HIGHLANDS Star & Courier

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Happy Homeowners GLO has built 12,000 Homes in Texas since Hurricane Harvey. See Pages 4,5

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2023

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE **STARS**

EVENTS Rotary Washer Tourney set for Sept. 9

Highlands Rotary Club will hold their annual 3-Hole Washer Board Charity Tournament on Saturday, September 9, 2023 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.

The Tournament starts at 1:00pm Sharp, at Charlie's Ice House, 906 N. Main Street in Highlands.

All teams must register and sign in no later than 12:30pm the day of the tournament.

TEAMS: 2 person teams, \$50 per team entry, Double Elimination rules. Awards and Prize Money for the top 3 teams, \$150, \$100, and

SPONSORSHIPS: Board Sponsors at \$100 and \$200; T-Shirt Sponsors at \$150 and \$250; Major Sponsor available at \$500 with benefits.

Event includes a Raffle for a Liquor Wagon.

Contact Denise Smith niecy1616@gmail.com, or Patricia Scott plscott1957@gmail.com to enter or for info.

Proceeds benefit the Rotary Foundation and Polio Plus.

Highlands LL Meeting Sep. 12

Annual meeting for Election of Board of Directors. Also, proposed Constitutional changes. See Ad in this issue.

At Baytown Boat Club, 1600 Clear Lake Rd. Highlands, Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 7:00pm. Open to the public.

Star-Courier SOUVENIR EDITION for Crosby 200



of the STAR-COURIER will run the week leading up to the celebration on Sept. 23 and includes a history of Crosby's last 200 years with vintage photos, a map of the parade route, a map with the location of all booths and activities, and a timeline of all activities planned for the weekend plus

with a Congratulations ad! See 2 of this issue.

in the Time Capsule.

TXDOT sets September meetings to reveal details of new I-10 Bridge and Right-of-Way over River

TY - TXDOT, the Texas Department of Transportation, has announced that they will hold two public meetings in September, to inform the public of plans for reconstruction of the I-10 bridge over the San Jacinto River, and the rebuilding of travel lanes of I-10, from Magnolia Street to Thompson Road and Spur 330.

The first meeting will be virtual only (online via internet) and provide information on the proposals. This meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 19, 2023 starting at 5pm. It will consist of a pre-recorded video presention. TX-DOT advises that this information will not be available online until the above stated time.

The second meeting is scheduled as an in-person presentation, with interac-

tion with TXDOT personnell and a chance to comment, ask questions and offer opinions. This meeting will take place on Thursday, September 21, 2023 from 5 to 7pm at the Flukinger Community Center, 16003 Lorenzo Street, Channelview.

The purpose of the project is to improve traffic flow, increase navigational safety, and enhance roadway network connectivity within the project limits. The proposed project would replace the existing I-10 mainlane bridges over the San Jacinto River. The existing bridges have a 23-foot-vertical clearance and a 158foot-wide horizontal navigational clearance. Due to repeated barge traffic collisions with the bridge structures on the San Jacinto River, the proposed I-10 mainlane bridg-



The new I-10 Bridge may be similar to this standard TXDOT design.

es would consist of a wider navigational opening and tentatively consist of steel girder bridges with a 52foot vertical clearance and a 386-foot horizontal navigational clearance.

The proposed project would also add vehicular capacity to I-10 within the project limits. The existing highway in this location consists of three lanes in each direction. The proposed project would add one general purpose lane, acceleration/deceleration

lanes and entrance and exit ramps, and two managed lanes in each direction. Managed lanes are highway lanes where operational strategies, such as, but not limited to HOV lanes or emergencies services, are proactively implemented and managed in response to changing conditions. Proposed improvements along Spur 330 include widening to add one managed lane in each direction and connect to the proposed I-10 managed lanes. Currently Spur 330 consists of two 12-foot mainlanes and two 12-foot frontage lanes in each direction.

The proposed project would, subject to final design considerations, require approximately 5.4 acres of additional right of way and potentially displace one non-residential structure containing two businesses and would relocate the City of Baytown city limit monument. Relocation assistance is available for displaced persons and businesses. Information about the TxDOT Relocation Assistance Program and services and benefits for those displaced and other affected property owners, as well as information about the tentative schedule for right-of-way

Continued. See I-10 BRIDGE DESIGN, Page 7

Newport enforcing Level 4 drought restrictions

By David Taylor Star-Courier

CROSBY - Steady 100degree temperatures have forced the board of the Newport Municipal Utility District to elevate their status to Level 4, their highest, and immediately begin implementation of their Drought Contingency Plan for mandatory water conservation.

Board president Margarette Chasteen said the amount of water coming out of the plant on Sunday triggered the higher level.

"We can produce 2.44 million gallons per day, but Sunday we produced

pansions to facilities

within the Harris Health

--Constructing a Level

1-capable trauma center at

Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ)

Hospital. Level 1 trauma

centers provide the highest

level of trauma care to crit-

ically ill or injured patients

on a 24/7 basis.

System by:





Utility workers repair leaking pipes at Newport, that are contributing to the problem of limited capacity at the water treatment plant.

2.9 million," she said.

Chasteen said they began with a Stage 1 alert that was a voluntary request for reduction in water usage earlier.

"That equates to a 5 percent reduction," she said. The demand at the water treatment plant continued to rise and so did the elevation of the drought warning to a Stage 2 with hopes of saving 10 percent in water reduction and demand.

"On Sunday, we went straight from Stage 2 to Stage 4 which can be criti-

Continued. See NEWPORT DROUGHT RESTRICTIONS, page 7

County plans \$2.5 Billion Bond vote for Harris Health System

LBJ Hospital will become Level 1 Trauma center; more beds, more clinics for county



This special Souvenir Edition much more.

You are invited to be included rates and sizes available on Page

Your message will be included

HARRIS COUNTY ---Renovating the exist-Thursday, August 17, ing LBJ Hospital to address current service gaps 2023, Today Harris County Commissioners Court and increase the availabilapproved an order for a ity of outpatient services. bond election for the No-

--Increasing capacity at vember 2023 General Elec-Ben Taub Hospital by adding approximately 120 pation to finance upgrades to the Harris Health System. tient rooms, extending the The \$2.5 billion bond facility's lifespan by at would help fund the followleast 15 years. ing improvements and ex-

--Creating three new community clinics in highneed areas.

LBJ Hospital and Ben Taub Hospital have not undergone significant upgrades or renovations since their initial construction 30 years ago. Harris County's population has nearly doubled during that time and both hospitals are currently operating at or over capacity. Over the next ten years,

the bond is projected to have minimal impact on the average homeowner with a cost of approximately \$6/month.

Individuals can learn more about the upcoming bond election by visiting www.harrishealth.org. Individuals can register to vote or update their registration by visiting www.harrisvotes.com before October 10th.

MORE INFORMATION **ABOUT THE HARRIS HEALTH SYSTEM:**

Harris Health System is the public healthcare safety-net provider established in 1966 to serve individuals in Harris County, Texas. Harris Health champions better health for the entire community. with a focus on low-income uninsured and underinsured patients, through acute and primary care, wellness, disease management and population health services. Ben Taub Hospital and Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital anchor Harris Health's robust network of more than 40 clinics, health centers, an extensive health care for the homeless program, a chronic dialysis center, a dental services clinic, and virtual (telemedicine) technology.

Harris Health is among an elite list of health systems in the U.S. achieving Magnet® nursing excellence designation for its hospitals, the prestigious National Committee for Quality Assurance designation for its patient-centered clinics and health centers and its strong partnership with nationally recognized physician faculty, residents and researchers from Baylor College of Medicine; McGovern Medical School at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth); and The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

RACHEL'S DINER

Southern Cooking Buffet -- Coming Soon 14280 FM 2100 (Across from Walmart) 281-462-7349





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GOOSE CREEK CISD NEWS

Dr. Alicia Babin Selected as Edward Franklin "EF" Green Junior School Principal

Congratulations to Dr. Alicia Babin, new principal at Edward Franklin "EF" Green Junior School.

Dr. Babin is an educator and life-long learner whose core values directly align with the mission of Goose Creek CISD. As she enters her seventh year with the district, she reflects on those years as well as the expanse of her educational experiences as an ELA teacher, team lead, department chairperson, lead mentor, campus testing coordinator, teacher of the year, and assistant principal. Her zeal for authentic learning and growth in each student is evidenced, in part, as she resolved to leave her collegiate educational and administrative roles to invest in K-12 students and families

Alicia wholeheartedly honors and appreciates her family. She is married to Marcus and is the mother to their three children: Jeremiah, Emani, and Joshua. She earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from



Dr. Alicia Babin

Remington College, master's degree in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from University of Texas at Arlington, and doctorate degree in Educational Leadership from Lamar University.

"I am humbled and honored to be a part of the E.F.

Green Junior School family where his legacy lives on. Education is essential and must be intentional. I look forward to this being the school that every family wants their child to attend and all stakeholders are the better because we are purposefully here!"

Earnest Brooks Selected as Lee High School Principal

Congratulations to Earnest Brooks, new principal at Lee High School. With a wealth of experience and expertise, Mr. Brooks brings an unwavering passion for education and a commitment to student success. As a proud graduate of Robert E. Lee High School and with 13 years of teaching experience within the district, followed by five years as an assistant principal at Baytown Junior School and Horace Mann Junior School, Mr. Brooks is well-equipped to lead with empathy, understanding, and a profound knowledge of the unique needs of students. His achievements continue with the successful opening of EF Green Junior School in 2021.



Dr. Earnest Brooks

Jennifer Fierro Selected as Highlands Junior School Principal

Congratulations to Jennifer Fierro, new principal at Highlands Junior School.

Mrs. Fierro is returning to Goose Creek after 3 years as the principal at Tarkington High School. Prior to her most recent principal role, Mrs. Fierro served as an assistant principal and academic dean at Sterling High School. She earned her bachelor's degree in Education from Lamar University in 1996. Upon graduation, she taught junior high and later high school English. Mrs. Fierro earned her master's degree in Counseling and Development from Lamar in 2006, and later returned to Lamar to earn her certification in Administration. During those years, she served as a counselor and assistant principal. Mrs. Fierro has recently completed her superintendent certification program through the Region 6 service center.

She believes her education experiences have afforded opportunities to collaborate with a diverse group of educators and



Dr. Jennifer Fierro

communities to meet the common goal of increasing student achievement and preparing students for life beyond high school. Mrs. Fierro's educational philosophy is based on her belief that all students deserve the opportunity to achieve their highest potential in a positive learning environment, with strong and knowledgeable educators, and an encouraging and involved community.

"I am excited to return to Goose Creek to serve the students and community."

Kevin Credeur Selected As Director of Career and Technical Education

Congratulations to Kevin Credeur, our new Director of Career and Technical Education for Goose Creek CISD.

As a native of the Baytown area, he earned an associate of arts in music from Lee College, a bachelor's and master's degree in music education from Lamar University and is nursuing a doctorate in ed. ucational leadership from Texas A&M University, Commerce. Kevin began his career as a band director before transitioning into campus leadership as an Assistant for Dual-Credit and the District Career and Technical **Education Coordinator for** Silsbee ISD. He came to GCCISD as an assistant principal at Horace Mann Jr. School, then Stuart Career Tech High School.

"I believe each student

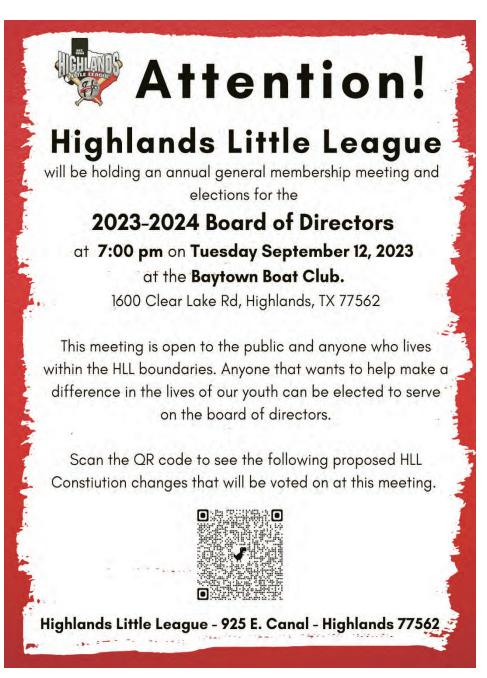


Dr. Kevin Credeur

is unique and valuable and that EVERY student deserves professionals who believe in their success."



your business in a keepsake edition!





Barbers Hill

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2023

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Chambers Library **Donations**

Donations to the library

At the Chambers County Library, Anahuac:

In memory of John Britt: Indian Nations of North America from the Chambers County Historical Commission

In honor of Chambers County First Responders: Ordinary Heroes from the Chambers County Historical Commission

In memory of Joe Evans: Got your number, Tenacious: a championship mentality for young athletes, Lead like a coach, Under the blanket sky, It's great to be you from Kate Keating

In memory of Charles Fortner: Escaping gravity, Firefighter success from the employees of Stellar Bank in Anahuac

In memory of Hank Gupton: Survival 101 raised bed gardening and food storage, Let's get gardening from Steve and Deanna Humphrey

In memory of Judy Hall: Saltwater Cove from David and Jessica Tensen

In memory of Judy Hall: No river too wide, One mountain away, Somewhere between luck and trust, Color of light from Chambers County Road & Bridge Department

In memory of Don Harmon: Little Squiggle's lake adventure, I have seven dogs, The big blue lake, The comprehensive guide to woodworking, Positive training for aggressive and reactive dogs, How to prevent puppy separation anxiety from Kate

Keating In memory of Darrell Lucas: Ranger Rick kids' guide to fishing, Fish don't sneeze, Venison, Where are the ducks, The art of taxidermy from Bubba and Kathy Lancon

In memory of Ruth Anne Miller: The no-dig children's gardening book. All will be well. Twirl from American Legion

Auxiliary #104 In memory of Ruth Anne Miller: Deep roots, This I know from Harry and LaShebia Ray-

mond In memory of William "Bill"

Purser: Highlanders from the Chambers County Historical Commission In memory of Tim Roberson:

The automobile: a never ending story, All present and accounted for from Fran and Bob Perry In memory of Robert "Bob" Scherer: Masters and commanders from the Chambers

In memory of Christopher Speights: Divine disruption from Harry and LaShebia Ray-

County Historical Commission

In memory of Kenneth Standley: Texas State Cemetery, Hood's Texas Brigade from the Chambers County Historical Commission

In memory of Beverly Thomassee: Italy on a plate, Italy made easy for seniors from Na-

talvn and Mitchell Rover At the Juanita Hargraves Me-

morial Branch. Winnie: In memory of Doug "Grumps" Austin: The hundred-year barn

from Makenzie Talbert At the Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Branch, Mont Belvieu:

In memory of Anna Maria Kalbitz: Middle school bites series, Kid YouTuber series, Free lunch, The 47 people you'll meet in middle school, Ungifted, Totally middle school, Attack of the black rectangles, Sparrow, Ugly me from Empty Nester's Club

In honor of Wynona Montgomery: A cryptic clue from Ro-

In memory of Lenora Elaine Speer: My first garden, Let's get gardening, The great garden escape, A day at the community garden, The complete gardener's guide, Raised bed gardening for beginners, The family garden plan, Growing flowers, Fruit tree gardening from Terrie Duke and friends.

Valerie Jensen, MLIS Chambers County Library

Mont Belvieu Enters Stage 3 Drought Conditions

-On August 21 the City of Mont Belvieu moved into Stage 3 of its Drought Contingency Plan. Stage 3 was triggered by a 5-day average consumption of 3 million gallons per day (GPD) or more. Activating this stage now moves all restrictions from Stages 1 and 2 from voluntary to mandatory. The most notable restrictions for Mont Belvieu residents are:

*No lawn or landscape irrigation between 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

*No washing of vehicles at home at any time; vehicles must be washed at a commercial car wash.

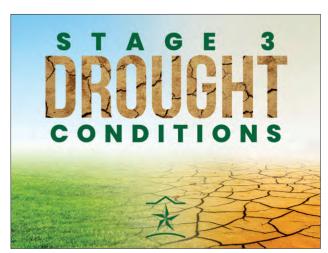
*Pools and hot tubs should only be filled to levels necessary to maintain pump usage

*No operation of ornamental fountains or ponds except where necessary to support aquatic life

*No use of water to wash sidewalks and driveways, to flush gutters, or for dust control

A full list of restrictions can be found on the City's Drought Plan Page. Making these restrictions mandatory also brings enforcement; residents found to be in violation of the Stage 3 restrictions may be issued a citation for non-compliance.

The City currently operates and maintains four water plants, one booster station and a standalone elevated tank. All of the City's potable water is drawn from the Evangeline and Chicot Aquifer by four water wells, with screened depths from 950,600,550, and 400 feet below ground surface. Water is pumped at the rates of 800 gpm (Well No. 8) ,750 gpm (Well No. 11) ,500 gpm (Well No. 9) ,400 gpm (Well No.7). Water treatment consists of simple chlorination, using chlorine gas, to maintain a chlorine residual of approximately 1.0 parts per million (ppm) in the distribution system. The City maintains storage capacity of approximately 2,061,000 gallons in two ground storage tanks and three elevated storage tanks. Six booster pumps at two plants and three elevated storage tanks to maintain a distribution



line pressure of 55 to 68 pounds per square inch (psi) at the tap; pump sizes are 300-500 gpm in ca-

pacity. The City has approximately 3075 equivalent metered connections. Approximately 2911 of these are for single- family residences. Major commercial water users include several industrial refineries, clinics, a number of restaurants and hotels, and a variety o f retail establishments.

Annual water usage in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 was 267,735,000 million gallons and 391,626,000 mil-

gallons 401,346,000 million gallons and 502,839,000 respectively. Average daily water usage during this period was approximately 1,070,921 gallons, and the highest peak usage rate for any 24-hour period was recorded at 2,966,000 gallons. During the high demand months (May through August) water demand has been approximately 1,600,000 gallons per day. Consequently, the City does not have sufficient storage capacity for one day's demand during this time period. However,

with the ability to contin-

uously pump 3722 gpm, the City would be able to meet and exceed the normal summer peak demand approximately 2,393,680 mgd. However, a continuous pumping mode is not desirable

Doing Your Part

Helping to conserve water during our current dry conditions isn't as tough as you might think. There are a lot of smaller things you can do to be water wise in conjunction with the larger Stage 3 restrictions that can add up to big savings. We have compiled a list of easy things you can do that will help ease the burden on our City's water system. Go

www.montbelvieu.net/ savewater and choose a few to try out; anything you do will help.

Getting Out Of Stage 3 Restrictions

The City of Mont Belvieu will be able to downgrade from Stage 3 mandatory restrictions if water use can stay below 3 million GPD for 7 consecutive days.

Chambers County Library System -Storytime & Donations to the Library

& Me at the Library!

Starting the week of September 4th, the library system will kick off Storytime and Baby & Me. Storytime is held weekly and is geared towards ages 2-5 and includes songs, stories, crafts and activities. Baby & Me is a program geared towards infants (birth-24 months). Baby & Me is held weekly at each branch and includes music, exciting board books, and fun toys. It's a rhyme time for babies, infants, and their care-

Storytime and Baby givers that helps build on ducing little ones to li-child's life from the very for the future. Dates and socialization skills, eye- braries, and more. These beginning and provides hand coordination, intro- programs will enrich your an excellent foundation



Mr. Diego Mares -Children's Librarian, **Chambers County** Library, Anahuac

Ms. Tami Smith -Children's Librarian, Juanita Hargraves Memorial Branch,

Winnie

Ms. Liz Sandoval -Children's Librarian, Sam & Carmena Gross Memorial Branch, Mont

Relvieu

times for these events are as follows:

Chambers County Library, Anahuac: Mr. Diego presents: Baby & Me every Tuesday at 10:30am, and Storytime every Thursday at 10:30am

Juanita Hargraves Memorial Branch, Winnie: Ms. Tami presents: Baby & Me every Wednesday at 10:30am, and Storytime every Friday at 10:30am

Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Branch, Mont Belvieu: Ms. Liz presents: Baby & Me every Tuesday at 10:30am, and Storytime every Friday at 10:30am

Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown

Methodist Offers Saturday Morning Sports Injury Clinic

By David Taylor Editor

The cracking of pads, yelling coaches, and August temperatures have excited fans for the return of football to their favorite gridiron in east Harris County. Houston Methodist Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Clinic in Baytown will figure in the Friday night lights on Saturday mornings when athletes who have sustained injuries need prompt treatment from board-certified sports medicine physicians, even on a walk-in basis.

"Fall is a busy time for student sports programs, and our goal is to simplify the process of receiving treatment for injured students," emphasized Dr. Michael Hopson, an orthopedic surgeon at Houston Methodist Orthopedics & Sports Medicine Clinic in

Baytown and team physician for the Houston Astros, Rice University and Barbers Hill High School.

Hopson is part of a team of trainers that spread out across the east Harris County area who work with various schools, some during game coverage.

The program has been around for a decade and Hopson has been a part for the last six.

"When the athlete comes in, we can get their imaging and diagnosis down in a relatively timely fashion," Hopson said. Most don't need to make

weekday appointments. "Our clinic is outfitted

with cutting-edge imaging technologies, enabling us to identify issues and begin appropriate treatment quickly. This can be the pivotal factor in expediting the healing process and facilitating a return to the field," Hopson explained.



The clinic offers comprehensive services, including imaging, concussion assessment, personalized treatment, and protocols for returning to the game. Accomplished athletic trainers and physical therapists are available onsite.

Hopson said the Saturday clinics can also save parents an expensive trip to the emergency room.

"When physicians can see the athletes immediately following an injury

during a Friday night game, it improves care because we provide treatment from the beginning," said Dr. Hopson.

Hopson, who's from New Mexico, loves the excitement of high school football in Texas and he's treated athletes on just about every surface.

"I think nationally, there is data, at least in the orthopedic surgery literature, that would support a little bit of a higher increase on turf artificial surfaces, as opposed to grass depending on a variety of factors. But I think every surgeon would agree that we see lots of injuries on both," the doctor said. Hopson also provides his services for Rice University and the Houston Astros.

Hopson warns athletes not to skip their warmups and cool downs following

workouts or games. "Cool downs with lots and lots of stretching, and obviously, hydration is really a key factor to all of that," he said.

Hopson recommends doing at least a half hour of good stretching of all the activated muscle groups and drink copious amounts of water or other electrolye replacement fluid as soon as they can.

The clinics opened Aug. 19 and will continue every Saturday through Nov. 4 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Houston Methodist Baytown Outpatient Clinic at 1677 W. Baker Road, Suite 1701, Baytown, Texas, 77521. No appointments are required but bring the school's medical form provided by the athletic trainer or coach and relevant insurance information.

Please visit houstonmethodist.org/athlete or call 281-427-7400 for more information.

★ OPINION PAGE ★

TEXAS GLO

By Dawn Buckingham, M.D.
Commissioner, Texas General Land Office

GLO has built more than 12,000 homes in Texas since Hurricane Harvey

When Hurricane Harvey struck the Texas coast nearly six years ago, the destruction was immense. The damage was so significant, Governor Greg Abbott tapped the Texas General Land Office (GLO) to be the first state agency to assist the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with distributing short-term housing resources. Then in 2018, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) gave the GLO the greenlight to draft a plan for more than \$5 billion in long-term housing recovery funding. By 2019, the Texas GLO had launched the largest home repair and reconstruction program in Texas.



Happy Houston Homeowner Neisha Andrews

All long-term disaster recovery funding from HUD for homeowners in Houston and Harris County were initially administered at the local level. However, when progress lagged, the GLO stepped in to help rebuild homes, allowing local leaders to focus on other recovery efforts such as buyouts, infrastructure, multifamily rentals, and public services. Under a new cooperative plan spearheaded by Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, for the first time both Harris County and the City of Houston met all of their program benchmarks with Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds. These milestones were set by the city and county and approved by the GLO to ensure all programs will be completed as timely as possible.

The GLO has achieved tremendous success in administering the Homeowner Assistance Program, which has helped more than 2,250 Houstonians and Harris County residents get approved for home rebuilding assistance and has fully rebuilt nearly 1,600 homes. Overall, the GLO has rebuilt more than 12,000 homes for homeowners and renters in Texas since Hurricane Harvey. In January 2021, the GLO completed the state's first Homeowner Reimbursement Program having reimbursed about 3,000 Texas families for approximately \$86 million in out-of-pocket repairs. The GLO has also awarded \$89,125,000 to help 574 businesses recover from Hurricane Harvey while creating or supporting 1,843 jobs.

"My commitment remains steadfast, to serve the people we are meant to serve and do it well," said Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D. "This success is proof of my commitment to ensuring more than disaster recovery and mitigation funding is put to work to benefit the people who call Harris County and the City of Houston home."

On June 6, 2023, Harris County Commissioner's Court unanimously approved a list of projects for \$322 million in CDBG-DR funds and up to \$502.5 million in mitigation funds as well as authorized the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) to take all necessary actions to expedite the administration of the funding. This development follows a robust commitment to cooperation, which was highlighted in March with a joint press conference with several county leaders and Commissioner Buckingham in Houston

Commissioner Adrian Garcia introduced Item 115 to the court stating, "I want to give a shout out to the GLO and Commissioner Buckingham for her support of Harris County and giving us a degree of trust." Commissioner Tom Ramsey noted the fairness of the plan noting that it worked out to about 25% for each precinct and stated, "job well done by the whole." Commissioner Lesley Briones echoed the sense of gratitude to HCFCD Director, Dr. Tina Petersen, and to Commissioner Buckingham for working together stating, "This is so wonderful that we were able to hit reset and really focus on the progress going forward."

"Thanks to open communications and focused cooperation, we are proud to see new success with disaster recovery, housing, infrastructure and mitigation funding," said Dr. Buckingham. "The GLO is dedicated to helping Harris County and the City of Houston put these vital funds to good



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

STAAR Scores Show Continued Struggles in Math, Reading

Texas public student scores in standardized testing continue to improve since the pandemic, but more than half of those taking the test still struggle with math and just under half read below grade-level, the Texas Tribune reported.

Students in grades three through eight took the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness tests in math and reading last spring. The results were released last week by the Texas Education Agency.

Math scores have improved since the pandemic low of just 35% meeting grade level or above in math in 2021, up to 43% in the latest STAAR scores. The percentage of students reading at grade level or above was essentially flat at 52%, but still above pre-pandemic levels, which were 47% in 2019.

Teachers across Texas continue to work with passion and skill to help students learn," said Mike Morath, Texas Education Commissioner. "This year's results show the efforts of our educators continue to deliver improved results for students."

LAWYERS: PAXTON USED BURNER PHONES, FAKE UBER ACCOUNT

A series of documents filed by House impeachment managers claim suspended Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton gave indicted real estate developer Nate Paul "unfettered access" to the AG's office in order to "harass his enemies," The Dallas Morning News reported

Morning News reported.

Paxton used burner phones, a secret personal email account and a fake Uber account in order to visit a woman with whom he was having an extramarital affair, the documents indicate.

"Uber records reflect drivers picked up Paxton under the alias of 'Dave P' a block from his home and



ferried him to his lover's or Paul's properties more than a dozen times from August 6, 2020, until October 2, 2020," the House managers wrote.

Paul allegedly bribed Paxton by paying for a house remodeling and giving Paxton's lover a job, the documents indicate.

Paul was indicted in June for federal financial crimes. A federal grand jury is reportedly looking into Paxton's connection with Paul. Paxton was impeached by the Texas House in late May and faces trial in the Senate on Sept. 5. He was immediately suspended without pay upon being impeached.

Paxton also faces a criminal trial next year on a 2015 indictment for securities fraud.

NEW STRAIN OF COVID-19 BEING MONITORED

The World Health Organization is monitoring a new strain of COVID-19 it says is accounting for a growing share of cases in several countries, including the United States, according to the Texas Standard. EG.5, or "Eris," is being monitored to see how it might mutate.

how it might mutate.

Dr. Catherine Trosi, an infectious diseases epidemiologist at UTHealth Houston School of Public Health, said it's hard to know the exact cause of the recent uptick in COV-ID cases.

"When the public health emergency ended, a lot of tracking went away," she told the Texas Standard. "The latest data shows 17% of cases are due to this variant. But we're not tracking cases really well because people have stopped testing. Even if you test positive, it doesn't get reported to health departments. So really the markers we have are hospitalizations, which we have seen go up quite significantly - although it's important to remember we are still at historic lows in terms of hospitalizations due to COVID."

The Texas Department of State Health Services reported a rolling seven-day average of 929 hospitalized COVID-19 patients, up 132 from the previous week, with 21 fatalities.

SURVEY: 80% OF ANTI-MIGRANT BUOYS ARE IN MEXICO

A survey by the binational agency in charge of the Rio Grande indicates nearly all of the anti-migrant buoys Texas has installed in the river are on the Mexican side of the river, The Dallas Morning News reported.

The survey by the International Boundary and Water Commission found that of the 995-foot string of buoys installed near Eagle Pass last month, 787 feet — nearly 80% — are on the Mexican side.

on the Mexican side.

The U.S. Justice Department has sued the state in attempt to force it to remove the barrier. In court, the state has insisted the barrier is on the U.S. side of the river. Mexico contends the barriers violate both federal law and an international treaty between it and the United States.

EMPLOYMENT RECORDS SET IN THE STATE

Texas has more jobs and more people employed than ever before, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. The state has recorded 29 consecutive months of growth and again leads the nation in the number of jobs added over the past year — 441,700 new positions since July 2022.

"Texas leads the nation in sustainable job growth with more than 2.7 million positions added in the past decade," said TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel. "The Texas economy remains strong, and TWC will continue to provide support through tools and resources for job seekers and employers alike."

The leisure and hospitality sector led job growth with 9,800 jobs, while manufacturing added 6,600 positions, closely followed by private education and health service with 6,400 jobs. Of the 26,300 new jobs added in July, all but 400 were in the private sector.



Daddy's Home

It's seven minutes after 10 p.m., and the usual ruckus en-

My husband, Peter, is wearing earplugs. He is in the habit of doing this when we're staying in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, because our little apartment is right in the center of town and, like all the homes in San Miguel, there is no air conditioning because it is cool this high in the mountains.

But the last few weeks have been warm, and it's nice to have fresh air. So we open the sliding door to our little balcony, and we hear everything that happens on our streeT.

The occasional truck rattles down the cobblestones. The street is too narrow for large vehicles, so it's only a few small trucks and folks getting home late from work.

We are surrounded by churches in all directions, and church bells ring early most mornings. Visitors are mystified, trying to understand when they ring and for how long. I suspect this is not, in fact, an exact science. Someone has to climb all the way to the top of the bell tower to ring the bells, and I guess anyone willing to take that job should be able to ring them as long as they like.

Firecrackers explode—sometimes in the evenings, but frequently in the mornings when the church bells ring. The fireworks have to do with the celebration of various saints and events on the religious calendar and so, while they are startling, I respect that they are part of the culture, part of living in the center of this very old city in the middle of Mexico.

But, usually, just before we go to sleep, the dogs across the street start barking like crazy, and even Peter's earplugs do no good.

This is the thing that used to irritate me the mosT.

I would be almost asleep, and there would be this terrific yapping—loud and persistent and very high-pitched. I assumed it was random, and I was irritated that the owner didn't do something about this nightly nuisance.

It was Peter who finally recognized the pattern.

At roughly the same time every night, we hear a motorcycle come down the narrow cobblestone road. We hear it stop, and as soon as it does, two little dogs start barking. We hear the sound of a metal garage door open, and the barking increases. Then we hear the motorcycle start up again and the garage door close behind. That's when the barking reaches a fever pitch.

Peter says, "Daddy's home."
I wondered if he was right, so I started listening. Sure enough, it happened at the same time every night. Occasionally, Daddy got home an hour early, but generally, it was just after 10 p.m

Motorcycle stops. Barking starts. Motorcycle starts. Barking goes crazy.

And who can blame these two unseen dogs for losing their little minds once a night—the most exciting time of the day—when Daddy finally gets home?

Of course, we don't know what happens. We don't even know which house the little dogs live in. But I imagine Daddy makes dinner for them when he gets home. He probably tells them what good dogs they are. I can tell from their excitement it is a happy household with these two dogs and Daddy.

And so now, in addition to the church bells and the fire-crackers and the occasional rattling truck, I listen for those two excited dogs. They no longer annoy me. I imagine their anticipation—the motor stopping, the motor starting and finally the long-awaited moment.

Daddy's home! Till next time, Carrie



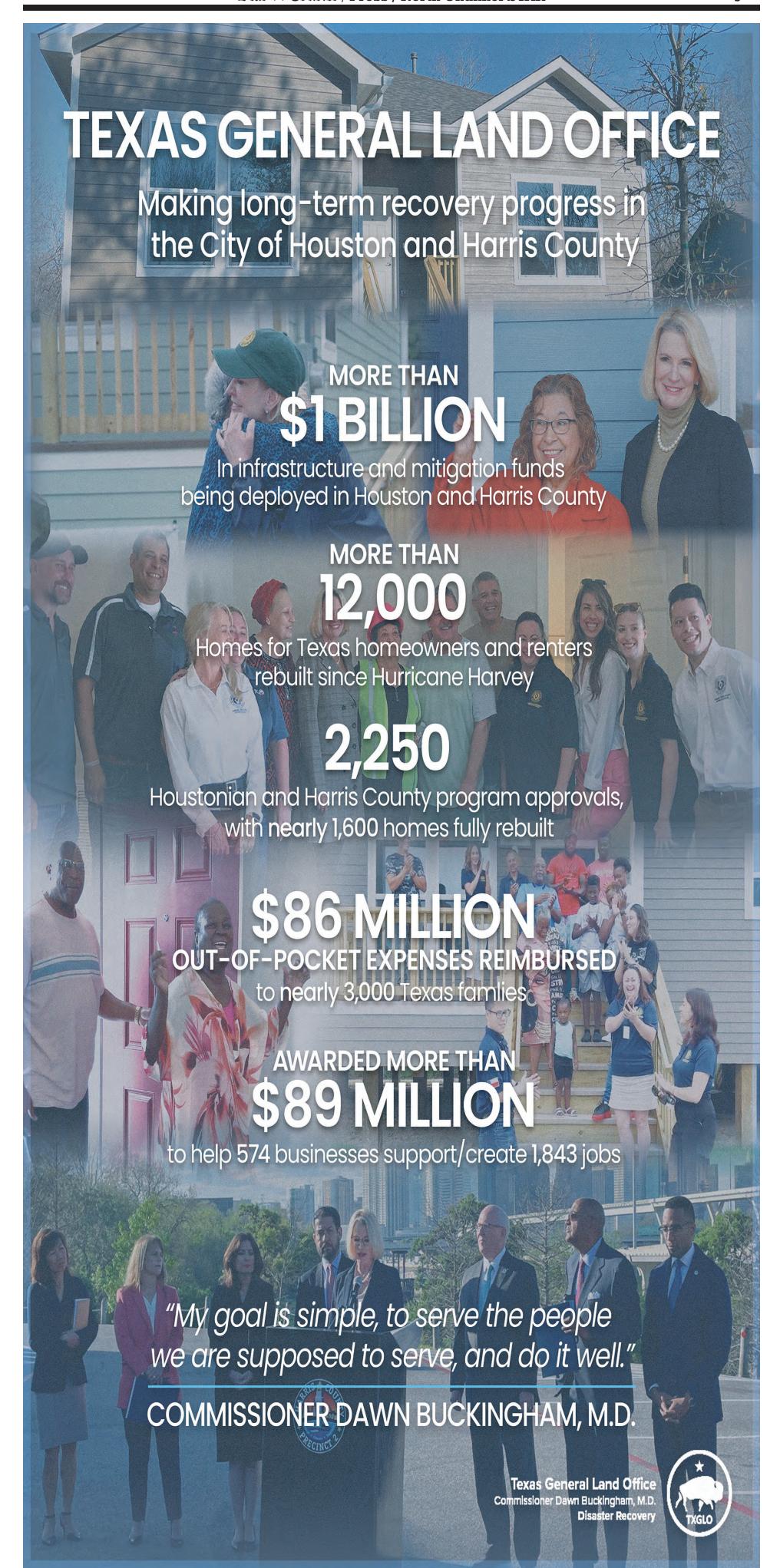
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SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 1

Varsity programs enter second week of season: College football gears up over Labor Day Weekend

Labor Day Weekend brings with it the official start of the college football season and to celebrate its 154th year, fans can watch games from Thursday to Monday, in addition to celebrating a three-day weekend.

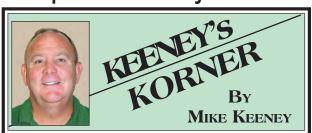
While some schools started the season last weekend, many consider this the first meaningful weekend of the 2023 season. Teams from the West Coast, to the East Coast, to the Southwest. Southeast and Midwest will be vying for the coveted four berths in the College Football Playoffs (CFP), which will culminate on Monday, Jan. 8 at NRG Stadium where the CFP title game will be played.

I shared my predictions in last week's column on who I think will be the final two teams standing next January and now it's time to once again try and predict who wins what games on a week-to-week basis.

This holiday weekend offers some interesting matchups in the college game and some mismatches, especially Texas A&M hosting New Mexico (2-10 a year ago), while No. 11-ranked Texas will look to get off to a good start in head coach Steve Sarkisian's third year in Austin against a frisky Rice squad.

One of the better games this weekend will pit the University of San Antonio-Texas (UTSA) against the Houston Cougars at TDECU Stadium. A year ago, the Cougars won in San Antonio, 37-35, in what was a thrilling game.

Aggie fans are hoping Jimbo Fisher's sixth season in College Station is much better than last year's 5-7 record. Another



subpar year could make things uncomfortably warm for Fisher.

Nationally, the best game on the schedule comes on Sunday night when No. 5 LSU takes on No. 8-ranked Florida State in Orlando. Other good games on the schedule have Florida visiting No. 14-ranked Utah on Thursday night, No. 21-ranked North Carolina facing South Carolina for bragging rights of the Carolina's and No. 9 Clemson visiting Duke on Labor Day evening.

So, without further ado, let's take a look at those games slated for Labor Day Weekend.

NCAA

Florida at Utah: The Labor Day Weekend football marathon kicks off on Thursday night with No., 14-ranked Utah hosing Florida of the SEC. The Gators are entering their second season under the direction of head coach Billy Napier and Florida fans want to see improvement after he led the team to a 6-7 finish in his first year on the job. Wisconsin transfer Graham Mertz (2,136 yards, 19 TDs) will replace Anthony Richardson at QB. Richardson is now the starting QB for the Indianapolis Colts. Mertz does not Richardson's athletic ability, but he has

big-game experience having played in the Big 10 for the Badgers. Utah finished 10-4 a year ago and returns a strong offensive nucleus led by QB Cameron Rising (3,034 yards, 26 TDs), running back Montrell Johnson (844 yards, 1 TD) and wide receiver Ricky Pearsall)33 receptions, 661 yards, 1 TD). Florida beat the Utes 29-26 last year in Gainesville and this year, look for Utah to turn the tide on the Gators. My pick, Utah 31, Florida 23

Rice at Texas: Year 3 of the Steve Sarkisian Era at UT begins on Saturday at Royal Memorial Stadium as his Longhorns take on Rice. UT is picked by many to win the Big 12 in their last year in the conference before they and OU depart for the SEC. Texas needs to get off to a good start to let the rest of the league know they are for real this year. It appears quarterback Quinn Ewers (2,177 vards, 15 TDs) has matured and taken more of a leadership role and that should be good news for UT fans. The Texas passing game should be solid led by him and WRs Xavier Worthy (60 receptions, 760 yards, 9 TDs) and Jordan Whittington (50 receptions, 652 yards, 1 TD) and tight end Ja'Tavion Sanders (50

receptions, 613 yards, 5 TDs). The key to the Texas offense will be finding a replacement for All-American running back Bijan Robinson, who was drafted seventh by the Atlanta Falcons in last spring's NFL Draft. Jonathan Brooks (197 yards, 5 TDs) will get the first chance to be the starting running back. Rice finished 5-8 a year ago and earned a bowl bid. They have a veteran QB in well-traveled J.T. Daniels (USC, Georgia and West Virginia) who passed for 2,107 yards and 13 TDs last year at West Virginia. Look for Texas to roll on Saturday. My pick, Texas 41, Rice 14

UTSA at Houston: This

should be one of the better

games of the weekend and could turn into an offensive shootout like it did a year ago with the Cougars pulling out a 37-35 win in San Antonio. UTSA finished 11-3 a year ago and has one of the top dual-threat QBs in the country in Frank Harris (4,063 passing yards, 32 TDs/ 602 rushing yards, 9 TDs). He should give the UH defense fits on Saturday. UH will be starting a new QB now that three-year starter Clayton Tune has left for the NFL. Texas Tech transfer Donovan Smith (1,505 passing yards, 12 TDs/116 rushing yards, 7 TDs) has been tabbed as Tune's replacement by head coach Dana Holgerson. Smith will have some help with veteran runners Branden Campbell (435 yards, 4 TDs) and Stacy Sneed (501 yards, 5 TDs) back in the fold and he has a big-play wide receiver in sophomore Matthew Golden (38 receptions, 584 yards, 7 TDs). Look for this one to go down to the wire like it did a year ago, with Smith making one more play than Harris to lead the Coogs to victory. My pick, Houston 34, UTSA 31

New Mexico at Texas A&M: Aggie fans are hoping their team learned a hard lesson after last year's 5-7 record. They could use a blowout against a New Mexico team that finished 2-10 a year ago. Look for the Aggies to come out clicking on all cylinders led by QB Conner Wiegman (896 yards, 8 TDs) and the return of speedy wide receiver Ainias Smith (15 receptions, 291 yards, 2 TDs in just four games). Smith's loss last year forced true freshmen wide receivers Evan Stewart (53 receptions, 649 yards, 2 TDs) and Moose Muhammad II (35 receptions, 610 yards, 4 TDs) to grow up early and they did. They both should be big parts of the Aggie offense this season. Look for a blowout at Kyle Field on Saturday. My pick, Texas A&M

45, New Mexico 10 North Carolina at South Carolina: This game pits two talented QBs at NC's Drake Maye (4,321 passing yards, 38 TDs/698 rushing yards, 7 TDs) takes on SC's Spencer Rattler (3,026 yards, 18 TDs). Maye could be a top-five pick in the 2024 NFL draft and Mac Brown's team has another weapon in running back Elijah Green (558 yards, 8 TDs). The Gamecocks have a pretty fair back as well in Marshawn Lloyd (573 yards, 9 TDs). This should be a fun game to watch, with Maye being the difference maker. My pick, North Carolina 34, South Carolina 32

LSU vs. Florida State: This is probably the best game on the Labor Day Weekend schedule as the No. 5-ranked Tigers take on the No. 8 Seminoles in Orlando. This game features two of the top dual threat QBs in the country in LSU's Jayden Daniels (2,913 passing yards, 17 TDs/ 885 rushing yards, 11 TDs) and FSU's Jordan Travis (3,214

passing yards, 24 TDs/417 rushing yards, 7 TDs). LSU also has playmakers in running back Josh Williams (532 yards, 6 TDs) and wide receiver Malik Nabors (72 receptions, 1,017 yards, 3 TDs). The 'Noles will counter with running back Tay Benson (990 yards, 9 TDs). A year ago, FSU squeaked out a 24-23 win over Brian Kelly's team, this year, the Tigers extract revenge. My pick, LSU 31, FSU 28

Clemson at Duke: No. 9 Clemson (11-3 in 2022) starts the season with an ACC road game against a tough Duke squad that finished 9-4 a year ago. Clemson head coach Dabo Swiney, and Tiger fans, wants to become relevant again and contend for a CFP berth. Swiney is pinning his hopes on sophomore QB Cade Klubnik (697 yards, 7 TDS in 10 games). Klubnik was a star QB at Austin Westlake and has all the tools to be the next big "thing" that comes out of Clemson (think Trevor Lawrence). He will need help from running back Phil Matah (515 yards, 4 TDs). Duke won nine games a year ago in head coach Mike Elko's first season on the job, which included a Military Bowl win over Central Florida. The Blue Devils have a dual-threat QB in Riley Leonard (2,967 rushing yards, 20 TDs/699 rushing yards, 13 TDs). He also has some other weapons on offense in running back Jordan Watkins (566 yards, 8 TDs) and wide receiver Jalen Calhoun (62 receptions, 873 yards, 4 TDs). Look for the Clemson defense to make a play late to lead the Tigers to a big first win of the season. My pick, Clemson 26, Duke 23

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Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 517338; Estate of A. WALDEN ENDS A/K/A ALBERT WALDEN ENDS, JR. Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on AUGUST 22, 2023.

LYNETTE BISHOP RELYEA

residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

> c/o Weston Cotten 1500 E. Wallisville Road Highlands, TX 77562

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this AUGUST 24, 2023

by WESTON COTTEN Attorney for the Estate **TRACTOR WORK**

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Sep 1-Hunter Enlow Sep 2–Craig Zadropa Sep 3-Jenelle Cooper

Mildred Johnson Sep 4–L. Virge Blackmon Clara Fulmer Robert McCown

Ralph Brewer Jim Elmer Sep 7-Phillip Cumbie Sep 8–Janice Havard Annastacia Nichols

Sep 5-Matthew Abott

Lorie Taylor Sep 9-Lori Howard Nicholas King Maegan Lindsey Allison Little Edwin Sheffield Michael S. Sullivan Cynthia Wotipka Boland

ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 30-Gene & Vi Fleming Aug 31–Glenn & Linda Conard

Sep 2–Skip & Thelma Bauman Sep 3–Caroll & Louise

Johnson Sep 7-James R. & Kathy

Townsend Sep 12–Randall & Lisa

Henning Sep 17-Johnny & Lana Gaeke



FOOTBALL SCORES & SCHEDULES

RESULTS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24 Alvin 49, Aldine 0 Eisenhower 18, Morton Ranch 16 Kingwood Park 21, MacArthur 13 Nimitz 20, Grand Oaks 7

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25 Barbers Hill 28, Magnolia West 18 Baytown Lee 33. South Houston 22 Baytown Sterling 63, Northbrook 0 C. E. King 58, Crosby 22 Galena Park 14, Goose Creek Memorial 13 Humble 21, Channelview 0 Katy Jordan 39, Davis 21 Legacy School of Sport Sciences 29, Huffman Hargrave 0 Porter 42, Dayton 21 North Shore 38, The Woodlands 17

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31 Baytown Sterling at Brazoswood, 7 o.m., Hopper Field in Freeport Eisenhower at Conroe, 7 p.m., Moorhead Stadium in Conroe Nimitz at Cy Ridge, 6:30 p.m., Pridgeon Stadium in Cypress

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 Aldine at Northbrook, 7 p.m., Tully Stadium in Houston Barbers Hill at Montgomery, 7:30 p.m., Montgomery ISD Stadium in Montgomery C. E. King at Allen, 7 p.m., Eagle Stadium in Allen Texas Clear Brook at Baytown Lee, 7 p.m., Stallworth Stadium in Baytown Crosby at Fort Bend Marshall, 7 p.m., Kenneth Hall Stadium in Missouri City Cypress Lakes at Davis, 7 p.m., Leonard George Stadium in Spring Galena Park at Caney Creek, 7 p.m., Moorhead Stadium in Conroe MacArthur at Channelview, 7 p.m., Ray Maddry Memorial Stadium in Channelview Silsbee at Huffman Hargrave, 7 p.m., Falcon Stadium in Huffman Spring at North Shore, 7 p.m., Galena Park ISD Stadium in Houston Galena Park at Caney Creek, 7 p.m., Moorhead Stadium in Conroe

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 Dayton at Waltrip, 6 p.m., Delmai Stadium in Houston Goose Creek Memorial at Bellaire, 6 p.m., Butler Stadium in Houston



Restrictions,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cal for our systems," she warned.

Since the beginning of the drought, Chasteen reported the MUD district has faced at least one main water break per day and up to as many as three.

"What that means is they have to shut the water off, dig down to find the leak, make the repair and turn the water back on," she said. The good news is the repairs are done within three to four hours.

"We have an awesome crew taking care of us," she said.

Back at the office, boil water notices were being fired off to neighborhoods with the leaks and repairs.

The ground, she said, is like powder with no rain and extremely high temperatures.

Chasteen said the last time the district had been at a Level 4 drought plan was in 2011.

"We get our water from the San Jacinto River. Fortunately, the lake level has been maintained since they get water from both the San Jacinto and the Trinity River," she said.

Incoming water goes through the treatment plant and pushed up through the tower where it's dispersed to taps throughout the communi-

Infrastructure work is not 'sexy,' she said, because it's underground and no one sees it or complains about it until their water or sewer has trouble.

"Our water and sewer lines are concrete, and more than 50-60 years old and crumbling. We're due for replacement and we've finished about four sections," she said.

Engineers had told them to bet on at least 30 percent replacement, but the district ended up with closer to 55 percent instead.

"Water lines are normally six feet deep, but ours are at 12 feet which also makes it a little more expensive," she said.

The district is now requesting all its customers to participate in the district's mandatory water conservation efforts.

Failure to do so could mean a loss in water pressure which could be disastrous.

"We even asked the volunteer fire department to get their water for training elsewhere until conditions get better," she said.

Crosby Fire Chief Alan Kulak said the department must continue with training and now draw their water from new subdivision SweetGrass Village.

"We understand the situation and happy to take it from SweetGrass. They don't have taps yet and we're able to draw water from them for the firemen to get their practice in," he

Kulak said they were very concerned about the fire danger the community is in right now.

"I've never seen a posted Red Flag for Crosby since I've been here fighting fires," he said.

According to the National Weather Service, "A Red Flag warning means warm temperatures, very low humidities, and stronger winds are expected to produce an increased risk of fire danger."

Harris County is also under a strict burn ban.

"Something as simple as throwing a cigarette out, or sparks from an ATV in grass, or charcoal from grilling could easily become a major fire," Kulak warned. "We're in a dire situation."

The fire department has already been fighting numerous grass fires.

"The district requests that all water consumers restrict any 'non-essential' water use," she said.

According to their website, that includes "water that is not essential for the protection of public health, safety, and welfare, including landscape irrigation, use of water to wash down sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard surfaces. The use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike travel trailer, boat, or trailer. Flushing gutters, fill or refill to add water to any pool or jacuzzi- type pools or use of hydrants for construction purpose or any other purpose other than fighting fire are all prohibited."

Penalties will be stiff for violators. After legal notice, the board could punish violators up to \$500 for the first violation. A second violation could lead to termination of water service and a penalty up to \$10,000.

To report leaks or line breaks, please contact the district at 281-324-9803. For email alerts, sign up on the district's website at www.newportmudtx.org.

I-10 Bridge Design,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

acquisition and construction, may be obtained from Angelica Sizemore, Right of Way Project Coordinator, at (713) 504-9628.

Written comments from

the public regarding the proposed project are requested and may be submitted in any language. Please submit your comments by mail to the Tx-DOT Houston District Office, Advanced Project Development Director, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas 77251-1386. Written comments may also be submitted by email to HOU-

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PIOwebmail @txdot.gov. All comments must be received or postmarked by Friday, Oct. 6, 2023. Responses to comments received will be available online at the web address listed above once complet-

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or the public meeting, please contact Jeanne Javadi, P.E., Project Manager, at (713) 802-5517 or bу email Jeanne.Javadi@txdot.gov.

Newport Drought Burn Ban now for Harris County

Ban in Effect for 90 Days or until cancelled

Harris County - Harris County Commissioner's Court approved a burn ban in Unincorporated Harris County due to extreme temperatures and continuous dry conditions. Harris County joins 168 Texas counties that have already implemented a burn ban, including our neighbors in Galveston, Waller, Chambers, and Liberty

County. "The burn ban is in place to reduce the potential of a devastating wildfire happening in our community," said Fire Marshal Laurie L. Christensen. "The excessive heat conditions we have been experiencing and lack of rain have elevated KBDI levels and vegetation fuels. The safety of Harris County is in our proactive actions- let's heed the ban. reduce risks, and protect our community."

The burn ban means no outdoor burning is allowed, except in an enclosure that contains all flames and/or sparks; outdoor burning activities authorized by TCEQ; approved ceremonial fires; non-commercial cooking

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Texas

such as backyard cookouts and barbeques are allowed; and welding and other "hot work" performed in accordance with county fire code requirements.

Violation of the ban is a Class "C" misdemeanor, punishable by up to a \$500 fine. In addition, any person who starts a fire that causes damage to property without the owner's consent may be charged with Reckless Damage or Destruction, a Class C misdemeanor, or arson, a felony.

Preparation is critical when protecting your property and home from the threat of wildfire damage. Here are a few effective actions and precautions you can take to minimize the risk:

-- DO NOT burn on "red Flag" or windy days, and think twice before burning outdoors when KBDI approaches 700 or more.

-- LPG tanks should be far enough away from buildings for valves to be shut off in case of fire. Keep the area around the tank clear of flammable vegetation.

-- Store gasoline in an approved safety can away from occupied buildings.

-- All combustibles such as firewood, wooden picnic tables, boats, and stacked lumber should

be kept away from structures. -- Clear roof surfaces and gutters regularly to avoid the buildup of flammable materials such

-- Remove branches from trees to a height of 15 feet or more.

as leaves and other debris.

-- In rural areas, clear a fuel break of at least three times the fuel length around all structures.

-- Have fire tools handy such as a ladder long enough to reach your roof, a shovel, a rake, and a bucket or two for water.

-- Place connected garden hoses on all sides of your home for emergency use.

-- Assure you and your family know all emergency exits from

vour home. The burn ban will be in effect for 90 days or until TFS determines that Harris County is no

longer experiencing a drought.

To contact our office for questions, please email: fmosupport@fmo

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Notice

Virtual Public Meeting with In-Person Open House Interstate Highway (I) 10 at San Jacinto River Bridge Reconstruction (I)10: From Magnolia Street to Thompson Road and

> Spur 330: From I-10 to Thompson Road Control Section Job (CSJ): 0508-01-379 Harris County, Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Houston District, is proposing improvements along I-10 at the San Jacinto River from west of Magnolia Street to Thompson Road and Spur 330 from I-10 to Thompson Road in Harris County, Texas, a distance of 4.5 miles. This notice advises the public that TxDOT will be conducting an online Virtual Public Meeting on the proposed project with an inperson open house. The Virtual Public Meeting will be available starting on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, by 5 p. m. The Virtual Public Meeting will consist of a pre-recorded video presentation and will include both audio and visual components. To view the Virtual Public Meeting presentation and view project information, go to the following web address www.txdot.gov/projects/hearings meetings.html.

Please note that the presentation will not be available on the website until the time and date listed above. If you do not have internet access, you may call (713) 802-5560 between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, to ask questions and access project materials during the project development process. Formal comments may be provided by mail or email as explained below.

Additionally, TxDOT is providing an in-person open house option for individuals who would like to participate in person, instead of online. In-person attendees will be able to view the same prerecorded presentation as posted online, review hard copies of project materials, ask questions, and submit written comments. The in- person open house option will be held on Thursday, September 21, 2023, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Martin L. Flukinger Community Center, 16003 Lorenzo Street,

The purpose of the project is to improve traffic flow, increase navigational safety, and enhance roadway network connectivity within the project limits. The proposed project would replace the existing I-10 main lane bridges over the San Jacinto River. The existing bridges have a 23-foot vertical clearance and a 158-foot-wide horizontal navigational clearance. Due to repeated barge traffic collisions with the bridge structures on the San Jacinto River, the proposed I-10 main lane bridges would consist of a wider navigational opening and tentatively consist of steel girder bridges with a 52-foot vertical clearance and a 386-foot horizontal navigational clearance.

The proposed project would also add vehicular capacity to I-10 within the project limits. The existing highway in this location consists of three lanes in each direction. The proposed project would add one general purpose lane, acceleration/deceleration lanes and entrance and exit ramps, and two managed lanes in each direction. Managed lanes are highway lanes where operational strategies, such as, but not limited to HOV lanes or emergencies services, are proactively implemented, and managed in response to changing conditions. Proposed improvements along Spur 330 include widening to add one managed lane in each direction and connect to the proposed I-10 managed lanes. Currently Spur 330 consists of two 12-foot main lanes and two 12-foot frontage lanes in each

The proposed project would, subject to final design considerations, require approximately 5.4 acres of additional right-of-way (ROW) and potentially displace one non-residential structure containing two businesses and would relocate the City of Baytown city limit monument. Relocation assistance is available for displaced persons and businesses. Information about the TxDOT Relocation Assistance Program and services and benefits for those displaced and other affected property owners, as well as information about the tentative schedule for ROW acquisition and construction, may be obtained from Angelica Sizemore, Right of Way Project Coordinator, at (713) 504-9628.

The proposed project would involve construction in wetlands.

The proposed project would involve an action in a floodplain.

Any environmental documentation or studies, maps and drawings showing the project location and design, tentative construction schedules, and other information regarding the proposed project are on file and available for review Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the TxDOT Houston District Office, 7600 Washington Avenue, Houston, Texas 77007. Project materials are also available online at www.txdot.gov/projects/hearings-meetings.html. These materials will also be available in hard copy form for review at the in-person open house.

The Public Meeting will be conducted in English and Spanish. If you need an interpreter or document translator because English or Spanish is not your primary language or you have difficulty communicating effectively in English or Spanish, one will be provided to you free of charge. If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. If you need interpretation or translation services or you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation to attend and participate in the public meeting, please contact Gabriel Adame, NEPA Public Engagement Coordinator, at (713) 802-5199 or Gabriel.Adame@txdot.gov no later than 4 p.m. CT, Thursday, September 14, 2023. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for the project team to

Written comments from the public regarding the proposed project are requested and may be submitted in any language. Please submit your comments by mail to the TxDOT Houston District Office, Advanced Project Development Director, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas 77251-1386.

Written comments may also be submitted by email to HOU-PIOwebmail@txdot.gov. All comments must be received or postmarked by Friday, October 6, 2023. Responses to comments received will be available online at the web address listed above once completed.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the proposed project or the Public Meeting, please contact Jeanne Javadi, P.E., Project Manager, at (713) 802-5517 or via email at Jeanne.Javadi@txdot.gov.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U. S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA

Please call (713) 802-5199 to request special accommodations or if you have need for interpretation/translation.

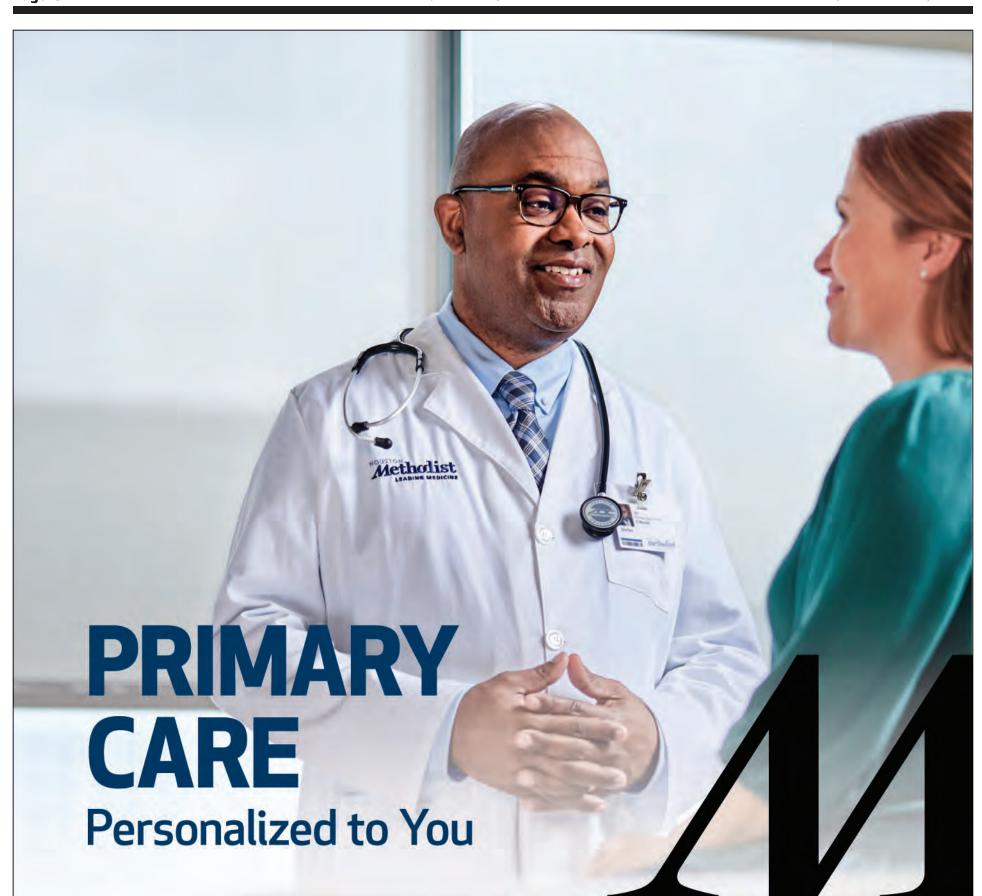
Mandarin: 如對住宿有特殊要求或需要口譯或筆譯, 請撥打 (713) 802-5199.

Swahili: Tafadhali piga simu kwa (713) 802-5199 ili kuomba malazi maalum au ikiwa unahitaji ukalimani au utafsiri.

Vietnamese: Xin hãy gọi (713) 802-5199 để yêu cầu cho các điều chỉnh đặc biệt hoặc nếu bạn cần có phiên dịch hoặc biên dịch.

Creole: Tanpri rele (713) 802-5199 pou mande aranjman espesyal oswa si ou bezwen entèprèt oswa tradiktè.

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