

# NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR Your News, Your Newspaper



Celebrating Thai Lee, (born 1958) American Billionaire businesswoman, the co-owner, CEO and President of SHI International. Last of a series. Story by Allan Jamail.

See Story on Page 5.

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
VOLUME 14, NO. 13 (#609) THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026 www.northchannelstar.com

## Galena Park's Easter Egg Hunt Tradition Lives On

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX. ~ March 24, 2026 ~ At the Galena Park Branch of Harris County's Library students of all ages one's got into the Easter Spirit early while hunting for hidden Easter Eggs.

This tradition has been going on for as long as I can remember. Coming up in Galena Park in the late 1940's as a child about 7 years of age my sister, brother and I went to the City Park and hunted for eggs. Back then they were real hardboiled eggs. Local churches and parents furnished the bright colored dyed eggs.

This year The Friends of the Galena Park Library generously provided candy and Easter eggs for the Easter egg hunt. Library staff and teen volunteers prepared the egg hunt at



Galena Park Library's Easter egg hunts participants. SPECIAL NOTE: Names of those in the photo must be omitted since all of the underage children's parents wasn't available to give permission. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

the park around the library for elementary aged children.

This year as in recent Easter's it's much different, no real eggs are used; they use plastic eggs each with wrapped candy inside. Instead of hiding the eggs all

over the park's one acre plus of land the hunt now is kept only near and around the library.

Parents of the young participants get just as excited as their children do, making sure to capture a cell phone photo of their

kids when they burst into excitement when they find an egg.

At my age of 82, I also get excited while looking into the happy faces of the parents and kids as they find eggs.

Other upcoming fea-

tures events at Galena Park Library include Make & Wake, a morning crafting program for adults on April 7th at 11 a.m. in which they will be decorating bookmarks.

Tranquil Tuesdays, a low impact exercise pro-

gram, takes place at 11 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month. Moreover, there will also be an opportunity for teens and tweens to attend a

Continued. See GALENA PARK'S EASTER EGG HUNT, Page 2

### CHANNEL CURRENTS

#### Crime Prevention in Galena Park



Allan Jamail, Former JC Mayor & Police Chief. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

By Allan Jamail

As a writer for the North Channel Star and a former Jacinto City mayor and police chief I've studied Crime Prevention Extensively. I was recognized by the Texas Law

Continued. See TECHNOLOGY, VISIBILITY PROPOSED, Page 3

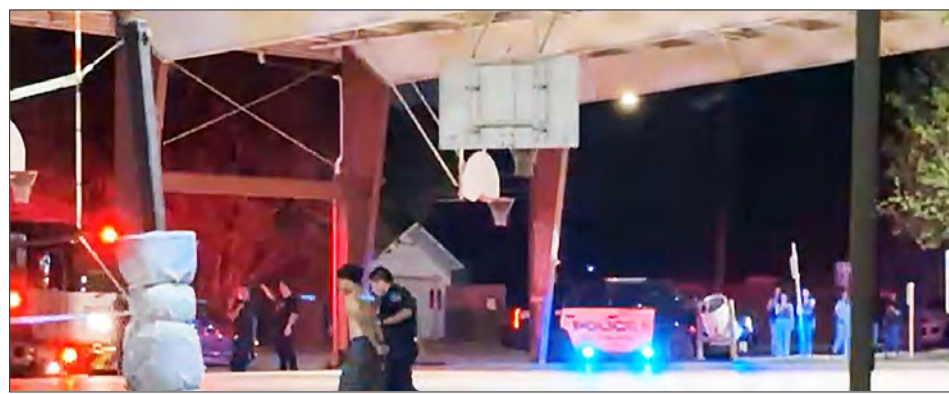
## Gunfire At Galena Park Basketball Court Leaves One Dead, Two Critically Injured

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

GALENA PARK — A 19-year-old man was killed and two others, 20 and 22, were critically injured Sunday night after a shooting erupted near a basketball court in the park next to the Alvin Baggett Community Center on Keene Street, according to the Harris County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said the shooting occurred at approximately 9:45 p.m. as a group of young men were gathered at or near the basketball court.

"This evening at approximately 9:45 p.m., more or less, there was a shooting that occurred here at the location," Gonzalez said during a late-night press conference at the scene. "What



A person of interest was handcuffed and escorted from the scene to a waiting police car. Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said he wasn't sure yet if he was a suspect or witness of the shooting.

we know is that there was a group of males that were gathered here... playing basketball, and there may have been some fighting going on."

Investigators believe multiple vehicles pulled into the area during the disturbance, followed by an exchange of gunfire. Authorities estimate more than 20 shots were fired.

"I would say over 20 — over 20 shots," Gonzalez said. "A lot of shots were fired."

One man, described as a Hispanic male in his late teens to early 20s, was pronounced dead at the scene. Two other men, also described as Hispanic males in the same age range, ran from the park after being shot before col-

lapsing at a nearby location. They were transported by ambulance to area hospitals and were listed in critical condition late Sunday night.

"They eventually collapsed and they were transported from a secondary location nearby to the hospitals," Gonzalez said. "We're told preliminarily that they are both

in critical condition at this point."

Witnesses at the scene reported seeing trails of blood leading away from the park, likely from the wounded victims as they attempted to escape additional gunfire.

Authorities said no weapons had been recovered as of the initial investigation, though numerous shell casings and other firearms evidence were found at the scene.

"Not at this point," Gonzalez said. "We're still in the preliminary stages. Our crime scene investigator just arrived on scene, but there is firearms evidence here."

A person of interest was detained at the scene,

Continued. See MORE THAN 20 SHOTS FIRED IN PARK, Page 3

## Port Houston Spreads Joy at Whittier Elementary School!



Port Houston is spreading joy at Whittier Elementary School in Jacinto City. This month our team made a special outing to deliver 320 toys to students at Whittier for their Student Houston Days. This event was done in partnership with the Houston Promise, a Houston ISD initiative to increase opportunity involvement and create a supportive environment for children.

We loved having the opportunity to deliver space rocket craft kits to the students and seeing their excitement.

Thank you, Whittier, for having us at Your school!

## Galena Park Library Career Day

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX. ~ March 17th, 2026, the Harris County Public Library (HCPL) Branch at the Galena Park Library hosted its second annual Career Day. This family program was planned to motivate students to start thinking about career paths which they might be interested in after high school.

The Library's staff reached out to professionals in the nearby communities and brought together a playwright and arts administrator for Benvenuti Arts, a hospitality and catering manager Shirley Lozano for Cochinita & Co., (who donates food once a month to kids during the library's Creativity Corner program), a pharmacy technician from MD Anderson, the career services associate/project director of the Baylor College of Medicine Teen



Texans for the Arts; Alicia Margarita Olivo an Arts Administrator & Playwright telling a student what it's like creating scripts for a performance.

Health Clinic, Pasadena Roadhouse Marketing Team, and Kwon Bill Manager of FutureU from HCPL's College and Career Services department.

The goal of the library staff is to inspire and encourage the children with this and other types of programming.

Anyone interested in

helping with the upcoming September 2026 Career Day Program or if you have questions about library programs, contact the library at (832) 927-5470 or via email at gp@hcpl.net.

Continued. See STUDENTS DISCOVER CAREER, Page 5

### Voter Registration Drive Scheduled in Jacinto City

#### VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

Date: Monday, April 6, 2026  
Time: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
at: Big Bass Resort  
9701 market st.  
Jacinto City, Tx 77029  
have you moved? new to harris county? haven't voted in the last couple elections. come out and register.

Information will be provided by:  
**Harris County Clerk's office**  
Annette Ramirez, Tax-Assessor-Collector & Voter Registrar  
1001 Preston St.  
Houston, Tx 77002

Lagloria Sephus, **VDR** (Voter Deputy Register)  
Linda Jamail, **VDR** (Voter Deputy Register)

## 5-Year-Old Dies After Being Found in Cloverleaf Pool



CLOVERLEAF — A 5-year-old child died Monday afternoon after being found in a residential swimming pool following a reported missing child call in the Cloverleaf area, according to the Harris County Sheriff's Office.

Authorities said the initial call came in at approximately 12:20 p.m. reporting a wandering child in the 900 block of Nancy Rose. Around the same time, the child's

mother contacted authorities to report the child missing after briefly stepping inside her home.

Deputies and emergency personnel began searching the neighborhood immediately. Officials said a drone was deployed at about 1:15 p.m. to assist in the search effort.

A drone located the child in a swimming pool approximately two blocks from the residence. A deputy rushed to the scene

and began performing CPR in an attempt to revive the child.

Life-saving efforts continued for approximately 25 minutes before emergency medical services personnel took over resuscitation attempts.

Despite those efforts, the child was pronounced dead at the scene.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office said the investigation remains ongoing.

## Channelview ISD Pre-K3 Program Coming soon.

Exciting news for our community! A new Pre-K 3 Full-day Program is coming soon to support our youngest learners as they begin their educational journey. Do you have a child that will be 3 or 4 on or before September 1, 2026?



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911 Sheldon Road  
Channelview, Texas 77530

## Harris County Precinct 2 Honors Vietnam Veterans in Heartfelt Ceremony



HARRIS COUNTY, TX — In a solemn and moving tribute, the community of Harris County Precinct 2 gathered to commemorate National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Local residents, officials, and veter-

ans came together to honor the men and women who bravely served during the Vietnam War.

The ceremony featured heartfelt speeches reflecting on the courage, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication of those who wore the uniform. Participants expressed their deep

gratitude, ensuring that the contributions of Vietnam veterans will never be forgotten.

The event concluded with a standing ovation for the attending veterans, a powerful reminder of a community united in remembrance and respect.

## THE Rotary Club of North Shore



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SERVING FROM 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM OR UNTIL FOOD RUNS OUT

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## GP's easter egg hunt tradition,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

teen-led financial literacy program on Saturday, April 18th at 2 p.m. for those who want to learn to be more money savvy.

Additionally, the previously rescheduled Y2K Trivia event for teens and adults will finally take place April 27th at 6 p.m. Lastly, weekly story times, Stories y Cuentos, return on April 29th at 11:30 a.m.

Precinct 2 Constable Jerry Garcia's office provided an Easter Bunny in

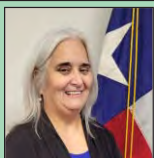
costume for children to meet and get their photo taken with and to take home the free photo.

Ashley Almendarez, GP Library Senior Youth Program Specialist and Sarai Aguilar Library Program Specialist assisted in this article.

There's lots of programs at the library, to follow the GP library calendar of events visit: <https://hclpl.net/locations/GP/>

## CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



### Life is Worth Living

It is easy to look around and see that there are many things that create chaos and lead to anxiety. Rarely does a day go by that we do not read about another senseless death due to a hit and run accident or a death by gun violence. If you are anywhere in the area, you will see a homeless community member asking for a handout. You go online and read reports about the increase in crime statistics. You read about the shortage of teachers, law enforcement officers, afterschool programs and help for our senior adults.

If we are not careful, we find ourselves whining and complaining.

Yet in the middle of the same situations, we find people who are still smiling, still helping, and going about the day worshipping God for the many blessings. A loved one dies and they are thanking God that their loved one is no longer suffering and thanking God for the memories that had been made.

Last Friday, I learned of a senior citizen who had ordered a table online. She noticed that her bank account was charged twice. Then the delivery showed up, not once, but twice. As an 80-year-old with no need for two tables, she reached out to return one and the seller informed her that there was a sixty percent restocking fee. She was upset to say the least. She lives by counting pennies and canning vegetables. She has eliminated most items from her budget, and this news was devastating to her. She called to let me know about the situation and asked if I had any idea of what she could do.

I asked her to send me a picture and I would ask around. Within minutes, I posted the picture on social media and received a notification from a small business owner. She wanted to know how to get the money to the lady. She shared that she would send the money, and by Monday she would have the table picked up and then she would donate to one of the families she knows who needs a table. Is life amazing or what?

It is all about relationships. The business owner has become a legend in the community for her love for children and their families. In addition to owning a daycare center, she had been running a youth sports league for years and helping so many people. She has her hand in multiple streams of income but that same money flows into many more avenues. She is known for loving people, loving our community, and making a difference.

And it is by no accident that she had a mentor who helped her along the way to have a successful life. She will admit that she has had struggles, but her blessings far outnumber the trials.

We all can whine or worship. How will you spend your life? Choose to make a difference today. Enjoy your life.

### Community Events

**Funeral Planning Seminars** are being hosted by Carter Conely Funeral Home on April 2 at 11:30 and 5 p.m. at Saltgrass Steak House. Please pre-register at 713-455-5100 and learn more about how to prepare and provide relief for your loved ones

**Houston Eastside Prayer Gathering** will be Good Friday, April 3rd at 7 pm at GOD'S LOVE TABERNACLE located at 14435 Longview, Houston 77015. Please join us to pray for the community.

**East Houston Democrats Monthly Membership Meeting** welcomes Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia on Thursday, April 9 at 6:30 p.m. to share about recent community projects and to listen to the needs of residents. The meeting will be held at the Pine Trails CIA Building located at 6003 Wood Bend.

**Upcoming Runoff Election Important Dates**

- April 27 last day to register to vote.
- May 13 - 22 Early Voting.
- May 26 Election Day

## ASK DIAMOND JIM



### Diamond Jim: "Why is Diamond the birthstone for April?"

The diamond is the birthstone for April primarily due to its enduring beauty, strength, and association with unending love and new beginnings. Diamonds are valued for their exceptional hardness and brilliance, making them fitting symbols for the month that marks the start of spring. The history of diamonds as a symbol of strength and courage also contributes to their selection as April's birthstone.

Here's a more detailed explanation:

- Strength and Resilience:** Diamonds are the hardest natural substance known, symbolizing strength, courage, and resilience, which aligns with the qualities often associated with the Aries zodiac sign, which falls within April.
- Brilliance and Purity:** The diamond's exceptional brilliance and purity of color are also highly valued.
- Symbol of Enduring Love:** Diamonds are frequently associated with marriage and commitment, representing the enduring nature of love, which is a significant aspect of April.
- New Beginnings:** April is the month that marks the beginning of spring, a time of renewal and new beginnings, and diamonds can be seen as a symbol of fresh starts.
- Historical Significance:** Diamonds have been valued and cherished for centuries, with their popularity growing throughout history. The tradition of wearing diamonds as jewelry became even more fashionable among wealthy Europeans during the 15th century.
- Official Designation:** In 1912, the National Association of Jewelers formally designated the diamond as the April birthstone.

Over the centuries, the diamond birthstone was thought to be an antidote to poison and provide protection against the plague. Some claim that it is a boon for longevity, strength, beauty and happiness. In addition to being the April birthstone, diamond is the gift of choice for the 60th and 75th wedding anniversaries.

Thank you for reading the "Ask Diamond Jim" column and for supporting the North Channel Star Newspaper!

Diamond Jim is a master jeweler, diamond dealer and precious metals broker. Pineforest Jewelry has been a proud member of the Independent Jewelers Organization (IJO) and the Retail Jewelers Organization (RJO) for many years. See more at: [www.pineforestjewelry.com](http://www.pineforestjewelry.com).

If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email [jmills@pineforestjewelry.com](mailto:jmills@pineforestjewelry.com).

### The Leprechauns made you do it!



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Houston, Texas 77049

(713) 451-1321 [PineforestJewelry.com](http://PineforestJewelry.com)

### More than 20 shots fired in park shooting,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

though Gonzalez emphasized it was unclear whether that individual was a suspect or a witness.

"There's a person that I believe was detained," he said. "I don't know his connection to this at this point. We're just trying to put all the pieces together right now."

The Harris County Sheriff's Office is leading the homicide investigation, working in collaboration with the Galena Park Police Department, Precinct 3 Constable's Office and Jacinto City Police Department. Assistant Police Chief Monty Montgomery of Galena Park Police Department was present at the scene but did not comment publicly. The recently hired Galena Park Police Chief was not



on scene.

Gonzalez described the shooting as senseless and dangerous, particularly given the number of people in the area on a Sunday evening.

"It was a beautiful Sunday evening. There's a lot of other people that are around. Anybody could have been hurt," he said. "One person's dead, two others are critical. These are young men. Nobody deserves to die."

Authorities urged anyone with information, including photos or video, to come forward.

"Everybody has cameras. Everybody has phones," Gonzalez said. "If anybody saw something and they fled, please give us a call and let us know because we'd like to know what happened."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Stoppers anonymously at 713-222-TIPS (8477) or the Harris County Sheriff's Office at 713-221-6000.

"We need the public's help to get to the bottom of it," Gonzalez said.

The investigation was expected to continue for several hours as detectives processed the scene and collected evidence.

### City of Galena Park

The Galena Park community is grieving following last night's senseless crime near the Alvin D. Baggett Community Center. In moments like this, we must stand together and lean on both strength and faith. I ask our community to come together in unity—lifting those impacted in prayer, surrounding them with compassion, and standing firm in our commitment to one another.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the Galena Park Police Department, Fire Department, and the Harris County Sheriff's Office for their swift response and continued dedication.

La comunidad de Galena Park está de luto tras el insensato acto de violencia ocurrido anoche cerca del Centro Comunitario Alvin D. Baggett. En momentos como este, debemos mantenernos unidos y enfocarnos en la fe y la union. Hago un llamado a nuestra comunidad a unirse y orar por quienes han sido afectados, rodeándolos de compasión y manteniéndonos firmes en nuestro compromiso los unos con los otros.

Extiendo mi más sincero agradecimiento al Departamento de Policía de Galena Park, al Departamento de Bomberos y a la Oficina del Sheriff del Condado de Harris por su rápida respuesta y dedicación.

Respetuosamente,  
Esmeralda Moya, Alcaldesa.



### Crime Prevention in Galena Park,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Enforcement Agency as a "Crime Prevention Specialist"

As a graduate of the Texas Trooper's Academy & Illinois Trooper's Academy on Terroristic Threats & Hostage Negotiations & Crime Prevention I want to suggest the following to the city officials of Galena Park.

While it's not feasible to place an officer daily around the clock at the city's parks and or nearby areas where multiple shootings and criminal acts have happened over recent years my suggestion is to take advantage of modern technology.

**Crime Prevention's most successful strategy is letting the would-be-criminal know law enforcement is present.**

No criminal wants to get caught committing their



Allan Jamail, Fromer JC Mayor & Police Chief. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

crime. Criminals pick and choose their best time to act without getting caught.

The city needs to place highly visible cameras on all the streets adjacent to the areas prone to attract large numbers of gatherings.

Place large signs that are highly visible to the traveler's of those streets making them aware occupants and their vehicle are under-surveillance.

Place cameras to monitor the public facilities, basketball and volleyball courts. It's important to let those at the park know security cameras are in use.

Law abiding citizens should not mind being on camera, as a matter of fact most likely they would welcome being made safer while in the parks.

I was raised in Galena Park as was daughter Yvette and son Allan Jr. My parks are 82 I see times have changed the parks. City officials and law enforcement must change with today's times.

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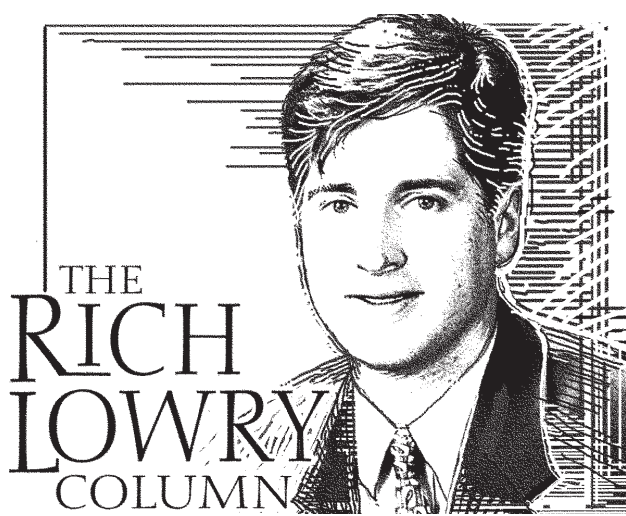
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OPINION PAGE



The Israel Hoax

The Israel Hoax
We've long known that Donald Trump drives his critics crazy, and he's now doing it to some critics who used to be friends.

That should be a familiar-sounding charge since Democrats and the media spent most of Trump's first term making the same accusation, except the foreign puppeteer was Russia rather than Israel.

All of this is misbegotten, first, because we have never had a president who is so thoroughly his own man as Donald Trump. Good luck trying to control him, as so many advisors have learned over the years.

That includes firing FBI director James Comey in his first term, one of the counts against him during the Russia frenzy, and launching the war against Iran today.

Going back 50 years, no one would have been shocked to learn that a nationalistic American president had bombed Iran. Trump is just such a figure, and sure enough, has bombed Iran twice now.

Trump has made bellicose statements about Iran since 1980, and nothing we've heard now suggests anything other than that he genuinely relishes killing Iran's leaders and destroying its weapons.

Temperamentally, Trump loves exercising power, always wants to do it on his own authority and seeks to preserve his options. It shouldn't be surprising, then, that as commander in chief of the world's most proficient military, he's been drawn to using and threatening force.

Israel didn't talk Trump into conducting his Venezuela raid, or menacing Denmark over Greenland, or looking to Cuba as his next potential target.

One argument, based on a distortion of remarks made by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, is that Israel forced Trump's hand; it was going to attack Iran no matter what, and we knew U.S. personnel would be hit by Iran in response and would be particularly vulnerable if we didn't hit Iran as well.

Check and mate, Bibi Netanyahu.

The idea, though, that Trump was too sheepish to stay Netanyahu's hand if the Israeli prime minister was about to launch a military operation that Trump opposed and was going to jeopardize American lives is preposterous.

Trump has been happy to say "no" to Netanyahu before. He pressured the Israeli leader into turning back planes at the end of the 12 Day War last June.

By alleging that Israel forced the U.S. into war, the isolationists think they are making a harsh criticism of the Jewish state, but they are really damning Trump. What worse offense can a president of the United States commit than subjugating his own nation to a foreign power?

This is exactly why the Russian obsessives so delighted in believing that Trump was a tool of the Kremlin.

Most of the right-wing dissenters blanch at following their own logic. An alternative tack — seen in intelligence official Joe Kent's resignation letter — is to argue that Trump was fooled. Kent said there was "a misinformation campaign" that created an echo chamber "to deceive" the president.

This argument is still a stinging condemnation. It paints Trump as an easily manipulated naif, and on a consequential matter of war and peace. In reality, there was no broad-ranging media drumbeat for war and no wave of popular support. This, again, emphasizes how the decision was Trump's, and his alone.

The Russian hoax was, in part, driven by the left's shock at Trump's victory in 2016. Likewise, the isolationists are having trouble processing the fact that the president whom they invested so much in launched a major Middle Eastern war. But Trump was not owned by this faction of the right, any more than he is owned by Israel.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

Islamic Schools Admitted to Voucher Program After Law Suit

Four Islamic schools have been admitted to the Texas voucher program after a federal judge ordered the state to invite the schools to apply, the Houston Chronicle reported.

The judge also ordered the application deadline for families be extended to March 31, citing concerns that no Islamic schools had been approved for the program.

"We received an invitation to register yesterday from Odyssey. We were able to register, and we got approval immediately upon finishing the registration form," Hamed Ghazali, principal of the Houston Quran Academy, said. "In addition, our school appeared on the parents' portal and some of our parents were able to register, choosing our school."

The voucher program gives as much as \$10,400 for tuition reimbursement and other fees to parents who send their children to private school next year, up to \$30,000 for parents of children with disabilities, and up to \$2,000 for homeschooled children.

TEXAS SENATE RUNOFF BALLOT DEADLINE PASSES

The deadline for Republican candidates to withdraw from the May runoff ballot has passed, and both U.S. Sen. John Cornyn and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton remain in the race, The Texas Tribune reported. Soon after the primary President Donald Trump promised to endorse one of the candidates "soon," but has yet to do so.

Cornyn, who held a narrow lead in the primary but not a majority, recently wrote an op-ed piece reversing course on his opposition to ending the filibuster, which requires 60 votes for Senate approval of legislation. The Senate last week started floor discussion of the SAVE America Act, a bill Trump claims would "guarantee the midterms" for Republicans. Both Cornyn and Paxton now back the bill, which restricts voting access.

There is little chance of the bill passing the Senate because of the filibuster, since all 47 Senate Democrats oppose it, calling it a modern-day poll tax. There also does not appear to be enough support for ending the filibuster, which would allow the bill to pass with a simple majority.

Whoever wins the GOP Senate runoff will face state Rep. James Talarico, the Democratic nominee, in November.



CHÁVEZ OBSERVANCE SCRAPPED AFTER ABUSE ACCUSATIONS

Gov. Greg Abbott ordered state agencies to no longer observe César Chávez Day and said he plans to ask lawmakers to remove the holiday from state law, The Dallas Morning News reported. The move came after The New York Times reported Chavez, the co-founder of the United Farm Workers union, groomed and sexually abused girls and women who worked in the movement.

In addition, many Texas cities and school districts are considering renaming streets and schools and removing monuments to the famed labor leader.

"Let me be clear — no political affiliation, legacy or historic contribution should ever shield sexual predators from scrutiny or excuse the harm inflicted on survivors," Dallas City Council member Bazaldua said in a Facebook post.

The co-founder of the UFW, Dolores Huerta, now 96, said Chavez forced her to have sex and raped her at one point. Huerta said that she kept silent to protect the farmworker movement.

DRAG SHOW BAN FINALLY TAKES EFFECT

A ban on certain public drag shows passed in 2023 finally took effect last week after a federal appeals court reaffirmed its constitutionality, The Tribune reported. The law prohibits performers from performing on public property or where children are present.

Paxton cheered the ruling in a news release, writing "I will always work to shield our children from exposure to erotic and inappropriate sexually oriented performances."

The plaintiffs and the

ACLU of Texas, which represents them, said they plan to continue fighting the ban.

"The law's vague and sweeping provisions still create a harmful chilling effect for drag artists and those who support them, while also threatening many types of performing arts cherished here in Texas, from theater to ballet to professional wrestling," ACLU Texas attorney Brian Klosterboer said in a statement.

\$16 BILLION GAS POWER PLANT PLANNED IN EAST TEXAS

One of the nation's largest energy projects is coming to East Texas, according to The News. It is part of a \$550 billion investment package that Japan pledged last October and will be built in Anderson County in East Texas.

The \$16 billion natural gas-fired power generation hub will be able to serve up to five gigawatts of energy demand and will be operated by NextEra Energy Resources, a wholesale electricity provider based in Juno Beach, Florida.

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi visited Trump at the White House last week. The administration has previously said the East Texas project will provide power to meet booming electricity demand, particularly as new data centers come online across the state.

147 MEASLES CASES IN TEXAS THIS YEAR

The Texas Department of State Health Services has reported at least 147 cases of measles in the state this year, with most occurring in federal detention facilities, The Tribune reported. The largest outbreak, with 99 cases, is at the West Texas Detention Facility, which is privately operated in Hudspeith County.

A DSHS spokesperson said the "state's role inside federal facilities is very limited," so detailed information on contact tracing, vaccine response, or any demographic information on infected individuals is not available.

Another 20 cases have been reported in El Paso, Bexar, Bandera, Kendall, Lubbock, and Rockwall counties, according to DSHS, and were contracted from a variety of sources, such as international travel.

Measles is highly contagious and is especially dangerous to unvaccinated children, pregnant women and adults with compromised immune systems. It also has a long incubation period.

AGENCY LAUNCHES LOW-COST PAY AND NEUTER PROGRAM ACROSS STATE

DSHS has launched a new sterilization program for dogs and cats after receiving \$13 million in state funding to support the initiative for two years. The funds are allocated to 38 applicants to perform these procedures across the state. Grant recipients had to demonstrate the ability to provide high-volume, high-quality, and low-cost spay and neuter services.

"The program is designed to maximize sterilization impacts across both urban and rural communities in Texas. Receiving funding were animal shelters and rescue entities, veterinary clinics, governmental agencies, and non-profit organizations that perform sterilization procedures," the news release said.

To discover which entity is serving your area, visit this link: https://tinyurl.com/5zku5bm.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Ice Cream Tonight



I had a really good ice-cream cone this week.

I suppose this does not qualify as news, but I try not to eat too much ice cream, and I don't usually keep ice cream in my freezer because I have a tendency to eat it all right away.

I love ice cream. I have always loved ice cream. But I have noticed my tendency to eat it until my face goes numb and have avoided it. When I'm in Mexico, I walk by an ice-cream shop every night, where I have bought ice cream before. It is good. So almost every night, when I get to the ice-cream shop, I pause, and I ask myself, "Should I get ice cream tonight?"

Almost always, my wiser self says, "You don't really need ice cream tonight. Maybe tomorrow." And I don't buy ice cream.

But last night, after I had passed my usual ice-cream shop, I came to a gelato shop that I had ignored until now. I thought it looked a little fancy. I couldn't imagine gelato could be as good as the ice cream at the shop I had just passed. But this place was always busy, and tonight, for a change, there was no one in there but two employees standing behind the counter. I wandered in.

I looked for the smallest cone they had, and I said I would like one.

"What flavors?"

"What do you recommend?" She suggested several and told me I could have up to four. "On one little cone?"

"Yes!"

This seemed unusual. It was not a large cone. But I went ahead and ordered two kinds of chocolate, one with nuts and one without, and strawberry and mint. While one of the women took my money, the other one started scooping ice cream.

I had no idea it would be such a process.

Tiny slivers of gelato were scooped out in petal shapes and put in that cone, one by one, going around in a circle until the whole thing looked like a rose. It was too beautiful to eat. I had them take a picture of me with the cone first. But I had to eat it eventually because the petals were hanging over the edges of the cone like the fully opened rose it resembled, and it would not be an exaggeration to say it was the best ice-cream cone I have ever had.

And now I wonder why I waited so long. I try to eat good things. My reasoning is that nothing I possess is more important than my body, and I want to keep it in working order. So I generally eat well and that is usually pretty easy because I love vegetables more than anything.

But life requires more than vegetables. That's what I was thinking while eating my exquisite little ice-cream cone. I vowed that from now on, I will eat ice cream that is worth eating. And I realized that this was no different from reading books that were worth reading, wearing clothes I loved to wear, and spending time with people who lit me up instead of pulling me down.

All of it was a choice about how to spend my time and attention, and all of it started with believing that life was too short to eat bad ice cream, and certainly too short not to eat ice cream at all.

I'm having vegetables again today, and I'll have vegetables tomorrow. But there is also a chance that I will have ice cream tonight.

Till next time, Carrie

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. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.

Star Courier advertisement including contact information for Gilbert Hoffman, David Taylor, Julieta Paita, Kristan Hoffman, and Gerardo Hernandez. Includes address, phone numbers, and website information.

# Students discover career options at GP library,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

There's lots of programs at the library, to follow the GP library calendar of events visit: <https://hcpl.net/locations/GP/>

Ashley Almendarez, GP Library Senior Youth Program Specialist and Sarai Aguilar Library Program Specialist assisted in this article.



Kwon Bill, Manager of the Future U for Harris County Public Library offered services of resume, career, college and how to prepare and pay for college. <https://hcpl.net/futureu>



Jazmine & Daizy, Marketing Team for Pasadena Texas Roadhouse provided rolls & gift coupons.

## Women's History Month Honoree - (Last of a series) Celebrating Thai Lee

By Allan Jamail



Thai Lee (born 1958)

March 30, 2026 ~ Austin, Texas' Thai Lee (born 1958) is a Thai-born Korean-American billionaire businesswoman, the co-owner, CEO and president of SHI International, reported by Forbes to be the largest woman-owned business in the US in 2012. In May 2025, she was worth US\$5.8 billion. She is a member of the board of directors of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea.

Thai Lee was born in 1958 in Bangkok, Thailand, but spent most of her childhood in South Korea. Her family moved frequently due to her father's job as a Korean economist promoting South Korea's postwar development plan.

Lee moved to the United States in her teens and attended high school in Amherst. She attended Amherst College in Am-

herst, Massachusetts, earning a double major BA in biology and economics in 1980. She followed in the footsteps of her father, who was the first Korean student to graduate from Amherst College in 1950.

She went on to earn an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1985. She was the first Korean woman to graduate from the business school. Lee served as the first female president of the Amherst College Alumni Society from 2004 to 2005.

After earning her MBA

from Harvard Business School, Lee honed her skills at Procter & Gamble and American Express before embarking on her entrepreneurial journey. In 1989, she and her then-husband acquired a software reseller for under \$1 million, which laid the foundation for SHI International.

Thai Lee is the dynamic CEO of SHI International, a powerhouse in the IT sector with impressive sales of \$9.5 billion and a diverse clientele that includes industry giants like Boeing and AT&T. She holds a 60% stake in the company, continuing to drive its growth and innovation in the IT landscape.

In 1989, Lee married Leo Koguan, a Columbia University graduate, New York Law School-educated lawyer and the co-founder and chairman of SHI. They divorced in 2002, she has two children.

# Long-awaited Cancer Data Released After Years of Community Pressure

By David Taylor  
Managing editor

After more than a year of repeated requests and more than a decade of community advocacy, Harris County officials have released long-awaited, localized cancer data that residents say is critical to understanding health risks in their neighborhoods.

Harris County Public Health this week unveiled a new cancer assessment and an interactive mapping tool that provides cancer incidence data at the census tract level across the county. The release marks a major shift from previous state analyses that grouped large geographic areas together,

often masking neighborhood-level patterns.

While the effort was driven by concerns in East Harris County, particularly along the San Jacinto River corridor, the new data is available countywide and offers the most detailed public look yet at local cancer trends.

"This is a major win for our communities," said Jackie Medcalf, founder and CEO of the Texas Health and Environment Alliance. "Residents have been asking for local, census-level cancer data so they can understand what's happening where they live. We submitted hundreds of community letters to the state asking for that level of transparency and were repeatedly denied. Harris County stepped up and delivered."

Concerns about cancer rates in East Harris County date back at least to 2010, when residents living near the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site began pressing state officials to investigate potential health impacts from decades of dioxin contamination. Those efforts eventually led to the Texas Department of State Health Services' first cancer assessment for the area in 2015.

That assessment identified elevated rates of several cancers, including a rare eye cancer linked to dioxin exposure that appeared in the riverfront community of Highlands at more than 16 times the state average. A subsequent state update released in 2025 again flagged concerns, pointing to higher rates of leukemia, lymphoma, lung and bronchus can-



Jackie Medcalf, founder and CEO of the Texas Health and Environment Alliance.

cers, and cervical cancer across a study area spanning more than 250 square miles.

Community leaders, however, said those findings fell short because they relied on broad geographic groupings that made it difficult to identify specific hotspots.

"Our community is exposed to so many different toxic chemicals and pollutants through our air, water and soil from the petrochemical, marine and other industries surrounding and embedded within our community," said Carolyn Stone, president of the Channelview Health and Improvement Coalition. "The impacts to our health are something we have to worry about and experience far too often."

At the request of the Harris County Attorney's Office and Harris County Pollution Control Services, Harris County Public Health conducted a more localized analysis using available data. The county released both a written report focused on East Harris County and an interactive GIS map that shows cancer incidence by census tract throughout Harris County.

Within the East Harris County study area, often described as the San Jacinto River floodplain, the census-level analysis identified elevated rates of numerous cancers, including breast, cervical, colon, kidney, leukemia, lymphoma, pancreatic, prostate, rectal, liver, lung and bronchus, and skin cancers. Brain cancer rates were elevated in more than 15 census tracts in the study area.

Advocates emphasized that the release is significant not only because of the data itself, but because of how the

information is presented and compared.

"Access to data is only part of the equation—how it's analyzed shapes what you see," Medcalf said.

The county's report allows users to compare cancer rates against both Harris County averages and statewide Texas averages, a distinction community advocates say is critical.

"In a county like Harris County, where overall disease burden can already be high, comparing a neighborhood only to the county can mask disparities," Medcalf said. "Comparing to the state helps reveal where rates are truly elevated."

THEA also noted that methodological decisions, including how small case counts are handled, can affect what information is visible in smaller communities. Medcalf said the organization still has questions about how some data were suppressed and how that may limit what residents can see.

Even so, the group praised county officials for responding directly to longstanding community concerns.

"This is what it looks like when institutions listen to residents and take action," Medcalf said. "Harris County didn't just release data—they made it accessible, local and usable."

Harris County Public Health plans to host a public webinar to walk residents through the assessment and explain its key findings. Advocates say the release is not the end of the discussion, but the beginning of a more informed one.

"Communities fought for this data," Medcalf said. "Now we use it to drive accountability."



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# Fatal Shooting Under Investigation on Woodforest Boulevard



HOUSTON - Houston police are investigating after finding a man dead inside a vehicle with several bullet holes in the 12400 block of Woodforest Boulevard, north of Jacinto City about 9:35 p.m. on Thursday (March 26).

Lieutenant Ali reports officers were called by the Houston Fire Department for help with a scene on Woodforest Boulevard around 9:30 p.m.

When officers arrived on

the scene, they found a Hyundai sedan had crashed into a barrier and was riddled with bullet holes.

The driver was still inside and was pronounced dead at the scene. One shell casing was found outside of the car, according to Lt. Ali says they are investigating whether the victim was shot at the location he crashed or if he was shot somewhere else.

Investigators are searching the area for possible surveillance video. The victim's cause of death is unknown, and they have not been identified.

Investigators have no lead on a possible suspect. Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

# Mother Detained After Shooting Adult Son



Courtesy of Onscene TV Houston

HOUSTON — A woman in her 70s was detained early Saturday morning after allegedly shooting her adult son during an argument at a residence near the I-10 East Freeway, according to the Houston Police Department.

Police responded to a reported shooting on Valencia Drive and arrived to

find a man in his 50s suffering from a gunshot wound to the chest and significant blood loss. Emergency medical personnel transported the victim to a nearby hospital, where he was listed in critical condition.

Investigators said the shooting occurred following a dispute between the mother and son inside the

home. Officers recovered a firearm at the scene, and the woman was taken into custody for questioning.

Authorities have not released details about what led to the argument, and no charges had been formally announced as of press time.

The investigation remains ongoing.



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Dear Friends,

This is a friendly reminder that our *Pearls of Wisdom* event is happening **THIS SATURDAY**, and we are excited to welcome you for an engaging and inspiring conversation in celebration of Women's History Month.

Join us for a dynamic panel discussion featuring accomplished women in the legal profession, who will share the lessons, challenges, and pivotal moments that have shaped their careers. This conversation goes beyond resumes and titles offering real insight into what it takes to navigate and lead in today's legal landscape.

You'll also have the opportunity to take part in an interactive Q&A, gain practical advice, and connect with attorneys and judges during a dedicated networking session. Whether you're considering law school, exploring a legal career, or simply looking for mentorship and inspiration, this is a space to learn, connect, and grow.

We're excited to bring this group together and hope you'll join us. Feel free to share this opportunity with others in your network who may benefit from attending.

Please note: Parking instructions are included at the bottom of this email for your convenience.

If you have not yet RSVP'd, please [RSVP here](#) or call (713) 675-8596.

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Guz Khan, left, and Riz Ahmed star in "Bait."

"Bait."

"Send Help" (R) — Director Sam Raimi, who has quite the range with films like the "Spider-Man" and "Evil Dead" trilogies, went back to horror for this new survival thriller starring Rachel McAdams ("Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret.") and Dylan O'Brien ("Anniversary"). McAdams plays a corporate strategist named Linda, who gets passed over for a promotion by her boss Bradley (O'Brien) for his fraternity brother. After attempting to get him to change his mind, Linda is offered a seat on his plane to Bangkok for a business trip. However, their plane crashes in the Gulf of Thailand during a storm, and the only survivors are her and Bradley. With their dynamic now turned on its head, Bradley is forced to rely on Linda's insane survival skills to get them off the island. Out now to rent! (Apple TV+)

"The Moment" (R) — This mockumentary film is a satire of British pop artist Charli XCX's life. The version of Charli XCX in this film is very similar to the one we know, who smashed the charts during summer 2024 with her "Brat" album, but viewers get a behind-the-scenes look at the chaotic tail end of her album cycle. After getting hit with shady brand deals and being forced to work with an objectifying and pretentious filmmaker named Johannes (Alexander Skarsgard), Charli is at her wit's end with a project that she now considers "cringe" but must continue to promote. Other celebrities that make cameos in the mockumentary include Kylie Jenner ("The Kardashians"), Julia Fox ("Him") and Rachel Sennott ("I Love LA"). Out now to rent. (YouTube)

"Bait" (TV-MA) — This thriller/drama/come-

dy series not only stars Riz Ahmed ("The Phoenician Scheme"), but it was written by him as well. Ahmed plays Shah Latif, an up-and-coming actor in London who lands his big break as the new James Bond. Now thrust immediately into the spotlight, Shah struggles with the difficult disadvantages of fame, like paparazzi and internet comments, which send him into a bit of an existential crisis. The series feels like a character study on what it's like to suddenly wake up as a celebrity in modern times. All six episodes are out now to stream. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Pizza Movie" (PG-13) — Gaten Matarazzo, known for his portrayal of Dustin in "Stranger Things," leads this comedy film alongside Sean Giambrone ("The Secret Life of Pets 2"). The film follows two college roommates Jack and Montgomery, who find a mysterious box of "mints" in their dorm on a tragically lame night. They discover that these mints are actually hallucinogenic drugs, and with the burden of higher education weighing on them, Jack and Montgomery have no choice as college students but to indulge! But when the high proves to be too intense for them, they learn that the only solution to properly come down is to eat pizza, so viewers watch along as the boys attempt to overcome their trip. (Clearly the writers of this film were high, too.) Look out for appearances from Sarah Sherman ("Saturday Night Live") and Daniel Radcliffe (of the "Harry Potter" franchise) as the Butterfly. Premieres April 3. (Hulu)

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Q: I recently started watching "Arrested Development," starring Jason Bateman and Will Arnett. Why did they recast the actress of Marta? I like both actresses, but I was curious about the change. — D.D.

A: Marta Estrella was a telenovela star who was G.O.B.'s (Arnett) girlfriend but was also loved from afar by his brother, Michael (Bateman). LEONOR Varela originated the role but exited after two episodes to star in a heavy dramatic role for the 2004 movie "Innocent Voices." She was recast with supermodel-turned-actress Patricia Velasquez for an additional five episodes.

Since soap operas are famous for recasting roles, a satiric comedy like "Arrested Development" perfectly turned the role switch into a clever meta joke without giving an explanation.

Q: Are there currently any shows that are filming in Hawaii? The ones I used to watch like "Lost" ended years ago. I just wonder how they're doing with the current bad flooding there. — K.E.

A: The ABC series "Lost" filmed on the island of O'ahu, which is currently experiencing historic flooding. It's currently the location for the upcoming action film "Protecting Jared," which stars Jason Momoa ("Aquaman") and Andy Samberg ("The Roses"). Momoa has been posting pictures of the devastation on his social media and is also actively helping charity organizations to feed hungry residents through this hardship.

Other productions calling Hawaii home include the third installment of the "Jumanji" movies, but it appears that the actors wrapped up filming this month. "Jumanji 3" will once again star Dwayne Johnson ("The Smashing Machine") and Jack Black ("Anaconda"), and it will premiere in theaters on Christmas Day of this year. The live-action "Lilo & Stitch" sequel is expected to begin filming later this year, likely in O'ahu once again.

The Netflix series "Untamed," starring Eric Bana, began filming season two in O'ahu and the Volcanoes National Park this past February. All of these productions will be a boon to the economy of



Patricia Velasquez ("Arrested Development")

our nation's 50th state, which is badly needed not only because of the record rainfall but also due to the 2023 fires in Maui.

Q: Is the new British spin-off of "Saturday Night Live" available to watch for American audiences? I know I can probably find it online, but what about on NBC? — B.M.

A: Tina Fey kicked off "SNL UK" as its first host, but it won't be broadcasted here in the United States on NBC. You can find it the day after it airs live on NBC's streaming service, Peacock. The Brits have always been known for comedy, so I would expect their version to be a huge hit. Like most series from across the pond, the season will be short with just eight episodes.

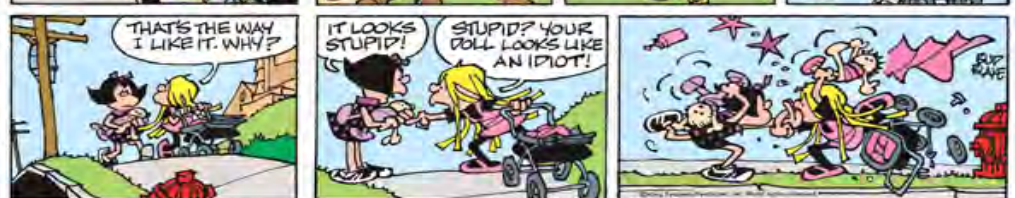
The next two hosts will be Jamie Dornan, the Irish actor best known for starring in the "50 Shades of Grey" trilogy, and Riz Ahmed, who was born in Wembley, England, and was nominated for an Oscar in 2021 for his role as a deaf drummer in "Sound of Metal."

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU puzzle grid and instructions

HOCUS-FOCUS puzzle grid and instructions

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Crossword puzzle grid and clues

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez with 10 questions

Answers for Trivia Test and King Crossword

