



# NORTH CHANNEL STAR

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## North Channel community turns out for Relay for Life

Cancer Survivors and Caretakers recognized; Luminaria Remembrances at Annual Fundraiser

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

Every step counts. North Channel residents, friends, and family gathered last Friday night to play their part in the fight against cancer at the annual Relay for Life. For six hours, the track at the North Shore High School 9th Grade campus was filled with walkers doing their laps in honor and in memory of those who are battling or have battled cancer. Their message was loud and clear.

"Together, we're building a legacy of healing that reminds all that we stand together in our battle against cancer," said Dr. Tory Hill, superintendent

of Channelview ISD. "Let's light those candles, walk those laps and show the world that our community turns pain into purpose. When we relay, we relay as one, we prove that hope has no finish line. Let's unite tonight in our fight against cancer!"

For 23 years the North Channel Relay for Life has battled cancer and has had to skip a couple of years because of bad weather and Covid, but with resiliency, they continue to fight.

"We're normally a rain or shine event," said Lynn Nutt, chairman for the event, "but there have been times, especially during Covid, that we just couldn't put on an event."



**SURVIVORS' LAP:** Patrons, the public and teams lined the track at the North Shore High School 9th Grade Campus last Friday night to applaud, cheer and give their support to the survivors of cancer as they took the survivor's lap to kick off the North Channel Relay For Life event.

Covid made a huge dent in the sponsorships and teams participating, but this year, there were many more teams and corporate sponsors than in previous years.

While it's hosted at the North Shore High School 9th grade campus, the support comes from all three school districts, Galena Park, Sheldon, and Channelview who participate with teams and leadership.

"Relay for Life really is like a relay race, with the exception that they are walking around the track to raise funds, which we used to take pledges per lap," Nutt said. "Now, most

Continued. See RELAY FOR LIFE, Page 5

### CHANNEL CURRENTS

#### May 3 Election Results

Harris County Clerk reports the following results:

##### LEE COLLEGE

-Pos. 4 Pam Warford 1,359 votes (100%)

-Pos. 5 Heron Thomas 902 votes (50.5%)

-Pos. 6 Daryl Fontenot 1,248 votes (72.98%)

##### SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

-Pos. 3

-Salvador Serrano Jr. 3,774 votes (41.36%)  
-Judy Harrison 3,752 votes (41.12%)

-Pos. 4 Larry Wilson 5,489 votes (60.77%)

For additional info: www.harrisvotes.com.

## Galena Park High School Student Arrested on Gun Charge

Second Related Issue Causing A Lockdown

By AllanJamail

Galena Park, TX. on April 29, 2025 Constable Jerry Garcia, Harris County Pct. 2 reported one of his deputies assigned to the Galena Park High School conducted a K-9 "open-air-sniff" using their K-9 dog named Zeus. The K-9 alerted the deputy on a vehicle parked in the student parking lot across from the high school. Upon further investigation of the vehicle, a 22 caliber rifle (see photo, assault style) was located inside the vehicle that belongs to a juvenile student.

K-9 dogs such as Zeus can be trained to smell and detect the scent of firearms. They can not only detect the presence of a gun but also ammunition,



Student's rifle confiscated @ GPHS by Pct 2 constables. (Photo by HC Constable Precinct 2)

gun residue, and even trace amounts of gunpowder. They can be trained to smell explosives and narcotics too.

Felony charges were filed on the student for having a weapon in Places Weapons are Prohibited as listed in the Texas Penal Code Chapter 10; Offenses Against Public Health, Safety & Morals; Chapter 46 Weapons states the penalty can range from 2

to 10 years in prison and fine up to \$10,000.

Constable Garcia posted on his face book page a copy of Principal Juan C. Ramirez letter dated April 29, 2025 to all high school parents and guardians (see photo). His letter explained what had happened and he asked them to advise their students to never bring any weapon, gun or anything resembling a gun to school. He

also said the arrested student will be disciplined under GPISD Student Code of Conduct.

Two days later on May 1, 2025 another gun-related incident occurred. Two students reported what they thought to be a gun pointed at a group of students by a male student. School administrators along HC Pct 2 School Resource Officers immediately used one of their

security protocols; HOLD (school lockdown) at 1:00 pm. Students and staff were instructed to stay out of the hallways and to remain in their classrooms until the "all clear" message was given at 1:17pm.

Principal Ramirez issued another letter within two day (see photo) to school parents and guardians on the same day of the incident May 1st explaining what had happened. He said the student who pointed the laser at other students would be disciplined under the GPISD Student Code of Conduct. See student code of conduct via internet here: <https://www.galenaparkisd.com/domain/3384>

Galena Park High School has had 2 students shot to death in as many years about one block off campus.

Continued. See PRINCIPAL LETTERS TO PARENTS, Page 5

## Houston Grand Opera to entertain in County Libraries



Houston Grand Opera Teaching Assistants performing at last year's program in the Libraries.

HOUSTON — Houston Grand Opera (HGO) announces plans to present a series of free, family-friendly summer programs designed to engage and inspire young audiences. The company's teaching artists will travel to community centers and public spaces throughout Houston, offering music, interactive storytelling, and en-

riching activities that introduce children to the magic of opera and the performing arts.

"Every child in Houston deserves the chance to experience the wonder of opera," says HGO General Director and CEO **Khori Dastoor**. "By bringing these programs into libraries, community centers, and public spaces, we're remov-

ing barriers and creating joyful, welcoming experiences for families throughout the city. As a parent myself, I've seen firsthand how moments like these can light a spark in a child's imagination. We cannot wait to share our art form with Houston families this summer."

Continued. See OPERA IN THE LIBRARIES, Page 6

## THEA Wins Court Battle to Stop dredging and mooring

HOUSTON — Texas Health and Environment Alliance (THEA) has dropped their lawsuit against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for shortcutting permitting procedures for a barge company.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has agreed that it must conduct a full environmental review prior to approving any future permits related to a controversial dredging and mooring project within the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site's "Area of Concern." The decision comes after THEA, represented by Earthjustice, filed a lawsuit challenging the agency's unlawful approval of the project via a "Letter of Permission" — a shortcut that bypassed environmental scrutiny and public input.

The project site is near the toxic San Jacinto Riv-



er Waste Pits in an area that has recently been identified as an area having cancer rates 'significantly greater' than the average in Texas.

Originally, USACE greenlit the project without conducting a full National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, despite the project's potential to stir up toxic contamination and strong community opposition against the project. The lawsuit argued further investigations were necessary given that dredging and increased barge traffic near the waste pits

could disturb hazardous materials, threatening the San Jacinto River, local fisheries, and nearby communities.

"This outcome is a win for all waterfront communities that have felt forgotten and ignored," says **Jackie Medcalf, founder of THEA**. "It underscores the importance of adhering to laws and regulations, sending a clear message that communities cannot be sidelined, and environmental assessments cannot be by-

Continued. See ARMY CORPS AGREES TO FULL REVIEW, Page 3

# SHELDON ISD NEWS

## Freshman Makes History at C.E. King High School

King High School freshman Dillon Mitchell has captured 1st place in the 100-meter dash at the Region 3-6A Track Meet on April 19, solidifying his spot as one of the nation's most elite young athletes. As only a 15-year-old freshman, Dillon clocked an astonishing 10.0 seconds, making him the fastest 15-year-old in the world in the 100m dash.

"While dominating on the track, he continues to maintain honor roll status in the classroom. Dillon is also a standout football player with multiple Division I offers, proving he's a generational talent across multiple sports,"



said KHS Head Football Coach Cory Laxen.

His speed has earned him a spot at the State Track Meet in Austin, Texas, where he will compete on May 3 at Mike A. Myers Stadium on the University of Texas campus.

## Sheldon ISD principal and board president receive state recognition



On Thursday, April 24, King High School celebrated the Class of 2025 students graduating in the Top 10% with dinner and an awards presentation at the Humble Civic Center. This year, there are 98 students in the Top 10% of the graduating class. King High School's graduation is taking place Sunday, June 1 at 3 p.m. at NRG Stadium.

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# CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



## Who do you call upon

When life gets wild, when there is an injury, a death or something amazing to share with someone, who do you call upon? I know to call upon God and He will listen, answer, and comfort me. Yet, as a human, sometimes I just need to hear someone's voice to listen to me and to pray with me. In the good times, the tough times, and the times I do not know where to turn to for advice, I am blessed to have a sister in Christ, who I can always call on when in a crisis or when I need to celebrate.

Diane and I cannot remember how we first met, but for some reason we think it might have been when she was looking for guidance on how to find some help with her non-profit, Make Over in Christ. She remembers going to the local Chamber of Commerce and meeting Dr Charles Grant during the time he was working there. He had retired from San Jacinto College and did a short stint working with Commissioner Sylvia Garcia, as the Education Liaison. He needed something to keep him busy and still make a difference in the community. Diane met Dr. Grant, and he referred her to me. It is a standing joke with he and I that we worked together for so long at the college that we can sometimes finish each other's sentences and when we need a name or a resource, we call upon each other.

He sent Diane to visit me at the college. Instantly we connected in spirit. We knew many of the same people, were quite sure we had met before and as they say, "the rest is history." Diane and I can call each other at 4 a.m. or at 9 p.m., on the same day or days apart and it feels as those we just hung up talking to each other. During the COVID pandemic, we were a part of a cohort of volunteers who were participating in a leadership academy with East Harris County Empowerment Council. Had it not been for our weekly zoom meetings, there is no telling how any of us would have survived.

That class, along with a John Maxwell Book Group that was led by Dr. Cornelius Wilson was leading, kept our minds focused on becoming better despite the obstacles of the pandemic. The friendship with Dr. Wilson, "Doc," began years ago, shortly after my divorce and even though he had been my children's pediatrician, he became one of my prayer partners, confidants, and faithful friends. Over the decades, we have laughed together, shed a few tears, referred to others to each other, and we have been there when the world seemed as if it was crashing.

Each of the individuals has proven repeatedly that family is not defined by blood or marriage, yet instead by mutual love and respect. If you do not have someone to call upon, I pray this is the week that you will pray, ask God for someone that you can build a relationship with and call upon when needed. And remember, to have friends, you have to be a friend.

# Aarmy Corps agrees to full review after lawsuit over San Jacinto Project,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

passed." During Tropical Storm Imelda in 2019 a barge carrying lubricating oil became grounded on one of the waste pits at the Superfund site, while another barge damaged the I-10 Bridge. In 2027, plans to remove toxic waste from the site will overlap with plans for \$555 million revitalization of the I-10 bridge.

Nearby residents fear this new barge project could make a terrible situation even worse.

"The closest community members live at sea level, and residents fear that the next flood or storm could send a barge into the Waste Pit, the interstate bridge, or worse, straight to their front door, Medcalf said. "For decades, these

residents unknowingly lived among dioxin waste in the San Jacinto River. The last thing they need is a company digging up the river bottom without the proper sampling and assessment to ensure their safety."

"The Corps has taken precisely the action we desired when filing the lawsuit: revoking the permit," says Allison Brouk, senior attorney at Earthjustice. "We will continue to monitor any future permit applications for activities near the Superfund site that may impact the area to be sure that the Corps does not once again try to shortcut the required investigations. If needed, we'll sue again and hold the Corps accountable."

# ASK DIAMOND JIM



## Diamond Jim: "What is the birthstone for May?"

### MAY BIRTHSTONE IS EMERALD

May birthdays fall right in the heart of spring, and the emerald is the perfect gem to symbolize and celebrate this month. Prized for its brilliant and beautiful green color, the emerald is often favored by the rich and famous to wear as statement pieces for big events. But this beautiful gem is just at home in an unassuming pendant as it is in an ornate tiara.



As the birthstone for May, the emerald, a symbol of rebirth, is believed to grant the owner foresight, good fortune, and youth. Emerald, derived from the word "smaragdus," means, quite literally, "green" in Greek. Like aquamarine, emerald is a variety of beryl, a mineral that grows with six sides and up to a foot in length. Emerald color can range from light green (though there is some argument whether these very light beryls are truly emeralds) to a deep, rich green. Emeralds are also like aquamarine in that the way the color is presented itself in jewelry depends on a good cut by a skilled gemologist. The deeper or more green an emerald, the more valuable it is. The rarest emeralds will appear to be an intense green-blue. Emeralds are found all over the world, including Colombia, Brazil, Afghanistan and Zambia. The availability of high-quality emerald is limited; consequently, treatments to improve clarity are performed regularly.

The emerald was mined in Egypt as early as 330 BC, but some estimate that the oldest emeralds are 2.97 billion years old. Cleopatra is perhaps the most famous historical figure to cherish emeralds. She even claimed ownership of all emerald mines in Egypt during her reign. The Egyptians used emeralds both in jewelry, and in their elaborate burials, often burying emeralds with monarchs as symbols of protection. Like other gemstones, the emerald was believed to have many mystical powers that accompanied its beauty. There were those who thought the emerald could cure stomach problems, control epilepsy and stop bleeding. Maybe due to its soothing green color, it was also thought to be able to ward off panic and keep the wearer relaxed and serene. Today, emerald is a symbol of loyalty, new beginnings, peace and security, making it not only a beautiful gem to wear, but also a meaningful gift to be treasured by the receiver. It is still widely prized by the rich and famous, with Elizabeth Taylor's famous emerald pendant selling for \$6.5 million in 2011.

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## As we get older, eyesight weakens



This requires bigger diamonds.



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OPINION PAGE



It's All About the Seniors!

As I wrap up another busy district work period, I wanted to share what we've been up to in the community.



Senior Tour | Social Security Day of Action

We kicked off the week with our Senior Tour in honor of Social Security Day of Action—visiting senior centers across the district.

They've earned their Social Security benefits, and I'm fighting to keep offices open, services timely and accessible, and protections in place.



Partnering with County Judge Lina Hidalgo | Medicaid Day of Action

For our Medicaid Day of Action, I joined forces with Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo to bring awareness to the critical county programs that would be affected by federal cuts to Medicaid.

Together, we visited groups around the district to talk about the importance of having access to healthcare and how we must keep pushing to ensure no Texan is left behind.

From Ben Taub to L.B.J hospital, millions of families, children, seniors, and people with disabilities rely on Medicaid for the care they need.

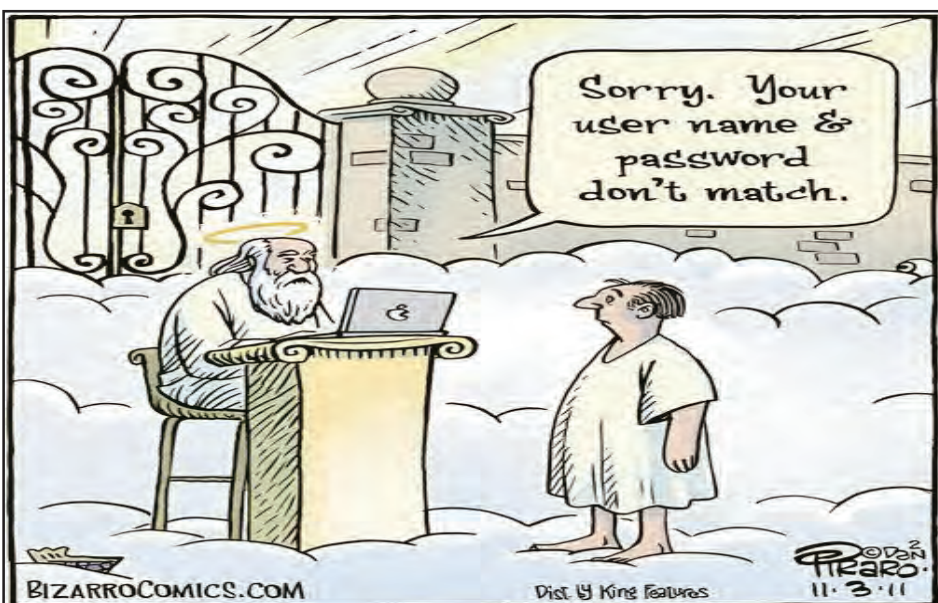


Town Hall with Congressman Joaquin Castro | Affordability Week of Action

For Affordability Week of Action, I was proud to welcome Congressman Joaquin Castro for a Town Hall.

People rely on Social Security, Medicare, and SNAP for food, medicine, and basic needs, and rising costs are impacting their everyday lives.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders



TEA Releases 2023 A-F accountability ratings

After a prolonged delay because of a lawsuit filed by about 100 school districts, the Texas Education Agency has released the 2023 A-F accountability ratings.

"For far too long, families, educators and communities have been denied access to information about the performance of their schools, thanks to frivolous lawsuits paid for by tax dollars filed by those who disagreed with the statutory goal of raising career readiness expectations to help students," said Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath.

A separate, ongoing lawsuit has delayed the release of more recent ratings from the 2023-2024 school year. School performance ratings from the 2024-2025 school year are set to be issued in August.

For the 2023 school year, about half of Texas schools earned an A or B, while roughly 14% scored a D, and 7% received Fs, The Dallas Morning News reported.

To view 2023 A-F ratings for all Texas public school districts or campuses, go to Txschools.gov.

STATE INSURANCE CRISIS IS NOW HITTING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Severe weather from hurricanes and other weather events has not spared the state's public schools, resulting in skyrocketing property insurance costs, the Houston Chronicle reported.

The problem is particularly acute in coastal areas hit by hurricanes and severe storms. Part of the major school finance package passed by the House in April would reimburse school districts in 14 coastal counties for insurance increases above the state average.

Another bill, filed by state Rep. Todd Hunter, R-Corpus Christi, would give districts in coastal counties a credit against recapture payments for wind and hail coverage.

"You don't want education to suffer because you're worried about getting money to cover buildings for the



kids," Hunter said.

ABBOTT SIGNS TEXAS VERSION OF DOGE INTO LAW

The Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office is now set to become law after Gov. Greg Abbott signed the measure into law last week.

The office will launch in 2026 with a \$10-million, two-year operating budget.

"We in Texas will now have our own DOGE, known as the Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office," Abbott said. "This law will slash regulations, put stricter standards on new regulations that could be costly to businesses, and put a check on the growth of the administrative state."

The new office will also work to reduce state regulations that it considers outdated or unnecessary.

SBA ASSISTANCE GRANTED FOR NORTHEAST TEXAS COUNTIES HIT BY TWISTERS

The U.S. Small Business Administration has approved Abbott's request for a disaster declaration for Northeast Texas communities hit by tornadoes and severe weather earlier this month.

The approval gives homeowners, renters and businesses access to a number of low-interest loans in affected communities.

Applicants can apply online at sba.gov/disaster or by calling 800-659-2955. A Disaster Loan Outreach Center has opened in

Daingerfield to assist with completing applications and answering questions.

BILL CLARIFYING ABORTION LAWS CLEARS SENATE PANEL

A bill to clarify the state's abortion laws has passed out of a Senate committee, the Texas Standard reported. Some amendments have been added to address criticism from the left and right, the report said.

The bill, which now goes to the Senate floor for debate, specifically says a woman who has an abortion can't be criminalized "as a party, principal, perpetrator, or accomplice" to the prohibited abortion.

A companion bill in the House is still in committee.

TEXAS REPUBLICANS TRY TO REIN IN HOUSING COSTS

A poll last year indicates 90% of Texans view the state's high housing costs as a problem, one that GOP leaders hope to fix, The Texas Tribune reported.

"Young people have been boxed out of the housing market," Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said earlier this month.

While buying or renting a home in Texas is still cheaper than California and New York, rising costs could affect the state's competitive advantage. In addition, the state needs about 320,000 more homes than it has, according to an estimate from one housing advocacy group.

One approach GOP legislators are trying is to force cities to reduce lot sizes and allow homes to be built in more places, though the proposals would only apply to the state's 18 largest cities.

NUCLEAR POWER IN MIDST OF A RESURGENCE

A research lab at Abilene Christian University is building the nation's first nuclear research reactor in more than four decades, The News reported.

"Our goal is to take this technology and bless the world with it," said Rusty Towell, an engineering professor at ACU who leads the university's effort to build a small nuclear reactor.

The state has signed off on supporting nuclear technology with a \$5 billion development fund. Nuclear power is seen as a way to provide stable energy while slowing climate change.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

An Empty Space



This week was spent with the familiar sensation that I have no idea what I am doing.

I just started rehearsals for a show about my column and the origin story for my first novel, Loon Point, that comes out next February.

My director, Cheryl, and I are meeting in an old church that has been converted into a community center. The room we are in doubles as a dining hall for funerals and a kitchen for the food shelf.

We started, as all plays start, by looking at an empty space and imagining how to fill it.

"I don't think we need a chair," Cheryl said.

We had talked about having a chair, and now we had a folding chair sitting in the middle of the stage. The chair looked as if it was about to do something very important and, since I wrote the script, I knew that it was not.

"I say we get rid of the chair," Cheryl said, with more conviction.

I folded up the chair and hustled it offstage. The chair, formerly the star of the show, had been officially fired.

But Cheryl liked the hat stands I had brought and agreed we needed two of them. She liked the stool, and we added a small table—except we didn't have a small table. So we used the same old folding chair, now conscripted into playing the role of a table.

Then we silently looked at what had suddenly turned from a dining hall into a stage. "I'd like you to read the script and move around," Cheryl told me.

This is the part I hate. I have no natural instincts when it comes to movement. I have vivid recollections of every dance class I took as a young person. I was flexible, and classes always began with floor exercises.

"The bottom line is there's no new land coming online," state Sen. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, who is behind some of the Senate's efforts, said during floor debate on one of the bills. "It's supply and demand. If there's land ripe for development, for homes, for families, no government should stand in the way."

But I did as Cheryl asked. I read the script aloud, and I moved when I felt I should move. Cheryl took notes with a very serious look on her face (even during the parts that I hoped were funny), and when I finished, I knew a show had started.

I came home surprisingly tired. "How did it go?" my husband, Peter, asked.

I wanted to say that I felt as if the linoleum floor of the old dining hall had ceased to exist, and we'd entered a new world—yet I had returned to my old home. I felt as if I was doing the thing that was always hardest for me, a thing that could never be done perfectly, and—when it was done best—only lasted for a moment. I wanted to say I felt as if I'd taken part in a small miracle. And I had no idea what I was doing.

"It went well," I told him. Because it had.

Till next time, Carrie

Star Courier advertisement with contact information for various offices and subscription rates.

# North Channel community turns out for Relay for Life

Cancer Survivors and Caretakers recognized; Luminaria Remembrances at Annual Fundraiser

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

folks just make donations, and we also get sponsorships and have other ways of raising money.”

Most teams dress up to recognize their team members and show spirit, and they also have a team baton that gets passed off to the next group who takes the track to walk. Once the relay begins, each team must have a rep on the track walking.

“We have a contest for the best baton, and various other contests for the participants as they walk,” Nutt said.

They walk from 6 p.m. to midnight.

“We used to walk from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. overnight, but that was too strenuous for everyone and so now we close up at midnight,” she said.

Lydia Blackwell has overseen sponsorships for numerous years.

“When I walk through the door of a business, most of them still remember me and always ask ‘Is it that time of year again,’” she said smiling.

Many not only make monetary donations but also offer in-kind donations that can be used in the silent auction or as motivational giveaways to participants.

This year, again, Chick-Fil-A was the top sponsor for the Relay.

Blackwell said they not only have silent auction items donated to them, but many of the fast-food restaurants in the area like Chick-Fil-A, McDonalds, Peter Piper Pizza, and many others hand her gift cards to give out at the



Survivors pose with The Cow from Chick-Fil-A during the North Channel Relay For Life walk to fight cancer. Chick-Fil-A has been a top sponsor for the last two years.



Team members of the Sam Rams from Sam Houston Elementary show off their costumes and team baton which gets passed off to each team member as they take the track to walk.



Organizers: Lynn Nutt, chairman (center) is assisted by Lydia Blackwell (left) and Marti Yanez who work with a board of volunteers

In North Shore, nearly everyone reads the NORTH CHANNEL STAR. Your Hometown Newspaper.

event.

Marti Yanez works at the Ninth-grade campus and is the third member of the trio in leadership that works to put on the event each year.

“I just do what they tell me to,” she laughed. “Each year we have a theme for the event and I distribute that information to everyone so that they can make their plans for their booths and costumes,” she said.

Yanez, Nutt, and Blackwell are visible throughout the night checking in with different teams, announcing the talent lineup that performs throughout the night, and then lining the bleachers with luminaries in memory of those who have lost their fight to cancer.

While it’s celebratory at the beginning with lively music, the reality of the


fight comes to light as the luminarias are lit and the names of those loved ones are visible that have been written on each luminaria.

“Each step we take today is a step towards hope, a step towards a future where cancer no longer casts its shadow over our lives,” said Dr. Demetrius McCall, superintendent for Sheldon ISD.

“We walk today to honor the survivors, those who have bravely battled cancer and emerged victoriously. We walk today to support those who are currently in the fight to one day have a cancer-free diagnosis. Your presence here today is a testament to the power of community. Every dollar brings us closer to breakthroughs that will save lives and bring hope to countless families,” he said.

## Letters from Galena Park HS Principal Juan Ramirez to Parents,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



**Galena Park High School**

1000 Keene Street  
Galena Park, Texas 77547  
(832) 386-2800  
FAX: (832) 386-2802

**Juan C. Ramirez**  
Principal

---

May 1, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians:

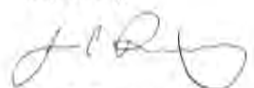
Galena Park High School administrators are committed to providing our students with a safe and secure environment in which to learn. An important part of that commitment is honestly communicating incidents and concerns to you, for which we need your support and assistance. As such, we need to inform you of an incident that occurred today at school.

This afternoon, two students reported that a male student pointed what they believed to be a gun at a group of students. We would like to commend these two students for their quick action and courage. Our administrators immediately responded by activating one of our security protocols, HOLD, at 1:00 p.m. and, in collaboration with the Harris County Precinct 2 School Resource Officers, initiated a search to locate the student involved. The resource officers and campus administrators secured the student within moments of the report being made, and the HOLD was lifted at 1:17 p.m. Upon investigation, it was determined that the student was actually in possession of a laser pointer, not a weapon. During this time, students and staff remained safe, as they were instructed to clear the hallways and remain in their classrooms until the “all clear” was given.

We understand this is unsettling news, but please rest assured that the situation is being addressed with the level of seriousness it deserves. Disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the district’s Student Code of Conduct. Because of federal law to protect student privacy, I am not at liberty to share further details; however, it is important for you to know that the situation is under the control of the appropriate school administrators and law enforcement officials.

Please know that these situations are never dismissed, as the safety of students and staff is always our first concern. Feel free to contact my office at (832) 386-2800 if you have any questions or concerns you would like to share. Our goal is to prepare our students for the future, and our commitment to maintaining a safe school environment is unwavering. We accomplish this with your support at home.

Respectfully,



Juan C. Ramirez

April 29, 2025

Dear Galena Park High School Parents and Guardians:

I believe in keeping open lines of communication with our families, so I would like to take a moment to inform you of an incident that occurred today.

A K-9 deputy from Harris County Precinct 2 alerted on a vehicle in the parking lot. Following further investigation, a .22 rifle was discovered in a student’s vehicle.

We understand this is unsettling news, but please rest assured, the situation has been addressed with the seriousness it deserves. Disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the district’s Student Code of Conduct. Because federal law protects student privacy, I am not at liberty to share further details, but it is important for you to know the situation is under the control of the appropriate school administrators and law enforcement officials.

If your child(ren) saw or heard about this incident, please reassure them that our staff and administrators work diligently to keep them safe at all times. As a campus, our priority will continue to be the safety of all students, and we will take this opportunity to remind them never to bring weapons or anything resembling a weapon to school. I ask you to do the same at home with your child(ren).

If you have any questions, please contact me at (832) 386-2800.

Respectfully,

Juan C. Ramirez | I  
Principal

Current and Back Issues are available on our website:  
[www.starcouriernews.com](http://www.starcouriernews.com)

# Jacinto City Elementary School Turns 80!



On May 1, 2025, Jacinto City Elementary School, home of the Tigers, celebrated a remarkable milestone—its 80th anniversary. Nestled in a community that once burgeoned with industrial growth, the school originally opened as Industrial Elementary School on Burman Street. It comprised a single-story building housing an office, a small kitchen, a cafeteria, and several classrooms. Over the decades, the school has evolved, nurturing generations of students and becoming a community cornerstone.

At the heart of this momentous celebration was the school's fifth principal, Dr. Becky Gardea. Under her leadership, the anniversary event was a vibrant and heartfelt tribute to the school's rich history and enduring legacy. The festivities were filled with nostalgia, community spirit, and pride, as students, alumni, and community members came together to honor the past and look forward to the future.

Students played a central role in the celebration, creating commemorative pieces that captured the

essence of their beloved school. The celebration was also a reunion of sorts, as former students, teachers, and community members gathered to share stories and memories. Relics of the past, including yearbooks, one of the school's original bells, and memorabilia from former teachers, were on display, offering a glimpse into the school's storied history. These artifacts sparked conversations and reminiscing among attendees, highlighting the impact the school has had on countless lives.

The event was a fitting tribute to a school that began out of necessity in a rapidly growing area and has since become a pillar of the community. As Jacinto City Elementary School marks its 80th year, it is a testament to resilience, dedication, and the power of education. With the Tiger spirit at its core, the school looks forward to many more years of inspiring and educating future generations.

Here's to 80 years of excellence and to the bright future ahead for Jacinto City Elementary School! Go Tigers!

# Houston Grand Opera's teaching artists will bring music, storytelling and creative activities to area libraries,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The company will be offering three types of programs as part of this initiative. Intended for grades Pre-K-5, **Opera to Go!** offers fully-staged, high-energy, 45-minute operas at the region's schools, libraries, and community venues.

This season's production is *Mo Willems's Bite-Sized Operas!*, a double feature of operatic works, both based on children's books by bestselling, Emmy Award-winning author Mo Willems and featuring music by Grammy Award-nominated composer Carlos Simon. *Slopera!* shares the story of Piggie and Elephant, two best friends who learn to appreciate one another's differences. *Don't Let the Pigeon Sing up Late!*, starring The Pigeon and companions A Pigeon and Ima Pigeon, recounts The Pigeon's losing battle against bedtime. The show will be presented in a bilingual English and Spanish edition.

**Sing! Move! Play!** (SMP), intended for grades Pre-K-2, celebrates opera's greatest hits through action-packed workshops filled with singing, rhythmic movement, and creative play, while sharing music from classic operas. This summer's featured music includes:

- *Carmen*, Bizet's ever-popular opera
  - Italian Favorites, opera's greatest hits
  - *The Marriage of Figaro*, Mozart's timeless comedy masterpiece
- Storybook Opera** (SBO), intended for grades Pre-K-

**HGO'S SUMMER SCHEDULE: FREE PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN**  
**Harris County Public Library System**  
 June 17 @ 11 a.m.: North Channel Branch, SBO/Maria's Magical Musical Adventure (bilingual)  
 June 18 @ 11 a.m.: Aldine Branch, SBO/Maria's Magical Musical Adventure (bilingual)  
 July 7-11 @ 11 a.m. daily: Sing! Move! Play! Camp at North Channel Branch—a week of singing, dance, crafting, and more  
 July 15 @ 11 a.m.: Aldine Branch, SBO/Three Little Pigs  
 July 21-25 @ 11 a.m. daily: Sing! Move! Play! Camp at Jacinto City Branch—a week of singing, dance, crafting, and more  
 July 21-25 @ 11:30 a.m. daily: Sing! Move! Play! Camp at Atascocita Branch—a week of singing, dance, crafting, and more  
 July 31 @ 2 p.m.: Stratford Branch, SBO/Opera Cat

2, brings children's books to life through song as HGO teaching artists present an engaging and enjoyable introduction to opera for students. This summer's featured books include:

- *The Armadillo's Dream* by HGO chorister Dennis Arrowsmith, about an armadillo with opera-star dreams (bilingual)
- *Agua / Agua* and *Fuego / Fuego* by Jorge Argueta,

about water and the natural world (bilingual)

- *Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon* by Kat Zhang, about a student's quest to make the perfect dragon
- *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, a perennial favorite
- *Maria's Magical Musical Adventure*, about a young girl who travels through time to meet Vivaldi (bilingual)
- *Opera Cat* by Tess Weaver, about a cat and her

opera-diva owner

- *The Three Little Pigs*, a classic fable
- *Westward Ho, Carlotta!* by Candace Fleming, about an opera singer who follows her dreams out West

HGO gratefully acknowledges the supporters who have helped bring this programming to Houston: The Brown Foundation, Inc., ConocoPhillips, H-E-B, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, National Endowment for the Humanities, Powell Foundation, Shell USA, and The Wortham Foundation, Inc.

Storybook Opera has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom.

For more information, visit [HGO.org/Community](http://HGO.org/Community).



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**CEMETERY LOTS**

We have 4 Cemetery spaces for sale at the San Jacinto Memorial Park-Funeral Home off of I-10. They are located in the Blue Lagoon section Lot #57 and spaces 9,10,11,and 12. They are \$3750 each. We can break them up and sell 2 groups of 2. Please email [sacain55@yahoo.com](mailto:sacain55@yahoo.com) for more information.

19-4t

**NEWS TIPS & ADVERTISING INQUIRIES**

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Channelview I.S.D. will accept Sealed Request for Proposals (RFP) for the following:

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- Fine Arts – Apparel, Equipment & Supplies
- Fundraiser Services
- General Merchandise – In-Store, Local Retailers & Grocery Stores
- Instructional Materials, Equipment, Furniture & Supplies
- Library Books, Equipment & Supplies
- Maintenance/Nutrition/Transportation – Equipment, Parts, Repairs & Supplies
- Office Furniture & Supplies
- Technology Equipment, Services, Software & Supplies
- Waste Removal Contract

RFPs will be received until 4:00 p.m., Friday, June 13, 2025, through the Electronic Bidding Website at <https://evid.ionwave.net>. All necessary information may be obtained by calling the Business Office at (281) 452-8003, or the district website [www.cvisd.org](http://www.cvisd.org), under Departments → Business Office → Purchasing. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

19-2T

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# Business Directory

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# 2025 C-STEM Master Teacher awarded to Jessica Little



A huge congratulations goes out to C.E. King High School teacher Jessica Little. Ms. Little has been awarded the 2025 C-STEM Master Teacher Award by C-STEM, a Houston based organization with the mission to make STEM accessible to all students. This award recognizes instructional leaders whose efforts have made a lasting difference. Their work continues to inspire other educators, advocates, and students. Ms. Little shown brightly amongst her peers for her work for the past seven years as C-STEM coach as well as her work leading the Sea Turtle Challenge. Her work has inspired countless students to explore, grow and thrive in STEM fields! Join us in celebrating this recognition of a remarkable teacher in



our Sheldon ISD family. Ms. Little will be presented with her award at the 13th annual State of STEM Education Stakeholder Breakfast on June 6.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**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, May 22, 2025**, and then publicly opened and read during the Thursday, May 22, 2025, City Council Meeting at 6:00 P.M. held at the Council Chambers, 10301 Market Street, Jacinto City, Texas 77029 for construction of the "Northwest Waterline Rehab, Phase 4 of 4."

Scope of Work: Waterline rehabilitation of approximately 6,210 LF of waterline of varying sizes from 10-inch to 4-inch waterline complete with fire hydrants, valves, and service reconections.

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

Secure Plans and Specifications from LJA Engineering, Inc., at <https://bids.lja.com> for One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00 non-refundable plus cost of delivery) (\$50.00 for electronic copy) for each set of documents, which sum will not be refunded. A printed set can be picked up at LJA Engineering, Inc., East Houston Office, 11821 East Freeway, Suite 360, Houston, TX 77029.

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

The project to be constructed will be financed with assistance through U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Project Funding (CPF) program and is subject to all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations. 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 Jacinto City Section 3 Policy is required for all contracts.

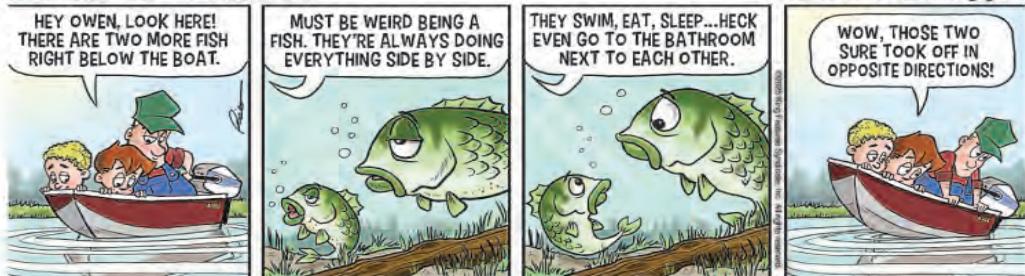
All contractors and subcontractors must be cleared (not suspended or debarred) prior to any formal action authorizing the award of a contract. Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, Section 3 Businesses, and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit bids.

A **Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference** will be held on **Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 10:00 A.M.** at the City of Jacinto City Wastewater Treatment Plant, 12202 Market Street, Houston, Texas 77015 in accordance to the Instructions to Bidders, Paragraph 21.

City of Jacinto City  
Ana Diaz  
Mayor

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Amber Waves



### Weekly SUDOKU

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Naming is missing. 2. Chair is different. 3. Vase is added to towel. 4. Table is wider. 5. Planter is different. 6. Stripe is different. 7. Chair is missing. 8. Vase is added to towel.

May 5, 2025 Posting Date

### King Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 1 Completely
- 4 Playwright Levin
- 7 Done with
- 11 Secular
- 13 Collection
- 14 Water carrier
- 15 Airline to Tel Aviv
- 16 ET's craft
- 17 Dutch cheese
- 18 Ersatz chocolate
- 20 One-named supermodel
- 22 Tree fluid
- 24 Trombone parts
- 28 Grassy tract
- 32 January, to Juan
- 33 Grassy area
- 34 Shade provider
- 36 FBI guy
- 37 Alpha's opposite
- 39 "The Hunger Games" heroine
- 41 Dance clubs
- 43 Prefix with athlete
- 44 Tom Joad, for one
- 46 Urged (on)
- 50 Hive population
- 53 Schlep
- 55 Luau dance

**DOWN**

- 1 Sir Guinness
- 2 In — land
- 3 Deceitful person
- 4 Terre Haute
- 5 Mortgage
- 6 Molecule parts
- 7 Exciting Broadway event
- 8 YouTube clip, for short
- 9 Clean air org.
- 10 "The One I Love" band
- 12 Loan application fees
- 19 "Cheers" setting
- 21 Pub order
- 23 Bakery purchase
- 25 Singer Lovato
- 26 Historic periods
- 27 Male children
- 28 Trudge
- 29 Actor Malek
- 30 Dazzles
- 31 Caribou kin
- 35 Yoga pad
- 38 Fine, to NASA
- 40 Italian "three"
- 42 Farm towers
- 45 Franc replacement
- 47 Sudden wind
- 48 Flair
- 49 Scurry
- 50 German auto
- 51 Shoe width
- 52 Have breakfast
- 54 Solidify

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**Answers**

**King Crossword**

Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

ACROSS

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7. Done with
11. Secular
13. Collection
14. Water carrier
15. Airline to Tel Aviv
16. ET's craft
17. Dutch cheese
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45. Franc replacement
47. Sudden wind
48. Flair
49. Scurry
50. German auto
51. Shoe width
52. Have breakfast
54. Solidify

### Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. U.S. STATES: Which state is last, alphabetically?
2. MOVIES: What does the acronym S.H.I.E.L.D. stand for in movies about Marvel characters?
3. LITERATURE: Who wrote the short story "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"?
4. GAMES: How many cards are in a standard deck?
5. TELEVISION: On which sitcom did the character Harry the Hat appear?
6. BUSINESS: When did the first Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise open?
7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many Nobel prizes are awarded every year?
8. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was the shortest at 5 foot 4 inches tall?
9. ASTRONOMY: Who was the first woman to travel into space?
10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby platypus called?

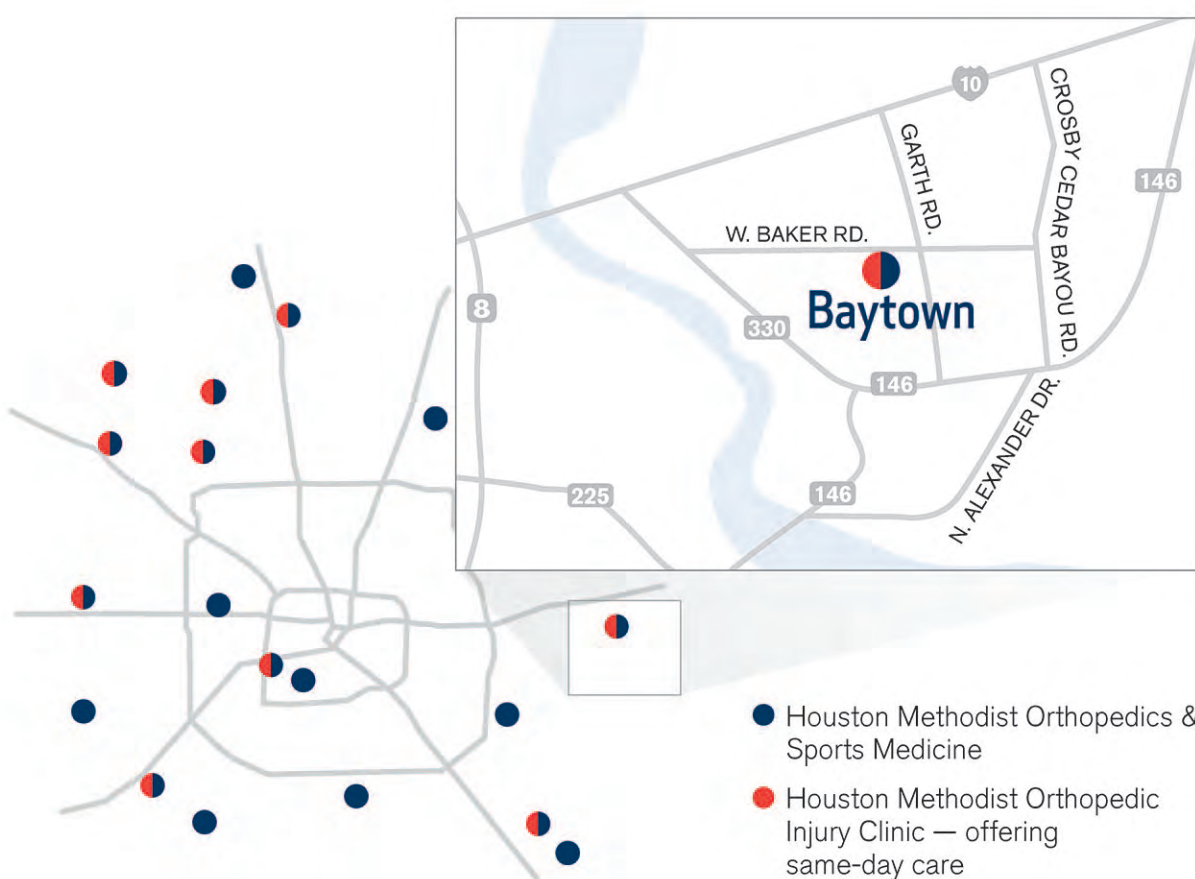
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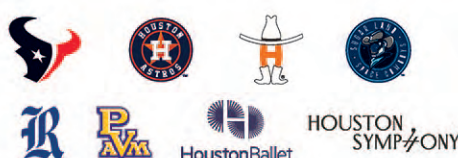
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