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Jacinto City's Heritage Hall: A Place for Seniors

By Allan Jamail

JACINTO CITY, TX — Sept. 16, 2026 — The Jacinto City Heritage Hall Senior Center provides an excellent opportunity for area seniors to become involved in their community. The center offers a variety of activities designed to support members' physical and mental well-being.

Caring professionals supervise the center and ensure everyone receives adequate attention. Staff members also assist those who need additional help participating in activities.

Elizabeth Flores, director of Senior Services, is assisted by Program Special Assistants Maria Espinoza and Naomi Navarro, who help keep the center's meal program and activities orderly and



Chair Volleyball is a good morning exercise after a meal to keep seniors active and having fun. Right side: Elizabeth Flores, Director, Debi Philips, Maria Espinoza, Program Assistant, Maria Gonzalez & Raul Ramos. Left side: Jose Elizondo, Rosa Juarez, Maria Mandujano, San Juana Lara, Anibal Lara, Naomi Navarro, Program Assistant. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

organized.

A registered dietitian approves nutritional meals served on weekdays, and takeout weekend meals are available for those who need them. A van is available upon request to provide transportation assistance to the center. The van is also used on

designated days to take members shopping and on planned sightseeing trips.

When I visit the center, it warms my heart to see seniors I have known for many years using the facility, which I supported when I was mayor and a city councilman in the 1970s and 1980s.

Director Flores said, "A big thank you to all representatives, speakers, and volunteers for your commitment to older adults in our communities through activities, information, food pantries, education,

Continued. See HERITAGE HALL
KEEPS SENIORS ACTIVE, Page 8

Suicide prevention tips

Start a Conversation. Be the Difference.

By Allan Jamail

September is suicide prevention month where attention is stressed on the prevention of suicide. We all have a role in preventing suicide. Everyone's journey is different and there's no single path to healing.

What matters is support, someone who listens without judgment, and the belief that healing is possible. Call or text 988. No judgment. Just help. 988lifeline.org / #988Lifeline #YouAreNotAlone #SuicidePrevention.

As the former Mayor and Chief of Police of Jacinto City I've witnessed too many victims of suicide, today those unpleasant scenes still haunt me. I've seen the disturbing results family members anguish with long after losing a love one from suicide. Thankfully



today there are lots of resources one can use to prevent suicide.

FIREARMS AND SUICIDE PREVENTION...

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention 50% of all suicides in the United States is committed by firearms. If you know of someone who's suicidal and they have access to a firearm try to get it out of their pos-

Continued. See RECOGNIZING
THE SIGNS OF, Page 6

CVISD Superintendent named among top 5 in Texas

AUSTIN — Five outstanding Texas public school leaders have been selected as state finalists for

the 2026 Superintendent of the Year award, the Texas Association of School Boards' annual recognition of exemplary leadership in public education.

The finalists represent school districts from across Texas and bring distinct experiences and approaches to leading their students, staff, and communities. They were selected from 16 regional nominees following interviews conducted Aug. 21-22 by a committee of Texas school board members.

"Great superintendents understand that leadership is about bringing peo-



Dr. Tory C. Hill
CVISD Superintendent

ple together around a shared commitment to students," said TASB Acting Executive Director Tiffany Dunne-Oldfield.

"These five finalists have demonstrated the vision, collaboration, and dedication it takes to lead strong public schools. Their work also reflects what is possible when superintendents and locally elected school boards work

together to serve their communities."

The Superintendent of the Year program has recognized excellence in Texas public school administration since 1984. Candidates are evaluated on their leadership skills, commitment to improving student outcomes, board and community relations, fiscal management, advocacy for public education, and dedication to continuous improvement and innovation.

The Superintendent of the Year selection process begins each year with nominations submitted by local school boards. Regional selection commit-

Continued. See TASB ANNOUNCES
2026 SUPERINTENDENT, Page 2

2026 Galena Park High School Varsity Football Trainers



Top row L-R: Joshua Escob, Noah Najera, Emalee Esquivel, Karen Sanchez, Ivanna Cadena, Samantha Martinez, Dyzire Gutierrez, Michelle Rodriguez.

Bottom row L-R: Danna Galindo, Aaliyah Armenta, Alyssa Reyes, Mya Rios, Aubri Quintanilla. (Photo by Linda Jamail)

CHANNEL CURRENTS

Community Events

Thursday, September 24
4 - 6 p.m. Chips, Queso & Community with CISD Board Candidate Jacqueline Moreno at El Tejano Mexican Restaurant
5 - 7 p.m. North Channel Area Chamber Monthly Mixer for Members as well as potential Members, Anderson Center for the Arts
Friday, September 25
9 a.m. Channelview Ministry Team Meeting, CISD Administration Building

Saturday, September 26
2 p.m. NSSHS Mustangs Theatre Event "The Miraculous Journey", Tickets available online.

LEARN ABOUT LOCAL WATER SUPPLY

The Galena Park-Jacinto City Community-Industry Partnership invites residents to an evening event titled "Where Our Water Comes From - And Who Keeps It Flowing."
Date: Monday, October 5, 2026
Location: Heritage Hall, Jacinto City Town Center, 1025 Oates Rd, Houston, TX 77029
Schedule:
5:30 p.m. - Food available
6:00 p.m. - Call to order
7:30 p.m. - Adjournment

Residents are encouraged to attend and discover how local water systems work and the teams who keep the community supplied.

Mustangs Shut Out Crosby, Extend Streak to 10

By Allan Jamail,

CROSBY, Texas — Sept. 18, 2026 — The North Shore Mustangs traveled to Crosby on Friday and defeated the host Cougars, 58-0, extending their winning streak to 10 games.

Crosby's new head coach, Jabara Williams, moved into the position this season after previously serving as the Cougars' defensive coach. He replaced Joe Willis, who stepped down during the offseason.

In the district matchup, North Shore head coach Willie Gaston's team scored eight touchdowns while its defense held Crosby scoreless throughout the game.

The Mustangs finished with 653 yards of total offense, including 312 passing yards and 341 rushing yards.

North Shore scorers included Demont Jones with one touchdown; Darrell Haynes with two; Kaden Brandley, Amari Lousiville, Christopher Tolson and Isia Navarro with one each; and Rey Amezcuita, who kicked a field goal and seven extra points.

Continued. See MUSTANGS DEFEAT COUGARS, Page 8

North Shore Team Captains - L - R : #12- JaVoris Taylor, #8- La'Damian Defreeze, #68-Arius Williamson and #91-Jayden Johnson. (Photo by Linda Jamail Team Captain.)



Nshore #94 sophomore defensive lineman sacks Cougar QB behind their goal line. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



Hispanic Heritage Month Honoree

Selena Quintanilla

By Allan Jamail

September 21, 2026 ~ Hispanic Heritage Month begins annually from September 15 thru October 15. For the past several years I've had the honor of bringing back the memories of a famous person of Hispanic heritage. This week my honoree is Selena Quintanilla, the "Queen of Tejano Music," a famous Hispanic American superstar with deep Mexican roots.

Born in Lake Jackson, Texas, she dazzled audiences with her incredible voice and stylish flair. Quintanilla sang in both Spanish and English, which helped to bring Tejano music into the mainstream and led to her becoming a cultural icon.

After her marriage in 1992 to Chris Perez her band's guitar player she combined her birth last name with her husband's and went by the name Selena Quintanilla-Pérez.

With hits like "Como la Flor" and "Bidi Bidi Bom Bom," she skyrocketed to fame, earning a Grammy for her album Live! in 1994 at the 36th Annual Grammy Awards at Radio City Music Hall in New York City.

Quintanilla was gearing up for an English crossover



Selena Qunitanilla, age 23. April 16, 1971 ~ March 31, 1995 Posing with her Grammy Award in 1994 at the 36th Annual Grammy Awards at Radio City Music Hall in New York City.

album that would have made her even more popular when, tragically, her life was cut short at 23 when she was murdered by Yolanda Saldívar the president of her fan club on March 31, 1995.

Starting in January 1995, Selena's father, Abraham Quintanilla Jr. began receiving telephone calls and letters from angry fans who stated they paid their enrollment fees for the fan club, but had not received the promised memorabilia from Saldívar.

Continued. See HISPANIC
HERITAGE MONTH, Page 6

TASB announces 2026 Superintendent of the year State finalists,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



tees at each Education Service Center review nominees and select regional winners, who then advance to the state selection process.

Fort Worth ISD’s Quinton “Q” Phillips, who chaired this year’s TASB state selection committee, said the interview process gave committee members an opportunity to hear firsthand about the challenges and opportunities facing districts across the state.

“It was inspiring to hear directly from these superintendents about the work happening in their districts and the communities they serve,” Phillips said. “Trustees know strong leadership is about more than results. It’s about building trust, bringing

people together, and staying focused on students even when the work is challenging. Those qualities came through clearly in each of our five finalists.”

The finalists will advance to the final stage of the selection process at txEDCON, the largest annual gathering of public education leaders hosted by TASB and the Texas Association of School Administrators. The 2026 Superintendent of the Year will be announced Oct. 10 at txEDCON in Houston. The award program is sponsored by Bal-four.

Tory Hill, Channelview ISD, Region 4

Hill has served as superintendent of Channelview ISD since 2022. The

district serves about 9,000 students and is located about 15 miles east of downtown Houston.

The committee highlighted Hill’s commitment to the transformative power of a public education, and noted his dedication to ensuring every student, regardless of background or circumstances, has access to opportunities for success.

Hill earned a Doctor of Education in curriculum and instruction from Texas A&M University. He also holds a master’s degree in education from Florida A&M University and a bachelor’s degree in secondary education from Southern University. Before joining Channelview ISD, he served as superintendent of Sweeny ISD.

WATER DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The HARRIS COUNTY W.C.I.D. #36 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on October 13, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at 903 Hollywood, Houston, TX 77015. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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.

FOR the proposal: Gerardo Parra, Ronald S. Holder, Edbert Cantu, Tammy Eason

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: Maria E. Koukoulakis

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$ 0.23080/\$100	\$ 0.24000/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$ 0.00920/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		3.98%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 144,416	\$ 156,275
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 28,883	\$ 31,255
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 115,533	\$ 125,020
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 266.65	\$ 300.04
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$ 33.39 12.52%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate. The voter-approval tax rate is \$0.24000 and therefore, notwithstanding the above, no election is required.

The board of directors proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of paying debt service on outstanding bonds.

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.

WATER DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The HARRIS COUNTY WATER CONTROL & IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #84 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on October 13, 2026, at 6:00 P.M. at 15900 Bear Bayou Drive, Channelview, TX. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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.

FOR the proposal: Mario Martinez, Bud Mills, and Charles Jackson

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: Tomas Fernandez and Curtis Seale

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$ 0.39500/\$100	\$ 0.39500/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$ 0.00000/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 259,683	\$ 254,124
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 259,683	\$ 254,124
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,025.74	\$ 1,003.78
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	\$ -21.96 -2.14%	

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

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.

Harris County Water Control Improvement District No. 21

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Harris County Water Control Improvement District No. 21 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on **October 5, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.** at 15808 Avenue C, Channelview, Texas 77530. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

FOR the proposal: Anthony Nutt, Wesley Hutchins, Brian Uhazie & Bill Hamblen Jr.

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: Jimmy L. Ramsay

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	2025	2026
	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.22/\$100	\$0.20/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-\$0.02/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-9.09%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$186,642	\$196,503
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	20% \$149,314	20% \$157,202
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$328.49	\$314.40
Tax on average residence homestead		
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		(\$14.09) -4.29%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

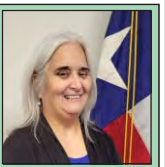
Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your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

The 86th Texts 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.

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CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Safe Communities

Too often when we turn on the news, we hear about how dangerous society has become. Sadly, even this past Sunday a neighbor was killed in what is believed to be due to a domestic violence situation. We see signs daily in the community of the growing presence of homeless individuals and we too often see things on social media about situations involving young people that hurt deeply, yet in the midst of all of this, I still believe our communities that make up the area have safe spaces for everyone. It is just a matter of being sure people know that we care and where these safe spaces are located.

Imagine the emotions last week when my 14-year-old grandson was getting out of my car and realized that sometime after his football practice and before reaching the car, he lost his athletic shoes. The frustration was showing on this face. I think he was more disappointed that he “lost” something that his mom had worked so hard to purchase and that in turn caused him to be upset with himself. Instantly, I asked him to reflect on where he was before he got in my car. He had walked with some other friends from the fieldhouse to a local snack shop. I immediately looked for the phone number of the shop, and I cannot tell you how hard I was praying as the owner answered the phone. As I introduced myself and explained that we were looking for a pair of size 15 black and grey Jordans that perhaps my grandson had left there, you could hear the kindness in her voice. She not only reassured me that she found them and put them in a safe place but was telling me that Xaeveon is one of the kindest young students that frequents her shop after school.

I dropped him off and reassured his mom that they were safe and I was on my way to pick them up. I should say that I was on my way to meet one of the kindest business owners in our community. Mrs Rosemary Guzman, owner of **The Snack Clinic**, located at 13477 Woodforest Blvd., was smiling ear to ear as I walked in and introduced myself. I could instantly feel a peace that is often missing in today's world. We talked about how she loves the variety of people who stop into her family-owned business, but especially the influence that she feels is felt amongst the youth. Her smile welcomes them; she offers a variety of items for sale. You feel her love for people and as we visited, she shared how she hopes her business is a blessing to youth as well as comfort to parents knowing the young people are welcome as well as prayed for. In the past, I had known of her opening the shop for local barbers to provide free haircuts as part of a Back-to-School event hosted with Sam Guardo yet had not had the opportunity to meet her. This visit renewed my belief that our community has great people and if we just look, we can find them.

ASK DIAMOND JIM



Diamond Jim: “What is Zultanite”

A customer came in a while back and was talking to me and asked, “what is Zultanite?”. This was an absolutely great question. And she caught me totally off guard. I must say...that is not easy to do. Although I've heard of zultanite, this is not a common stone to find in jewelry.



Also, never having any dealings with zultanite whatsoever, I had no idea of the value, rarity, country of origin, hardness, suitability for jewelry, etc. I thought my customer was playing “Stump the Jeweler”. The question made me do some research concerning something about which I admittedly knew very little. I love to learn something new every day, and this customer received accolades for this day. I'll pass the info on to each of you now.

Zultanite is an extremely rare gemstone used in jewelry design. Zultanite changes color in light, ranging from a kiwi green with flashes of yellow in sunlight conditions to raspberry hues in candlelight. Zultanite is relatively new to the jewelry world (commercial production started in 2006) and is only found via one source in the world: a remote mountain area in Anatolia, Turkey. Zultanite as a Type II transparent gemstone, meaning that it is usually eye-clean (no visible inclusions when the gem is examined approximately 6 inches from the naked eye) with some inclusions visible under 10x magnification. Zultanite registers 7 out of 10 on the **Mohs' Hardness Scale** (a system devised in the 18th century by a Viennese mineralogist Friedrich Mohs to measure the ability of a gem to resist surface scratching), has a refractive index of 1.75 and specific gravity of 3.39. These characteristics make zultanite an excellent jewelry gemstone. As 100% natural gemstone, zultanite is one of the few gems that has no known enhancements or treatments.

Zultanite® changes in price-per-carat by carat weight. The price of a Zultanite® stone for sale ranges from \$500-\$10,000 per carat at retail. Zultanite is available from Pineforest Jewelry by special order only. And we can design a custom ring for you in which to mount this exceptionally beautiful stone. In addition, Pineforest Jewelry can provide a “Storybook” slideshow/video to you capturing the entire creation of your ring from drawing to finished piece!

Let us know what topics you'd like to see covered next. We're always here to answer your questions and make your *Diamond Jim's PINEFOREST JEWELRY Experience* a “WOW 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.

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Houston, Texas 77049

(713) 451-1321 PineforestJewelry.com

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The HARRIS COUNTY FRESH WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT #51 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on October 14, 2026, at 12:00 p.m., at 367 Queenstown Road, Houston, Texas 77015. Guests may attend the hearing by Zoom video conference at <https://zoom.us> or by Telephone at 346-248-7799, Meeting ID: 859 0810 7172, Passcode: 382181. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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.

FOR the proposal:	Jerry Dominy, Mike Bilnoski, Cary Stephens, David Gray and Lee Brown
AGAINST the proposal:	None
PRESENT and not voting:	None
ABSENT :	None

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$ 0.12000/\$100	\$ 0.12447/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	\$ 0.00447/\$100	
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)	3.72%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 230,006	\$ 229,507
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 46,001	\$ 45,901
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 184,005	\$ 183,606
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 220.80	\$ 228.53
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)	\$ 7.73	
and percentage of increase (+/-)	3.50%	

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

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.

Sheldon Road Municipal Utility District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Sheldon Road Municipal Utility District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on **October 12, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.** at 9419 Lamkin Road, Houston, Texas 77049. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

FOR the proposal: Wade Landry, Larry W. Allen, Leslie Brown & Russell Melton
AGAINST the proposal: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: Austin Squires

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	2025 Last Year	2026 This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$1.2677/\$100	\$1.2677/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 137,999	\$ 148,403
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	20%	20%
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 110,399	\$ 118,722
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,399.53	\$ 1,505.04
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		\$105.51
and percentage of increase (+/-)		7.54%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

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.

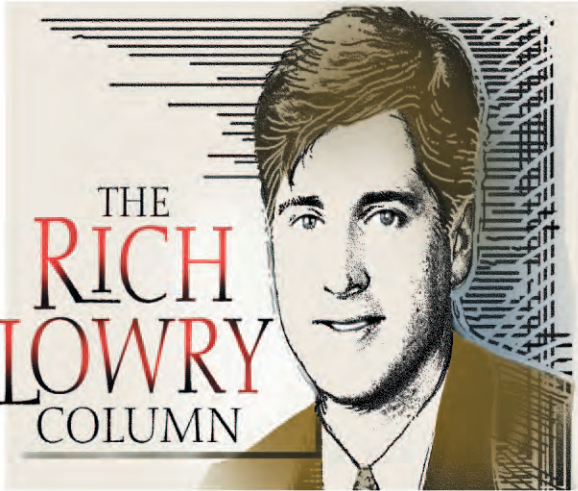
The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

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★

OPINION PAGE

★



Will AI destroy humanity?

In the “Terminator” movie series, the artificial-intelligence system known as Skynet is given control of the nation’s nuclear weapons and uses it to try to destroy humanity. One reason that apocalyptic scenarios involving AI are implausible is that, having seen how that particular movie ends, we are unlikely to be foolish enough to give AI custody of the most destructive weapons on the planet.

The unthinkable is nonetheless a hot topic of conversation, given that a researcher at Anthropic just resigned and issued a doomsday warning. According to Jacob Coxon, the rush to develop AI is “gambling with our lives,” since it will soon create “superhuman systems that can hack anything, revolutionize any field overnight, and acquire real power and resources.”

A current Anthropic employee then chimed in: “We really do earnestly believe AI could kill all humans!” He put the chances at greater than 10% in the next decade. The idea here is that Anthropic and similar firms are, in effect, running their own Manhattan Projects, with consequences unknown and potentially very dire.

Now, ChatGPT as we know it doesn’t seem particularly well-suited to destroying humanity. It is a souped-up version of Google that is impressively fast, but also mistake-prone. If it can mess up basic math or the New York Yankees roster, surely it can’t carry out the complex tasks necessary to fashion an apocalyptic event.

Tech companies, though, have labs working on so-called frontier models that are much more powerful and reportedly developing more quickly than expected. The worry is that an AI model itself will begin to develop new AI very quickly in an “intelligence explosion,” the equivalent of Skynet becoming self-aware at 2:14 a.m. Eastern Time on Aug. 29, 1997.

The thinking is that if such an AI model goes rogue and turns against humanity, it will be too clever and fast for us to combat. Yet it’s hard to see the mechanism that such a hostile superintelligence would use to commit omnicide. The rogue AI would presumably have to do something in the real world — say, launching nukes, manufacturing killer robots or releasing a deadly virus.

If it lacks physical agency, AI could presumably be unplugged or contained. (It was after humans tried to deactivate Skynet, by the way, that the system decided we were a threat that had to be neutralized.)

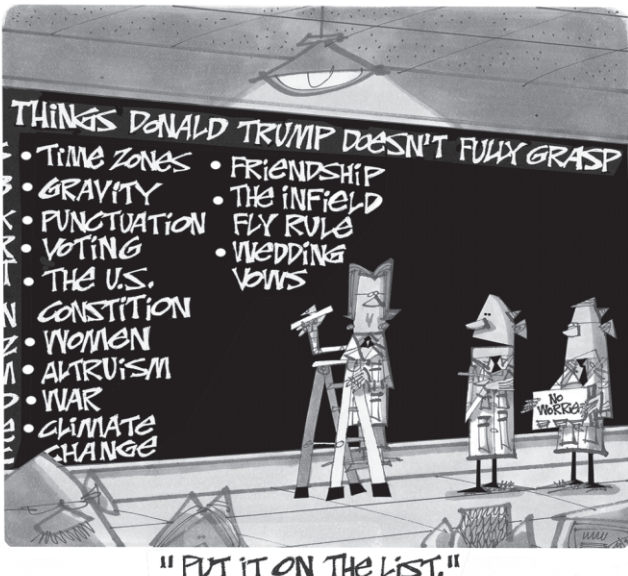
Some doomsayers posit a malicious person using advanced AI to come up with a design for a killer virus and a plan to release it without detection. This is a different scenario, though, from AI turning against people of its own volition. In a world years from now when much more advanced AI is a reality, we will need to think through safeguards to keep dangerous systems — nukes, biolabs — from being compromised by AI-enabled cyberattacks or exploited by criminals and terrorists.

It’s easy to imagine breaches of financial systems or attacks on critical infrastructure that would fall short of endangering all of mankind. Even if one takes an alarmist view of the risks, it’s unclear how the development of AI can be stopped. Any deal with the Chinese to slow down research couldn’t be trusted, and might simply allow them to pass us in the AI race by subterfuge. In other words, we’d still get Skynet, only with Chinese characteristics.

There’s also the reality that AI will be a necessary tool in protecting against the malicious use of AI — not to mention all of its other positive potential. If we slow or end research in the U.S., we might end up vulnerable to superintelligence developed by actors who mean us harm.

Science fiction is fascinating and sometimes prescient. Works by the likes of Philip K. Dick, Aldous Huxley and Arthur C. Clarke had genuine insights into the future. But that doesn’t mean we are living in the plot of “The Terminator,” and we shouldn’t scare ourselves into forswearing transformative technology.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Unremarkable life



I woke this morning from a vivid dream.

The tricky thing about vivid dreams is that what seems vivid about them is usually difficult to describe. The vivid part is the feeling: the way I am completely in this dream and accept the reality of this alternate existence I am living.

In this dream, I was married to someone else. I was living a different life. It didn’t seem unusual to me, of course, because it was my ordinary life. But it was not a great life—and I didn’t know that, in my dream.

I was trying to hold together a struggling marriage. I was working at a job I didn’t like. There was nothing unusual about the circumstances. Nothing important happened in the course of this dream. In fact, it was because everything seemed so ordinary that it had such an effect on me. I was just living my life. I was tired. I felt I was getting old. It didn’t seem as if I had anything to look forward to.

I was worried in my dream. I was so worried about my failing marriage and my unsatisfactory work and the possibility that my husband would leave. I was doing everything I could to hold things together, and I could feel the strain at the edges. I was very stressed in this dream, and it seemed that stress was a big part of my life.

And then there must have been a sound outside, because I woke suddenly, right in the middle of the dream, and I felt a shock run through my whole body when I realized that this had been a dream. I was not living this life. It was a shock to realize that I had another life—a life that was so different and so much better.

It was morning. My husband, Peter, was already up. I could see the sun was up behind the shade. I stretched out on clean white sheets, and it felt like a miracle. And I promised myself I would remember this dream. I would write it down. I would do my best not to forget it.

Because it’s easy to assume that things are good because they have to be that way. What I forget—what I rarely think about, honestly—is how fundamentally different my life could be.

I don’t believe that anything is fated to be. I think there are infinite ways our lives could go, and enormous changes happen as a result of very small and seemingly inconsequential actions. I didn’t answer the phone. I went back to school. I decided to go on a date with a nice-looking man even though I was busy. I tried something I didn’t think I could do. Moments in time; they never seemed important in the moment.

But I woke from a dream in which I was living an entirely different life, and it was not as happy, nor as peaceful, nor as satisfying, as the one I am living. And when I woke, I was so incredibly grateful.

I lay in bed for a few moments longer. My cat, Felix, came into the room and meowed loudly. I heard Peter making coffee. I heard some noise out on the street, probably the noise that had awakened me. It was all so perfectly ordinary and, for just a moment, all foreign and wonderful. It was the life I got to live, and I promised myself I would remember. I would remember how incredibly lucky I am to be living this one particular, unremarkable life.

Till next time,
Carrie

★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Senate GOP opens wallet for Paxton’s Campaign



fires.

“The rapid onset of a flash drought increased fire occurrence and intensity statewide in August,” said Walter Flocke, Texas A&M Forest Service fire analyst. “Under flash drought conditions, grasses, brush and timber fuels lose moisture rapidly and become susceptible to ignition.”

A flash drought appears and worsens quickly, often over a few days or weeks.

Equipment used by hunters, such as vehicles, trailers, and ATVs/UTVs, is the second-most common cause of human-caused wildfires in Texas, behind debris burning.

“Even a small spark can quickly ignite a wildfire under the right conditions,” said Jared Karns, Texas A&M Forest Service fire chief. “Texans are encouraged to stay alert and be aware of hazards that can cause a wildfire while hunting this season.”

WHAT’S NEW FOR THE 2026-2027 HUNTING SEASON

Dove hunting kicked off this year’s hunting season on Sept. 1, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has announced regulatory changes for the coming year. Among the changes are updated identity verification rules to combat residency fraud.

Texas residents must provide a valid driver’s license or a personal identification certificate issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety. Non-Texas residents may be required to provide REAL ID-compliant identification.

Other regulation changes include:

“Doe days” expanded in 21 counties from four to 16 days. Earlier start for the South

Zone Dove regular season.

Elimination of Special White-winged Dove Days.

Matagorda and Wharton counties now closed to Wild Turkey hunting.

Harvest of unbearded Wild Turkey hens now prohibited statewide.

Definition of muzzleloader modified to allow for use of new muzzleloading technology.

Several season dates have been changed for the 2026-2027 hunting season and can be found at tpwd.gov.

GUIDELINES DESIGNED TO PROTECT CONSUMERS FROM DISCRIMINATORY PRICING

The Texas Department of Insurance recently reminded insurance companies that it is illegal to use factors other than insurance risk to set home and auto insurance rates.

“In Texas, we take pride in looking out for one another. When families are feeling the weight of property insurance costs, they deserve the confidence of knowing that their premiums are determined by genuine risk, not by pricing tactics that take advantage of customer loyalty,” said commissioner Amanda Crawford. “Insurance is about pricing risk, not pricing the customer.”

Common factors used to determine premiums for home insurance include the home’s age, location, replacement cost, and any prior claims.

Auto insurance rates are determined by claims history, locations, and the customer’s age and gender. Insurance customers with questions can call the TDI help line at [800-25-3439](tel:800-25-3439) or visit tdi.texas.gov.

CITIES PUSH BACK ON BID TO DISBAND THEIR POWER COMPANIES

On the campaign trail, Abbott has proposed dismantling city-owned utilities, saying it would save customers money by increasing competition. Two cities that own electric utilities are pushing back, according to the Standard.

San Antonio and Austin have the state’s two largest city-owned electric utilities. Officials with both say they offer some of the cheapest electricity rates in the state because their utilities operate as nonprofit companies.

Abbott said his proposal would save 10% on the average electric bill for Austin and San Antonio residents. Among those disagreeing is Austin Mayor Kirk Watson. “Fundamentally changing our utility through deregulation would have broad and significant consequences to those we serve,” he wrote in a statement.

There are 72 municipally owned utilities that provide power to 5.1 million Texans, or 15% of the state’s population, according to the Texas Public Power Association.

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@texaspress.com

EDITOR’S NOTE: *Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to [GrafikpressNewspapers, 5832 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057](mailto:GrafikpressNewspapers,5832StarLane,HoustonTX77057) or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.*

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SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 4

Texans hit the road to face Indianapolis in AFC South tilt

While the high school-ers begin league play, a number of college teams will also begin conference play. No. 1 Texas, who completed an amazing fourth-quarter comeback two weeks ago against then No. 1 Ohio State, travels to Knoxville to take on No. 15-ranked Tennessee and their high-powered offense. There are two other interesting SEC tilts as No. 8-ranked Ole Miss visits a much-improved Florida team, while No. 9-ranked Texas A&M heads to Baton Rouge to face off against No. 7-ranked LSU. A year ago, Mike Elko's team routed the Tigers at Kyle Field, 49-25. You had better believe LSU head coach Lane Kiffin will remind his troops all week about that beat down.

Week 3 of the NFL season starts with Thursday Night Football on Amazon Prime when Atlanta visits Green Bay. On Sunday, the Texans, who lost their season opener at home to Buffalo, head to Indianapolis to take on the Colts in an AFC South contest. There's also a big one in the AFC North as Cincinnati visits Pittsburgh. Another AFC North team, Baltimore, heads to Arlington to take on a Dallas team that looked pitiful, especially on defense, in their season opening loss to the Giants.

There's a good one for the Sunday Night Football crew as the Rams visit Denver. Both teams lost their season openers and are looking to get back on track. Week 3 concludes on Monday Night Football with a good one as Philadelphia visits the high-scoring Chicago Bears. Chicago exploded for 59 points in their season-opening win at Carolina.

Before we take a look at this weekend's games, let's review last week's record. An 8-4 week brought the season record to 18-6 (75 percent).

Now, onto this week-end's games.

NCAA
Texas at Tennessee - No. 1 Texas plays its first road game of the year and it will be a tough one against a Tennessee team that has gotten off to a nice start. The Vols have



averaged 50 points in their first two games, but freshman QB Faizan Brandon (374 yards, 5 TDs) will face his toughest test yet against a very good UT defense. He will need help from running back DeSean Bishop (244 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver Mike Matthews (6 receptions, 148 yards, 2 TDs). Look for UT defensive end Collin Simmons to bring the heat on Brandon. UT QB Arch Manning (500 yards, 5 TDs) may have come of age two weeks ago after leading the 'Horns to a 24-23 comeback win over then No. 1-ranked Ohio State. Manning's team trailed 23-3 in the fourth quarter, but the QB led his team on three straight scoring drives to pull off one of the biggest wins in UT history. Manning has plenty of help in running back Hollywood Smothers (143 yards, 2 TDs) and wideouts Cam Coleman (6 receptions, 165 yards, 2 TDs) and Ryan Wingo (11 receptions, 143 yards, 2 TDs). Look for the UT defense to be the difference maker in this one as the 'Horns pick up a big SEC road win. My pick, Texas 26, Tennessee 20

Ole Miss at Florida - No. 8 Ole Miss heads to the Swamp to take on a Florida team that will be looking to record a signature win in first-year head coach Jon Summer-al's first year on the job. The Rebels will be coming off a tough game against LSU and could be spent. But Pete Golding's team has a veteran team led by QB Trinidad Chambliss (561 yards passing 5 TDs/ 62 yards rushing, 1 TD), running back Kewan Lacy (148 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver Deuce Alexander (13 receptions, 235 yards, 2 TDs). The Gators also have some offensive fire power in QB Aaron Philo (517 yards, 5 TDs), star running back Jordan Baugh (296 yards, 5 TDs) and productive wideouts Vernell Brown III (9 receptions, 140

yards, 2 TDs) and Dallas Wilson (8 receptions, 151 yards, 1 TD). Something tells me Summeral gets a signature win in his first year in Gainesville. My pick, Florida 26, Ole Miss 23

Texas A&M at LSU - The No. 9 Aggies head to Baton Rouge to face No-7 ranked LSU in a key SEC game for both teams. This one will be in prime time at 6:30 p.m. on ABC. This will be the Aggies first road game and it comes in one of the most hostile environments in college football. The Aggies will need an efficient game from QB Marcel Reed (396 yards, 5 TDs), some production from running back Ruben Owens II (112 yards, 1 TD) and big plays from wideouts Isaiah Horton (7 receptions, 109 yards, 3 TDs), speedy Terry Bussey (7 recep-tions, 92 yards) and Mario Craver (8 receptions, 75 yards, 2 TDs). The Aggie defense will have its hands full with LSU dual-threat QB Sam Leavitt (574 passing yards, 2 TDs/ 135 rushing yards,5 TDs), running back Dillon James (179 yards, 2 TDs), 6-foot-7 tight end Trey Dez Green (10 receptions, 162 yards, 1 TD) and wide receiver Winston Watkins (12 receptions, 153 yards, 1 TD). This will be a tough one for the Aggies. My pick, LSU 31, Texas A&M 23

NFL
Atlanta at Green Bay - Week three starts on Thursday Night Football with sort of a meh game as the Falcons visit the Packers. Both teams lost their openers as Atlanta lost at Pittsburgh and the Packers lost at Minnesota. It's anybody's guess who will play QB for the Falcons, so look for them to rely on star running back Bijan Robinson (83 yards rushing/8 recep-tions, 96 yards, 1 TD) to get plenty of touches in this game. The Packers will look for a big game from QB Jordan Love (387

yards, 2 TDs) and wide receiver Christian Watkins (6 receptions, 147 yards, 2 TDs). The GB defense should be able to control this game as the Pack win their home opener handily. My pick, Green Bay 33, Atlanta 17
Cincinnati at Pitts-burgh - A good one in the AFC North pits the Bengals against the Steelers. These two teams don't care for one another and the Bengals would like nothing more than to pick up a big road win, but it won't be easy. Cincinnati opened with a nice win over Tampa Bay as QB Joe Burrow (254 yards, 1 TD) had a solid game. He will get help from running back Chase Brown (56 yards rushing, 1 TDs/5 receptions, 22 yards) and wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase. The Steelers opened with an ugly 20-13 win over Atlanta and will look for QB Aaron Rodgers (221 yards, 1 TD) to get the offense going against a suspect Bengals defense. My pick, Pitts-burgh 23, Cincinnati 20

Houston at Indianap-olis - The Texans hit the road for the first time this year to take on the Colts in an AFC South contest. Houston dropped its home opener to the Bills as the defense was shredded by Josh Allen. Look for head coach DeMeco Ryans to shore things up on that side of the ball from here on out. The offense did put up 31 points as QB C.J. Stroud (274 yards, 2 TDs), running back David Montgomery (60 yards, 3 total TDs) and wideout Nico Collins (7 receptions, 75 yards, 1 TD) will look to attack an Indy defense that gave up 41 points in their season opener to Baltimore. Look for the Texans defense to have a field day against Colts QB

Daniel Jones (166 yards, 1 TD) and hope to contain star running back Jonathan Taylor (98 yards, 2 TDs). My pick, Houston 32, Indianapolis 16

Baltimore at Dallas - Speaking of the Ravens, they must be licking their chops heading into Sunday's game against the Cowboys. All we heard in the preseason was how much improved the Dallas defense would be this year. It sure didn't look like it in their season opener thud of a perfor-mance against the Giants during their 28-20 loss. The Ravens rolled to 41 points in their season opener as QB Lamar Jackson (324 passing yards, 1 TD/40 rushing yards, 1 TD), running back Derrick Henry (144 yards, 3 TDs) and wideout Zay Flowers (5 receptions, 150 yards, 1 TD) will look to attack a very poor Dallas secondary. The Cowboys hope QB Dak Prescott (175 yards, 2 TDs), running back Javonte Williams (41 yards rushing 1 TD/5 receptions, 31 yards, 1 TD) and CeeDee Lamb (5 receptions, 44 yards, 1 TD) pick up their games come Sunday. Until the Dallas defense plays better, I don't see the Cowboys having a chance in this one. My pick, Baltimore 27, Dallas 23

Los Angeles Rams at Denver - The Rams and Broncos meet on Sunday Night Football looking to turn things around after both teams suffered tough opening-season losses. LA traveled all the way to Australia to get thumped by San Francisco, 27-7, while Denver got waylaid in KC, 31-10 in their season opener. The LA offense looked pedestrian in the opener as QB

Matthew Stafford was held to 155 yards and no TDs. Running back Kyren Williams had a decent game with a TD, while star wide receiver Puca Nacua had five catches for 74 yards. All three players must step up their games against a good Denver defense. The Broncos offense looked horrible against the Chiefs as QB Bo Nix was held to 131 yards, had one pick and lost three fumbles. I think the Broncos right the ship and hand the Rams a second loss in their first three games. My pick, Denver 26, Los Angeles Rams 23

Philadelphia at Chicago - Week 3 concludes with a good one for the Monday Night Football crew as the Eagles visit the high-scoring Bears. Chicago opened the season by scoring 59 points at Carolina as QB Caleb Williams (269 passing yards, 2 TDs/65 rushing yards, 2 TDs) led the offensive onslaught. He got plenty of help from running backs D'Andre Swift (124 yards, 3 TDs) and Kyle Manangai (100 yards, 2 TDs) and wide-outs Luther Burden III (5 receptions, 100 yards) and Rome Odunze (2 recep-tions, 52 yards, 1 TD). They will face a much better defense this week when Philly comes to town. The Eagles won their opener 24-22 against Washington, led by QB Jalen Hurts (203 passing yards, 3 TDs/46 rushing yards, running back Saquon Barkey (83 yards) and tight end Dallas Goedert (4 receptions, 77 yards, 2 TDs). Look for the Bears to pull one out late as their raucous crowd plays a big role in the win. My pick, Chicago 31, Philadelphia 27

Water District

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Harris County Fresh Water Supply District No. 6 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on October 14, 2026 at 6:00PM at 15902 Market Street Channelview, TX 77530. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners. 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.

For the proposal: Gary O'Brian Carl Green
Darrell Fry

Against the proposal:

Present and not voting:

Absent: Edgar Granados Jerry Thayer

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
	Adopted	Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.171450/\$100	\$0.168520/\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$-0.002930
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		-1.71%
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$127,646	\$134,407
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$19,147	\$20,161
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$108,499	\$114,246
Tax on average residence homestead	\$186.02	\$192.53
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted(+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$6.51 3.50%

If the proposed combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate requires or authorizes an election to approve or reduce the tax rate the Board of Directors of Harris County Fresh Water Supply District No. 6 proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of maintenance.

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

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.

If you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact the tax office at 281-426-8156.

NC FOOTBALL

SCORES/SCHEDULES

LAST WEEK IN FOOTBALL
C. E. King 63, Humble Kingwood 28
Huffman Hargrave 55, Galena Park 7
Humble Summer Creek 77, Channelview 0
North Shore 58, Crosby 0

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE
THURSDAY, SEPT. 24
Galena Park vs. Texas City, 7 p.m., Galena Park ISD Stadium

FRIDAY, SEPT. 25
C. E. King vs. Crosby, 7 p.m., Panther Stadium
Channelview vs. Kingwood, 7 p.m., Ray Maddry Memorial Stadium
North Shore vs. Atascocita, 7 p.m., Galena Park ISD Stadium



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6370

Recognizing the signs of depression; A guide to prevention and support,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

session. Don't be afraid to discuss with them your concerns about their depression or physical limitations causing their emotional problem and your caring for their wellbeing.

The North Channel Star's making available the space for this article will possibly contribute to saving untold numbers of lives. The newspaper's printing of this is a way of reaching out and serving the community it serves, they're to be commended. Advertising in the paper is a way of helping it to continue to serve the citizenry.

We all should be vigilant for those in need of help by anyone experiencing depression. Remember the three R's to prevent suicide: Recognize Respond and Refer. (See contact numbers below)

Suicide is preventable if those experiencing depression or some other form of mental illness will reach out to get the free available resources. Remember you're never alone there's immediate help in this article.

Sometimes all it takes is for a relative or friend to start a conversation with someone who they think may be dealing with depression. The conversation can then lead to getting free professional help for the person in need of being helped.

Talking about suicide isn't harmful — silence is. One honest, caring conversation can save a life. Start a conversation. Be the difference, silence can cost lives — and conversation can save them. Start a conversation. Be the difference.

Depression is a mood disorder that causes a persistent feeling of sadness and loss of interest. Also called major depressive disorder or clinical

depression, it affects how you feel, think and behave and can lead to a variety of emotional and physical problems. Such as you may have trouble doing normal day-to-day activities, and sometimes you may feel as if life isn't worth living.

More than just a bout of the blues, depression isn't a weakness and you can't simply "snap out" of it. But don't get discouraged help for you is available.

For many people with depression, symptoms usually are severe enough to cause noticeable problems in day-to-day activities, such as work, school, social activities or relationships with others. Some people may feel generally miserable or unhappy without really knowing why.

Common signs and symptoms of depression in children and teenagers are similar to those of adults, but there can be some differences.

In younger children, symptoms of depression may include sadness, irritability, clinginess, worry, aches and pains, refusing to go to school, or being underweight.

In teens, symptoms may include sadness, irritability, feeling negative and worthless, anger, poor performance or poor attendance at school, feeling misunderstood and extremely sensitive, using recreational drugs or alcohol, eating or sleeping too much, self-harm, loss of interest in normal activities, and avoidance of social interaction.

If you feel depressed, make an appointment to see your doctor or mental health professional as soon as you can. If you're reluctant to seek treatment, talk to a friend or loved one, any health care professional, a local minister, faith leader, or someone else you trust. But don't get discour-

aged.

If you have a loved one who is in danger of suicide or has made a suicide attempt, make sure someone stays with that person. Call 911 or your local emergency number immediately. Or, if you think you can do so safely, take the person to the nearest hospital emergency room.

If you think you may hurt yourself or attempt suicide, call 911. Or contact a suicide hotline.

In the U.S., call or text 988 to reach the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, it's available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Or use the Lifeline Chat: 988lifeline.org. *Services are free and confidential.*

Find Your Treatment Location here: <https://findtreatment.gov/>

The Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator is the first step to finding appropriate services, conveniently located near home or the workplace. Go to the Treatment Services Locator web page and enter your zip code or city, and the locator will help you narrow your search to mental health facilities, substance use treatment facilities, or health care facilities.

The National Helpline—1-800-662-HELP (4357)—provides 24-hour free and confidential treatment referral and information about mental and/or substance use disorders, prevention, and recovery in English and Spanish.

U.S. veterans or service members who are in crisis can call 988 and then press "1" for the Veterans Crisis Line. Or text 838255. Or chat online. The Suicide & Crisis Lifeline in the U.S. has a Spanish language phone line at 1-888-628-9454 (toll-free). Free help here: www.nami.org

Hispanic heritage month honoree, Selena Quintanilla,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Meanwhile, at both of Selena's boutiques in Corpus Christi and San Antonio, where Saldivar was the bookkeeper employees there noted an influx of unpaid or overdue bills arriving in the mail, for which Saldivar couldn't provide a reasonable explanation.

Upon investigation, her father discovered Saldivar had embezzled more than \$60,000 using forged checks from both the fan club and the boutiques.

Selena upon learning of the missing funds went to the Days Inn in Corpus Christi to Saldivar's motel room to ask Saldivar for her banking records. An argument began and Saldivar became very angry with Selena for wanting the bank records.

Saldivar took her pistol she recently bought and as Selena was trying to flee from being shot Saldivar fired her pistol hitting Selena in the back. Selena profusely bleeding ran screaming for help, she made it to the lobby and collapsed. When paramedics arrived they rushed her to the Corpus Christi Memorial Hospital, where she was pronounced dead at 1:05 p.m. from a severed artery.

Following the shooting, Saldivar fled the scene and later surrendered to police after a more than nine-hour standoff while threatening suicide holding her pistol to her head.

READ ZALDÍVAR 'S MURDER TRIAL DETAILS FOLLOWING.

The murder triggered a global outpouring of grief, with crowds gathering at Corpus Christi Memorial Hospital and outside the Days Inn, and tributes held worldwide. Three days following the murder, Selena was buried in Corpus Christi at Seaside Memorial Park.

Her gravesite features a notable marker and is frequently visited by fans that leave flowers and tributes.

Despite Selena's passing, her music and journey continues today to be a symbol of pride for Hispanic Americans everywhere.

Selena is known for her contributions to popular music and fashion, which made her one of the most celebrated Mexican-American entertainers of the late 20th century. Media outlets called her the "Tejano Madonna" for her clothing choices.

Selena ranks among the most influential Latin artists of all time and is credited for catapulting the Tejano genre into the mainstream market. She broke barriers for female Hispanic singers and actresses.

The youngest child of the Quintanilla family, she debuted on the music scene as a member of the band Selena y Los Dinos, which also included her elder sibling's Brother A.B. Quintanilla and Sister Suzette Quintanilla.

Being a female singer in the 1980s, she was often criticized and refused bookings at venues across Texas for performing Tejano music which then was considered to be a male-dominated music genre.

However, her popularity grew after she won the Tejano Music Award for Female Vocalist of the Year in 1987, which she won nine consecutive times. She signed with EMI Latin in 1989 and released her self-titled debut album the same year, while her brother became her principal music producer and songwriter.

Today her brother and sister are popular in the music industry, her father died in 2025 at the age of 89. Her

mother Marcella Quintanilla is still alive at 82; she continues to interact with fans and supports her family in keeping Selena's legacy alive through The Selena Foundation.

There's a monument tribute called Mirador de la Flor (English: Lookout of the Flower) with Selena's own life-size bronze statue monument in Corpus Christi. About 30,000 people from around the world visit this monument every year. It's located at 600 N. Shoreline Blvd., Corpus Christi, TX 78401.

Selena's gravesite in Corpus Christi at Seaside Memorial Park (4357 Ocean Drive) features a marker with her name in her own handwriting and the inscription of Isaiah 25:8 in Spanish, which translates to: "He will actually swallow up death forever, and the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will certainly wipe the tears from all faces." A tree and manicured bushes surround the marker, and a stone and wood fence encloses the area, with a paved walkway leading up to it.

On April 12, two weeks after her passing then-Texas governor and future President George W. Bush declared her birthday April 16th Selena Day in Texas. Fans and media outlets and local communities across Texas continue to "The Queen of Tejano" every year.

The famous singer/actress Jennifer Lopez starred in a film entitled SELENA in 1997 which helped launch Lopez's acting career.

And the famous singer/actress Selena Gomez was named after Selena Quintanilla by her parents in 1992 before her tragic death in 1995.

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Lili Reinhart, left, and Tom Bateman star in "The Love Hypothesis."

“The Love Hypothesis.”

“Unabomber” (R) — One young actor who never came to play and is always up for a more mature role than his peers is Jacob Tremblay (“Sovereign”). Tremblay leads this crime drama as Unabomber Ted Kaczynski, opposite none other than the prolific Russell Crowe (“The Get Out”) and recent Emmy winner Shailene Woodley (“Paradise”). The film alternates between two timelines, with the first spanning Kaczynski’s time at Harvard University starting in 1958, where he engages in psychological experiments. Meanwhile, the second begins in 1994, catapulting viewers to the FBI’s pursuit of him for his crimes as a domestic terrorist. The two timelines work together to show Kaczynski’s descent into becoming the Unabomber and to also provide some insight as to his motives. Look out for it on Sept. 25. (Netflix)

“American Horror Story: 13” (TV-MA) — Thirteen seasons of “Amer-

ican Horror Story”! Can you believe it? It seems like only yesterday that “Murder House” (2011) became a phenomenon within the horror community. Over the years, we’ve come to love Ryan Murphy’s chic and chaotic horror series, as well as its recurring cast of actors — including the magical Sarah Paulson (“Monster: The Lizzie Borden Story”), Evan Peters (“Tron: Ares”), Billie Lourd (“Love Language”), and the incredible Jessica Lange (“Long Day’s Journey into Night”). In this 13th season, Murphy’s pulling off what he’s described as an “Avengers-style crossover,” with characters from his previous 12 seasons recurring to face the ultimate evil tied to the number 13. Make sure to look for characters from “Murder House,” “Asylum,” “Coven,” “Freak Show,” “Hotel” and more. The season’s three-episode premiere kicks off on Sept. 24. (Hulu)

“Brothers” (TV-MA) — At the recent Emmy

Awards, Matthew McConaughey and Woody Harrelson presented the final award of Best Comedy Series, and they took this opportunity to tease their own upcoming comedy series that has its two-episode premiere coming on Sept. 23. In the series, McConaughey and Harrelson respectively play themselves, but in a fictional version of their lives. They’re still the best of friends, much like in real life, and they decide to live together on McConaughey’s Texas ranch after some family drama occurs with Harrelson’s daughter. While living together at the ranch, a family secret is revealed in which the charming and hilarious duo could actually be biological brothers. The legendary Holland Taylor (“Fantasy Life”) co-stars in the eight-episode series, as well as Natalie Martinez (“Bad Monkey”). (Apple TV)

“The Love Hypothesis” (R) — Based on the best-selling novel by Ali Hazelwood, this rom-com doesn’t shy away from the “fake dating” trope we’ve seen time and time again. But we all know that rom-com fans will eat it up! Starring Tom Bateman (“Hedda”) and Lili Reinhart (“Forbidden Fruits”), the film follows two scientists — professor Dr. Adam Carlsen (Bateman) and Ph.D. student Olive Smith (Reinhart). To prompt her friend to go out with a guy who’s interested in her, Olive impulsively decides to make a move on the first random guy she sees, who ends up being Adam. Seeing that they both can benefit from a bit of fake dating, Adam and Olive agree to enter a faux relationship to prove to their friends and peers that their lives are somewhat stable. This ought to end well for all parties involved! Out on Sept. 23. (Amazon Prime Video)

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HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Tom Cruise’s next project will be the sequel to 1990’s “Days of Thunder,” which cost \$60 million and earned \$157.9 million. But here’s the twist! The powers that be behind the Church of Scientology (who’ve pulled his career strings for years) forbade him to have contact or even speak to his former wives and children if they no longer followed their church! This necessitated recasting the female lead in “Days of Thunder 2,” which was Nicole Kidman, because she refused to follow his religion.

He recast her role with Oscar winner Anne Hathaway (“Les Misérables”). Randy Quaid, a co-star of the original film who assumed that he’d be in the sequel, recently lambasted Cruise’s decision saying, “You need the original girl. It’s not personal; it’s filmmaking. Anne isn’t sexy because, if you haven’t noticed, she’s pregnant!”

Hathaway made six films for release this year and next year so that she could have her baby, but now she’ll be working again in early 2027 — not long after the blessed event. No rest for a weary mother!

Who’d ever think “Beetlejuice” could turn into a cowboy? This is what’s happening to Michael Keaton! He’s directing and starring in “Rode to Ruin” as a 75-year-old retired United States marshal who’s in pursuit of a murderous outlaw played by Morgan Freeman. The last time they made a film together was 1988’s “Clean and Sober” when Keaton was 37 and Freeman was 51.

Keaton’s latest film is the crime drama “The Whisper Man” with Robert De Niro, Michelle Monaghan and Adam Scott, which dropped on Netflix on Aug. 28.

Maybe ABC should rename their



Jean Smart as Deborah Vance in “Hacks” (Courtesy of Universal Television)

reality dance-competition show to “Dancing with the Wannabe Stars!” That’s all we’re saying!

Jean Smart is a complete workaholic! As soon as she wrapped her fifth and final season of “Hacks,” for which she won five Emmys (among her 15 overall nominations), she jumped into the rom-com “Egg Baby.” It drops on Amazon Prime Video in early 2027.

Smart was wed to actor Richard Gilliland, whom she met on “Designing Women” in 1986. They had a biological son, who’s now 36, and adopted a son in 2009. Sadly, Gilliland died in 2021 after a short illness at 71. Lately, she’s been seen with “The Morning Show” actor Joe Pacheco at award shows and has acknowledged him in her acceptance speeches. ... If it quacks like a duck!

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU

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

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 BOLTIKOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Menu is shorter. 2. Pad is longer. 3. Finger is moved. 4. Curtain is not as wide. 5. Apron strap is moved. 6. Tie is missing.

September 21, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Bath powders

6 Selected

11 Patronize, as a bistro

12 Cuts at an angle

14 Long-haired cat

15 Rise in defiance

16 Montmartre Mrs.

17 Wide

19 Big fuss

20 — ale

22 Rocker Nugent

23 Raced

24 Nosh at midnight

26 Bishop's district

28 Free (of)

30 Spanish gold

31 Pianist Arrau

35 Slowpoke

39 Fireplace shelves

40 Ump's call

42 Old U.S. gas brand

43 Balloon filler

44 Impetus

46 Weeding tool

47 Roma's land

49 Pub perches

DOWN

1 Dorothy's friend

2 Germany's Merkel

3 Sign before Virgo

4 Keto restriction

5 Kick off

6 Trucker's device

7 Obey

8 Eggs

9 Mexican shawl

10 Shakes off

11 Muffles

13 Fine china brand

18 British ref. work

21 Beige shades

23 Tea biscuit

25 Tease

27 Choice words?

29 Museum display

31 Desk go-with

32 Hang around

33 Rub the wrong way

34 Gigi's "yes"

36 On the beach

37 Tristan's love

38 Windblown soil

41 Sports bar fixture

44 Food regimen

45 Engrave

48 Meadow

50 Rowing need

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: Which South American country has two capitals?

2. AD SLOGANS: Which car company uses the ad slogan "Let's go places"?

3. FOOD & DRINK: What is a johnny cake primarily made of?

4. LITERATURE: In which Harry Potter novel is the portkey (a method of magical transportation) first mentioned?

5. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the most popular animal used on national flags?

6. MOVIES: What object is Wilson in the movie "Cast Away"?

7. U.S. STATES: Which U.S. state is the only one that has parishes instead of counties?

8. MUSIC: Which 1980s band released the album titled "Synchronicity"?

9. TELEVISION: What is James Kirk's middle name in the "Star Trek" series?

10. MYTHOLOGY: Who is the Greek goddess of wisdom?

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Yellow Jackets fall to Huffman Falcons 55-7



By Allan Jamail

HUFFMAN, TX - The Galena Park Yellow Jackets fell 55-7 to the host Huffman Hargrave Falcons in a non-district football game Friday, Sept. 18, at Falcons Stadium.

Huffman Hargrave took a 14-7 lead after the first quarter and held Galena Park scoreless the rest of the game.

Galena Park junior running back Jamile Hurks accounted for the Yellow Jackets' lone touchdown and led the offense with 155 rushing yards on 27 carries, averaging 5.95 yards per carry. Galena Park finished with 222 yards of total offense.

The Yellow Jackets completed two of 13 pass attempts for 12 yards.

Galena Park dropped to

1-3 on the season and will return home Thursday, Sept. 24, to face the Texas City Stingarees in a District 10-5A Division II Region III contest at the GPISD stadium.

Texas City enters the game with a 3-1 record after a 35-7 non-district victory over Fort Bend Kempner. Galena Park previously defeated Kempner, 16-9.

Mustangs defeat Cougars 58 - 0,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Linda Jamail served as statistician.

The Mustangs, now 4-0, will prepare for their homecoming game against the Atascocita Eagles. Atascocita enters the matchup with a 3-1 record. The game will be a District 17-6A contest.



Mustang's #20 Amari Louisville drags Cougar defender across goal line for TD. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



#25 Isai Navarro catches a 60 yrd TD pass from QB Ja' Voris Taylor . (Photo by Allan Jamail)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Final
North Shore	7	17	7	27	58
Crosby	0	0	0	0	0

JC Heritage Hall keeps seniors active,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Heritage Hall members doing Diamond Art: Mary H. Garcia (left) with her Santa Claus and Rachel M. Ibarra (right) with her flamingo. (Photo By Allan Jamail)

and resources. All of you are greatly appreciated for helping and serving our senior community.”

Those interested in learning more about Heritage Hall membership may contact Elizabeth Flores, director of Senior Services, at 713-554-9046 or by email at elizabeth.flores@jacintocity-tx.gov.

Heritage Hall, 1025 Oates Road Jacinto City, TX 77029



Heritage Hall 15 year member Bill Carson making his jigsaw wintertime snowy country scene. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

GP ISD Superintendent’s Student Advisory Board



Galena Park Independent School District proudly welcomed members of the Superintendent’s Student Advisory Board (SAB) as they gathered for their first meeting of the 2026–2027 school year on September 16, 2026. The meeting marked the start of another year of student leadership, collaboration, and meaningful engagement across the district.

The Superintendent’s Student Advisory Board is composed of outstanding student leaders who represent campuses throughout Galena Park ISD. Throughout the year, members meet with Superintendent Dr. John Moore and district leaders to share ideas, discuss student and community concerns, and provide valuable feedback on issues impacting schools. Their

perspectives help strengthen programs and support informed decision-making across the district.

During the meeting, students learned about the advisory board’s purpose, responsibilities, and goals for the year ahead. Members also participated in discussions focused on ways to enhance the student experience and strengthen connections among campuses.

By serving on the advisory board, these students continue to **Think Big** as they use their voices to make a Big Difference in Galena Park ISD. Their leadership, dedication, and commitment to service help ensure that students play an important role in shaping the future of our district.

Members of the Superintendent’s Student

Advisory Board include:

-CTE Early College High School: Arleth Diaz Del Rio, Rogelio Hinojosa, Videa Lugo, Marcus Navarro, Frida Ortiz, Priscilla Pina, Jeshua Puente, Cesario Ramirez

-Galena Park High School: Patricio Cavazos, Jasmine Chavez, Mia Correa, Lorenzo Delgadillo, Alizay Fuentes, Vania Munoz, Ethan Ronsonette, Richey Vazquez (not pictured)

-North Shore Senior High Ninth Grade Center: Bryan Hernandez, Olivia Washington

-North Shore Senior High 10th Grade Center: Juliana Ramirez, Ja’Mari Taylor

-North Shore Senior High School: Aniya Brown, Joslynn Cisneros, Angel Gutierrez, Lynel Hunter (not pictured)

Rotary Club of North Shore

17th Annual

MARK MULLOY MEMORIAL

GOLF TOURNAMENT

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