubin, Jay-Z partakes in intimate discussions about his career, music, life experiences and creative processes. The black-and-white series was shot over the span of two days in a stunning and quiet hall in Paris, with Jay-Z recounting how he started writing music from the age of 9 and leading into how he produced iconic songs like “No Church in the Wild,” “99 Problems,” and “4:44.” The first two episodes premiere on Sept. 18, with new episodes coming every Friday. (HBO Max)

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HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Let’s take a look at the anatomy of a scandal. I met former “Full House” star Lori Loughlin when she was just 19 and starring in the daytime soap “The Edge of Night.” Now 62, she served a two-month sentence in prison after pleading guilty to wire and mail fraud in 2019, in a college scandal that was called “Operation Varsity Blues.” She basically bribed an official to get her daughter into college!

Loughlin was immediately pulled from the Hallmark Channel series “When Calls the Heart” mid-season while she was on trial. Seven years later, she’s finally returning to the Hallmark Channel for her telefilm series “Garage Sale Mystery,” as well as “When Calls the Heart” for its upcoming season.

While her career has been resuscitated, her 28-year marriage to Mossimo Giannulli hasn’t — they’ve split!

Glen Powell has completed Judd Apatow’s comedy film “The Comeback King” (due on Feb. 5, 2027), as well as J.J. Abrams’ sci-fi/fantasy film “The Great Beyond” with Jenna Ortega and Samuel L. Jackson (due on Oct. 1, 2027). Season two of Powell’s sports-comedy series “Chad Powers” dropped on Sept. 3, and its ratings will decide if there will be a third season.

Oscar winner Matthew McConaughey and two-time Oscar nominee Kate Hudson are reuniting for a sequel to their 2006 hit “How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days” (which grossed \$177.5 million and only cost \$50 million). Did the success of “The Devil Wears Prada 2” (the original “Prada” was in 2006) have anything to do with its resurrection, as well as the upcoming sequel to 2001’s “The Princess Diaries”?

Lest we forget Brad Pitt is returning to his character from “Once Upon a Time in Hollywood” (2019) in “The Further Misadventures of Cliff Booth,” which cost \$200 million to produce. It was directed by David Fincher and also stars Scott Caan, Carla Gugino and Timothy Olyphant. It was shot from July to October 2025. It’ll hit IMAX theaters on Nov. 25 for two weeks before dropping on Netflix on Dec. 23.



Lori Loughlin ("Garage Sale Mystery")

Jason Statham is as busy as a bee! In addition to completing “The Beekeeper 2” with Jeremy Irons (due on Jan. 14, 2027), he’s starring in the action-comedy film “Jason Statham Stole My Bike.” It also stars Hannah Waddingham and opens on Aug. 2, 2027. Not to mention his role as a drug dealer in Guy Ritchie’s action-thriller film “Viva La Madness”! There’s no release date for it quite yet.

Patrick Schwarzenegger has muscled himself into a top-notch movie career. His four completed films are: “Love of Your Life” with Margaret Qualley (for an October release); the rom-com “Beach Read” with Kristin Davis and Kevin Bacon (for a May 2027 release); the thriller “Bunker” with Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem; and the crime drama “The Bookie & the Bruiser” with Vince Vaughn and Theo James.

He may not have the kind of muscle that his father, Arnold, had, but he’s surely adept when it comes to pumping out ironclad movie roles!

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU

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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!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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September 14, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Ashley and Wynonna

6 Consumer protection agcy.

9 Catchall abbr.

12 Track star Bolt

13 Tic-tac-toe win

14 "The Matrix" character

15 Refuse an offer

16 Seattle suburb that's home to Microsoft

18 Credit rating publisher

20 Skin soother

21 Corp. money exec

23 Overly

24 Part of LGBTQ

25 Hit on the noggin

27 Japanese fish dish

29 Tranquil

31 Sort of dive

35 Police ID

37 Employ

38 Hairnet

41 Moray, for one

43 Past

44 Plane-related

45 Country song?

5 Stuffed shirt

6 Gift giver's words

7 Low digits

8 Atlantic fish

9 — Holmes (Sherlock's sister)

10 Mortise partner

11 Encryptions

17 "Butterfly" singer Carey

19 Medicated

21 "60 Minutes" ailer

22 Nemesis

24 Fill in — blank

26 Explosive sound

28 Bed cover

30 Wee bit

32 Tiara stone

33 Work unit

34 Old Olds

36 Census info

38 "Sexy" Beatles girl

39 "— say more?"

40 Director Welles

42 — apso (small dog)

45 Novelist Seton

46 Airline to Tel Aviv

48 Spanish gold

50 Born

51 Blunder

DOWN

1 Roast beef au —

2 "Suits" network

3 "Shark Tank" star — John

4 Flintstones' pet

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King Crossword

Solution time: 26 mins.

Answers

1. Ghost; 2. General William T. Sherman; 3. "Easy Rider"; 4. Indian Ocean; 5. Tin (stannum); 6. 14 lines of poetry; 7. Limestone or chalk; 8. Burger King; 9. Franklin D. Roosevelt; 10. Spiral

Trivia Test Answers

1. TELEVISION: What is the name of Jon Snow's dire wolf in "Game of Thrones"? — Nyx

2. HISTORY: Which Civil War general literally used "scorched earth" tactics in his march from Atlanta to Savannah, Georgia? — Sherman

3. MOVIES: Which 1960s movie has the tagline, "A man went looking for America, and he couldn't find it anywhere"? — Easy Rider

4. GEOGRAPHY: Which body of water includes islands known as the Seychelles? — Indian Ocean

5. CHEMISTRY: Which element's symbol is Sn? — Tin

6. LITERATURE: What is the length of a traditional sonnet? — 14 lines

7. GEOLOGY: What is a common name for calcium carbonate? — Limestone or chalk

8. FOOD & DRINK: Which fast-food chain goes by the name Hungry Jack in Australia? — McDonald's

9. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president gave radio addresses that were described as "fireside chats"? — Franklin D. Roosevelt

10. ASTRONOMY: What is the shape of the Milky Way? — Spiral

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