



Francis Perkins, Workers-Rights advocate. April 10, 1880 - May 14, 1965. See Story Page 5

NORTH CHANNEL STAR

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VOLUME 13, NO. 13 (#561) THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025 www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

North Shore Rotary Fish Fry April 26

North Shore Rotary Club will hold its 50th Annual Catfish Fry/Crawfish Boil on Saturday, April 26, 2025.

The event will be held at the North Shore Rotary Pavilion, behind the Courthouse at 14350 Wallisville Road, Houston 77049.

There will be a Live and Silent Auction, and a Raffle Drawing to award a new vehicle, either a 2025 Toyota Tacoma Double Cab pickup truck, or a 2025 Toyota Rav4 XLE SUV.

Raffle Tickets are on sale from any Rotarian, and at many local businesses. Raffle tickets are \$100 donation to the NSRC Charitable Foundation, Inc. and Food Tickets are \$15. Raffle tickets include 2 meals. Meals are served from 11:00am to 3:00pm, or until food runs out.

Contact Rotary at 713-410-5352 or danna@phase3servicesllc.com for ticket information or sponsorship opportunities.

San Jacinto River Residents Score Victory Against Dredging

Corps orders stop in Dredging and Barge fleeing

By Jackie Medcalf
THEA Exec. Director



EAST HARRIS COUNTY – Last April, the Army Corps of Engineers approved a permit to remove the rock breakwaters and dredge near the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site to allow a barge company to expand its floating area. The action came over the objections of local residents and THEA who were concerned that the dredging and increase in barge traffic could release more dioxin and other contami-

nants into the river and Galveston Bay. Hundreds of residents wrote letters expressing their concerns and we requested an environmental impact study prior to the permit approval and the Corps ignored the community requests.

So we sued. The legal group, Earthjustice, filed a lawsuit on our behalf alleging the agency improperly fast-tracked the permit which ignored community concerns and failed to properly assess

the environmental impacts before giving the dredging project the green light.

Now, the community has won a big victory. In a letter to Holtmar Land, LLC, the company that requested the permit, the Corps directed Holtmar to "to stop all activities previously authorized" under the permit. The Corps said the suspension "is in the public interest because the correct permitting pathway is in question."

This is not the final decision, but it means the work needs to stop while the Corps considers whether fast-tracking a permit in the area was the appropriate path..

It also means that, since the community, recreational boaters, and businesses all share the use of the river and the bay, companies and agencies can't just ignore the concerns of residents.

THEA Submits Comments Opposing Latest Cleanup Plan For Superfund Site.

The EPA is currently considering the plan for cleaning up the Northern Pit of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site. On February 26, THEA sent comments formally opposing the

plan as currently written. The plan is the latest in a series of plans submitted by the companies responsible for the toxic waste site, International Paper and Waste Management, the parent company of McGinnes Industrial Maintenance Corporation.

After reviewing the hundreds of pages of technical material, THEA informed the EPA that "we find that the design package remains incomplete and lacks critical elements necessary for the comprehensive and effective remediation of the complex site."

THEA points out in the comments that the Responsible Parties, RPs, agreed to produce a plan

Continued. See SAN JACINTO RIVER DREDGING, Page 3

Galena Park Lady Jackets Soccer Playoffs End

By Allan Jamail

Missouri City, TX. ~ March 20, 2025 at the Fort Bend ISD Kenneth Hall Stadium the GPISD Galena Park High School girl's soccer season came to an end. On the neutral field the Lady Yellow Jackets and the Lamar ISD Lady Lions from Richmond, Texas played their hearts out.

The Jackets lost by one point in the 2-1 low scoring game. Both teams fought hard during the two 40 minute halves. It showed to be exhausting during the 80 minute contest for both teams. Running full-speed up and down the 100 yard field continually required players to be in very good condition, their endurance was visibly equal but they both also was noticeably tired at the game's end.



L - R, Top row: Naima Martinez, Emily Luna, Jimena Castro, Kelly Fernandez, Xiclaly Sanchez, Ayleen Gomez, Nayruvick Cuellar, Emma Colon, Abigail Esqueda, Italia Estrada, Head Coach Alejandra Cruz, & Coach Shannon Summers. L - R, Bottom row: Ebany Garcia, Carly Orton-Newcomb, Desirae Vasquez, Sophia Medina, Lidia Luna, Leilani Aguilera, Madylyne Ramirez, Nicole Zavala, Marlene Flores, Anel Lugo. (Photo by Linda Jamail)

Continued. See GP SOCCER GIRLS TEAM FALLS, Page 3

NORTH SHORE ROTARY CLUB CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, INC.
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BASEBALL SEASON OPENS:

New-Look Astros seek 9th straight trip to Playoffs; Can Anyone beat the defending champ Dodgers?

Opening Day to kick off another baseball season is one of the best days of the year if you are a true-blue baseball fan like myself.

Life begins again on Thursday as 28 of the 30 teams will begin their quests to replace the Dodgers as World Series champions. (it should be noted the 2025 season officially started March 18-19 in Tokyo when the defending World Series champion Dodgers played the Chicago Cubs in a two-game series)

The Astros will be one of those contenders when they host the New York Mets at newly-named Daikin Park at 3:10 p.m. Thanks to my recent retirement from Aldine ISD after 27 years in the Communications Department, I will be there with friends to watch Game No. 1 of 162. I can't wait!

There's nothing like Opening Day. The feeling of hope permeates the air for fans of their favorite teams from Houston, to Detroit, to Atlanta, to New York and points along the way.

Over the last 10 years, Astro fans have witnessed the Golden Era of Houston baseball. The Astros have won two World Series titles (2017 and 2022), four American League championships (2017, 2019, 2021 and 2022), six AL West titles and have made the playoffs nine of



the last 10 years.

That's pretty impressive. And they've done it with three managers, A.J. Hinch, Dusty Baker and current skipper Joe Espada.

The 2025 season will see a lot of new faces and one very familiar face who may be playing a new position.

So, what's in store for our Astros in 2025?

Change, a lot of change, but a lot of optimism.

Gone is long-time third baseman Alex Bregman, who signed as a free agent with the Boston Red Sox, pitcher Justin Verlander, who signed as a free agent with the San Francisco Giants, right fielder Justin Tucker, who was traded to the Chicago Cubs for three players (more on those acquisitions later) and reliever Ryan Presley, who was also traded to the Cubs in a separate deal.

Joining the Astros this season will be third baseman Isaac Parades, who was acquired in the Tucker deal from the Cubs and will take over at third base. Parades is 25 and has a lot of potential. He struggled with the Cubs after he was traded from Tampa Bay last year, but if he regains his 2023 form (31 home runs, 98 RBIs), the Astros should be in good shape at third base. He's not the defensive player that Bregman is, but not many are. Bregman is a Gold Glove winner, but at 30 are his best days behind him? I guess we shall find out.

The Astros also acquired a possible starting pitcher from the Cubs in 26-year-old Hayden Wesneski (3-6, 3.86 ERA) in '24 with the Cubs. Wesneski could become the fifth starter in the

Continued. See KEENEY'S KORNER, Page 5

Town Hall hears Dreamers' Stories

Congresswoman Garcia reintroduces American Dream and Promise Act

EAST ALDINE – Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia held a Town Hall last Tuesday evening at the Lone Star College East Aldine campus. About a 100 persons, including LSC Chancellor Mario Castillo were present, and heard presentations from “Dreamers,” students who had benefitted from the previous legislation known as the American Dream and Promise Act. As this act is due to end and not be renewed by the Administration, Garcia has reintroduced the bill in the current Legislature, with the hope to again provide opportunities. The purpose of the Town Hall was to garner support for her bill in the House.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia (D-TX-29) reintroduced the bipartisan American Dream and Promise Act of 2025, alongside co-authors of the bill.

The bipartisan American Dream and Promise Act would provide a pathway to citizenship to Dreamers, undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children. It would also include recipients of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) beneficiaries. The legislation has been cosponsored by 201 Members of Congress, including



Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia moderates a Panel at Lone Star College - East Aldine discussing their experiences as “Dreamers” and how the legislation changed their lives with new opportunities.

all the bill leads, and has been endorsed by nearly 120 organizations.

Dreamers have spent nearly their entire lives here in the United States. They have attended school, earned degrees, built careers, and contributed billions to our economy, all while calling this country home. Many have started families and raised children who are U.S. citizens. For example, it is estimated that the average DACA recipient came to this country at the age of six and has been here for 20 years. Likewise, TPS holders have been living and working in the United States for decades. They have built their families here and contribute significantly to their communities and our nation’s

economy.

Dreamers and TPS recipients make major economic and fiscal contributions each year. DACA recipients pay approximately \$6.2 billion in federal taxes and \$3.3 billion in state and local taxes annually. The Center for American Progress estimates that the national GDP could grow by \$799 billion over the next decade if Dreamers were provided a pathway to citizenship.

Economic models show a pathway to citizenship would increase wages for all workers in the U.S. and create hundreds of thousands of new jobs. It is estimated that DACA recipients in 2022 collectively earned nearly \$27.9 billion and contributed

nearly \$2.1 billion to Social Security and Medicare, despite not being eligible for these benefits under current law.

“Dreamers are American in every way but on paper. For decades, they have contributed to and shaped the fabric of America. Yet, they are currently denied their place in the American story,” said Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia. “Our nation cannot afford to lose the small business owners, the talent, the artists, the aspiring public servants, and the drive that Dreamers bring. If that’s not American, I don’t know what is. The American Dream and Promise Act writes them into the American story—a part that has been missing for too long.”

with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) or Deferred Enforcement Departure (DED) with LPR status

—Protect Dreamers and individuals with TPS or DED during their application for relief under the American Dream and Promise Act

—Provide eligible Dreamers with access to federal financial aid

—Allow eligible Dreamers located abroad to apply for relief

—Prevent penalizing states that grant in-state tuition to undocumented students based on residency

Before his inauguration, President Donald Trump indicated he wanted to work with Democrats to protect Dreamers and that Republicans were open to getting something done on this issue. Congresswoman Garcia and her colleagues extend an open invitation to President Trump to get this done by passing the bipartisan American Dream and Promise Act of 2025, which the American public strongly supports. Polls have consistently shown the majority of Americans support Republicans and Democrats working together on legislation that would enable Dreamers to earn legal status and eventual citizenship—that legislation is the bipartisan American Dream and Promise Act of 2025.

-- Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia

“Twelve years ago, the Obama-Biden administration took a bold and necessary step by creating DACA to protect undocumented young people who were brought to this country as children through no fault of their own. This program has allowed more than 800,000 Dreamers to live, work, and contribute to their communities,” said Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez. “But for too long, courts have put their futures at risk, forcing them to live in uncertainty. That is why I was proud to be one of the original authors of the bipartisan American Dream and Promise Act, a common-sense solution that will provide permanent protections and a path to citizenship for Dreamers and recipients of Temporary Protected Status. These are our neighbors, colleagues, and friends, and it is long past time we give them the security they deserve.

The bipartisan American Dream and Promise Act of 2025 would:

—Protect and grant eligible Dreamers conditional permanent residence for ten years and cancel removal proceedings

—Provide a pathway to citizenship for eligible Dreamers by granting full Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) status

—Provide individuals

GALENA PARK ISD NEWS

Enroll Early, Learn Early: GPISD Opens Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration for the 2025-2026 School Year

Galena Park ISD is excited to announce the opening of new student registration for Pre-K and Kindergarten for the 2025-2026 school year. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to begin an enriching educational experience. We encourage all eligible families to take advantage of this chance to register their young learners, setting them up for success.

Registration will be available online from April 1 to April 3, 2025. This user-friendly option allows families to complete the registration process from home. For more information and to access the registration portal, please visit www.galenaparkisd.com/prek. For those who prefer in-person assistance, we will provide support at the Zotz Education Center (13801 Hollypark Dr., Houston, TX 77015) on April 2 and 3, 2025. Our

dedicated staff will be available to guide families through the registration process, answer any questions, and ensure a smooth experience. This initiative reflects our commitment to making registration accessible and straightforward for everyone.

Our youngest learners embrace the idea of “Believe in Me!” This principle underscores the District’s commitment to nurturing each student’s potential, fostering a love for learning, and creating a supportive environment for growth. Our Pre-K and Kindergarten programs are designed to establish a solid foundation in academics, social skills, and emotional development, preparing students for a successful future.

Choosing Galena Park ISD means selecting a comprehensive curriculum that engages young learners

and promotes critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration. Our experienced educators are passionate about providing high-quality education and personalized attention to every student, and we strive to create an inclusive environment where every child is valued and supported.

Don’t miss this important opportunity to register your child for Pre-K and Kindergarten in Galena Park ISD. You will be investing in your child’s future and joining a community that believes in every student’s potential. For more information and to start the registration process, please visit www.galenaparkisd.com/prek. We look forward to welcoming your family to Galena Park ISD and embarking on this exciting educational journey together!

START PRE-K IN GPISD
GALENA PARK ISD
PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN EARLY REGISTRATION

The Student Admissions Department will begin early registration for all NEW kindergarten and eligible Pre-K 3 and 4 year-old students for the 2025-2026 school year.

ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS
 April 1 - 3, 2025

IN PERSON SUPPORT SITE AVAILABLE
 Location: Zotz Education Center
 13801 Hollypark Dr., Houston, TX 77015

☑ April 2, 2025 (12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)
 ☑ April 3, 2025 (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

BELIEVE IN ME!

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT
 If you have additional questions regarding registration, you may contact us at:
 ☎ 832-386-1188
 ✉ prekinfo@galenaparkisd.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION
 Please visit our website for required registration documents, Pre-K eligibility criteria, and specific information about the Pre-K 3 year-old program.
www.galenaparkisd.com/prek

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Measles vaccine locations in Houston and Harris County

Harris County Public Health and the Houston Health Department offer the MMR vaccine to protect against measles, mumps, and rubella.

At Harris County Public Health, appointments are currently required, although same-day appointments may be available. Please call 832-927-7350 to schedule an appointment.

Locations:

Humble Clinic 1730 Humble Place Drive Humble, TX 77338	Southeast Clinic 3737 Red Bluff Road Pasadena, TX 77503	Antoine Clinic 5815 Antoine Dr Houston, TX 77091
Harris County Public Health Cypress Station (Mobile Unit Thursdays) 221 FM 1960 Houston, TX 77090	Harris County Public Health Northeast Pod 10918 1/2 Bentley Dr. Houston, TX 77093	Harris County Public Health Southeast Pod 7340 Spencer Hwy. Pasadena, TX 77505

Houston Health Department Health Centers
 Phone: 832-395-9100 Appointments: 832-393-5427 (Walk-in services are also available)

Northside Health Center 8504 Schuller Rd Houston, TX 77093	Sharpstown Health Services 6201 Bonhomme Rd. Houston, TX 77036	Sunnyside Multiservice Center 4410 Reed Rd. Houston, TX 77051
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Harris County Public Health Building a Healthy Community

HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT

f X @ j n HCPHTX.ORG
 OCEE AP 03/01/2025 HoustonHealth.org

CHARLOTTE'S WEB
By Charlotte Jackson



San Jacinto River Dredging,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Be an Advocate

When you see news headlines about the rise in homelessness, how do you react? Do you grumble and complain about the "mess" they make or do you drop off food and water? Perhaps you take a moment to park your vehicle, get out and talk with them. Do you research what help is available to those in the homeless community and share it with them? Do you stop and thank God that it is by grace that you are not right there with them? Do you just look the other way when you pull up at a traffic light?

What about when you are driving along a major street in the neighborhood such as Sheldon Road, Woodforest Blvd., or Uvalde Road and see litter? DO you pick up the phone and post pictures and talk about how "the good ol' neighborhood is becoming an eyesore or the ghetto? Do you pick up the phone and call 311 and demand that the County send employees to clean it up? Perhaps you take the time to do some research and find out about organized clean-ups that happen in the area. You might actually take note of the groups that adopt various roads and contact them to join them on their next clean-up day.

Perhaps you have experienced the pain of having a loved one with a diagnosis of cancer and you wanted to learn how to help. Some people will be the transportation for their loved one to and from doctor appointments, some will rise up to prepare meals for them and others will get involved with the Annual North Channel Area Relay for Life, raising funds and awareness about cancer.

There are very few families that have not been affected by incarceration. Maybe nobody in your immediate family has been arrested, or locked up, but you would be surprised that there are many of our neighbors who have been arrested for DWI's or even charged with crimes that their lawyers were able to get them help other than incarceration. But for those who are incarcerated, who reaches out and helps the parents, spouses and children?

In our community, I have seen many hurting people who have experienced so many trials and many are not due to something they "did". We cannot judge them for what is happening in their lives, as we have not had the same circumstances as they have. Maybe we had similar situations but I know one sibling who serves as a church administrator while the other has been charged with driving while intoxicated. I know a widow who was so lost in her state of depression that eventually, her home was sold for back taxes and she ended up on the streets, homeless and using drugs. What about the grieving husband who lost his wife to cancer and ended up lost, confused, angry and arrested for sexual assault?

Years ago, President John Kennedy was asked if one person could make a difference and his reply, "One person can make a difference and everyone should try." I believe that today more than ever, we should all try to make the world a better place by showing empathy, kindness and understanding that our way is not the only way. Be an advocate, be a blessing.

nearly seven years ago and still haven't produced an acceptable final document. As THEA states,

Given these significant concerns, we do not support the revised 100% RD as a complete design package. We urge the EPA to use the agency's legal authority granted under CERCLA to expeditiously remediate this site for the sake of efficiency and protection of the community and the environment. We appreciate the EPA's ongoing efforts to remediate the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site but the process has been allowed to stall for far too long.

Highlands Environmental Health Gets National Focus

Highlands residents have been alarmed about the number of family members and friends who have battled cancer. Sometimes it seems like their concerns fall on deaf ears. On March 6th, the national Environmental Health Network published a video op-ed we produced to call attention to the cumulative impact of environmental problems on the people of Highlands.

Investigative Series Focuses On San Jac Area Communities

The area is also coming under the investigative spotlight thanks to a podcast series produced by Public Health Watch. The group is launching a four-part series about the high cost community members pay for the unchecked environmental problems near Channelview and Highlands.

GP soccer girls team falls short in hard-fought playoff battle,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Jackets head coach Alejandra Cruz is all about soccer, it's in her DNA. She's taken her soccer teams to four playoffs, and recently this game made three consecutive times for her; 2020, 2023, 2024 & 2025.

Coach Cruz has been playing soccer since the age of 4. She played varsity soccer at North Shore Senior High, receiving District MVP her junior and senior year.

She led the soccer club team at the University of Houston for 4 years, and started her career at

GPHS in the fall of 2017. She started with the boys soccer program as an assistant coach, then took over the girls program in the fall of 2018.

She says she loves coaching at GPHS because she is given the opportunity to coach student-athletes filled with passion for the sport who are always ready to put in 110% into practices, games, and their academics. In addition she works alongside a great coaching and administration staff. Besides coaching she teaches Anatomy & Physiology.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

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OPINION PAGE

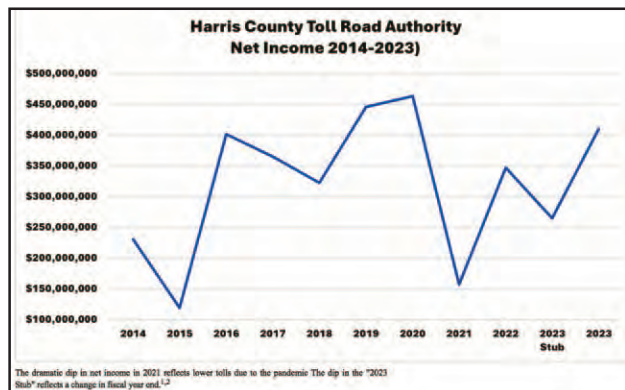
OPINION

By BILL KING



Toll Roads have become a Cash Cow for Harris County

Harris County toll roads are very profitable. Over the last decade, the toll revenue has grown from \$610 million annually to \$896 million, a 47% increase.



The dramatic dip in net income in 2021 reflects lower tolls due to the pandemic. The dip in the '2023 Stub' reflects a change in fiscal year end.

Texas law provides that excess income from tolls must be used for "the study, design, construction, maintenance, repair, or operation of roads, streets, highways, or other related facilities."

As you can see, the transfers have been dramatically ramped up since the Democrats gained control of Commissioner's Court. From 2014-2018, the Court transferred 44% of HCTRA's net income.

The other question the transfers raise in my mind is exactly how the mobility funds are actually being spent. The state law provides that the County may transfer excess funds "without state approval, supervision, or regulation."

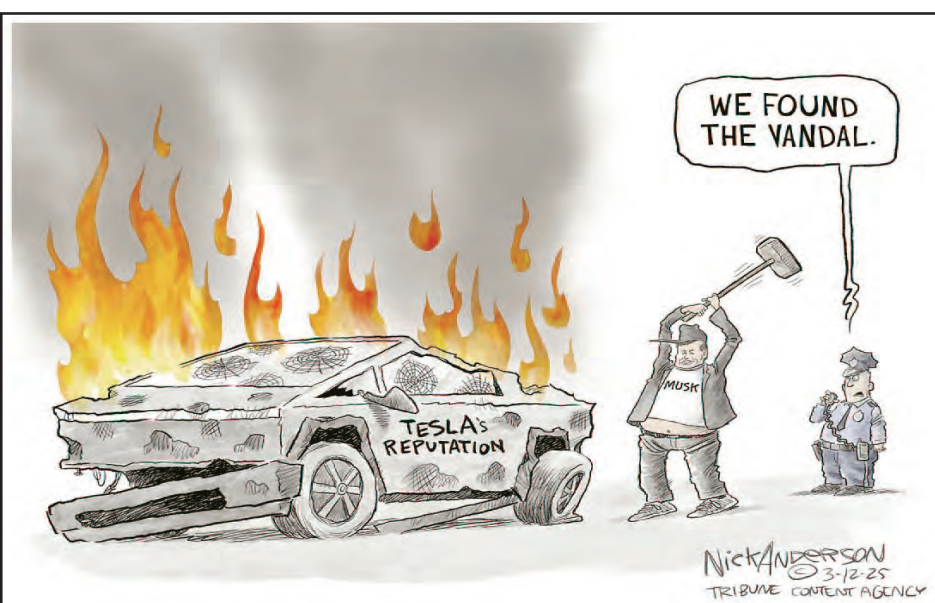
I have not been able to find much public information on how the funds are being spent. Harris County's monthly financial reports provide some general information about the transfers and expenditures.

I was able to dig up a Harris County Auditor report from December, 2022. It found some documentation issues but concluded that "expenditures paid from the Harris County Mobility Fund generally complied with the Texas Transportation Code."

The combination of the ambiguous definition of how the transfers can be spent, the lack of state oversight, the relatively little transparency on how the funds are currently being spent and the County Auditor's qualification that the County's expenditures "generally" complied with state law, gives me some concern about how these funds are actually being spent.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5906 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com.

Americanisms graphic with a quote: "I've failed over and over in my life, and that is why I succeeded." — Michael Jordan



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Texas Farmers Concerned Over Growing trade War

Texas farmers are voicing growing concerns about tariffs being enacted by President Trump adversely affecting their ability to sell agricultural goods overseas.

"We understand that's his negotiating tool, but at the same time tariffs can be hard on agriculture," he said. "If you're in a good spot you can withstand this, but you worry about the producer who has only been in this for five or 10 years and doesn't have a lot of equity built up."

Drought and low commodity prices are already taking a toll on agricultural revenue. Cotton sank to its lowest price in four years this month after China announced a 15% retaliatory tariff on several U.S. agricultural goods.

Farmers are hopeful the Trump administration will provide federal relief as occurred during his first term. Voters in counties dominated by farms and ranches voted for Trump by 77.7%, the Chronicle reported.

DUST STORM IN PANHANDLE CAUSES FATAL CRASHES, FANS WILDFIRES

A dust storm that swept across the U.S. last week caused a number of deadly crashes and fanned dozens of wildfires, The Dallas Morning News reported.

"It's the worst I've ever seen," said Sgt. Cindy Barkley of the Texas Department of Public Safety. "We couldn't tell that they were all together until the dust kind of settled."

As of Sunday, The Texas A&M Forest Service reported eight active wildfires. The largest was the Windmill Fire in Roberts County in the Panhandle. It covered 23,000



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

acres and was just 50% contained. A total of 130 counties have burn bans in place.

BILL FILED TO CLARIFY STATE'S ABORTION BAN

The author of the bill that essentially outlawed abortions in Texas has filed a bill that would give doctors more latitude to end pregnancies during medical emergencies.

The bill would also clarify that women in Texas can access abortions if they are at risk of a "substantial loss of a major bodily function," such as their fertility.

The abortion ban authored by Hughes passed the Legislature and was signed into law in 2021.

"Our medical communities are desperate for relief and protection ... so that they can practice reasonable medical judgment in the face of pregnancy complications," state Rep. Ann Johnson, D-Houston, said.

TEXAS CONTINUES TO LEAD NATION IN RENEWABLE ENERGY

The Lone Star State is known for its oil and gas in-

dustry, but information from the U.S. Energy Information Administration and reported by the San Antonio Express-News indicates the state's lead in solar and wind power increased in 2024.

However, natural gas continues to dominate electric generation both in Texas and across the nation at 43.3% of the country's electricity last year, while the use of coal continues to decline, down to 15.2% from 16.1% in 2023.

Coal-fired plants continue to close across the state and country, largely because they are more expensive to operate. There are 15 active coal plants in Texas, down from 20 a decade ago.

Texas generated 169,442 gigawatt-hours from wind and solar in 2024, nearly double that of California, which generated 92,316 gigawatt-hours from those resources.

"Texas is the most innovative, most interesting market, and clean energy is thriving because it makes sense economically," said Ric O'Connell, executive director of GridLab, a nonprofit that does technical analysis for regulators and renewable power advocates.

MEASLES OUTBREAK CONTINUES TO SPREAD

The Texas measles outbreak has now, in less than three months in 2025, surpassed the total number of cases in any full year since 1992, The News reported.

Four new cases were reported last week in Lamar County, 100 miles northeast of Dallas. Health officials said the four infected patients were not vaccinated and had traveled to Gaines County.

Measles is considered one of the most contagious viruses in the world and can spread rapidly among unvaccinated people.

FOUR TEXAS COUNTIES AMONG FASTEST GROWING IN U.S.

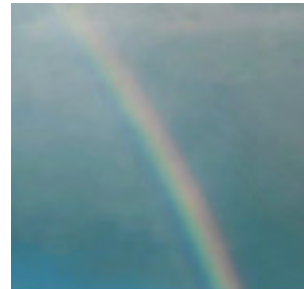
Census figures released last week show that Kaufman County, east of Dallas, was the fastest-growing county in the state and second-fastest growing in the country, The Texas Tribune reported.

"I do think a lot of people are attracted to that small town vibe," Kaufman Mayor Jeff Jordan said. "You're getting people that appreciate that and want to be a part of it."

Of the 10 counties in the U.S. that grew the fastest between 2023 and 2024, four were in Texas: Kaufman, Liberty, Montgomery and Caldwell counties.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

The Tornado



My friend Wally and I have a fractious relationship. This is no secret.

Wally has said he thinks optimistic people like me are self-deluded, always looking for reasons to be happy when there is a lot to worry about and not much to celebrate.

Wally used the metaphor of a tornado. He said that people like me would be down in the storm shelter—right beside him—but would ignore the destruction the tornado left behind.

"Do perpetually positive people even hear themselves?" he asked. "How nice that must be! To see the world in ways it might or should be while ignoring how it is. To look for the rainbow while ignoring the flood!"

Wally got me so irritated that I wrote a whole book about a character he inspired. Since I didn't figure I could ever change Wally's mind, I wanted to create someone, just like Wally, who believed he had the world's worst luck and that looking for things to be grateful for was an act of willful ignorance.

I wrote the book, and I shared it with Wally, and—to his credit and my astonishment—he wasn't angry with my depiction of him at all. He was tickled that something he'd said inspired me.

Wally keeps on inspiring me. He has some interesting observations about life and thoughts about how optimism might fall short. It's taken me much longer than it should have to realize that Wally makes some very good points.

Optimism can be clumsy. It can be ham-fisted. Disappointment and grief and setbacks and bad news and failures are all very real things, and the optimist's impulse is to sweep them under the rug in record time.

"Where is the upside? What is the lesson? How can I learn from all this?" the optimist asks, and Wally gets a little angry. And maybe he has a right to. Because somewhere, between the time when the tornado strikes and the optimist goes looking for the rainbow, maybe there is a moment that optimists, like me, tend to forget.

We forget to say we're sorry. Wally is worried about his future and the future of his children and grandchildren. When I tell him all this worrying isn't getting much done, he gets angry and, really, I don't blame him. Because I skipped a step. I skipped the step between the tornado and the rainbow.

Today, for a change, I remembered. "Oh, Wally," I said, "You always seem to think I'm scolding you when I try to cheer you and encourage you. I care about you. Do you not get that? I worry about you, and I want you to be happy."

"Thank you," Wally said. "Thank you so much."

And I realized that he really didn't know this.

I get impatient with Wally's ruminating and doomsaying and daily dose of gloom. I want to remind him of all the things he has to be grateful for.

But I forget to tell him that I care. I forget to say I'm sorry he is troubled. I don't acknowledge how he feels. I jump right from the tornado to the rainbow.

I'm pretty sure Wally will regularly irritate me, and I will do the same for him. And yet I don't think he will ever be out of my life for good.

Because I will continue to remind him that things might not be as bad as he assumes. And Wally will remind me, in my endless quest for sunshine, it's important to recognize the hurt and fear that come with the tornado.

Till next time, Carrie

Star Courier advertisement with contact information: USPS 244-500, Barbers Hill Dayton PRESS, North Channel Star, Editor & Publisher: Gilbert Hoffman, Associate Publisher: Mei-Ing Liu Hoffman, Managing Editor: David Taylor, Assignment Editor: Julieta Paita, Website Editor: Kristan Hoffman, Production Manager: Gerardo Hernandez.

Keeney's Korner: Baseball Season Opens,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

rotation. But the gem of the trade with Chicago could be 22-year-old third baseman Cam Smith. Smith was outstanding in Grapefruit action, but he's never played at the major league level. Houston worked him in right field during the spring to see if he could handle the job. The Houston outfield is very unsettled entering the '25 season, so much so that the team is considering moving its franchise player, Jose Altuve (.295 average, 20 HRs, 65 RBIs in '24) from second base to left field. If the move works, that would allow Yordan Alvarez (.299, 35 HRs, 86 RBIs) to pretty much serve as the full-time designated hitter.

The Astros also filled a huge void at first base with the signing of former Arizona Diamondback first baseman Christian Walker (.251, 26 HRs, 84 RBIs in '24). Walker is a solid all around first baseman and should give the lineup a boost with his power.

The Astros have a young catcher who can hit in Yanier Diaz (.299, 16 HRs, 54 RBIs in '24) and his improved defense is another big plus for the team. He also works well with the pitching staff, which is key for the position.

Speaking of pitching, the Astros starting rotation will be led by 31-year-old veteran left hander Framber Valdez (15-7, 2.91 ERA), who will be making his fourth straight Opening Day start against the Mets.

Valdez will lead a young but promising rotation. Hunter Brown (11-9, 3.49 ERA) had a breakout year in 2024 and could be in for a big year. If Lance McCullers is able to return at some point of the season (he hasn't pitched since Game 3 of the 2022 World Series due to elbow issues), that will only bolster the rotation. The

back-end of the bullpen is solid with closer Josh Hader (34 saves, 3.80 ERA) and set-up man Bryan Abreu. Espada needs to find some capable arms to get to those two and don't be surprised if GM Dana Brown makes a trade to shore up the pen at some point this season.

The Astros should be the team to beat in the AL West, but they will get a strong challenge from Seattle (85-77 in '24) and the Texas Rangers, who are two years removed from winning the World Series.

Seattle has best starting rotation in the division led by Logan Gilbert (9-12, 3.23 ERA, 220 strikeouts), George Kirby (14-11, 3.53 ERA, 179 Ks) and Luis Castillo (11-12, 3.64 ERA, 175 Ks) and a solid closer in Adres Munoz (22 saves). The Mariner aren't an offensive juggernaut and did little to address that issue in the offseason. They will be led by budding superstar centerfielder Julio Rodriguez (.273, 20 HRs, 68 RBIs) and catcher Cal Raleigh (34 HRs, 100 RBIs).

The Rangers were decimated by injuries in 2023 and fell to 78-84. Look for them to bounce back this year behind second baseman Marcus Semien (.273, 23 HRs, 74 RBIs), shortstop Corey Seager (.278, 30 HRs, 74 RBIs), outfielder Adolis Garcia (25 HRs, 85 RBIs) and second-year outfielder Wyatt Langford (.253, 16 HRs, 74 RBIs, 19 stolen bases). Langford is one of the best young players in baseball and could be in for a big year in Arlington. Pitching will be the key to the Rangers success in 2025 and they are already down two starters. Manager Bruce Bochy is hoping for a big year from seasoned vet Jacob deGroot.

In the AL East, the Yankees

(94-68) are the team to beat and are the defending AL champs. They have one of the best players in baseball in reigning MVP Aaron Judge (.322, 58 HRs, 144 RBIs). NY lost a key piece of its offense when Juan Soto (.288, 41 HRs, 109 RBIs) signed with the cross-town Mets. The Yanks also have starting pitching issues as Gerrit Cole (8-5, 3.41 ERA) is out for the year with Tommy John surgery and last year's Rookie of the Year, Luis Gill (15-7, 3.50 ERA, 171 Ks) is out at least three months with an elbow injury. The Yankees acquired Max Fried (11-10, 3.25 ERA, 166 Ks) from the Braves. He and Carlos Rondon (16-9, 3.96 ERA) will have to be the bell cows in the rotation until help arrives.

Baltimore (91-71) appears to be the most complete team in the division. They are young and talented led by catcher Adley Rutschman (.250, 19 HRs, 79 RBIs) and shortstop Gunnar Henderson (.281, 7 HRs, 37 RBIs, 118 runs scored). Grayson Rodriguez (13-4, 3.56) will lead the starting rotation.

Toronto will go as far as first baseman Vladimir Guerrero (.323, 30 HRs, 103 RBIs) takes them. The Blue Jays need a big bounce back year from shortstop Bo Bichette (.225, 4 HRs, 31 RBIs in just 81 games). Boston will look to Bregman (.260, 26 HRs, 75 RBIs) to move to second base to keep third baseman Rafael Devers (.272, 28 HRs, 83 RBIs). I don't think the BoSox have the starting pitching to contend with New York and Baltimore.

The AL Central should be competitive with division-winner Cleveland (92-69) and the surprising Detroit Tigers battling for the division crown. The Indians will once again be led by third baseman Jose Ramirez

(.279, 39 HRs, 118 RBIs). Former Astros manager A.J. Hinch worked his magic once again in leading the Tigers (86-76) to a Wild Card berth and a sweep of his former team in the first round of the playoffs. Detroit has perhaps the best pitcher in the AL in Cy Young winner Tarik Skubal (18-4, 2.39 ERA, 228 Ks, best in the AL). They have a nice, young team led by left fielder Riley Green (.262, 24 HRs, 74 RBIs).

In the National League, everyone will be chasing the defending World Series champs the Dodgers. LA has the best player in baseball in DH and reigning NL MVP Shotei Ohtani (.310, 54 HRs, 130 RBIs, 59 stolen bases). This is a loaded team with first baseman Freddie Freeman (.282, 22 HRs, 89 RBIs) the WS MVP, shortstop Mookie Betts (.289, 19 HRs, 79 RBIs, 16 SBs) and left fielder Tescor Hernandez (.272, 33 HRs, 99 RBIs). The starting pitching is also solid with the addition of former Cy Young winner Blake Snell and holdover starters Tyler Glasnow (9-6, 3.49 ERA) and Yoshinobu Yamamoto (9-6, 3.49 ERA).

San Diego (93-69) could give LA a run for its money in the NL West. The Padres have a solid everyday lineup led by third baseman Manny Machado (.275, 29 HRs, 105 RBIs), right fielder Fernando Tatis Jr. (.276, 21 HRs, 49 RBIs) and outfielder Jackson Merrill (.292, 24 HRs, 90 RBIs). The starting rotation is solid led by Dylan Cease (14-11, 3.47 ERA, 224 Ks) and Michael King (13-9, 2.95 ERA, 201 Ks). They also have a big-time closer in Robert Suarez (36 saves).

Arizona (89-73) could be in line for a Wild Card spot thanks to second baseman Katel Marte (.292, 36 HRs, 95 RBIs), third baseman Eugenio Suarez (.256,

30 HRs, 101 RBIs) and center fielder Corbin Carroll (22 HRs, 74 RBI, league leading 14 triples). The starting rotation is solid with the addition of Corbin Burns (15-9, 2.92, 181 Ks with Baltimore last year) and hold over Zac Gallen (14-6, 3.65, 126 Ks).

The Phillies (95-67) have perhaps the most complete team in the NL East led by first baseman Bryce Harper (.285, 30 HRs, 87 RBI), shortstop .295, 21 HRs, 68 RBIs) and DH Kyle Schwarber (38 HRs, 104 RBIs). Philly also has a strong starting rotation led by Zack Wheeler (16-7, 2.57 ERA, 224 Ks) and Aaron Nola (14-8, 3.57 ERA, 197 Ks).

The New York Mets (89-73) were one of the surprise teams in baseball in '24, going all the way to the NL Championship series where they fell to the Dodgers in six games. They are hoping Soto will be the missing piece to an offense that also features first baseman Pete Alonso (34 HRs, 88 RBIs) and shortstop Francisco Lindor (.273, 33 HRs, 91 RBIs).

Look for the Atlanta Braves (89-73) to bounce back after injuries derailed them a year ago. The Braves have a potent offense led by third baseman Austin Riley (.256, 19 HRs, 56 RBIs in 110 games), first baseman Matt Olsen (29 HRs, 98 RBIs) and right fielder Ronald Acuna, who played in just 49 games after sustaining another knee injury. When healthy, Acuna is one of the best players in all of baseball. Chris Sale, (18-3, 2.38 ERA, 225 Ks) the '24 NL Cy Young Award winner, will lead the starting rotation and closer Raisel Iglesias (34 save) will handle close things out.

The Milwaukee Brewers (93-69) should be the class of a weak NL Central. Budding

superstar outfielder Jackson Chourio (.275, 21 HRs, 79 RBIs, 22 SBs) could have a breakout season. The starting rotation will be led by Freddy Peralta (11-9, 3.68 ERA) and Justin Steele (5-5, 3.07 RBI) to have big years as starters.

The Cubs are hoping Tucker (.289, 23 HRs, 49 RBIs in just 78 games) bounces back to his 2023 form when he hit .284, had 39 HRs, 112 RBIs and 30 stolen bases. Chicago will count on Shota Imanaga (15-3, 2.91 ERA, 174 Ks) and Justin Steele (5-5, 3.07 RBI) to have big years as starters.

So, without further ado, here are one man's picks for the 2025 season:

AL WEST - ASTROS

AL EAST - BALTIMORE

AL CENTRAL - DETROIT

AL WILD CARDS - CLEVELAND, SEATTLE AND NEW YORK

AL CHAMPIONSHIP - HOUSTON OVER BALTIMORE

NL WEST - LOS ANGELES

NL EAST - PHILADELPHIA

NL CENTRAL - MILWAUKEE

NL WILD CARDS - ARIZONA, SAN DIEGO, NEW YORK

NL CHAMPIONSHIP - LOS ANGELES OVER PHILADELPHIA

WORLD SERIES - LOS ANGELES OVER HOUSTON

Women's History Month Honoree - (final of a series)

Francis Perkins, First Woman Presidential Cabinet Holder

By Allan Jamail

Frances Perkins born Fannie Coralie Perkins; April 10, 1880 was an American workers-rights advocate and champion for women's safety on the job. *(read 2 deadly fires below) She served as the fourth United States Secretary of Labor from 1933 to 1945, the longest serving in that position. A member of the Democratic Party, Perkins was the first woman ever to serve in a presidential cabinet.

As a loyal supporter of her longtime friend, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, she helped make labor issues important in the emerging New Deal coalition. She was one of two Roosevelt cabinet members to remain in office for his entire presidency (the other being Interior Secretary Harold L. Ickes).

Perkins' most important role came in developing a policy for social security in 1935. She also helped form government policy for working with labor unions, although some union leaders distrusted her. Perkins' Labor Department helped to mediate strikes by way of the United States Conciliation Service. She dealt with numerous labor issues during World War II, when skilled labor was vital to the economy and women were moving into jobs formerly held by men.

Fannie Coralie Perkins was born in Boston, Massachusetts, to Susan Ella Perkins (née Bean; 1849-1927) and Frederick William Perkins (1844-1916), the owner of a stationer's business (both of her parents originally were from Maine). Fannie Perkins had one sister, Ethel Perkins Harrington (1884-1965). The family could trace their roots to colonial America, and the women had a tradition of work in education. She spent much of her childhood in Worcester, Massachusetts. Frederick loved Greek literature and passed that love on to Fannie.

Perkins attended the Classical High School in Worcester. She earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry and physics from Mount Holyoke College in 1902. While attending Mount Holyoke, Perkins discovered progressive politics and the suffrage movement. She was named class president.

After college, Perkins held a variety of teaching positions, including one from 1904 to 1906 where she taught chemistry at Ferry Hall School (now Lake Forest Academy), an all-girls school in Lake Forest, Illinois. In Chicago, she volunteered at settlement houses, including Hull House, where she worked with Jane Addams. She changed her name from Fannie to Frances when she joined the Episcopal Church in 1905. In 1907, she moved to Philadelphia and enrolled at University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School to learn economics, and spent two years in the city working as a social worker. Shortly after, she moved to Greenwich Village, New York, where she attended Columbia University and became active in the suffrage movement. In support of the movement, Perkins attended protests and meetings, and advocated for the cause on street corners. She earned a master's degree in economics and sociology from Columbia in 1910.

In 1910 Perkins achieved statewide prominence as head of the New York office of the National Consumers League and, on the recommendation of Theodore Roosevelt, became the executive secretary for the Committee on Safety of the City of New York, formed to improve fire safety.

**As part of the Committee on Safety, Perkins investigated another significant fire at the Freeman plant in Binghamton, New York, in which 63 people died. In 1912, she was instrumental in getting the New York legislature to pass a "54-hour" bill that capped the number of



Francis Perkins
Workers-Rights advocate
April 10, 1880 – May 14, 1965

in order to prevent employees from taking breaks. When the building caught fire, many workers tried unsuccessfully to escape through the windows. Just a year before, these same women and girls had fought for the 54-hour work week and other benefits that Perkins had championed. One hundred and forty-six workers died. Perkins blamed lax legislation for the loss.

As a consequence of this fire, Perkins left her position at the New York office of the National Consumers League and, on the recommendation of Theodore Roosevelt, became the executive secretary for the Committee on Safety of the City of New York, formed to improve fire safety.

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hour's women and children could work. Perkins pressed for votes for the legislation, encouraging proponents including Franklin D. Roosevelt to filibuster, while Perkins called state senators to make sure they could be present for the final vote.

In 1913, Perkins married New York economist Paul Caldwell Wilson. She kept her maiden name because she did not want her activities in Albany and New York City to affect the career of her husband, then the secretary to the New York City mayor. She defended her right to keep her maiden name in court. The couple had a daughter, Susanna, born in December 1916. Less than two years later, Wilson began to show signs of mental illness. He would be institutionalized frequently for mental illness throughout the remainder of their marriage.

Perkins had cut back slightly on her public life following the birth of her daughter, but returned after her husband's illness to

provide for her family. According to biographer Kirstin Downey, Susanna displayed "manic-depressive symptoms", as well. Perkins shared the Georgetown, D.C. home of an old friend, Mary Harriman Rumsey, who had founded the Junior League in 1901, for less than a year, until Rumsey's death in 1934. Rumsey and Perkins' arrangement was for practical reasons, as a December 1933 Washington Post columnist had criticized Perkins for not meeting social obligations, due to her apartment accommodations. Later Perkins shared a home with Caroline O'Day, a Democratic congresswoman from New York.

Prior to moving to Washington, D.C., Perkins held various positions in the New York state government. She had gained respect from the political leaders in the state. In 1919, she was added to the Industrial Commission of the State of New York by Governor Al Smith. Her nomination was met with protests from both manufacturers and labor, neither of whom felt Perkins represented their interests. Smith stood by Perkins as someone who could be a voice for women and girls in the workforce and for her work on the Wagner Factory Investigating Committee. Although claiming the delay in Perkins' confirmation was not due to her gender, some state senators pointed to Perkins' not taking her husband's name as a sign that she was a radical. Perkins was confirmed on February 18, 1919, becoming one of the first female commissioners in New York, and began working out of New York City.

The state senate-confirmed position made Perkins one of three commissioners overseeing the industrial code, and the supervisor of both the bureau of information and statistics and the bureau of

mediation and arbitration. The position also came with an \$8,000 salary (equivalent to \$145,000 in 2024), making Perkins the highest-paid woman in New York state government. Six months into her job, her fellow Commissioner James M. Lynch called Perkins' contributions "invaluable," and added "from the work which Miss Perkins has accomplished I am convinced that more women ought to be placed in high positions throughout the state departments."

In 1929, the newly elected New York governor, Franklin Roosevelt, appointed Perkins as the inaugural New York state industrial commissioner. As commissioner, Perkins supervised an agency with 1,800 employees.

Having earned the cooperation and the respect of various political factions, Perkins helped put New York in the forefront of progressive reform. She expanded factory investigations, reduced the work-week for women to 48 hours, and championed minimum wage and unemployment insurance laws. She worked vigorously to put an end to child labor and to provide safety for women workers.

Francis Perkins Quotes: 1. "The door might not be opened to a woman again for a long, long time, and I had a kind of duty to other women to walk in and sit down on the chair that was offered, and so establish the right of others long hence and far distant in geography to sit in the high seats. I came to Washington to work for God, FDR, and the millions of forgotten, plain common working people."

2. "The people are what matter to government, and a government should aim to give all the people under its jurisdiction the best possible life."

Let's Get Ready to Relay

Mark your calendars and save the date for this year's North Channel Relay for Life sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

This year's event is schedule for Friday April 25 from 6pm to midnight at the North Shore High School 9th grade track.

Cancer Survivors and Caretakers will be recognized and luminaria remembrances will light up the track.

There will of course be food, games and prizes along with live entertainment as the community raises funds in the fight against Cancer.

NORTH SHORE ROTARY CLUB NEWS



Rotary Club of North Shore
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We love to give back and today we donated to 2 of our regular charities. \$5000 to For The One, International and the Wendel D. Ley Family YMCA. We're able to do this because of the community support for our fish fry fundraiser. See you April 26th.



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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, on Bid Forms provided, addressed to the Mayor and City Council of City of Jacinto City, Texas, Harris County, will be received at City Hall, 1301 Mercury Drive, Houston, Texas 77029 until **5:00 P.M., Thursday, April 10, 2025**, and then publicly opened and read during the Thursday, April 10, 2025, City Council Meeting at 6:00 P.M. held at the Council Chambers, 10301 Market Street, Houston, Texas 77029 for construction of the:

City of Jacinto City Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements – 2024 CDBG-MIT PROJECT NO. 22-085-053-D306

Scope of Work: Work on this project includes the replacement of two (2) final clarifiers; provide and install a non-potable water system; construct a concrete dechlorination and flow measurement basin; construct modifications to existing chlorine contact basins; miscellaneous site piping; electrical and instrumentation; and SCADA.

The project to be constructed will be financed with assistance from the General Land Office (GLO) under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) program and is subject to all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations. Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing Davis-Bacon and Related Acts wage rate, as issued by the Department of Labor and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. Adherence to the City of Jacinto City Section 3 Policy is required for all contracts.

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

Secure Plans and Specifications from LJA Engineering, Inc., at <https://bids.lja.com> and <https://civcastusa.com> for No Cost for an electronic copy for each set of documents.



Examine documents at the East Houston office of LJA Engineering, Inc, Amtek Plan Room, Dodge Data & Analytics, AGC of Texas, Construct Connect and the City.

The City of Jacinto City reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by City of Jacinto City for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.

A **Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference** will be held on **Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 10:00 A.M.** at the City of Jacinto City Wastewater Treatment Plant, 12202 Market Street, Houston, Texas 77015, and virtually through Microsoft Teams. To join virtually, the link is: <https://rb.gy/dtct0k> or join by phone by calling +1 346-202-6170 and entering Conference ID: 903 989 169#.

City of Jacinto City
Ana Diaz
Mayor

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Nicole Kidman stars in "Holland."

"Holland"

"I'm Still Here" (PG-13) — To finish out the last of this year's award season darlings, this Brazilian political-biographical film was nominated for Best Picture at the Oscars...

"Running Point" (TV-MA) — This sports-comedy series led by Kate Hudson ("Glass Onion:

Knives Out") was such a success after its February release that it has already been renewed for a second season by Netflix.

"Holland" (R) — Following the heels of her "Babygirl" campaign that unfortunately fell under the radar during award

season, Nicole Kidman stars in this new mystery thriller, opposite Matthew Macfadyen ("Succession"). Kidman and Macfadyen play the Vanderbrooks, who appear to be your usual suburbanites raising a child in the midwestern town of Holland, Michigan.

"The Parenting" (R) — This campy horror film out now has such an incredible ensemble cast that one would expect it to be a sleeper hit, but its cringey plot and dialogue can only take these actors' performances so far.

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HOLLYWOOD by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Leonardo DiCaprio has been absent from big screens since "Killers of the Flower Moon," which was an artistic success but a box-office disappointment.

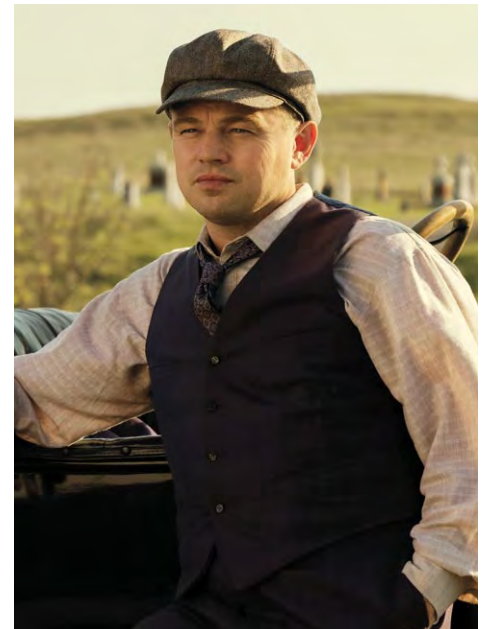
Brad Pitt wrapped the American sports action drama "F1," featuring the Formula One World Championship, and it opens on June 27.

George Clooney's next film is the Netflix coming-of-age comedy "Jay Kelly," with Adam Sandler, Laura Dern, Billy Crudup, Riley Keough, Jim Broadbent, Isla Fisher and Greta Gerwig.

As soon as Julia Roberts wrapped the thriller "After the Hunt" (due on Oct. 10), with Andrew Garfield and Chloe Sevigny, she jumped right into filming the thriller "Panic Carefully," with Elizabeth Olsen, Eddie Redmayne, Brian Tyree Henry, and Ben Chaplin.

Mark Wahlberg, who is approaching 54 years old, is still going full speed ahead. He shot "Flight Risk" in Las Vegas with Michelle Dockery and Topher Grace, which was directed by Mel Gibson.

He loved it so much that he stayed on to shoot another film — the Amazon MGM action comedy "Balls Up," with Molly Shannon and Benjamin Bratt.



Leonardo DiCaprio in "Killers of the Flower Moon".

Is this the end of an era? Founded in 1915, Technicolor was used by Walt Disney for "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" (1937), by MGM for "The Wizard of Oz" (1939), and by David O. Selznick for "Gone with the Wind" (1939), to name a few classics.

Dwayne Johnson must have been disappointed by his Christmas movie "Red One," with Chris Evans, Lucy Liu, Nick Kroll and J.K. Simmons. It only recouped \$185.9 million of its \$250 million cost.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps



by BUD BLAKE



by Jeff Pickering

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Weekly SUDOKU grid with numbers and instructions.

Difficulty level: Moderate, Challenging, HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS comic strip with instructions to find differences.

Answers for HOCUS-FOCUS comic strip.

Trivia Test Answers list for various topics.

March 24, 2025 Posting Date

King Crossword

Crossword grid with clues for Across and Down.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. GEOGRAPHY: Mount Everest is part of which mountain range?
2. MOVIES: Which color film was the first to win an Academy Award for Best Picture?
3. ASTRONOMY: Which planet in our solar system is believed to be the windiest?
4. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Where is the U.S. Constitution stored?
5. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of lemurs called?
6. TELEVISION: Which city is the setting for the dramatic series "The Wire"?
7. GEOLOGY: Which country has the most active volcanoes?
8. LITERATURE: Which character in a Charles Dickens novel famously said, "Please, sir, I want some more"?
9. ART: Which Dutch artist is considered a master of light and shadow, creating dramatic effects in paintings?
10. SCIENCE: What is an ectothermic animal?

Solution time: 22 mins. Answers King Crossword



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