



Galena Park Swim Team: L-R: Colton Baldwin, Sara Martinez (Team Captain), Cesar Martinez. (Photo by Allan Jamail) Story below & Page 7.

# NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
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## North Shore Rotary Prepares for 51st Annual Fish Fry on Saturday, April 25

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

With just a week remaining before the North Shore Rotary Club's signature fundraiser, preparations are moving at a fast pace as volunteers work behind the scenes to ensure another successful community fish fry.

Club leaders say the focus right now is on sponsors, logistics and finetuning the countless details that go into an event that many in the community have come to see as a well-oiled machine.

"Our focus right now is completely on our sponsors," said David Proctor, who is helping lead this year's efforts. "We can't do

what we do without them, and this is the time we dedicate to making sure they know how much they're appreciated."

That appreciation includes hand delivered sponsor bags containing themed shirts, hats marked specifically for sponsors, tickets and small gifts, along with handwritten thank you notes.

"We don't print those," Proctor said. "Every thank you is handwritten, and we meet with each sponsor individually. Some of them want to talk, some just want to listen — but this is their time."

Sponsor dollars provide the seed money that allows the Rotary Club to move forward months before the fish fry ever takes place.



Dan Meaux of Crawfish Shack in Crosby and North Shore Rotarian cooking up crawfish for the large crowd gathered for the 51st annual North Shore Rotary Catfish Fry and Crawfish Boil.

Proctor said the club is careful with its finances, keeping reserve funds strong to ensure the event can continue even in an unpredictable year.

"We keep enough in our account so we can cover at least two fish fries if we had to," he said. "You never know — a hurricane, a bad year, something unexpected. Planning for that is why this thing still runs like clockwork."

Behind that steady operation is a detailed planning guide affectionately known among members as "the Rotary Club Fish Fry Bible," which outlines responsibilities and timelines for everything from food orders to refrigeration.

"There's a reason things

are done the way they are," Proctor said with a laugh. "We joke about it, but it's all written down so we don't forget anything important — like buying the fish."

Committee work has also intensified in recent weeks. While subcommittees have been meeting throughout the year, Proctor said weekly meetings are underway to ensure all roles are covered and that backup plans are in place.

"We're going to meet every week and go through each committee," he said. "If someone can't make it or isn't able to do what they've done for years, we need to have an

Continued. See NORTH SHORE ROTARY, Page 6

### CHANNEL CURRENTS

#### Reimagine Sheldon Road Meeting April 16

Residents are invited to attend a community meeting focused on improving safety and mobility along Sheldon Road.

The event will take place on Thursday, April 16, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Flukinger Community Center, 16003 Lorenzo St., Channelview.

#### NS Rotary Catfish Fry & Crawfish Boil April 25

The public is invited to the 51st Annual North Shore Fish Fry, Saturday April 25 from 11am to 3pm.

Located at the Rotary Pavilion behind the Wallisville Courthouse, 14350 Wallisville Road. Fish Fry, Live and Silent Auction, and Raffle for a New Car or Truck.

## San Jacinto Day Celebration Brings Texas History to Life with Reenactments and Family Festivities

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

LAPORTE — The thunder of cannons and the crack of musket fire will once again echo across the San Jacinto Battleground this month as the annual San Jacinto Day Celebration 2026 commemorates the 190th anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto, a decisive moment in Texas history.

Scheduled for Saturday, April 18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the daylong event is presented by the San Jacinto Museum in partnership with the Texas Historical Commission. Organizers promise a full slate of activities blending education, entertainment,



Scenes from previous San Jacinto Day celebrations at the monument in LaPorte, Texas. Thousands of visitors will descend on the park for the festivities.

and hands-on experiences designed for visitors of all ages.

At the heart of the celebration are battle reenactments that recreate the dramatic events of April 1836. Reenactors

dressed in period clothing will portray Texian and Mexican soldiers, bringing to life the clash that led to one of the most impactful military victories in North American history. The Battle of San Ja-



Scenes from previous San Jacinto Day celebrations at the monument in LaPorte, Texas. Thousands of visitors will descend on the park for the festivities.

cinto Reenactment is scheduled to take place twice during the day, at 11 a.m. and again at 2 p.m., allowing visitors multiple opportunities to witness the pivotal moment when General San-

ta Anna was defeated. Beyond the battlefield, the event offers a deeper look at the broader story of the Texas Revolution

Continued. See SAN JACINTO DAY, Page 5

## 'Wallisville Reimagined' Project Receives Design Funding

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

In August of 2023, North Shore residents turned out in force at the Harris County Cultural Arts Center to voice their opinion on the re-envisioning of the Wallisville corridor. The four-hour come-and-go meeting invited participants to participate in Pct. 2 Adrian Garcia's Revive2Thrive community revitalization initiative particularly focused on Wallisville Road from Maxey Road to Uvalde.

"We're going to do improvements on the corridor, but we want to get input from the community on what they want," said Sonia Cantu, capital improvements manager for Pct. 2. "We don't want to tell you what you need, we want your feedback before we provide the design."

CONTINUED. See Wallisville Road Project, Page 5



Reimagine Wallisville Road project. The map shows the part of the corridor that will receive attention.



Kristina Zatopek, community engagement manager for the Harris County Cultural Arts Council, looks over plans for Wallisville with Amy Benedict, president of the Pine Trails Board of Directors, Helen Lewis, Pine Trails board member, and Sonia Cantu, capital improvements manager for Pct. 2.

## GPISD Swim Teams Excel: Record-Breaking Achievements and State Qualifications



North Shore Swim Team. Front row: Lhia Esquivel, Ana Feliciano, Dina Alejandro (team captain), Idaly Aguilera, Samara Garcia. 2nd row: Miguel Tellez, Diego Guerra, Patricia Trevino (team captain), Allison Hernandez, Jeremiah Logan (team captain). 3rd row: Dilan Murillo, Ivan Beltran, Ben Quezada, Eduardo Gomez, Iker Blanco, Estevan Garza, Coach Paige Sikkema. Last row: Juan Pablo Gomez, Fabian Beltran, Brandon McBride, Omar Quintero, Isaac Hernandez, Xavier Rios Perez, Humberto Gutierrez (team captain). (Photo by Allan Jamail)

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. April 2026 ~ At the GPISD Natatorium (indoor swimming complex) I had the pleasure of interviewing Paige Sikkema, the GPISD Swim Coach. She's very experienced and greatly dedicated to the students and likewise they're very dedicated to her teaching's and the swimming program she's teaching them about.

I've covered all types of sports but never swim-

ming. In my interview with some of the student swimmers I was shocked to learn some begin their day as early as 4am (in the morning). And Coach Paige is already up and at the pool to greet the students. After the swim lessons the students hurry home to get ready to go to school for their normal school studies.

Coach Sikkema has brought her vast amount of experience to the district's swim program and the re-

sults are positive for the students and the school district.

Sikkema started swimming competitively at the age of 8 and have never left the sport. She was a high school and collegiate swimmer and has coached summer league, high school and club for almost 43 years.

She's in her 9th year as the GPISD swimming

Continued. See GPISD SWIMMERS SHINE, Page 7

# SHELDON ISD NEWS

## C.E. King High School's Criminal Justice Teams Earn Near Perfect Scores at State Competition



C.E. King High School Criminal Justice students place in the top 5 at state level in six different categories. Students earned near perfect scores as they show the state that they are ready to lead tomorrow's future as public safety professionals.

C. E. King High School's Criminal Justice Career Technical Student Organization (CTSO) delivered an impressive showing at the Texas Public Safety Association (TPSA) State Conference, competing against more than 101 high schools from across the state. Their performance,

marked by top placements and near-perfect scores, should make the school community feel proud and recognized for their hard work. Students earned multiple top-five placements, including 3rd place in Drone NIST with a near-perfect score of 98.000 pts and 5th place in Opening Statement with 91.500 pts, showcasing excellence in both tactical and courtroom-based events. These results reflect the program's commitment to preparing students for real-world public safety careers through rigorous training

and hands-on experience. Competing at the TPSA State Conference is a notable achievement, but ranking among Texas's top performers highlights the dedication of students and educators alike. The C. E. King High School Criminal Justice CTSO continues to foster a legacy of excellence, leadership, and service that reflects the program's core values and the Sheldon ISD community. Their state-level success stands as a testament to their hard work and readiness to lead as the next generation of public safety professionals.

## Early College High School Welcomes Class of 2030



Approximately 135 Sheldon ISD middle school students were initiated into Early College High School during a pinning ceremony on April 9. Through this program and its partnership with San Jacinto College, C.E. King high school students take on college-level coursework while still in high school, advancing their future opportunities by leaps and bounds.

Approximately 135 Sheldon ISD middle school students were initiated into

Early College High School during a pinning ceremony on April 9. The ECHS allows them to graduate with an associate degree from San Jacinto College, free of cost. By 2030, these students will have the opportunity to graduate with both their high school diploma and an associate degree from San Jacinto College.

We are proud to celebrate our Early College High School students who participated in the recent Pinning Ceremony, mark-

ing their commitment to a rigorous academic path. Sheldon ISD is proud to offer a TEA-designated Early College High School. Through this program, students take on college-level coursework while still in high school, demonstrating dedication and perseverance. The ceremony symbolizes their readiness to meet high expectations and pursue advanced opportunities. We applaud their hard work and the support of their families and educators!

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# CHANNELVIEW ISD NEWS

## Channelview HS Honors Assistant Principals During National Assistant Principals Week

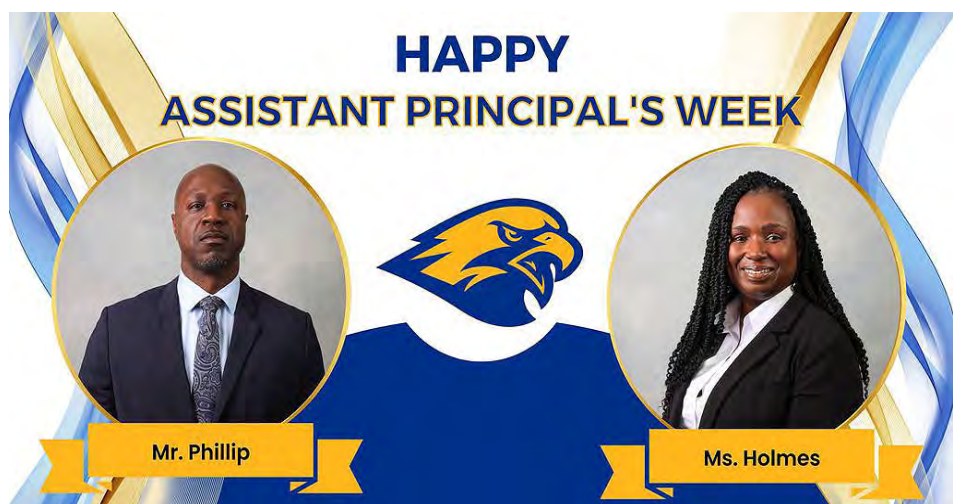
Channelview, TX – As National Assistant Principals Week came to a close, Channelview High School took a moment to honor its outstanding assistant principals, recognizing their invaluable contributions to the school community. The school celebrated Mr. Phillip, Ms. Holmes, Mr. LePeuch, Mrs. Galtney, Ms. Candelaria, Mr. Taylor, Dr. Simpson, and Dr. Paz for their exceptional leadership and dedica-

tion. These assistant principals have been instrumental in fostering a positive and supportive environment for both students and staff. Their commitment to educational excellence and their ability to inspire those around them have made a significant impact on the school.

In addition to celebrating their own, Channelview High School extended its gratitude to all assistant principals within the Channelview Independent

School District (CISD). The district's assistant principals are commended for their leadership, care, and unwavering commitment to the success of their schools.

As the week concluded, the community expresses its deep appreciation for the hard work and dedication of these educational leaders, who play a crucial role in shaping the future of students across the district.



## Aguirre Junior High Honors Powell and Cunningham for National Assistant Principal Week



Anthony Aguirre Junior High last celebrated The National Assistant Principal Week by honoring Mrs. Powell and Mr. Cunningham. Known for their dedication and Bulldog pride, they consistently support both students and staff. Their efforts are greatly appreciated by the school community.

## CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



### An Invitation

How often do we realize that as Americans we are truly blessed? Our community has been impacted by events where the need to pray has become increasingly more in need of unity and prayer than I can remember. January started off with my neighbor being found dead on the front porch of his apartment. The following day, a friend had some sort of medical emergency where he had a mental breakdown which led to criminal charges which led to the loss of his loved career. The following day an unsupervised teenager who was speeding off from law enforcement, was killed as he rode an unauthorized vehicle under a car. Flash forward to the past few days.

A beloved mother and son were killed on their way home from church by a driver who crossed into their lane at approximately ninety miles an hour and killed them, himself and impacted five additional lives. A godly woman in her nineties was joyful one day and passed away just days later leaving family stunned. A precious young mother raising her child alone after her husband had been killed, was killed in a hit and run accident on Interstate 10 East.

Braxton Coles, a beloved member of the community who founded a nonprofit promoting ending gun violence and making a positive impact on youth, after his grandson, Jarvon Coles, was murdered in a drive-by shooting in 2024, passed away suddenly. A single mother, who on March 4<sup>th</sup> should have been celebrating her historical victory was instead praying as her son was deployed to Iran. A frustrated community member who lost his leg due to an infection, was facing eviction after his landlord realized she could make more money renting out her property to someone with a job, versus someone relying on disability.

A family shattered as their child was shot by an unlocked gun found by another child in their home. A grandmother at wit's end not knowing how to find resources to help her single daughter facing challenges of raising children after a divorce. A grieving widow found out that she is facing heart surgery in two weeks. Another widow did not know who to call as her neighbors' chickens were destroying her yard, not to mention the stench from the chickens that is offensive as she tries to sit on her back porch.

Just this morning, my silence was shattered by gunshots. I also heard water running and recognized it as the outdoor faucet of my apartment building, where a homeless community member is often found bathing or washing her soiled clothing.

We can complain about each of these situations, or we can pray individually or corporately for them. On Thursday, May 7 at 6:30 p.m. you are invited to join others to pray for East Harris County on the National Day of Prayer. The event will be held at the Hampton Inn and Suites located at 14120 Karissa Court, Houston. For information, please contact me at [charlotte.jackson@yahoo.com](mailto:charlotte.jackson@yahoo.com) or 832-896-1633.

## Community Events

**Saturday, April 18**

**W.D. Ley Healthy Kids Day.** Join us for games, program demos, giveaways, exclusive one-dayonly offers for membership and programs and much more. 15055 Wallisville Road. More information at 281-458-7777.

Please join us for a **Ladies Royal-Tea** on Sunday, April 19 at 12 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of **Fellowship of the Nations.** Join us for brunch and a special guest speaker.

**Redeemed of the Lord Ministry Women's Fellowship,** 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., 12655 Woodforest Blvd. #700. All women are welcome.

**Hands of Hope Community Meal,** 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., 1st Assembly of God Channelview, located at 330 Sheldon Road. Open to all.

**Sunday, April 19**

**Community Food Distribution.** Noon until 2 p.m., at the W.D. Ley Family YMCA  
**Rotary Club of North Shore Annual Catfish Fry and Catfish Boil Fundraiser** Tickets are still on sale for the April 25th Event. Contact a Rotarian Today. This event funds many of the community projects that support our community. Visit Facebook Rotary Club of North Shore.

**Monday, April 20**

**Daily Prayer Line** Join Minister Huff at 727-731-7272 each evening at 7 p.m. to pray for the community as well as the nation.

**Eastside Youth Basketball Organization Fundraiser** is selling raffle tickets to help promote safe, healthy activities for children. Raffle will be held on May 2, but purchase your \$ tickets today by calling 832-304-4206 or contact [eastsideyouthbb@gmail.com](mailto:eastsideyouthbb@gmail.com)

**Tuesday, April 21**

**Free Dental Health Screening** brought to you by Harris County Commissioner PCT 2. April 21 - 23, from 8 a.m until 5 p.m. No appointment needed. This is being held at the Channelview Foundation of Hope located at 15430 East Fwy., Channelview 77530.

**Wednesday, April 22**

**Senior Adult Bible Study** offered weekly at 11:30 a.m. at Next Generation Church, located at 13817 Force, Houston 77015

**Thursday, April 23**

**Coffee with a Cop** hosted by Hampton Inn and Suites, from 9 to 10 a.m., an opportunity to meet with others from the community including Harris County Sheriff's Office as well as Harris County Constable PCT 3 to learn of ways to build a caring community.

## ASK DIAMOND JIM



### Diamond Jim: "When did Mother's Day begin?"

#### The world is your oyster

American MOTHER'S DAY Origins  
The official Mother's Day holiday arose in the 1900s as a result of the efforts of Anna Jarvis, daughter of Ann Reeves Jarvis. Following her mother's 1905 death, Anna Jarvis conceived of Mother's Day as a way of honoring the sacrifices mothers made for their children. After gaining financial backing from a Philadelphia department store owner named John Wanamaker, in May 1908 she organized the first official Mother's Day celebration at a Methodist church in Grafton, West Virginia. That same day also saw thousands of people attend a Mother's Day event at one of Wanamaker's retail stores in Philadelphia.



Following the success of her first Mother's Day, Jarvis—who remained unmarried and childless her whole life—resolved to see her holiday added to the national calendar. Arguing that American holidays were biased toward male achievements, she started a massive letter writing campaign to

newspapers and prominent politicians urging the adoption of a special day honoring motherhood. By 1912 many states, towns and churches had adopted Mother's Day as an annual holiday, and Jarvis had established the Mother's Day International Association to help promote her cause. Her persistence paid off in 1914 when President Woodrow Wilson signed a measure officially establishing the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

Anna Jarvis had originally conceived of Mother's Day as a day of personal celebration between mothers and families. Her version of the day involved wearing a white carnation as a badge and visiting one's mother or attending church services. Once Mother's Day became a national holiday, it was not long before sons, daughters, and husbands alike began planning in advance to make Mother's Day a very "Special Day" for their Mom or Mother figure in their life.



Mother's Day falls on the second Sunday in May and traditionally involves presenting mothers with flowers, cards, Jewelry, Candy, and other gifts. Currently, more phone calls are made on Mother's Day than any other day of the year. These holiday chats with mom often cause phone traffic to spike

by as much as 37 percent. It celebrates motherhood and it is a time to appreciate mothers and mother figures. Many people give gifts or a meal in a restaurant or other treats to their mother and mother figures, including grandmothers, great-grandmothers, stepmothers, and foster mothers.

Stop by Pineforest Jewelry and take a look at all of the beautiful Mother's Day jewelry we have on display! Happy Mother's Day 2026 to all of the Moms and Grandmas, here and gone. We love you dearly!

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).

## Wallisville Road Project receives funding,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

That design, she said, included everything from pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular traffic with lighting, amenities, traffic signals, and safety.

Garcia has announced the funding for the project is beginning to come in.

"The design phase has been funded, and once the design reaches about 60-70 percent completion, we will have a better estimate of the total project cost, said Alonzo Guadarrama, spokesperson for Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia's office.

The first phase of the project was the study, and the second phase is the design. Both sections design started in March 2026.

The first section, from Maxey Road to Normandy Street, is being handled by CobbFendley as the consulting firm while the second section from Normandy Street to Uvalde Road, is being handled by HR Green as the consulting firm.

"We're taking the whole corridor and looking at how it affects all types of users in the community," Cantu said.

Amanda Marshall, PE, CFM, ENV SP and assistant director of capital projects for Pct. 2 said this was part of their five-year capital improvements plan.

"This project was identified as part of the North Shore Community Plan," she said. The plan was developed as they listened to respondents and collected their comments during the four-hour period at the meeting.

She said they didn't already have anything in mind but wanted to hear what people wanted.

One aspect that was requested from participants was sidewalks for the area. Guadarrama said the



Mahmoud Salehi, P.E. and vice president for Cobb, Fendley, and Associates and Amanda Marshall, PE, CFM, ENV SP and assistant director of capital projects for Pct. 2 was at the come-and-go meeting to talk about the five-year capital improvements plan specifically as it related to Wallisville Road.



"We're doing studies all over the precinct and once we're done, we'll take a look at the whole picture and see where to invest our dollars," Marshall said.

Construction should begin once funding for the construction is set aside.

project is in the design phase and once completed, would reveal a better picture on how much the project would cost.

Once the amount is settled on, the money comes from the 2022 \$1.2 billion

bond that is split between the precincts. Precinct 2 received an allocation of \$294 million that includes parks, public safety, roadway projects, and drainage.

"We're doing studies all

over the precinct and once we're done, we'll take a look at the whole picture and see where to invest our dollars," Marshall said.

Construction should begin once funding for the construction is set aside.

## For the hand that rocks the cradle



Thank your wife on Mother's Day for a love which leaves you in awe.

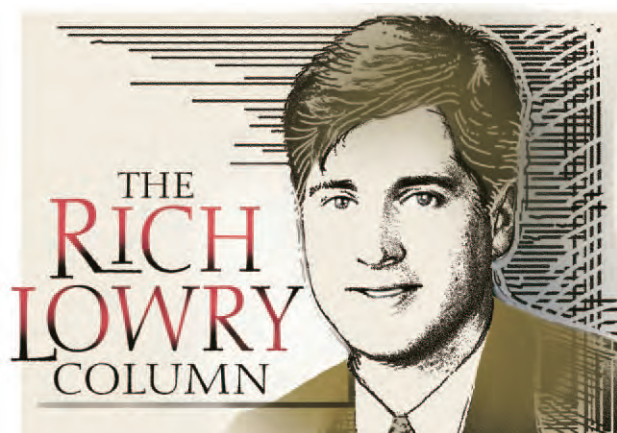


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 OPINION PAGE 



### Artemis II: Yes, Boldly Go

Yes, boldly go  
So much for journalistic objectivity.  
The BBC science editor covering the launch of Artemis II couldn't contain her enthusiasm when the first plumes of smoke spread out from the launch pad. "Oh, my goodness! Oh, my goodness!" she exclaimed, clapping like a schoolgirl.

As the rocket lifted off, she got visibly emotional: "It's not just what you see and you hear as the rocket lifts off. You can feel the force of it through your body. This is the most powerful rocket that NASA has ever built!"

Rebecca Morelle can be forgiven for falling in love with the subject of her story. A rocket launch is an awe-inspiring event — a controlled explosion hurling a gigantic projectile into the ether. There's the sheer power, the unavoidable risk, the questing spirit. A rocket feels and looks like the future, and there's something very human about gazing into the sky in wonder.

NASA hasn't been glamorous in decades. Once upon a time, kids were putting up glossy photos of Apollo rockets and astronauts on their bedroom walls. But the Apollo program was killed long ago — civil-rights activists were among those mobilizing against it, oddly enough — and nothing has captured the imagination the same way since.

The space shuttle made space flight routine and boring, and there was nothing particularly ambitious about the International Space Station. Rovers and telescopes were worthy endeavors, but not thrilling.

There is no substitute for manned space flight. The Artemis project is not exactly boldly going where no man has gone before, since it seeks to return to the moon after we were there half a century ago. But sending astronauts 250,000 miles from Earth as part of a project to eventually set up a base on the moon is the most enterprising NASA project since Apollo.

This is all to the good, but Artemis has been plagued by delays and cost overruns. NASA hasn't been able to replicate the urgent, mission-driven approach that characterized the Apollo program. It took eight years to get to the moon the first time, while Artemis has been going for nine years and we still aren't back.

NASA projects tend to get caught in a cycle: One president proposes a big new initiative, only for it to get canceled by his successor, who proposes his own initiative that is canceled in turn. The worst case scenario is that a Democratic president elected in 2028 nixes Artemis because President Trump favored it.

That said, the space expert Robert Zubrin notes that space is particularly appealing to Americans as a people defined, in part, by the frontier. JFK talked of "the New Frontier," and the famous open of the TV show "Star Trek" called space "the final frontier."

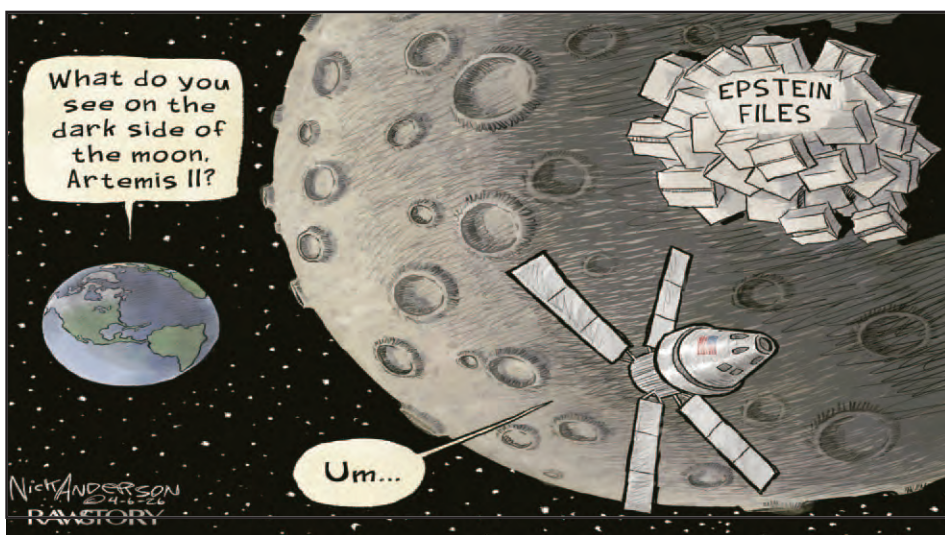
Certainly, the American space program is a marked contrast with that of the Europeans, the European Space Agency. NASA's budget is several times larger. We've sent men to the moon, whereas they haven't. And we've sent multiple successful landers and rovers to Mars (the first lander in 1976, the first rover in 1997), whereas the ESA has only managed two unsuccessful landers.

Getting back to the moon is nice, but it is a manned mission to Mars that should be our ultimate objective. It would truly be another giant leap for mankind, opening up a vista of homo sapiens as a multi-planetary species. The technological challenge would be significant, requiring Apollo-like exertions, while there's much of scientific importance to be learned on the Red Planet.

Right now, the most popular movie in America is "Project Hail Mary," a sci-fi thriller about a desperate mission into space. The film plays to our inherent interest in journeys into the unknown, and to our admiration for those who have the courage to explore new worlds, from Francis Drake to Neil Armstrong.

Artemis II tapped into the same thing, which is why that BBC reporter — and so many of the rest of us — were so moved.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.  
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### THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

#### Crazy Couch



Three years ago, I was in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, walking through what had once been a large fabric mill. It has since been turned into an art gallery called, appropriately, La Fabrica, where artists of all kinds lease space to show their work. There are always people and art and dogs, and flowers blooming and banners flying, making this former mill one of the liveliest places in town.

One day, while passing a shop, I saw the most outrageous couch.

It was an old camelback couch—a loveseat, really, but with wide, rolled arms. It appeared to be an older piece of furniture that had been restored. The fabric was crazy. It was a patchwork of burned velvet fabric in brilliant hues. It was the brightest, craziest couch I'd ever seen, and it was being sold alongside art and sculpture, which made sense, because it really was a work of art.

I don't know how stories come into being, but that brilliant couch, three years ago, left an impression on me.

I started writing a new book. The book was about a house that had lived in a small town by the river for 150 years and had, over the course of time, developed a fondness for the women who lived in it, especially its current tenant, Max. "What did Max do?" I wondered. And then I saw her making a couch very much like that one I'd seen, using crazy fabrics, and selling it to her art dealer, Bobby.

The story became "The Turnip House." When it was finished, I sent it to my agent and, after editing it, we submitted it to my publisher. And we have just learned that they want to publish it.

Last week, my husband, Peter, and I were considering moving from our tiny and much-beloved apartment at Casa de los Soles. We decided not to move. We realized we could not stand to be away from this place that has become our home away from home. Since we are not spending money on a larger apartment, I was walking through La Fabrica, wondering how we could make our place a little nicer. Just as I was thinking this, I saw a couch very similar to the one that had inspired "The Turnip House," the book that had just sold.

I went into the shop. "You had another couch," I began, "but it was in brighter colors." The young woman did not look perplexed in the least. She headed off to the back of the store and indicated that I should follow her.

"No way," I thought. We climbed a flight of stairs. And there, sitting like it was waiting for me, was my couch. Except now, it was 40% off. "Oh my gosh," I said in English.

I came home and told Peter. "If you like it, that's all that matters," Peter said. (Peter is wonderful that way.)

Then I asked Jorge, our landlord, if he'd mind if I replaced his couch with a new one. At first, he thought I was asking him to buy it.

"No! No," I told him. "It's a gift—to me." And I told him the story.

Jorge smiled. "No problem!" So today I am waiting. I should be getting the final contract for "The Turnip House," which will make it all official. And I should be getting delivery of the brightly colored couch that inspired it. I'm not sure which will arrive first, and I guess it doesn't matter. I know they belong together and are part of the same story.

Till next time,  
Carrie

### STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders



#### Border Wall Through Big Bend Apparently on hold

After public outcry, a physical border wall through Big Bend National Park appears to be on hold, The Texas Tribune reported.

In February, the Trump administration waived more than two dozen environmental laws in order to clear the way for a 150-mile-long wall through West Texas, including Big Bend and the adjoining state park. Opposition quickly arose from people and politicians from both parties.

The sheriffs of Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Presidio and Terrell counties — a mix of Democrats and Republicans — wrote an open letter that said: "Based on decades of combined experience working with this terrain, we believe that construction of a continuous physical border wall in the Big Bend region would not represent the most practical or strategic approach to border security in this area."

Now, a map on the U.S. Customs and Border Protection website no longer indicates plans to construct a physical wall in the Big Bend region. It is unclear if those plans are final, since the map has been changed several times in the past few weeks.

The rugged area historically has been the least-busy of the nine Border Patrol sectors, accounting for just 1.3% of the 237,538 apprehensions recorded along the entire U.S.-Mexico border during the last fiscal year.

#### STATE ON TRIAL FOR UN-AIRCONDITIONED PRISONS

The state of Texas is now on trial in an Austin federal court to determine whether it must provide air-conditioning in state prisons, kut.org reported. Inmates and their attorneys have argued for decades that summer conditions — where temperatures can reach 110 degrees — constitute cruel and unusual punishment.

"The Constitution requires living conditions that are not exposing individuals to high heat levels, and the evidence has consistently shown that what TDCJ has done as an alternative has just not been effective," attorney Brandon Duke said. "It's not a solution."

The state counters that it is bringing more AC online at its prisons. Plaintiff attorneys say at least five inmates have died in Texas from heat-related illness since 2023.

The Texas Department of



Criminal Justice says it would cost \$1.5 billion to install air-conditioning systems at all its prisons, and that state lawmakers must approve the funding.

U.S. District Judge Robert Pittman is expected to rule from the bench after the trial concludes.

#### CAMP MYSTIC FILES APPLICATION TO REOPEN THIS SUMMER

Camp Mystic has filed an application with the state to reopen this summer, the Houston Chronicle reported. More than two dozen children and two camp counselors were killed in the July 4 flash floods that swept the camp. The Texas Department of State Health Services, which oversees camp licensing, said it has received complaints about the camp and that it will be "investigated for violations of the laws and rules governing youth camps."

DSHS has been sued by the parents of nine victims who contend the camp was wrongfully licensed just two days before the disaster last summer, even though it lacked an evacuation plan. In a separate case, a Travis County judge has ordered Camp Mystic to preserve for future examination the cabins and grounds damaged in the floods.

Camp leaders are asking for permission to open its Cypress Lake campus, which they said is "in compliance with all aspects of the state's new camp safety laws and has implemented additional safety measures that exceed the requirements of those laws."

#### TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER PAY DROPS

A new report from the University of Houston Education Research Center indicates average pay for Texas public school teachers has dropped about \$5,000 over the past decade,

the Chronicle reported. The decrease comes even as the cost of living has increased during that time span.

"When we look at those regional differences, there are some increases across the state, but really what we're seeing is that average teacher salaries haven't kept up with inflation," said Toni Templeton, the Education Research Center's senior research scientist.

Average base pay for the state's most experienced teachers, those with 11 or more years of experience, has declined from about \$73,000 to about \$66,000 in 2024-25, according to the report.

The Texas Legislature approved pay increases based on teachers' years of experience, and those raises could show up in future studies.

#### SPACEX PLANNING WHAT COULD BE BIGGEST-EVER IPO

Elon Musk's SpaceX is confidentially planning to sell shares to the public in what could be the largest initial public offering in history, the Austin American-Statesman reported. It has filed paperwork with the Securities and Exchange Commission that indicates it could raise as much as \$75 billion in an IPO by July.

The confidential filing allows companies to get feedback from regulators without revealing information to competitors. However, Space X will have to release a public filing at least 15 days before its IPO "road show," when it presents its financial plan to potential underwriters and institutional investors.

SpaceX has become the world's leading commercial rocket launch company. Over the past five years, it has secured \$6 billion in contracts from the federal government.

#### TDI HELPS STOP \$400 MILLION MEDICARE SCHEME

A Texas Department of Insurance investigator and crime analyst played a key role in arresting a Russian national who submitted \$400 million in fake Medicare claims. Nikolai Buzolin established a durable medical equipment company in Houston in 2025. He is charged with stealing patients' and doctors' identities to submit fraudulent claims to Medicare Part C.

"A few of the patients checked their explanation of benefits and noticed that they were getting medical equipment that they didn't need. And it was coming from doctors they'd never met," said TDI Fraud Unit investigator Sgt. Kevin Mannion.

FBI agents arrested Buzolin as he was boarding a plane in Los Angeles to Russia. He faces up to 20 years in prison if found guilty.

"TDI works with federal, state, and local partners to follow cases wherever they go, whether it's California or right here in Texas," said Mannion. "We track them down, we shut them down, and we help dismantle these criminal activities."

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park.  
Email: gbborders@texaspress.com.

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# Cannons to roar again at San Jacinto day celebration,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

through a series of presentations known as The Road to San Jacinto. Representatives from major historic sites across Texas will share how months of fighting, political debate, and hardship culminated in the final battle at San Jacinto. These talks will be held throughout the day, providing historical context and narrative continuity for attendees.

A large portion of the battleground will be transformed into a living history area, where visitors can step back nearly 200 years and observe daily life in revolutionary-era Texas. Reenactors will demonstrate cooking, weapon maintenance, and other routines of soldiers and civilians, inviting the public to ask questions and interact. All activities are family-friendly, with special opportunities designed just for children.

Hands-on experiences are a major draw of the celebration. Activities include cartridge box making, haversack packing, bullet casting, and a weapons touch table featuring replica arms used by both the Texian and Mexican armies. Visitors can also explore battlefield medicine, listen to period music during "Battle Beats," and participate in crafts such as flag making, badges, and buttons that reflect the diverse groups involved in the Texas Revolution.

This year's reenactment carries a note of remembrance for the Texas reenactment community. Mark Edward Hegman, who had been asked to portray General Sam Houston a couple of years ago, passed away last year. A longtime reenactor and Texas Army colo-



Scenes from previous San Jacinto Day celebrations at the monument in LaPorte, Texas. Thousands of visitors will descend on the park for the festivities.



Scenes from previous San Jacinto Day celebrations at the monument in LaPorte, Texas. Thousands of visitors will descend on the park for the festivities.



Scenes from previous San Jacinto Day celebrations at the monument in LaPorte, Texas. Thousands of visitors will descend on the park for the festivities.

nel, Hegman dedicated two decades to sharing Texas history with the public alongside his family, who often lived the reenactment life in period tents during events.

Hegman will long be remembered for his love of Texas history and willingness to share it in word and action.

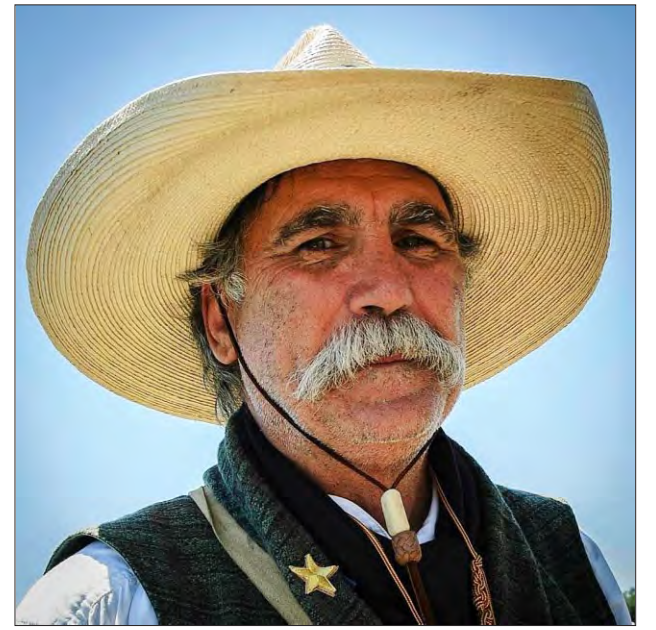
In addition to historical programming, the celebration will feature a vendor market and food trucks operating throughout the day, giving visi-

tors a chance to relax and enjoy the festival atmosphere between activities. Living history demonstrations will pause during reenactments to ensure clear viewing and safety.

Organizers encourage the public to drop in at any point during the day to experience the sights, sounds, and stories of San Jacinto, where history is not only remembered but vividly re-created for new generations.



Scenes from previous San Jacinto Day celebrations at the monument in LaPorte, Texas. Thousands of visitors will descend on the park for the festivities.



Mark Hegman, who passed away last year, portrayed General Sam Houston during one of the Battle of San Jacinto reenactments.



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# NORTH SHORE ROTARY: 51st Annual Fish Fry,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

alternate ready.” That planning reflects a changing dynamic within the club, as long-time members scale back their roles and younger Rotarians step into new responsibilities.

“The club is changing, just like life changes,” Proctor said. “Some of our older members are still there and still supporting us, but they may not be able to do everything they used to. That means younger members have to step up, even if it’s uncomfortable at first.”

Another major focus as the event approaches is building inventory for the live and silent auctions. Rotary members attend school and community auctions throughout the year to purchase items, both to support students and to stock their own fundraiser.

“We do it for four reasons,” Proctor explained. “We support the students, we build relationships with the schools, we sometimes make money on the items, and even if we don’t, it comes full circle when those kids apply for scholarships later.”

Proctor said the club aims to strike a careful bal-



Rotarian Brent Hughes serves up some catfish for hungry patrons at the 51st annual North Shore Rotary Catfish Fry and Crawfish Boil.

ance when it comes to auction items.

“Our goal is about 70 items,” he said. “Any more than that, and people just lose interest.”

As the big day approaches, Proctor said attention will soon shift to final details, weather watching and ensuring volunteers are ready for whatever comes their way.

“We’re praying it doesn’t rain,” he said. “But if it does, the show will go on. Umbrellas are pretty inexpensive.”

Looking ahead, Proctor said the club is also exploring modern updates, including online ticket sales and digital signage, ideas

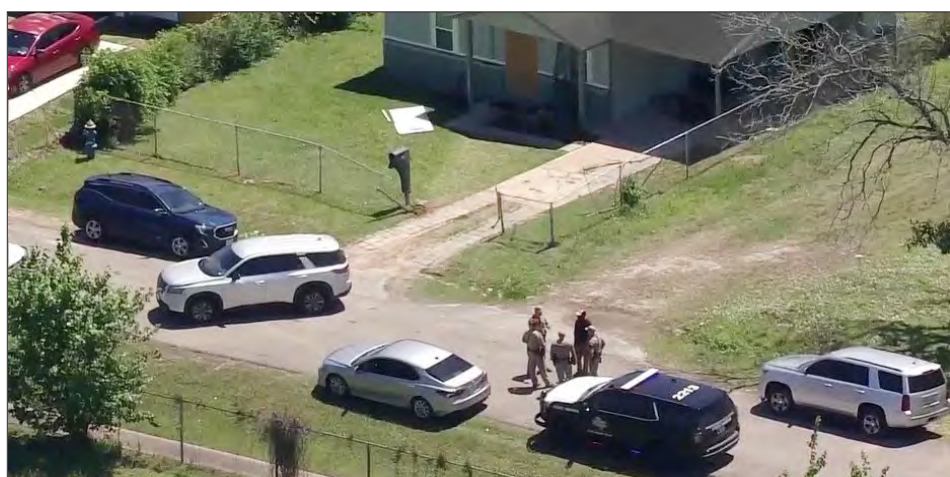
he believes could boost visibility and engagement.

“A moving picture catches attention better than a stationary sign,” he said. “Some of our signage and flyers are antiquated. We know that, and we’re looking at ways to do things better.”

Despite the long hours and occasional latenight panic moments, Proctor said watching the fundraiser come together makes it all worthwhile.

“When you’re on a committee, you only see one piece of the wheel,” he said. “When you step into this role, you finally see how it all comes together — and why we do what we do.”

# Ten Arrested in Clinton Park Neighborhood Drug Bust



The Houston FBI, along with other city, state and federal law enforcement agencies, raided this house near Fidelity Street in Clinton Park last Tuesday, April 7 and arrested 10 persons on various drug charges.

HOUSTON – A total of 10 Houston residents are now in custody for various firearm and drug trafficking offenses, announced Acting U.S. Attorney John G.E. Marck.

Authorities on Tuesday, April 7th arrested Damian Ray Broussard, 39, Corre Deandre Plater, 36, Stacy Lawton, 46, Quentin Mayes, 51, Johnnie Lee Chatmon, 51, Leroy Lumpkin, 55, Emanuel Walker, 30, and Anthony Means, 51, who have begun to make their initial appearances in federal court. All are charged in separate, but related indictments returned in March which were unsealed upon their initial appearances.

Ronald Maddox, 42, was previously arrested and remains in custody pending further criminal proceedings.

At the time of the ar-

rests, law enforcement also took a 10<sup>th</sup> man into custody. Justin Leonard, 39, is charged in a separate, but similar criminal complaint. He is in custody on related charges and is expected to make his appearance in federal court in the near future.

According to the allegations, the group trafficked fentanyl, crystal meth, cocaine and counterfeit pharmaceutical drugs as well as firearms in Houston’s Clinton Park neighborhood.

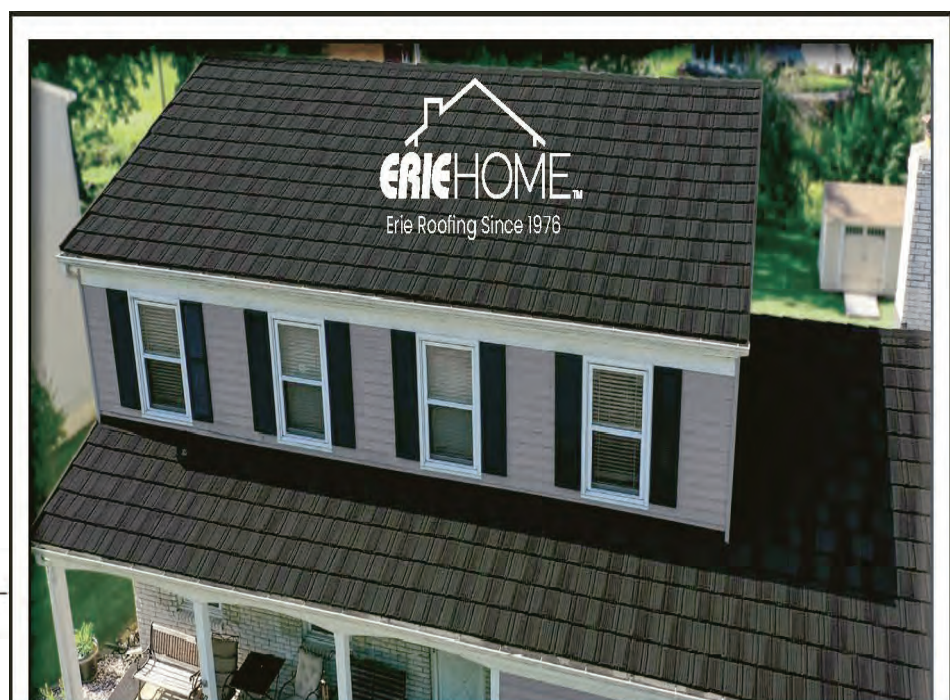
As detailed in the complaint, Walker and Leonard allegedly sold various amounts of cocaine, crystal meth and approximately 3,000 pills containing meth. Leonard has also sold a large amount of crack cocaine out of the Clinton Park residence, according to the charges.

As part of the operation, authorities allegedly discovered and seized over 30 fire-

arms, cocaine, pills containing meth or fentanyl, crystal meth, prescription pills, crack cocaine, heroin, marijuana and cash, among other things.

With the exception of Mayes, Chatmon and Walker, who face varying terms up to 40 years in federal prison for the drug charges, the remaining men could receive up to life in prison for either the drug and/or firearms charges. All could also be ordered to pay a maximum \$250,000 fine on any of the counts.

FBI – Houston led the investigation as part of Operation Spring Cleaning along with Houston Police Department; U.S. Marshals Service; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; and Texas Department of Public Safety. Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard D. Hanes is prosecuting the case.



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# GPISD Swimmers Shine,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

coach. She's also owned and coached a club team out of the natatorium for the past 19 years where they start children in the swim lesson program and progress them through until they have the skills to be on the high school team.

Seven years ago, the district created a swimming PE class for all middle schools in the district. She teaches it as well. She said it has been great as a feeder for the high school team. Many of the current student members of both North shore and Galena Park teams have come through either the club or the middle school program.

North Shore accomplishments: They placed 4th at the District 21-6A meet and advanced two individuals on to the Regional meet—freshman Azul Martinez in the 100 butterfly and 200 Individual Medley and senior Jeremiah Logan in the 100 breaststroke—along with 5 of their 6 relays.

At the Regional meet, Azul Martinez made a great showing by dominating the consolation heats in both of her events, giving her 9th place. She broke the team record in the 200 IM, which was set back in 2020 and she just missed the team record in the 100 butterfly.

Jeremiah Logan made it back for finals and moved up a place, from 12th to 11th. Coach Sikkema said she very excited that Jeremiah has verbally committed to the University of St. Thomas.

Galena Park accomplishments: At the district 19-5A meet, the girls placed 3rd and the boys placed 2nd overall. Every single swimmer made it through to the Regional meet.

Sophomore Colton Baldwin placed 1st in the 200 Individual Medleys and



Galena Park Swim Team: L-R: Colton Baldwin, Sara Martinez (team captain), Cesar Martinez. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

2nd in the 500 freestyle. Junior Jonathan Dahu placed 4th in the 100 freestyle. Sophomore Natalie Dahu placed 4th in the 100 butterfly. Freshman Lia Galvan placed 6th in the 100 freestyle.

Freshman Julian Hinojosa placed 2nd in the 100 butterfly and 3rd in the 200 freestyle. Senior Cesar Martinez placed 1st in both the 200 and 500 freestyle. Sophomore Sara Martinez placed 1st in both the 100 butterfly and 500 freestyle. Cesar and Sara were awarded Swimmer of the Meet for their gender.

At the Region 5-5A meet, the team dominated again. Colton Baldwin led the meet off with a 2nd place finish in the 200 Individual Medley, making him THE first ever swimmer to qualify for the State meet from GPHS! He turned around a few events later and also placed 2nd in the 500 freestyle giving him a second event to compete in at State.

Natalie Dahu made it back for finals in the 100 butterfly and placed 15th overall. Julian Hinojosa also came back for finals in his two events and placed 14th in the 200 freestyle and 15th in the 100 butterfly.

Cesar Martinez placed 3rd in the 200 freestyle but

was Region champion in the 500 freestyle, earning his spot on the State team.

Lastly, Sara Martinez punched her ticket to State AND was the first ever girl swimmer to qualify for State from GPHS by placing 2nd in the 100 butterfly. She also placed 3rd in the 500 freestyle.

Coach Sikkema said at the State meet, the nerves were flowing. There are 24 competitors in each event. Colton was seeded 24th in both of his events. He ended up 24th in both but swam better times than he did at Regional's.

Sara was also seeded 24th in the 100 butterfly but with a half a second time drop, she moved up one place. Cesar was seeded 23rd in the 500 freestyle and from lane 1, had a phenomenal swim, dropped 2 seconds, and ended up 17, barely missing out on the top 16th place to come back to swim finals the next day.

There were many team records broken this year: Colton Baldwin: 100 butterfly, 100 backstroke & Cesar Martinez: 200 freestyle, 50 freestyle, 100 freestyle, 500 freestyle, 100 breaststroke & Sara Martinez: 100 butterfly, 100 freestyle, 500 freestyle.

Cesar Martinez plans on swimming in college but is still undecided as to where.

# HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Seven studios bid to produce Jane Fonda's next film, and Lionsgate won. The film is called "The Correspondent," and it's about a retired woman who processes her grief through letters.

It was announced that Fonda would give a tribute to Robert Redford during the Oscars, but Barbra Streisand, who only made "The Way We Were" (1973) with Redford, outranked her. This was disappointing since Fonda made five films with Redford: "Tall Story" (1960), "The Chase" (1966), "Barefoot in the Park" (1967), "The Electric Horseman" (1979), and "Our Souls at Night" (2017). The Academy bowed to Streisand, and Fonda wasn't happy!

The Oscars In Memoriam omitted at least four other film stars. Considered one of the most beautiful woman in the world, Brigitte Bardot became internationally famous for the 1956 film "And God Created Woman." She wed "Barbarella" director Roger Vadim in 1952, and he later wed Jane Fonda in 1965.

Bardot made 47 films before retiring at 41 in 1971. She died on Dec. 28, 2025, at 91. Despite her being an animal activist, it was her controversial homophobic and Islamophobic remarks that were supposedly the reason why she was omitted from the In Memoriam segment.

Another omission (with no reason given) was Bud Cort, who died on Feb. 11 at 77. He made 40 films, most notably "M.A.S.H." (1970) and "Brewster McCloud" (1970). He hit it big with "Harold and Maude" (1971), which was a sensation because he played a 22-year-old boy who was in love with the 72-year-old Ruth Gordon. He surely earned the recognition that he was sadly denied.

A third omission was Robert Carradine, who died on Feb. 23 at 71. I met Bobby when he was 17 and starred alongside John Wayne in "The Cowboys" (1972). He was in at least 38 films, including "Mean Streets" (1973),



Bud Cort (1948-2026) for "Harold and Maude" (1971)

"Orca" (1977), "The Long Riders" (1980), the "Revenge of the Nerds" franchise (1984-1994), "Django Unchained" (2012), and the completed upcoming film "Sorority Shark Attack" before he died.

The fourth omission was June Lockhart from the Golden Age of Hollywood, who died on Oct. 23, 2025, at 100 years of age. She acted in 31 films, including "A Christmas Carol" (1938); "All This, and Heaven Too" (1940) with Bette Davis; "Adam Had Four Sons" (1941) with Ingrid Bergman; "Sergeant York" (1941), for which Gary Cooper won his Oscar; "Miss Annie Rooney" (1942); "Meet Me in St. Louis" (1944) with Judy Garland; "The White Cliffs of Dover" (1944); "Son of Lassie" (1945); "She-wolf of London" (1946); and "Lost in Space" (1998).

She also starred in both "Lassie" and "Lost in Space" when they became hit TV series. I used to visit with June and her actress daughter Anne Lockhart ("Battlestar Galactica"). Looks like Lassie's mom will be lost in space for eternity!

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Amber Waves



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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Brush is larger; 2. Painted area on fence is larger; 3. Shirt is longer; 4. Man has more hair; 5. Window is larger; 6. Car is smaller.

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ACROSS

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- 7 South Pacific nation
- 11 Grouch
- 13 Ump's call
- 14 Tehran's country
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- 16 Peyton's brother
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- 22 Prom outfit
- 24 TV detective Remington
- 28 Shirt parts
- 32 Flynn of film
- 33 Frankfurt fellow
- 34 Cleaning cloth
- 36 Fine cotton
- 37 "Shake —" (Taylor Swift hit)
- 39 "Be serious!"
- 41 More of a snoop
- 43 Hosp. scan
- 44 Inert gas
- 46 Accord
- 50 Pizzazz
- 53 Bro, maybe
- 55 Half a sextet
- 56 Actress Falco
- 57 — tizzy (worked up)

DOWN

- 1 Con job
- 2 Killer whale
- 3 Buddies
- 4 "The Raven" writer
- 5 Future tulip
- 6 Mixes up
- 7 Crime-solving aids
- 8 Rage
- 9 Pickle holder
- 10 Hoosier st.
- 12 Crunchy candy bar
- 19 Minivan alternative
- 21 Consumed
- 23 Gen- — (baby boomer's kid)
- 25 One of HOMES
- 26 — Linda, Calif.
- 27 Mideast airline
- 28 Tibia's place
- 29 Jared of "Panic Room"
- 30 Cupid's alias
- 31 Droop
- 35 Tiara jewel
- 38 Service charge
- 40 Capote nickname
- 42 Wartime riveter
- 45 Boy, in Barcelona
- 47 Showy flower
- 48 Scrabble piece
- 49 Singer Ono
- 50 Last letter in London
- 51 Chemical suffix
- 52 Actress Long
- 54 Prohibit

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### Trivia test

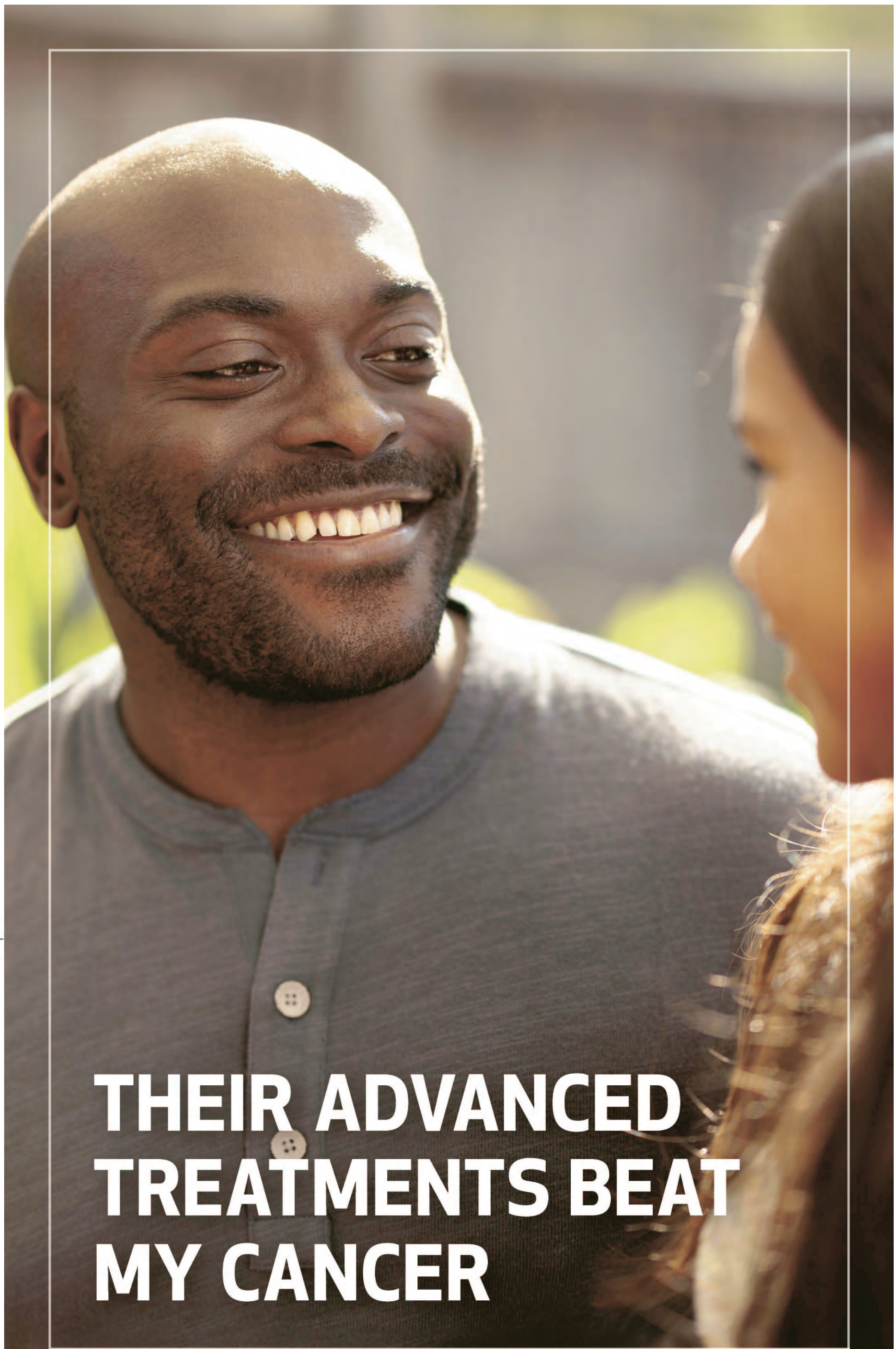
by Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY: Which country is also known to residents as Hellas?
- U.S. STATES: Which state is the least populated?
- ENTERTAINERS: Which show launched the career of comedian/actor Jim Carrey?
- MOVIES: What museum is featured in the movie "Night at the Museum"?
- HISTORY: When was Earth Day first celebrated?
- MUSIC: Which song begins with the lines, "Is this the real life? Is this just fantasy"?
- TELEVISION: Who starred in the title role of the TV drama "Designated Survivor"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the only sport that has been played on the moon?
- LITERATURE: What is the name of the language used in the novel "1984"?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of giraffes called?

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Trivia Test Answers

- Greece; 2. Wyoming; 3. "In Living Color"; 4. The American Museum of Natural History in New York City; 5. April 22, 1970; 6. "Bohemian Rhapsody" by Queen; 7. Kiefer Sutherland; 8. Golf; 9. Newspeak; 10. A tower



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