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NS Mustangs celebrate homecoming with a win

By Allan Jamail

HOUSTON, TX — Sept. 25, 2026 — North Shore celebrated homecoming Friday night at GPISD Stadium with a 35-0 victory over the Atascocita Eagles, extending the Mustangs' winning streak over Atascocita to 10 games. North Shore improved to 2-0 in district play.

Mustangs head coach Willie Gaston's offense was held without a score on its opening possession after the Eagles forced North Shore to punt.

The North Shore defense then held Atascocita, and the Mustangs re-



Nshore #30 Da'Sean Royal, linebacker sacks Eagles qb #18Corbin Smejkal. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

sponded with five touchdowns, scoring through both the passing and running games. The defense also recorded several sacks and tackles behind the line of scrimmage.

Mustangs offensive

touchdown scorers were Darrell Haynes, No. 16, with three touchdowns; La'Damian Defreeze, No. 8, with one; and Jaden

Continued. See MUSTANGS SHUTOUT EAGLES, 35-0, Page 8

Fonteno legacy rolls on as NS Rotary receives inaugural award

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Nearly a century after Jim Fonteno was born in Port Arthur, the legacy of Harris County's longtime Precinct 2 commissioner is still moving through the communities he served.

At his State of Precinct 2 address at the Pasadena Convention Center, Commissioner Adrian Garcia honored the former commissioner and his wife, JoAnn, by presenting the inaugural Jim and JoAnn Fonteno Legacy Award to the Rotary Club of North Shore.

The award was created to recognize individuals and organizations that carry forward the Fontenos' example



The Rotary Club of North Shore was named the inaugural winners of the Jim and JoAnn Fonteno Legacy Award. At the award presentation was Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, Jim and JoAnn Fonteno's daughters Donna Kester and Diana Saufley, and Rotarians David Proctor and Bill Palko. Proctor is the step-son of Fonteno.

of service, cooperation and devotion to community. The presentation also marked what would have been Jim Fonteno's 100th birthday year. Members of the Fon-

teno family joined Garcia onstage to help present the honor.

Continued. See NS ROTARY CLUB, Page 2

NC Job Fair aims to connect residents with opportunity



By David Taylor
Managing Editor

NORTH CHANNEL TX— With dozens of employers already committed and hundreds of job seekers signed up, the North Channel Job Fair is shaping up to be one of the area's largest employment events of the year.

Sponsored by the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce, Harris County Precinct 2, San Jacinto

College and Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast, the free job fair will be held Wednesday, Oct. 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at San Jacinto College North Campus, 5800 Uvalde Road, Building 17, the Science and Allied Health Building, in Houston.

Darnald Kimble said the event is designed to bring employers and job seekers together in one place and give residents a direct path to new oppor-

tunities. "The North Channel Job Fair is an opportunity to bridge the gap between people that are looking for jobs and employers that are looking for great talent," Kimble said. "We have a lot of amazing talent in our community."

The job fair is open to the public and is not limited to college students.

Continued. See NORTH CHANNEL JOB FAIR, Page 3

2026 North Shore Mustangs Homecoming King & Queen

By Allan Jamail

2026 North Shore Mustangs Homecoming King Myron Jacobs & Queen Morgan Galloway, with North Shore High School Principal David Pierson.

King Myron Jacobs is a member of the National Honor Society with a 4.1 GPA and ranked #64, Senior Class Representative, former Homecoming Prince Last Year and works with the varsity football and basketball team.

He plans on attending either the University of Texas or Louisiana State University to major Sports Management.

Queen Morgan Galloway is Captain of the Varsity Volleyball team, member of the National Honor Society Member with a 4.5 GPA and



ranked #15, Senior Class Representative and former Homecoming Princess Last Year.

She wants to go to Louisiana State University and major in Accounting and minor in Forensics to become a Forensic Accountant. (Photo by Linda Jamail)

CHANNEL CURRENTS

Galena Park- Jacinto City

What Data Centers Mean for the CIP Community?

When: Monday, Oct. 5
Time: 6:15pm
Location: Heritage Hall in Jacinto City Town Center
1025 Oates Rd, Houston, TX 77029

This meeting will address community questions and concerns about data centers being considered in Jacinto City. The discussion will include water use and supply, as well as other potential effects on nearby residents and local infrastructure. Lon Squyres, City Manager Emergency Management Coordinator, for Jacinto City will address:

- Water demand, supply, conservation, and potential effects on residents and other local users
- How proposed sites are reviewed and approved near neighborhoods
- Potential noise, lighting, air-quality, traffic, and construction impacts
- Effects on power, roads, drainage, emergency services, and other local infrastructure
- Applicable regulations, oversight responsibilities, and opportunities for community input

GP Yellow Jackets Fall to Texas City Stingarees, 49-7

By Allan Jamail

GALENA PARK, Texas — Sept. 24, 2026 — The Galena Park Yellow Jackets fell to the Texas City Stingarees, 49-7, Thursday at GPISD Stadium in a District 10-5A Division II matchup.

Texas City's running backs Rashod Henry and Javon West combined for 352 rushing yards and six touchdowns as the Stingarees recorded their first district victory.

Galena Park scored first on a rushing touchdown by Jamile Hurks. The Yellow Jackets held a 7-0 lead in the first quarter before Texas City tied the game before the end of the period.

The Stingarees then added 42 unanswered points to take the 49-7 victory.

Linda Jamail served as statistician.

The Yellow Jackets, now 1-4, will travel to Dayton to face the 1-4 Broncos on Friday, Oct. 2, at 7 p.m.



Galena Park's #4 running back Jamile Hurks drags a Stingree across the goal for the Jackets lone score of the game. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Hispanic Heritage Month Honoree

Willie Velasquez

By Allan Jamail

September 29, 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.

William "Willie" C. Velasquez Jr. (May 9, 1944 – June 15, 1988) was an American social activist and vote organizer. He founded the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project (SVREP), which worked to expand Latino and Hispanic American interest and participation in the voting process.

His group popularized the motto "*SU VOTO ES SU VOZ (YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE)*". Velasquez imagined a society that would allow Latinos to actively participate and lead in the democratic process.

Velasquez was born to William and Maria Luisa (née Cardenas) Velásquez, on May 9, 1944 who was Mexican Americans. His father was stationed in



William "Willie" C. Velasquez Jr. May 9, 1944 ~ June 15, 1988

Florida during World War II where he worked as a union organizer. Willie attended St. Mary's University where in 1967 at age 23, he helped form the Mexican American Youth Organization and later earned a B.A. in economics. He helped form the basis for Raza Unida Party as El Movimiento Social de La Raza Unida.

In 1968 at the age of 24, Velasquez was boycott coordinator for United Farm Workers and organized strikes in the Texas Rio

Continued. See HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH, Page 6

NS Rotary Club honored with inaugural Jim and JoAnn Fonteno legacy award,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Since 1958—nearly 70 years—this club has shown up in the most meaningful ways for their community,” Garcia said. “They are truly an inspiration and embody the beautiful spirit of Mr. and Mrs. Fonteno.”

Garcia said the Rotary club's influence, like that of the Fontenos, has been felt across generations. He praised its willingness to work with other organizations and noted Precinct 2's partnerships with the club, including distributing Thanksgiving food baskets to seniors and helping beautify the V.V. Ramsey Veterans Center.

“They understand the importance of working together for the good of the community,” Garcia said.

That description could just as easily have applied to Fonteno himself.

Born July 2, 1926, Jim Fonteno served in the Merchant Marine and later the Army before becoming a municipal court judge in Baytown. After moving to Houston, he worked as a real estate consultant and independent fee appraiser. He was appointed to the Houston Port Authority in 1970 and elected Precinct 2 commissioner in 1974.

Fonteno entered office reportedly expecting to serve only a few terms. Instead, voters returned him to office again and again. By the time he retired in 2002, he had completed seven terms and 28 years of public service.

During those years, Precinct 2 added community centers, parks, youth services, veterans programs and opportunities for older residents. Fonteno earned a reputation as a political peacemaker who could work across party lines without losing sight of the neighborhoods he represented.

A bus—and an idea—that changed senior servicesAmong Fonteno's most enduring accomplishments was the senior citizens program he started in Precinct 2 in 1975, the first of its kind in Harris County. At the time, older residents had few organized county services designed to keep them mobile, active and connected. Fonteno did not wait for a fully funded government program. He and four area businessmen signed a note to purchase a 32-passenger bus.

The vehicle was first nicknamed the “Fun Bus.” After its blue paint job turned out differently than expected, the seniors renamed it the “Blue Goose.”



Jim and JoAnn Fonteno were laborers in their community working together to establish a united community with service and numerous projects.

It may not have been elegant or completely reliable—accounts recalled breakdowns and even a trip during which its windshield wipers failed in a rainstorm while going over the 610 bridge. The bus was being driven by Judge Mike Parrott while Fonteno did his best to wipe the windows in a pouring rain. It represented something larger. The bus gave older residents a way to leave their homes, travel together and take part in educational and recreational outings that might otherwise have been beyond their reach.

The program grew from that single vehicle into a fleet serving older residents, and the Precinct 2 model spread to Harris County's other precincts. It eventually gained recognition beyond the county.

Fonteno's concern for young people was just as practical. He created an after-school program for at-risk children and supported parks and community centers that brought services closer to families.

Away from Commissioners Court, he frequently served as an auctioneer for charitable fundraisers. His obituary estimated that he helped raise more than \$4 million for local charities.

He was also known for his commitment to faith, family and civic life. Fonteno belonged to Holy Trinity United Methodist Church for nearly 35 years. He and JoAnn blended their families and became deeply involved in the North Channel community.

Among the projects associated with their service were the North Shore Rotary Pavilion and North Shore Rotary Park where he and Rotarians dedicated the county's first water spray park.

After his retirement, Fonteno's name was placed on the Wallisville courthouse, the Jim and JoAnn Fonteno Family Park in Clo-

verleaf, and a Senior Education Center. Congress also renamed Pasadena's main post office the Jim Fonteno Post Office Building.

He died June 30, 2008, two days before his 82nd birthday, following complications from Parkinson's disease.

The new award adds another form of remembrance—one focused not on a building, but on people and organizations continuing the work.

A fitting first recipient For the Rotary Club of North Shore, the inaugural honor carried special meaning.

“We were very honored and flattered,” said Proctor, who currently serves as president of the club and did not participate in the nomination process. “I was really proud and honored that we got the opportunity to even be a participant, but to be named as the first recipient—I was really proud of the Rotary.”

The award also highlighted a connection between the Fontenos and Rotary that Proctor only recently came to understand. Both Jim and JoAnn were Paul Harris recognition recipients.

For Garcia, the North Shore club represents the kind of shared responsibility the new award is meant to encourage. For the Fonteno family, the honor ensures that Jim and JoAnn's names remain connected to active service rather than nostalgia alone.

091426 FontenoAward 01 – The Rotary Club of North Shore was named the inaugural winners of the Jim and JoAnn Fonteno Legacy Award. At the award presentation was Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, Jim and Joann Fonteno's daughters Donna Kester and Diana Saufley, and Rotarians David Proctor and Bill Palko. Proctor is the step-son of Fonteno.

NOTICE OF MEETING TO VOTE ON TAX RATE

A tax rate of \$0.154615 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of San Jacinto Community College District.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.154615 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.157264 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.168507 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 San Jacinto Community College District 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 San Jacinto Community College District may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that San Jacinto Community College District is not proposing to increase property taxes for the 2026 tax year.

A PUBLIC MEETING TO VOTE ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON 10/12/2026 AT 7:00 PM AT District Administration Building RM 104 4624 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, Texas 77504.

The proposed tax rate is also not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, San Jacinto Community College District is not required to hold an election to seek voter approval of the rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Board of Trustees of San Jacinto Community College District at their offices or by attending the public meeting 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: Chair Dan Mims Member Judy Harrison
Vice Chair Michelle Cantú -Wilson Member Larry Wilson
Assistant Secretary Erica Davis Rouse

AGAINST the proposal:

PRESENT and not voting:

ABSENT: Secretary Keith Sinor Member Chad Burke

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 San Jacinto Community College District last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by San Jacinto Community College District this year.

	2025	2026	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.154615	\$0.154615	increase of 0.000000 per \$100, or 0.00%
Average homestead taxable value	\$187,695	\$178,867	decrease of -4.70%
Tax on average homestead	\$290.20	\$276.56	decrease of \$-13.64, or -4.70%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$136,507,813	\$133,934,800	decrease of \$-2,573,013, or -1.88%

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

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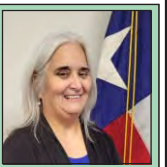
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CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Can you imagine where you would be if you had not had those teachers, neighbors or even retail associates in your life who impacted you over the years? There have been so many people who have passed away and many more who have moved, yet they touched my life in different ways. As I talked to some friends over the weekend, I realized that I am one of the few from my graduating class who is blessed enough to still have both parents living and despite recent health challenges, they are both doing well. I have friends I met when we moved to North Shore in 1971, as well as keeping in contact with many of my teachers. I have been fortunate to maintain relationships with many former coworkers as well as those who I have attended church with. Yet, when I talk to many who are younger than me, I am saddened as they seem to have no longtime friends. So many grew up in single parent homes and were either “raised” by various daycare centers or were true “latchkey” kids who had to watch after themselves or other siblings. I will give credit to those childcare providers who played a huge role in many of the area children, such as Kidztown, Anointed Child Care and Creative Corner. The owners, directors and staff of these locations and others truly cared for the children. These individuals as well as many who worked with youth sports have played an important role in our lives.

Then came the video games and cell phones, when in person communication started falling away. Youth began meeting strangers online and I am shocked when a young person tells me that they are in a “relationship” and they are not even old enough to work, much less drive. When you start asking questions, you realize that they “taught” themselves how to connect with others. You then hear about young people disappearing and horrible things happening to them. I have met some young people who it seems have raised themselves and sadly they end up with children or a criminal record before they are old enough to graduate from high school. Sadder is the number of those young people who have an addiction or no interpersonal skills. They lack basic communication skills and please do not ask them to make change for a dollar.

So how can we help change the direction of our youth? Let’s make a promise that each one of us will make a list of what we remember that has helped us throughout our life. The next list is what young people we can reach out to and serve as a mentor or places we can get involved in making a difference. Explore opportunities with places such as the YMCA, the local schools, and churches. For those who are interested in helping with those in their young adult years, offer to host a meet and greet and find out what they need. There are probably many young parents who would appreciate hearing how successful you were in raising children. There are so many opportunities to be a blessing if we take the time to connect with others.

North Channel Job Fair: Hundreds of opportunities await at major event,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Kimble said positions will range from entry-level jobs to specialized careers, including nursing and other professional opportunities.

“It’s for everybody,” he said. “We have a whole bunch of different types of positions available.”

As of the interview, about 50 employers had signed up and roughly 300 job seekers had already registered, with several weeks still remaining before the event. Kimble said interest had begun picking up quickly.

“There’s been a big push over the past week. We got over 200 signups in two days, so it’s been good.”

Confirmed employers include a wide range of public agencies, private companies, educational institutions, military recruiters and service organizations. Among them are Acadian Ambulance, Army Recruiting, Channelview ISD, City of Houston, Harris County Precinct 2, Harris County Public Health, Houston Fire Department, Houston Police Department, Inteplast Group, JSW Steel USA, Kirby Inland Marine, Pappas Restaurants, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Veterans Network, U.S. Navy, Woodforest Bank, Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast

and YMCA of Greater Houston.

Community sponsors listed for the event include The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Courtyard by Marriott and Dynamic Systems Mechanical Contractors.

Kimble said the value of the job fair is that applicants can meet multiple employers in one location instead of pursuing opportunities one at a time.

“They have a lot of opportunities all in one spot,” he said.

Job seekers are encouraged to bring multiple copies of their resume and dress professionally. Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast will also have a booth at the event to help review resumes and conduct mock interviews.

Kimble said applicants should prepare as though they may be meeting a potential employer for the first time.

“They’ll be able to apply,” he said, adding that the employers will be on site and ready to meet candidates.

In advance of the fair, Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast will host free preparation workshops at the North Channel Branch Library, 15741 Wallisville Road. On Tuesday, Oct. 6, “Build Your Resume Step-

by-Step” will be offered from 1 to 2 p.m., followed by “Get Prepared and Show Up Interview Ready” from 2 to 3 p.m. A second set of workshops will be held Wednesday, Oct. 7, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the same location.

Kimble said the larger purpose behind the event is community improvement through employment. He said helping even one person find the right job can have an impact far beyond that individual.

“The goal is to make our neighborhood safer by giving people jobs,” Kimble said. “Yeah, we have issues in our neighborhood like everyone else. I’m just throwing one starfish at a time back into the ocean, but to that starfish, it changed their family trajectory. It could change their family’s lives because they landed the right opportunity and the right career.”

The event will be held on the first floor of Building 17 and is wheelchair accessible. Attendees will also be encouraged to visit multiple employer booths through a giveaway activity that rewards job seekers for meeting with different vendors.

For more information, contact Kimble at darnaldjr@gmail.com.

ASK DIAMOND JIM



Diamond Jim: “Is opal really bad luck?”

about opal, but they show how highly people regarded it. So where did the bad-luck story come from? According to the Gemological Institute of America (GIA), the particular superstition about wearing opal outside your birth month is linked to Sir Walter Scott’s 19th-century novel *Anne of Geierstein*. It came from a work of fiction, not from an ancient warning about the gem.

Opal’s shifting colors may help explain why it inspired so many stories. As you turn the stone, flashes of color appear and change. Gemologists call this *play-of-color*. GIA explains that it happens when light interacts with tiny spheres within the opal.

Want to see that color for yourself? Explore our 14K yellow gold Australian opal doublet ring and Australian opal doublet pendant at www.pineforestjewelry.com...your best source for all things opal! A doublet features a thin layer of opal attached to a backing. Visit Diamond Jim’s Pineforest Jewelry Experience in Houston, 6840 E Sam Houston Pkwy N, to see how the colors move in person.

October birthday or not, you’re welcome to find an opal you love. Sources: *GIA Opal History and Lore*, *GIA Opal Gemstone*, and *GIA Opal Quality Factors*.

Let us know what topics you’d like to see covered next. We’re always here to answer your questions and make your 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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Galena Park Branch Library October Events

Family

DV Safety: October 19 at 4pm - An informational session on safety and dating violence presented by Crime Stoppers.

Booapalooza: October 26 at 4pm - Celebrate Halloween at the library with a costume contest and fun activities.

Adults

Chismeando en inglés: Wednesdays at 11am - Conversation practice for adult English language learners.

Shelf-ish Book Club: October 28 at 6:30pm - Discussing “The Librarians” by Sherry Thomas.

Gulf Coast Reads 2026 at West University Branch Library: October 30 at 6:30pm - Join us for an engaging conversation with Sherry Thomas about *The Librarians*, followed by audience Q&A and a book signing.

Adults and Teens

Folk Craft: October 5 at 5:30pm - Join us for an hour of crafting in honor of Hispanic Heritage month.

Financial Aid 101: October 7 at 3pm - Confused about paying for college? Come learn about grants, scholarships, and eligibility requirements.

Babies & Toddlers

Play & Learn: Wednesdays October 21-November 18 at 10am - Early childhood development program focused on learning through play for ages 1-3.

For more updates, please follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) as dates and times may change.

Regarding Booapalooza, we are looking for community partners to participate in Trunk-or-Treat. Here, you can hand out candy to our little visitors from your decorated trunk, plus engage with families in our community during the event. Kindly inform us if you are able to attend so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

We are also out of after-school snacks. If you would like to donate a box of packaged snacks to feed our after-school kiddos, we’d greatly appreciate it!

Sisi Medina, MLIS
Branch Manager
Galena Park Branch Library
1500 Keene Street
Galena Park, TX 77547
832-927-5470 | sisi.medina@hcpl.net

State Rep. Hernandez Connects with Seniors Across District 143

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

HOUSTON — State Representative Ana Hernandez and her team are reflecting on a successful series of community visits this week, aimed at connecting with the district’s senior citizens.

Dubbed “Team Hernandez,” the group has been making the rounds across District 143, stopping in neighborhoods ranging from Magnolia Park and Denver Harbor to Channelview, Baytown, Jacinto City, and Galena Park.

The visits were centered on

simply spending quality time with local elders. According to a statement released by the team, the outings were filled with laughter, lively conversations, and a strong sense of community.

“Spending time with our seniors is always time well spent!” the team shared. “It’s always a joy catching up, sharing a few laughs, and spending time together.” Team Hernandez said in a social media post.

The community outreach tour highlights an ongoing effort by the Representative’s office to stay connected with constituents of all ages across the sprawling dis-

trict. The visits provide a vital opportunity for seniors to voice their concerns, share their stories, and engage directly with their elected officials in a relaxed, familiar environment.

Team Hernandez extended their heartfelt gratitude to the senior communities for their hospitality, noting that they were deeply moved by the warm receptions they received at every stop.



Team Hernandez staff member Linda Jamail in blue shirt posing among community seniors

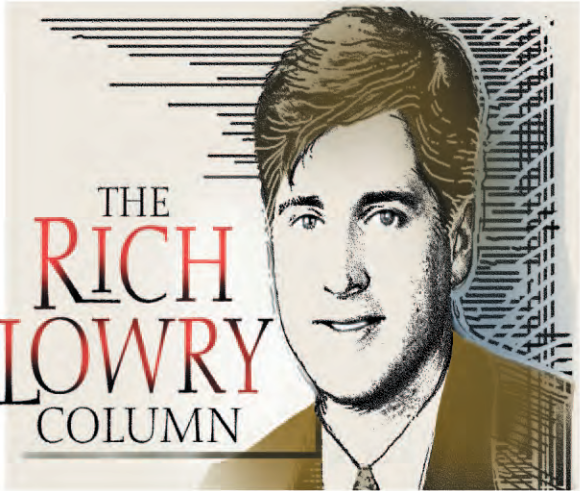


State Rep. Ana Hernandez shared a bag of treats to a senior constituent during a recent community visit in district 143

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OPINION PAGE

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The lynching epidemic that wasn't

Even paranoiacs have enemies, they say, but sometimes they are just paranoid. Rep. Ayanna Pressley, a founding member of the Squad, organized 59 fellow Democrats to co-sign a letter demanding a federal investigation of a spate of supposed lynchings that never happened.

The document pronounced its signatories “extremely alarmed by reports of Black people found hanging from trees in numerous states throughout our country.” “The series of deaths,” the letter continues, “raises significant suspicion of foul play given the role of lynching in our nation’s history.” Pressley and her colleagues call for a federal investigation of every hanging death of a black person in the U.S., and insist that “inaction by the federal government is tantamount to complicity.” The letter deems all of this “a national crisis.”

In a post on X, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez said how proud she was to sign the missive. She noted that “this year, there have already been 10 reported hangings of Black people in the U.S.,” and how we must “address these widespread modern-day lynchings and put a stop to this racial terror.”

It apparently didn’t occur to AOC or any of the other signers to do Google searches of local news stories about the hangings. If they had, they would have learned that most of them were acts of suicide — awful in their own right, but not evidence that we are once again living in the Deep South circa 1892. These news stories invariably recount how the local police have concluded a person found hanging on a tree died by suicide — as well as all the speculation on social media that something more insidious must have been at play.

In one horrifying case, a young African-American woman was found hanging from a tree outside an abandoned house in Jackson, Mississippi, and her death was indeed ruled a murder. A CNN report several days ago related the heightened scrutiny around the crime given “Mississippi’s long history of racial violence involving hangings.” The police have now arrested a 51-year-old suspect and charged him with murder, although he doesn’t advance the narrative of the Pressley letter — since he, too, is African American.

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention figures, more than 11,000 people in the United States died by suicide by hanging or a related means in 2024 — or, on average, more than 30 a day. Hundreds of these people were African Americans. In this context, a handful of black suicides by hanging occurring outdoors over the course of half a year or more wouldn’t necessarily be shocking.

The will to believe the worst, though, is very strong among the people who signed the Pressley letter. They are perpetually convinced that the KKK is on the verge of riding again and making the U.S. the equivalent of the Reconstruction-era South.

One line in the Pressley letter says that black people have been found hanging from trees in places as dispersed as “Mississippi, Michigan and New York.” The geographic randomness suggests a widely dispersed social phenomenon; the signatories conclude instead that there are racist murderers seeded throughout the country, all carrying out brutal, symbolically resonant killings.

This is a terrible thing to believe of one’s own country — not just of its people, but of all the law-enforcement authorities who must be suppressing evidence of systematic racial violence. No matter. The Squad and its ilk have a dim view of the United States and — as racial obsessives who consider themselves fearless crusaders for justice — must find great emotional satisfaction in the notion that they are fighting the same battle as, say, the legendary scourge of lynching Ida B. Wells.

Wells, though, didn’t have to make up outrages, whereas the current crowd tends to give credence to every story based on a fake noose or a hate-crime hoax. Pressley and Co. clearly hoped to stir up a social panic, but the weakness and irrationality of their argument serve only to underline their own profound and disturbing racial paranoia.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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HEADLINE: Lynching Claims Face Scrutiny



★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

Medicaid funding restored to Texas hospitals

Nearly \$12 billion in Medicaid funding to Texas hospitals will be restored after a nearly year-long stalemate between the state and the federal government ended, the Texas Standard reported.

Gov. Greg Abbott hailed the end to the impasse.

“This funding is a major victory for Texas patients,” Abbott said in a statement. “It authorizes nearly \$12 billion for hospitals, physicians, rural clinics, nursing facilities, and behavioral health providers that serve patients in every region of our state.”

The funds were halted on Sept. 1, with some hospitals losing as much as \$27 million a day in Medicaid funding. The fund assists hospitals in closing the gap between what Medicaid pays them and actual costs incurred for treating low-income Texans.

The dispute began last year over concerns about how the state raises more than \$4.2 billion in taxes to access those federal funds. Abbott had previously referred to the holdup as an economic “gun to the head.”

CORNYN, ROVE AMONG THOSE CONDEMNING FRENCH'S POST

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn denounced GOP Railroad Commission nominee Bo French after he disparaged the racial diversity of fans shown celebrating the University of Texas team’s comeback win over top-ranked Ohio State, The Dallas Morning News reported.

French, a former Tarrant County Republican Party chair, has doubled down on his remarks. The nominee has repeatedly faced backlash for posts targeting racial and religious groups, often decrying an influx of “foreigners.”

Meanwhile, longtime GOP political consultant Karl Rove said he would vote for Democrat Jon Rosenthal for railroad commissioner, only the second Democrat he has voted for. In an op-ed for The Wall



Street Journal, he called French’s post “raw, uncut bigotry.”

Cornyn was later joined by House Speaker Dustin Burrows and Republican state Reps. Jeff Leach and Lacey Hull in criticizing French.

PATRICK INTERVENES IN ERCOT CHIEF'S NEW CONTRACT

A multimillion-dollar contract extension for Pablo Vegas, the CEO of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, was put on hold after Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick called the amount “shocking,” the San Antonio Express-News reported.

The six-year contract approved last week by the ERCOT board would provide Vegas with a base salary of \$1.16 million. With potential performance incentives and other benefits, the total annual compensation could approach \$6.5 million. Patrick took to X to express his displeasure.

“During a time of increasing utility costs, this is not the time to give the CEO of ERCOT a multimillion-dollar pay raise on the backs of ratepayers,” he posted. “I am against this increase, and I think the legislature will agree that the amount is shocking.”

Hours later, the grid operator’s board put the deal on hold. State rules require the Public Utility Commission, which oversees ERCOT, to approve Vegas’ compensation.

LAWMAKER THREATENS TO ABOLISH RRC OVER PUBLIC COMMENT SPAT

The head of the House

oversight committee for the Texas Railroad Commission threatened to abolish the agency after Commissioner Wayne Christian refused to appear at a hearing, The News reported. He had been called to testify in response to the commission’s recent decision to eliminate public comment from its meetings.

Christian notified the committee’s head, state Rep. Drew Darby, R-San Angelo, that a prior commitment precluded him from attending. Darby was not happy with Christian’s response.

“A sitting commissioner absconding from his agency’s oversight hearing is nothing more than a mockery of the Texas Legislature and the legislative process,” he said. He noted the Legislature could abolish the commission with a simple majority vote.

“The Legislature giveth and it taketh. That is not a threat. It is a fact,” Darby said. Christian called Darby’s comments “an attack on democracy.”

The commission decided in a split vote last August to remove public comment from its regular meetings. In its place, the staff would host “listening sessions.”

CRUZ FORGES AHEAD WITH COLLEGE SPORTS BILL

Despite being loudly booed during an ESPN “GameDay” interview at DKR stadium before the UT-Ohio State game, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz said he is pushing forward with his bill to limit player transfers and endorsement deals, a measure he predicts will pass the Senate.

The News reported Cruz argues his legislation is needed to bring order to a chaotic environment.

“It cracks down on a booster in a back alley with a bag of cash and it ensures the system can remain competitive and vibrant,” Cruz said.

The measure would allow athletes one “free” transfer during their collegiate careers. It would place limits on any additional transfers, with exceptions for circumstances such as a coach leaving or an athletic program being terminated. Cruz said it has been endorsed by 24 conferences and professional sports leagues across several sports.

Opponents of the bill say the talk of “chaos” is exaggerated and is being used to infringe on the rights of student-athletes while financially benefiting schools, conferences and business interests connected to college sports.

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: gbborders@texaspres.com.

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Face to Face



I was driving back to my little motel after my first two talks of the week.

Earlier this year, I attended a national conference for librarians. My publisher wanted me to be there to sign free books, and I have never in my life seen people so excited to get a free book as those librarians.

I signed, “I love librarians!” on every book, except for a couple which I signed, “I love library administrators!” and “I love library assistants!” because I love everyone who has anything to do with keeping a library going.

So when I was asked if I’d drive up to the northwest corner of Minnesota and speak at a library, I said, “Absolutely!” Then they asked if I’d mind being up there for more than a day. “Not a problem!” I answered without hesitation. Then they sent me a schedule that showed me speaking at eight libraries in four days, most of them more than an hour’s drive apart.

That’s when I started to wonder if I was a little too enthusiastic.

But I love libraries and library patrons, and librarians, so I said I’d come. I rented a room in a little mom-and-pop-style motel on a lake that had a complete kitchen, so I wouldn’t have to look for a restaurant after doing all that talking and driving, and headed out the next morning.

Writers have always read their stuff aloud. The oldest stories in the world were preserved because people recited them until writing showed up and they could finally write them down. Charles Dickens and Mark Twain read their works all over the country, and many writers still do today. And while I am no Dickens or Twain, I can see the value of reading and speaking to a live audience. Writers who read their work aloud write sentences that sound like they should be read aloud. The two skills go hand in hand.

But it has made for some long days.

Driving home on Tuesday night, I drove through a patch of deep woods. There were very few cars on the road and a lot of deer. I drove slowly and counted five deer either crossing the road in front of me or standing, undecided, on the shoulder, looking like they might make a dash for it. Then I saw a giant furry rump heading off the road and into the ditch, and knew the only thing that big was a black bear.

But the worst was just before I made it back to my motel, when a whole family of raccoons came marching out across the highway. I hit the brakes and was sure I was going to hit at least one of them. The car slammed to a stop. My purse and the stool I brought with me and the muffin I was eating all flew to the ground, and I stopped a few feet in front of the last raccoon in the line.

The raccoon also stopped. He squinted into my headlights. “What the heck do you think you’re doing?!” he seemed to ask.

And I had to admit, I wasn’t entirely sure.

But the next day, when I spoke at yet another library, and someone told me how much my presentation meant to them, I remembered.

Sitting at my desk is all well and good. But nothing can compare to talking to the people who read the books—face to face.

“Thank you,” I said, again and again—that day and the next day and the day after that. “Thank you for this opportunity.”

Till next time,
Carrie
To see photos, check out CarrieClassonAuthor on Facebook or visit CarrieClasson.com.

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Hernandez to Host Multi-Stop ‘Community Conversations’ Tour Across District 143 This Saturday

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

HOUSTON — State Representative Ana Hernandez is taking her legislative outreach on the road this weekend, inviting constituents from across District 143 to a series of “Community Conversations” on Saturday, October 3.

The day-long tour will make four stops across the East End, North Channel, Channelview, and Baytown, offering residents a chance to meet with the Representative, ask questions, and discuss local and state issues in a casual setting.

The tour is broken up



State Rep. Ana Hernandez

geographically to make it convenient for residents across the sprawling district to attend. The schedule is as follows:

- East End: 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. at Doña Maria, located at 2601 Navigation Blvd., Houston, TX 77003.
- North Channel: 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Tep-

atitlan, located at 10337 East Fwy., Houston, TX 77029.

- Channelview: 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. at La Taza Corazón, located at 527 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, TX 77530.
- Baytown: 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. at Sabor of Mexico, located at 208 W Texas Ave., Baytown, TX 77520.

Constituents are encouraged to drop by any of the four locations throughout the day. While the events are open to the public.

To RSVP or for more information, residents can email anahernandezcampaign@gmail.com.

Hispanic heritage month honoree, Willie Velasquez,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Grande Valley. He founded the Mexican American Unity Council and then later on became field director for the Southwest Council of La Raza in 1970.

From 1972 to 1974, Velasquez founded and started work on the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project (SVREP) which would have helped Latinos be given more involvement with the voting process. Velasquez also hoped that the democratic process was more aware of the Latino vote.

The mission of SVREP is to, “Empower Latinos and other minorities by increasing their participation in the American democratic process SVREP accomplishes this by strengthening the capacity, experience and skills of Latino leaders, networks, and organizations through programs that consistently train, organize, finance, develop, expand and mobilize Latino leaders and voters around an agenda that reflects their values.

SVREP also sponsors voting rights lawsuits under the federal Voting Rights Act and the California Voting Rights Act. To date SVREP has prevailed in 87 out of 88 federal Voting Rights Act cases and over 70 California Voting Rights actions.

In 2016 SVREP sued Bexar County in San Antonio, Texas for misinforming constituents about voter ID rules. SVREP argued that the voter ID laws



William “Willie” C. Velasquez Jr.
May 9, 1944 ~ June 15, 1988

were an attempt to curb and discourage minorities from participating in the electoral process.

Another key initiative that SVREP sponsors is their Latino Academy. Founded in 1997 the Latin Academy trains candidates, campaign workers, and community leaders/organizers on the how to run for elective office including voter targeting, social media, messaging, fundraising, campaign management, voter registration, and get out the vote; once leaders/organizers have completed the training tracks they are eligible to act as project coordinators, treasurers, and chairs for a voter registration project in their community.

Once candidates complete the training they are urged to run for office - though nonpartisan SVREP does not endorse

candidates. Through the Latino Academy individuals are exposed to grassroots organizing and voter registration and mobilization techniques.

SVREP partners with the William C. Velasquez Institute (WCVI) founded in 1985 to run a “policy and governance” version of the Latino Academy which focuses on training elected officials on ethics and public policy options.

Since 1985 WCVI has trail-blazed, broadening the Latino Agenda and was the first national Latino organization to use Survey and Demographic Research to Guide Political Action. To learn more visit: www.wcvi.org.

The William C. Velasquez Jr. Day honors his life and legacy in civic engagement and Latino voting rights. While not a paid state holiday for all employees, Willie Velasquez Day is recognized through public ceremonies, educational events, and community activities in Texas, especially in regions with strong Latino political engagement.

Velasquez did not live long enough to see his accomplishments flourish. He died in 1988 due to kidney cancer. Velasquez was survived by his wife Janie Sarabia and three children.

In 1995, Velasquez was posthumously honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton

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Nate Bargatze star in "The Bread winner."

“The Bread winner.”

“Tony” (R) — Dominic Sessa, who had his breakthrough role in the comedy-drama film “The Holdovers” (2023), leads this biographical coming-of-age film directed by Matt Johnson (“Nirvana the Band the Show the Movie”). Sessa plays the titular character Tony, aka Anthony Bourdain, but well before Bourdain ever became the celebrity chef many would come to know and love. Taking place in 1975, the film follows a 19-year-old Tony, who’s a student in Vassar College with aspirations of being a writer. Life doesn’t go exactly as planned, though, and he lands a job at a seafood restaurant in Provincetown, Massachusetts. Once there, however, Tony finds himself drawn to the atmosphere of the restaurant and starts working his way up, catching the attention of the head chef Jose (Antonio Banderas). “Tony” is out now to rent or purchase! (Amazon Prime Video)

“The 2026 MTV Video Music Awards” (TV-14) — As MTV has become less of a staple in music lovers’ lives, their VMA award show has admittedly lost its touch. Still, MTV always aims to recapture the magic of past award shows, and this time, they’re doing so by bringing Madonna back to the VMAs after 23 years! Not only is she the opening performer, but she also leads the pack with 13 nominations for her recent album “Confessions II.” Naturally, Taylor Swift follows her with 11 nominations for “The Life of a Showgirl,” and Sabrina Carpenter trails Swift with nine nominations for her hit album “Man’s Best Friend.” Additionally, Nirvana will be honored with the legendary Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award. If you missed the live event, it’s available to stream now! (Paramount+)

“Saturday Night Live: Season 52” (TV-MA) — It’s crazy to think

that it’s already been two years since “SNL 50,” but here we are, welcoming in the 52nd season of Lorne Michaels’ late-night sketch-comedy show. Two new cast members have been announced since Chloe Fineman’s (“Love Language”) departure from the show after seven seasons — the first being Saidah Belo-Osagie and Grace Reiter (“Run Amok”). Reiter is the first SNL cast member to be born in the 2000s. This season will feature hosts like New York Knicks MVP Jalen Brunson, “Obsession” star Inde Navarrette, and comedian Shane Gillis (“Madden”). Meanwhile, upcoming musical guests include girl group Katseye, Spanish singer and actress Rosalia (“Euphoria”), and pop star Gracie Abrams. The first episode is out now to stream! (Peacock)

“The Breadwinner” (PG) — This family-friendly comedy film was co-written by Nate Bargatze and also features the stand-up comedian in his first feature-length starring role. Bargatze plays a family man, also named Nate, and he’s the top employee at his car dealership. Meanwhile, his wife, Katie (Mandy Moore), is a stay-at-home mom who tends to their three daughters. But when Katie invents a product that lands a successful deal on “Shark Tank,” their roles get reversed, as Katie must travel to South Korea for two weeks. Nate now takes on the role of a stay-at-home parent, and he quickly realizes that it isn’t an easy feat. Colin Jost (“Saturday Night Live”), Kumail Nanjiani (“See You When I See You”), and Will Forte (“The Four Seasons”) co-star in the film, which is out now to stream! (Netflix)

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Q:I recently discovered the series “Sweet Magnolias” on Netflix and binged all five seasons over the summer. Is there going to be a sixth one anytime soon? — J.I.

A:Unfortunately, Netflix recently announced that there won’t be any more new episodes of “Sweet Magnolias” after the fifth season concluded in June. This has come as a shock to the show’s fans because one of the couples, namely Dana Sue (Brooke Elliott) and Ronnie (Brandon Quinn), appeared to be headed toward “Splitville.”

JoAnna Garcia Swisher, who played Maddie, had nothing but kind words for the show, despite the bittersweet announcement of its cancellation. She stated, “‘Sweet Magnolias’ came into my world during a chapter that held some of my deepest loss [the death of both of her parents] and, somehow, some of my greatest joy.”

The series is based on the “Sweet Magnolias” novels that were written by Sheryl Woods. Perhaps fans can find a proper conclusion for their favorite characters inside those pages. Netflix also recently announced that the show’s executive producer and showrunner Sheryl J. Anderson is creating a new show for the streamer, called “Ladies of the House.” Swisher’s set to produce and possibly even star in it, too.

This new series is also based on a set of novels that feature three female central characters. The “Ladies of the House” books are written by Lauren Edmonson.

Q:Is there anywhere I can stream “Murphy Brown”? I’ve noticed it’s missing on all the ones I subscribe to. — E.D.

A:According to TVLine, the original seasons of the Emmy-winning hit comedy series “Murphy Brown” have been unable to find a home on any of the streaming platforms due to music rights. It’s the same reason why shows like NBC’s “Homicide” weren’t streamable for many years, until Peacock was able to secure the show with partial rights.

According to TVLine, “Murphy Brown” creator Diane English explained that the show “used one and sometimes two pieces of original music” when crafting unique



JoAnna Garcia Swisher as Maddie in “Sweet Magnolias”

opening sequences for each episode.

But here’s a bit of good news: There was a “Murphy Brown” 13-episode revival series that was released in 2018, and you can find these episodes on the free streaming service Tubi.

Q: Is it true that Helen Mirren and Pierce Brosnan didn’t want to work with Tom Hardy on “MobLand” anymore? — L.L.

A:While the Paramount+ series “MobLand” returned for its second season this September, it was rumored that star Tom Hardy wouldn’t be returning for a third. His co-stars Helen Mirren and Pierce Brosnan recently denied that Hardy was a pill to deal with on set. Mirren stated that she loves working with Hardy, hopes to share more scenes with him in the future, and called him “the most amazing actor.”

Some chatter on the internet includes theories that Paramount started the rumors of Hardy being difficult because they didn’t want to pay him his worth. Fortunately, the two parties have come to some kind of agreement because Hardy will be back for season three.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves

HEY LOYD, HOW DID YOUR DATE GO WITH THE NEW GIRL?

NOT GREAT... I MEAN, IT STARTED OUT WELL ENOUGH. WE BEGAN WITH THE SIMPLE SMALL TALK.

BUT EVERY TIME SHE LAUGHED SHE HAD THIS ANNOYING HABIT OF SNORTING WHEN SHE LAUGHED!

YOU'RE NOT TOO BRIGHT, ARE YOU?

by Dave T. Phipps

TIGER

HEY, KIP, WHERE IS 31 MAPLE?

THAT RED HOUSE ON THE CORNER IS 31 MAPLE

... I THINK

by BUD BLAKE

The Spats

GULP

I NEED TO CHECK OUR MARRIAGE LICENSE...

...MAYBE I CAN FIND A LOOPHOLE?

by Jeff Pickering

Weekly SUDOKU

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

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Light is moved. 2. Pillow is larger. 3. Top rung of ladder is missing. 4. Bedpost in corner is not seen. 5. Dog's head is in corner. 6. Dog's head is in corner. 7. Dog's head is in corner. 8. Dog's head is in corner. 9. Dog's head is in corner.

September 28, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Hot tub

4 Gore and Pacino

7 Poet Teasdale

11 Sod

13 Architect I.M. —

14 Sty cry

15 Play opener

16 Up to

17 — Minor (bear constellation)

18 Bas-relief medium

20 Leave out

22 Grass shack

24 Paper fastener

28 Mosque tower

32 Florida game fish

33 Optimist's credo

34 Apprehend

36 pharmaceutical

37 Transmits

39 Baking potatoes

41 Orders of pancakes

43 "Don't Start Now" singer

44 Intimate

46 Tactics

50 "Star Wars" knight

53 Resistance unit

55 "East of Eden" twin

56 At the summit of

57 Pint-sized

58 Belafonte song

59 Orange vegetables

60 Matching pair

61 Arced tennis shot

DOWN

1 Men-only

2 Brownish purple

3 — and crafts

4 Likely

5 Floral rings

6 Sari fabrics

7 Light lunch order

8 Televis

9 ICU pros

10 Rap sheet letters

12 Popular

13 British dish

19 Owned by us

21 The "I" of

23 Sawbuck

25 Skin opening

26 Lummo

27 Heart charts (Abbr.)

28 Avoid

29 "Rhyme Pays" rapper

30 "Peter Pan" pooch

31 Roofing goo

35 Future flower

38 Enjoy Vail

40 "How's it goin'?"

42 Bamboozles

45 Biblical pronoun

47 Exam format

48 Vacillate

49 Elitist

50 Comic Leno

51 JFK info

52 — Perignon

54 Bumped into

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Trivia Test Answers

1. Northern; 2. Walmart; 3. District 12; 4. Peanut butter, bacon and banana; 5. John Milton; 6. Texas; 7. State Rock and Gravel Company; 8. Journey; 9. An early written legal code; 10. Janus

King Crossword —

Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital recognized as 2026 top performer

BAYTOWN TX – All eight Houston Methodist acute care hospitals are top performers in Vizient’s Bernard A. Birnbaum, MD, Quality Leadership annual rankings, which provide a national hospital scorecard focused on patient safety and quality metrics. Houston Methodist Hospital finished No. 3 in its cohort for the second consecutive year — the hospital’s highest ranking. In addition, all seven Houston Methodist network hospitals ranked among the top 10 in their respective surveys, with two – Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital and Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital – ranked No. 1 in their respective cohorts.

“Each day, our physicians and employees keep our patients at the center of everything we do, and this recognition is a direct result of their steadfast commitment to delivering the safest, highest-quality care possible,” said Marc L. Boom, M.D., president and CEO of Houston Methodist. “Their unwavering focus on safe, quality and compassionate care is what drives the exceptional outcomes our patients expect and deserve.”

Rankings-eligible hospi-



Adrienne Joseph, CEO of Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital and senior vice president of Houston Methodist.

tals are determined by the quality of patient care in six areas: safety, mortality, effectiveness, efficiency, patient centeredness and variation of care. This year’s results are as follows:

- Houston Methodist Hospital — Ranked No. 3 out of 122, Comprehensive Academic Medical Centers
- Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital —

Ranked No. 1 out of 225, Large, Specialized Complex Care Medical Centers

- Complex Care Medical Centers cohort (out of 238 hospitals):
- Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital — Ranked No. 1
- Houston Methodist West Hospital — Ranked No. 2
- Houston Methodist Cypress Hospital — Ranked No. 3
- Houston Methodist The Woodlands Hospital — Ranked No. 4
- Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital — Ranked No. 10
- Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital — Ranked No. 4 out of 280, Community Hospitals

“We are deeply honored to receive this recognition from Vizient, which affirms our commitment to providing safe, patient-centered,” said Adrienne Joseph, CEO of Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital and senior vice president of Houston Methodist. “This achievement belongs to our entire team, whose dedication to excellence and compassion helps ensure our patients receive the highest level of care.”

Mustangs shut out Eagles, 35 - 0,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Kendrick, No. 14, with one. Kicker Rey Amezcuita added five extra points. Quarterback Ja’Voris Taylor completed 8 of 9 pass attempts for an 88.9 percent completion rate.

North Shore finished with 390 yards of total offense, including 216 passing yards and 174 rushing yards. Linda Jamail served as statistician.

The Mustangs, now 5-0 overall, will travel to Turner Stadium in Humble to face the 1-4 Humble Wildcats in a district game Thursday, Oct. 1, at 7 p.m.



Mustang’s Homecoming Team Captains. L – R: #21-Rashaad Williams, #78-Abdus Kone, #8-La'Damian Defreeze, #28-Kendrick Brown. (Photo by Linda Jamail)



#97 Zackory Achane Mustangs defensive lineman sacks qb #10 Ayden Perkins. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



#8 La'Damian Defreeze catches a 44 yd pass from QB Ja'Voris Taylor for a TD. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



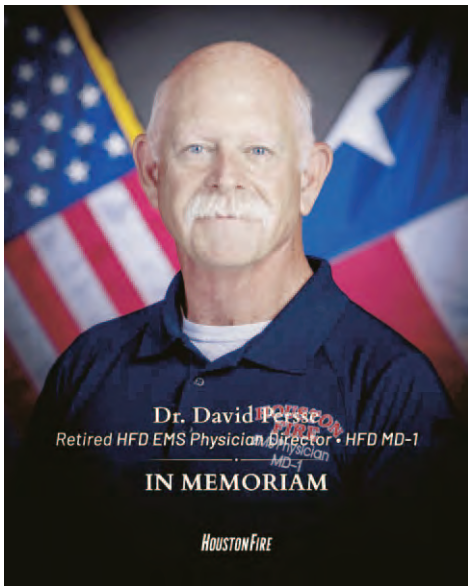
#14 Jaden Kendrick scores a Nshore TD on 9 yrd pass. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



#16 Darrell Haynes scoring 1 of 3 TD's on a qb keeper. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Final
North Shore	7	7	14	7	35
Atascocita	0	0	0	0	0

Former Houston Chief Medical Officer Dr. David Persse Passes Away at 66



By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

HOUSTON, TX - Dr. David Persse, the former Houston chief medical officer, has died at age 66, according to a statement from the Houston Fire Department.

On Monday, HFD said in a Facebook post that Persse sustained a severe spinal injury while swimming off Hermosa Beach, California, on Saturday. Fire officials said that he was pulled from the water and resuscitated by bystanders before being hospitalized. Sadly, Persse later succumbed to his injuries.

Persse served the City of Houston, including serving 29 years as HFD’s EMS physician director.

Houston Mayor John Whitmire shared the following statement regarding Persse’s death:

“Dr. David Persse was a dedicated public servant who spent more than 30 years protecting the health and safety of Houstonians.

His knowledge and experience helped guide my administration through emergencies and some of our city’s most challenging public health issues. I am grateful for his service to Houston and for the lasting legacy he leaves behind.”

HFD Fire Chief Thomas Muñoz posted the following statement that read in part:

“Dr. Persse was a pioneer whose impact on the Houston Fire Department cannot be overstated.

For more than 30 years, he helped shape the way our firefighters and paramedics care for people on the worst days of their lives.

He challenged us to be better, pushed EMS forward and never lost sight of the people behind the medicine.

But to generations of HFD members, he was also a teacher, a mentor and a trusted friend.”

HFD described him as a pioneer in emergency medicine; his leadership helped shape Houston EMS and advance patient care, while his teaching and mentorship influenced generations of physicians, firefighters, paramedics, and EMTs.

Persse also helped guide the City of Houston through the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Stephens Family Donates Second AED to YouthReach



Having one AED on the campus of YouthReach Ministries in Sheldon wasn’t enough, according to the state of Texas, so Rotarian Scott Stephens and Melody Stephens donated a second one to the boys home on Monday. They donated the first one 12 years ago and they have been regular contributors to the ministry throughout the years. The ministry works with young men with a troubled past and prepares them in a Christian environment to be real contributors to society. The ministry was founded by Curt and Shelley Williams.

Making a Difference: Cintya Pena Briones Recognized as a Hero for Children



Galena Park ISD is proud to recognize Cintya Pena Briones, the District 4 recipient of the 2026 Heroes for Children Award from the State Board of Education. This prestigious honor recognizes individuals whose volunteer service has made a lasting impact on students, schools, and communities across Texas.

Ms. Pena Briones is one of only 14 award recipients statewide, reflecting her exceptional commitment to

Galena Park ISD (GPISD) during the 2025–2026 school year. She dedicated countless hours to supporting North Shore Elementary School and advocating for student success. Her generosity, leadership, and passion for helping others have positively influenced students and families while contributing to a strong campus culture.

In recognition of this outstanding achievement, Ms. Pena Briones was hon-

ored during the September Board meeting, where she received a certificate on behalf of the Board of Trustees and Dr. John Moore, Superintendent of Schools.

Galena Park ISD sincerely thanks Ms. Pena Briones for her unwavering dedication and service. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition, and thank you for making a difference in the lives of GPISD students.