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North Shore Rotary's 51st Crawfish Boil & Catfish Fry Reels in Big Sales; Babu George wins New Car Raffle

By David Taylor
Managing editor

CLOVERLEAF — The smell of seasoned crawfish and hot oil drifted across the North Shore Rotary Pavilion last Saturday as volunteers in aprons moved in practiced rhythms: trays out, tickets torn, raffle stubs collected, silent-auction sheets checked and rechecked.

For the public, it's a single-day tradition — a plate of catfish or crawfish, a chance at a raffle prize and a few hours visiting with neighbors. For the Rotarians who build the event, it's much more than that.

"This is a three-day event. Most people don't know that," said David



Crawfish Shack employee Marshal Tobey unloads and gathers some really big crawfish into a cooler ready for eager customers. He does his work under the watchful eye of owner Dan Meaux.

Proctor, chairman of the fundraiser. "Only one day of those is when the public is actually there and sees what's going on. So, they miss the Friday and they miss the Sunday events,"

otherwise known as setup and cleanup.

North Shore Rotary's annual Crawfish Boil and Catfish Fry marked its 51st year this spring, continuing a long-running



Bill Palko, auctioneer Bill Busby and Matt Davis led the charge for the live auction which is a big source of revenue for the Rotarians.

fundraiser that supports the club's charitable work in the community. While final totals were still being calculated in the days after the event, Proctor said early sales figures were

strong heading into Saturday.

"We don't have all the numbers in yet," Proctor said, explaining that the club typically tries to have totals ready by the Thurs-

day before the event so it can recognize top sellers, but that wasn't possible this year. "We're still calculating numbers and all that kind of stuff."

Even so, by the time Rotarians gathered for their Thursday meeting before the fundraiser, Proctor said the club had already collected \$176,718 in total sales, not including several other pools of money made at the fundraiser and in sponsorships.

"That was as of Thursday," he said.

Proctor broke down that preliminary total as \$47,218 in meal ticket sales and \$129,500 in raf

Continued. See NS ROTARY CRAWFISH BOIL NETS, Page 5

Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary Club's Baked Potato Lunch/Cake Auction Raises Over \$11,000 at Fundraiser

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

The Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary Club hosted its annual Baked Potato Lunch and Cake Auction on Tuesday, March 24, drawing community members together for food, fellowship, and fundraising at a new location, the First Baptist Church of Jacinto City.

Guests enjoyed large baked potatoes topped with chopped beef, bacon, sour cream, cheese, green onions, and butter before taking part in a lively cake auction that raised funds for student scholarships and international Rotary projects. Accord-

ing to club leaders, the event generated more than \$11,000 in support of local students and charitable initiatives.

"It was our annual Baked Potato Lunch and Cake Auction, and it was a good event," said James Cline, president of the Rotary Club. "Folks came in for Rotary fellowship and got to enjoy their meal, and we were able to do some really meaningful things for kids in our community."

A highlight of the luncheon was the recognition of elementary and middle school students from across the Galena Park and Jacinto City area who received Community Ser-



The cakes were made by the Culinary Arts students from Galena Park High School and bidders paid a good price for the tasty desserts.

vice Awards. Two students from each participating elementary and

middle school were honored for their service to the community, coopera-

tion with peers and teachers, involvement in service-related school

activities, and strong academic standing. Each student received a medal, and families were invited to attend the ceremony.

Awards were presented by Dr. John Moore, GPISD superintendent of schools, Wayne O'Quinn, director of the Education Foundation, and Linda Jamail from the office of Representative Ana Hernandez. A community organization, Watco, was also recognized during the program.

The cake auction featured desserts prepared by students in the Galena Park ISD culinary arts

Continued. See GP/JC ROTARY CLUB'S BAKED POTATO, Page 2

Texas House Democrats Who Walked Out Over Congressional Map Fined Over \$8,000 each

TEXAS - Texas House Democrats who staged a walkout in August over a new congressional map gerrymandered in favor of Republicans will be charged over \$8,000 apiece in penalties, a GOP-led panel decided Friday.

Democrats avoided the Capitol for two weeks in August to protest the new congressional map that Texas Republicans redrew, at the request of President Donald Trump, to hand the GOP up to five additional seats in this year's midterms. Their absence meant the Texas House lacked the quorum necessary to conduct business, forcing the chamber to a halt. The Legislature approved the map after Democrats, many of whom decamped to Illinois and other states, returned to Austin.

House rules allow lawmakers to be fined \$500 for each day they miss while the House is in session, if the absence was "for the purpose of impeding the action of the House." That provision also makes them liable for costs incurred by the House sergeant-at-arms in trying to force their attendance.

The final bill for most Democrats who broke quorum landed at \$8,354 each—exceeding the annual \$7,200 salary lawmakers receive as members of the Texas House. The fine includes \$6,000 for their absence over 12 days and \$2,354 in expenses sus-

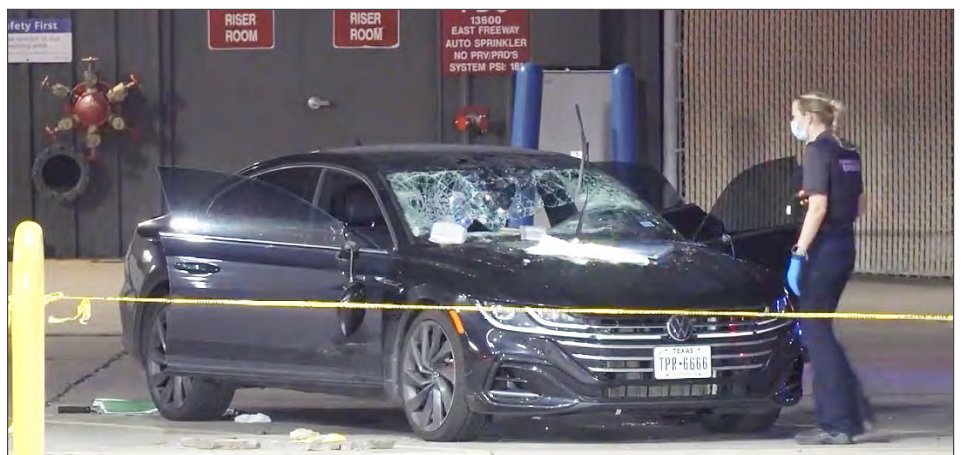


Texas State Rep. Armando Walle was one of the Democrats fined by the GOP-Led Panel.

tained by the Department of Public Safety in trying to secure their presence, such as by dropping in on lawmakers' homes across the state and trailing Democrats for a day after they returned to the Capitol.

Continued. See GOP-LED PANEL FINES DEMS, page 2

Gunshots at East Freeway Sam's Club; Suspect killed by HPD officers



A law enforcement officer inspects the vehicle of the dead suspect at the Sam's Club parking lot.

HOUSTON — A Sam's Club along the East Freeway reopened last Monday following a deadly officer-involved shooting that began in the store's parking lot Saturday night, according to Houston police.

"No officers were injured, however, the suspect was struck more than one time," said HPD Asst Chief Smith.

Police said officers were

called to the store near Uvalde Road just after 11 p.m. after reports of a shooting. When they arrived, investigators learned a man had been vandalizing and breaking into vehicles in the parking lot.

According to police, store employees witnessed the incident and ran outside to confront the suspect. That's when

authorities say the situation escalated.

"At that time, the suspect shot at the employees of the store who retreated back inside of the store. The suspect followed them inside of the store and continued shooting," police said in a statement shared during the investigation.

Continued. See GUNSHOTS AT EAST FWY SAM'S CLUB, Page 2

GP/JC rotary club's baked potato lunch fundraiser for scholarships and community projects,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

program, adding another student element to the fundraiser. Cakes were sponsored by community supporters and auctioned off following the luncheon, drawing enthusiastic bidding from attendees.

"I was the auctioneer, so I didn't get a chance to bid on one," Cline said. "But the cakes sure did look good, and a lot of fun was had by all."

In addition to scholarships for Galena Park High School students, proceeds from the fundraiser will support the Rotary Club's international service projects. Club leaders said the strong turnout reflected continued community support for Rotary's mission of service above self.

The Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary Club will continue its work this spring with upcoming events, including a scholarship dinner on May 5 at the Jacinto City Town Center and a First Responders Day meeting on May 19.



GPISD superintendent Dr. John Moore and Education Foundation director Wayne Oquin presented the elementary and middle school service awards to students. Linda Jamail, representing State Representative Ana Hernandez, presented the Community Award to Watco.



Elementary and Middle School Community Service award winners were selected based on the following criteria: service to their community, cooperation with other students and teachers, student engagement in service-related school activities, and good academic standing. Students were recognized from Galena Park Elementary, Jacinto City Elementary, MacArthur Elementary, Pyburn Elementary, Woodland Acres Elementary, Galena Park Middle School, and Woodland Acres Middle School.



Rotarians Mini Izaguirre of North Shore and Maria Cortez-Ochoa of Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary.



North Shore Rotarians Danna and Don Nino enjoy their Baked Potatoes at the Luncheon.



Students baked Cakes with unique designs, including this Rotary International Logo, and other colorful original artistic cakes.

GOP-led panel fines absent Democrat state representatives,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The House Administration Committee tallied that 53 Democrats would be responsible for \$421,890 in sum. The panel, made up of six Republicans and five Democrats, approved the fines on a party-line vote.

Democrats on Friday pushed to reduce or strike the penalties entirely, arguing that walkouts were a constitutionally sanctioned legislative tool of the minority party and framing the fines as a partisan and draconian response.

"The power to compel attendance is not the power to punish dissent," said Rep. Armando Martinez, D-Weslaco, a member of the administration committee who did not participate in the walkout. "Nor is it to distort the Constitution's design and convert a protected structural safeguard into a sanctioned offense."

Committee Vice Chair Sheryl Cole, D-Austin, offered five motions to cut down the penalties, each of which were defeated 6 to 5 by the panel's Republican majority. She first moved to scratch out all penalties "on the ground that the committee has not accorded those members the due process required."

Democrats had demanded Republicans produce itemized receipts and records supporting the reported sum borne by law

enforcement. They emerged from the closed-door portion of the hearing arguing that the accounting process behind the fines was inconsistent, lacking transparency and riddled with errors.

"There's no certain number, because you've given us uncertain evidence and there's uncertain documentation," state Rep. Cassandra Garcia Hernandez told The Texas Tribune after testifying to the committee. "The lack of due process was really frustrating."

She said that despite asking for receipts supporting the fines in August, Democrats did not receive any records until a few days ago, when the panel's Republicans provided a 300-page packet of records from DPS and the House sergeant-in-arms that Democrats complained was difficult to evaluate without more time. Garcia Hernandez and other Democrats also said DPS leaders admitted at the hearing there were possible errors in the accounting and acknowledged records showing inconsistent documentation by officers of their efforts to round up lawmakers.

"Records provided by DPS don't even show that they were legitimately trying to secure absent members during the relevant



Members of the Texas House Democratic Caucus at a press conference at IBEW Local 701 in Warrenville, Ill., on Aug. 4, 2025. (Photo Jamie Kelter Davis for The Texas Tribune)

time period," Cole said at the hearing. "None of the documents are tied to efforts to track down specific members, so we have no way of knowing what was expended on which members."

Some Democrats saw their penalties reduced or struck before Friday's hearing after successfully arguing that their absences from the Capitol during the walkout should count as excused. Rep. Salman Bhojani, D-Euless, was in Pakistan for half of the quorum break attending to a sick family member and saw his fine cut, and Rep. Claudia Ordaz, D-El Paso, saw her penalties struck entirely as she was undergoing in vitro fertilization treatment.

The maximum penalty was ultimately \$1,000 less than the original total House Republicans had

quoted Democrats in August. House Administration Chair Charlie Geren, R-Fort Worth, said he dropped two Sundays from the \$500-a-day tally because the House was not in session.

Beyond their due process arguments, Democrats lamented that Republicans' pursuit of the penalties would contribute to a more partisan and divided political environment. "Not only is [our politics] more divisive, but it's becoming also more vindictive," said Rep. Vince Perez, D-El Paso, in describing his testimony to the committee. "Democrats, at the end of the day, lost this battle. We put up a fight and we came back and we lost, and we went on to other business. And I asked the committee: Really, what does it serve to continue to impose these or be rigid about these financial penalties when Democrats have already lost this issue?"

Rep. Joe Moody, an El Paso Democrat on the administration panel, condemned the partisan rhetoric from Republicans, some of whom have argued for maximizing the punishment to deter future walkouts.

"The members whose fines that we've considered today are colleagues and friends," he said. "They're not political ideas, and they broke quorum because they believed it was the right way to stand up for their districts. Some of the rhetoric around this has been incredibly over the top, which makes zero sense for tactics as old as politics itself."

House rules prohibit lawmakers from paying the fines using campaign funds, meaning Democrats will have to pay them out of pocket. Before the hearing Friday, a spokesperson for House Democrats' campaign arm said their read of state law was that lawmakers could use their campaign cash to reimburse themselves for the fine. A spokesperson for the campaign group said it was raising money to support every Democrat's reelection, adding, "What they choose to do within the bounds of applicable law when the campaign committee makes campaign disbursements is up to them."

After the hearing, Rep. James Talarico of Austin, the Democratic nominee for U.S. Senate and a member of the Texas House Admin-

istration Committee, blasted out a fundraising email from his Senate campaign, saying, "there is something deeply wrong in this state if the majority party is trying to punish representatives for speaking up for their constituents."

"This is why we have to take back Texas," he added. "And when we do, my promise to you is that I will always fight for the people — regardless of the consequences."

Before the committee approved the penalties, some Democratic lawmakers were noncommittal about paying them, with Perez and Garcia Hernandez saying they would evaluate their options in the coming days. Rep. Jolanda Jones of Houston said she was "not going to concede or pay anything illegal."

Lawmakers who refuse to pay the fine could see their office budget slashed by 30%, according to House rules.

Some House Republicans, meanwhile, signaled an appetite to increase the fines and punishments for walkouts even further when the Legislature meets again for the 2027 session.

"We're obviously not getting the message across with the current rules," Rep. Mitch Little, R-Lewisville, said. "The penalties need to be higher. We'll find a number that bothers people enough to come and do their job."

-- Texas Tribune

Gunshots at East Fwy Sam's Club; Car break-in suspect shot, killed by police,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

When officers entered the store, police said an exchange of gunfire occurred between officers and the suspect.

No officers or employees were injured, but the suspect was struck multiple times. He was taken to a hospital, where he was later pronounced dead.

Police said body camera footage from the incident will be released within 30 days as part of the ongoing investigation.

On Sunday morning, shoppers arrived to find the store closed and many were unaware of what had happened until they were told about the shooting.

"What went through your head when I told you they're closed and why?" one shopper said. "I said we need more security."

A sign posted on the store's front doors informed customers of the temporary closure and apologized for the inconvenience.

In a statement, Walmart said, "The safety and security of our members and associates is our top priority. We appreciate law enforcement for their swift action and will continue cooperating with the investigation."

The company confirmed the store will reopen with normal hours on Monday.

The investigation into the officer-involved shooting remains ongoing.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

BANNER TECHNOLOGY, INC., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for Renewal of Air Quality Permit Number 74412, which would authorize continued operation of the Pleasantville Process Facility located at 959 Pleasantville Drive, Houston, Harris County, Texas 77029. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Forever Young

As May arrives this week, it is a time to celebrate. Fresh flowers, Mother's Day, proms, end of the school year parties, graduations, the arrival of summer. And sadly, too many young people with too much time on their hands. There will be parents struggling to afford activities to keep their children busy as well as supervised. There will be many children and youth left at home without nutritious snacks and meals. And sadly, there will be guns left in the reach of young people. Children grow up listening to music, videos, movies and in communities where gun violence is often glorified.

So, what happens when life is cut short due to gun violence? Families grieve, communities suffer and dreams are cut short. Those killed will be remembered as forever young.

In a society where gun violence happens too often, our community has been touched too often. I would like to share with you how you can help to not only remember the victims, but to also impact the lives left behind.

Earlier this year our community lost a 17-year-old high school graduate who had dreams and plans for his future. He was gunned down by someone he knew, over a chain. It did not take long for the murderer, another youth in our area to be arrested. Yet there is a lingering effect of pain. The family and friends of Jayden Ford are refusing to succumb to the pain and let his death be the end of his life's impact. His aunt along with his mother founded a non-profit to keep children safe from gun violence. Jayden's Pathway to Purpose is proud to collaborate with MOXCI Sports, Krisco Global Enterprises LLC, and the Wendel D. Ley YMCA to launch our Summer Interest Program, a six-week youth development experience created to provide local youth with a safe, structured, and empowering environment during the summer months. Their mission is to help youth discover their potential by offering opportunities that promote physical wellness, educational growth, discipline, mentorship, and community engagement. Through this initiative, participants will be encouraged to learn, train, build confidence, and connect with positive role models in a supportive atmosphere.

The program will aim to serve a minimum of 40 local youth, ages 12 to 17, and will take place at the Wendel D. Ley YMCA during the summer months of June through August. In addition to special interest sessions, youth will receive YMCA summer memberships that allow access to the facility and related programming. We respectfully ask you to consider making a financial contribution in any amount to help us reach this goal. Every donation will go directly toward providing access, opportunity, and support for the youth we serve.

Your support is more than a donation — it is an investment in the future of our youth and our community. With your help, we can create experiences that inspire confidence, purpose, and growth in the lives of young people who need it most.

We would be truly grateful for your partnership and support. If you would like to sponsor one or more youth, make a general donation, or discuss partnership opportunities, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you for your time, generosity, and consideration. We appreciate your willingness to help us create a lasting impact in our community. For more information about Jayden's Pathway to Purpose, please reach out to Ruthie Quijano 832 428 8364, Chris Butler 832 229 5140 or to Jaydenspathway@gmail.com

Community Events

- Thursday, April 30**
6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Environmental Literacy Event at Riley Chambers Community Center, featuring C.H.I. C. and more, presented by Scholar Ready
- Friday, May 1**
3:30 p.m.- 5:30 p.m. City of Houston Park Pop Up at J.P. White Park on Market Street near Federal Road
- Saturday, May 2**
12 - 6:30 p.m., North Shore Senior High All Class Reunion Picnic, Deussen Park, Pavillion # 11
- Sunday, May 3**
Worship Encounter with Lizzie Morgan, 6 p.m. at Inspire Church Houston
- Monday, May 4**
Health Literacy: Better Bodies and Minds Event at North Channel Public Library, presented by Scholar Ready
- Tuesday, May 5**
12 p.m. Get Your Program Funded, Zoom with Literacy for Life, presented by Scholar Ready
5 - 7 p.m., GPSID Mental Health Fair, North Shore Senior High School
- Wednesday, May 6**
11:30 - 1 p.m., Seniors Bible Study, Next Generation Church
6 - 7:30 p.m., Military Literacy, Galena Park Library, presented by Scholar Ready
- Thursday, May 7**
6:30 p.m. National Night of Prayer Gathering, Hampton Inn and Suites, 14120 Karissa Court, Houston 77049
6:30 p.m. Juvenile Justice and Literacy Event, presented by Scholar Ready

ASK DIAMOND JIM



Diamond Jim: "What is the Birthstone for May?"

MAY BIRTHSTONE IS EMERALD

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



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

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

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.

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.

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Channelview ISD Teacher Named TCEQ Educator of the Year

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

CHANNELVIEW — Channelview High School science teacher Erica Villarreal has been selected as the 2026 Environmental Educator of the Year by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), a statewide honor presented as part of the Governor's Texas Environmental Excellence Awards. The award recognizes educators who demonstrate leadership, innovation and a sustained commitment to environmental education.

Villarreal, who teaches Integrated Physics and Chemistry at Channelview High School, was recognized for her hands-on approach to environmental education, engaging students in real-world projects focused on sustainability, conservation and community impact. Her work empowers students to analyze environmental challenges and actively participate in solutions that benefit their school and the broader community.

"It is an honor, not only as a teacher but as a Channelview High School alumna, to represent my community and highlight the incredible work of my students," Villarreal said. "This recognition reflects the power of environmental education to inspire action and proves that youth make a meaningful difference, creating a lasting impact and legacy in our community."

Villarreal credited her students for the accomplishment considering their own hard work in the classroom.

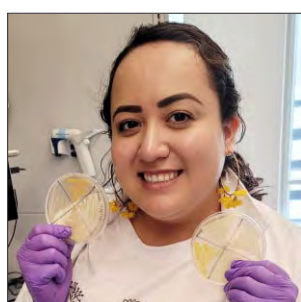


Erica Villarreal, center, is also the sponsor of the Rotaract Club, a North Shore Rotary sponsored club for young people who are interested in service to the community. Villarreal is a science teacher at Channelview High School who won the TCEQ Educator of the Year award.

"They called me on my school phone to tell me congratulations. It was overwhelming," she said. "This was the culmination of the fruits of our labors."

Villarreal's impact has extended beyond the classroom through projects such as rain gardens and pocket prairies, developed in partnership with community organizations. Kate Unger, coordinator for Climate Resilient Habitat with the National Wildlife Federation, praised Villarreal's leadership and commitment to student-driven learning.

"The National Wildlife Federation is so proud of the work done by Ms. Villarreal and her students over the years," Unger said. "From implementing their rain garden on campus to expanding their work in the community with the pocket prairies at the Channelview Sports Complex, Ms. Villarreal has supported her stu-



Villarreal is also involved with the Channelview Health and Improvement Coalition (CHIC) who partnered with her students with the rain garden on campus to expanding their work in the community with the pocket prairies at the Channelview Sports Complex.

dents every step of the way. She has been and continues to be an invaluable resource for these resilience projects and is a leader in creating meaningful environmental education moments for students."

Community leaders have also taken notice of Villarreal's emphasis on hands-on instruction. Carolyn Stone, director of the

Channelview Health and Improvement Coalition (C.H.I.C.), said she was particularly impressed by the level of responsibility and technical skill Villarreal instills in her students.

"When we were first planning the pocket garden and discussing the soil samples, I was impressed that they didn't send out the samples to be analyzed," Stone said. "She had already trained the students how to do the work themselves."

The Texas Environmental Excellence Awards program, established in 1993, has honored more than 300 projects and individuals for significant contributions to environmental protection and education across the state. Villarreal and other recipients will be formally recognized during an awards banquet on June 9 at the Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin.

When she said, 'Give me a ring sometime,'



... this is what she meant!

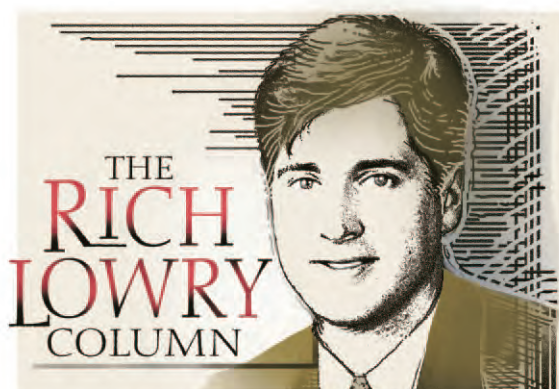


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★ OPINION PAGE ★



War

Yes, of course, war settles things

Countless protest signs have informed us over the years that “war is not the answer.” We hear this message, with varying levels of sophistication and differing underlying worldviews, from institutions and people ranging from Code Pink to Pope LEO.

“War does not solve problems,” the pontiff said in an Angelus address last year. “On the contrary, it amplifies them and causes deep wounds in the history of peoples — wounds that take generations to heal.”

Now, there are many things that can be said about the tragedy of warfare without crediting the blatantly ahistorical cliché that it is never the answer, or doesn’t solve disputed questions, often with a terrible finality.

Warfare can determine international boundaries and the nature of governments. It can decide who will rule and who will not. The relative power of states, the extent of religious faiths and the status of a culture can depend on it.

Wars might be pointless, or fought for prestige, revenge or territorial aggrandizement. That’s all true, but it doesn’t change the fact that military conflict is, at times, necessary and highly consequential; it can achieve beneficial ends, as well as awful ones.

It mattered for the spread of Christianity, for instance, that Constantine, who would become the first Christian emperor of Rome, won the Battle of Milvian Bridge in 312. Later, Christendom benefited from Ferdinand and Isabella taking back Granada from its Muslim rulers in 1492, and from the Holy Roman Emperor defeating the Ottoman besiegers of Vienna in 1683.

Certainly, it would have been better if all this could have been amiably worked out among the relevant parties, but that’s not how the world usually works.

In the early 19th century, Europe had a Napoleon problem — a world-historical military genius determined to bend the continent to his will through force of arms. After serial failures, the Allies finally solved this problem in the War of the Seventh Coalition. The ensuing diplomatic settlement at the Congress of Vienna forged a peace that lasted nearly a century, but wouldn’t have been possible without victory at Waterloo.

In the early 20th century, Europe had a Hitler problem — a fanatical, race-obsessed militarist who wanted his Third Reich to dominate Europe. This problem, too, was solved by force and led to a lasting peace, although a very tense one during the Cold War. If it’s true that war should usually be the last resort, the Allies would have been better off if it had been the first resort against Hitler, checking him when he was relatively weak.

More parochially, the United States wouldn’t be what it is today absent two existential wars. When the colonies began agitating for independence, the British weren’t simply going to cede what they considered sovereign territories, especially given their economic and strategic value. The American cause — and all the good that has flowed from it — depended on prevailing in a grinding eight-year war.

About a hundred years later, it all could have collapsed had the United States not prevailed in the Civil War, an appallingly bloody conflict that extinguished American slavery and preserved the foundation for the nation’s gathering greatness.

TITLE: None of this is a warrant for heedless warmongering, or a reason to dismiss, say, the sheer cynical brutishness of the Roman destruction of Carthage in the Third Punic War, or the horrors of Passchendaele. That war is terrible; however, it doesn’t mean that it’s ineffective.

In our times, Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022 in the erroneous, but not crazy, belief that a sharp, decisive military campaign would topple the Western-oriented government in Kyiv and force the creation of a regime more to the Kremlin’s liking. This was a war that never should have been launched, yet Ukraine had no alternative but to fight it.

If Kyiv wants to protect its sovereign territory and eventually get a tolerable diplomatic outcome, war is the answer — as, sadly, it has been so often throughout human history.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Cost for future water needs could reach \$174B

Texas will need to invest \$174 billion over the next 50 years to keep up with water demand, according to a draft 2027 state water plan approved last week, the Austin American-Statesman reported. That is more than twice the projected cost in the previous state water plan published in 2022.

The draft report, released by the Texas Water Development Board, says the increased costs are due to a number of factors: inflation in construction costs, more frequent droughts, and a decline in existing water supplies as the state’s aquifers become depleted.

The state last year earmarked spending \$20 billion over the next two decades for water infrastructure and supply projects — an amount that falls far short of what will be needed, according to some experts.

“This figure validates concerns that \$1 billion a year is not going to be sufficient to meet the infrastructure needs to ensure our water supply,” said Perry Fowler, executive director of the Texas Water Infrastructure Network, a construction trade coalition for water projects.

The state water plan is created with input from 16 regional planning groups that identify future water needs in their regions and how to meet them. The draft plan is open for public comment and can be accessed here: <https://tinyurl.com/3ktz5fpm>.

TALARICO RAISES RECORD \$27 MILLION; CORNYN LEADS PAXTON IN FUNDRAISING

State Rep. James Talarico raised a record \$27 million in this first quarter of this year, the largest-ever sum for any Senate candidate in any state in the first quarter of an election year, The Texas Tribune reported.

“Winning in Texas will require unprecedented resources,” said Seth Krasne, Talarico’s campaign manager. “This grassroots fundraising haul puts our movement in a strong position to spread our message in some of the most expensive media markets in the country. But we can’t take our foot off of the gas.”

Talarico has raised more than \$40 million since entering the race last September from more than 540,000 individual contributors.



On the Republican side, where incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn is heading to a May 26 runoff against Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, Cornyn outraised his opponent by fourfold, pulling in \$9 million in the first quarter. Paxton raised \$2.2 million

“The Cornyn campaign continues performing at a high level, building off the over performance in the March 3rd primary to announcing a massive fundraising haul in the first quarter of 2026,” Cornyn campaign manager Andy Hemming said.

JUDGE ORDERS CAMP MYSTIC TO PRESERVE CABINS WHERE GIRLS DIED

An Austin state district judge ordered Camp Mystic’s owners not to alter, repair or demolish cabins that housed campers and counselors who died in last year’s July 4 flood along the Guadalupe River, southwest of Kerrville. The flood killed 25 girls, two counselors and one of the owners of the camp.

The camp’s owners are being sued by the parents of 8-year-old Cile Steward, the only victim whose body has not been recovered. Other parents of children who died in the floods also have lawsuits pending.

“This finding is supported by facts tending to show that defendants owed a duty of care to Cile Steward and other minor campers, which they breached by operating Camp Mystic in a high-risk zone without adequate flood protections,” Judge Guerra Gamble wrote.

The injunction remains in place until the lawsuit is resolved or the court rules otherwise. The judge set a trial date of May 3, 2027.

SNAP RULE CHANGE FORCES RECIPIENTS TO READ FOOD LABELS

Changes in what can be purchased under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program are now in place in Texas, and consumers are spending more time examining the ingredients label, the Texas Standard reported.

SNAP benefits can no longer be used to buy candy or sweetened beverages, under Texas Senate Bill 379, passed last year. That includes drinks with more than five grams of added sugar or any amount of artificial sweetener.

The ban does not include baking sugar or sweet cereals, however. The guidelines do not provide an itemized list, so retailers must interpret them and apply them to the food items they sell.

“You use Google a lot to get the internet’s interpretation. You look at the law and how it’s written,” said John Robertson of Austin’s Fresh Plus grocery stores.

DATA CENTER OWNERS GRILLED BY LEGISLATORS

Texas lawmakers grilled data center developers, energy companies and grid officials recently on the impact of the state’s data center boom, the Houston Chronicle reported. Grid officials say they are proposing regulations that will ensure Texas can handle data centers without raising electricity costs for consumers or risking power blackouts.

Officials from various Texas energy companies said data centers could help upgrade the state’s grid infrastructure.

“If we have an opportunity to have new customers coming to the state pay for that, we’ll have done some really good work,” said Brian Lloyd, with Dallas-based Oncor, the Texas utility with by far the most data centers seeking to connect to its system.

Thomas Gleeson, chair of the Public Utility Commission, told lawmakers his agency is working with the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, the grid operator, on rules to encourage data centers to bring their own power generation to help prevent price spikes.

“I honestly don’t think on the generation side you’re going to see a large increase in costs at this point, because we have so many renewables and batteries on the system,” Gleeson said.

AMOUNT OF STATE IN DROUGHT INCREASES AGAIN

Near the end of March, 89% of the state was in drought, according to hydrologist Dr. Mark Wentzel with the Texas Water Development Board. That is the largest extent of drought in nearly four years, Wentzel wrote. In addition to continued dry conditions, average March temperatures were 66.8 Fahrenheit, beating the previous record by more than one-and-a-half degrees.

Wentzel said there is some reason for optimism with a wet, cooler start to April and a forecast of drought contraction in much of the state, except for the Panhandle and West Texas by early summer.

“Also note that we’ve set a new monthly record every year since 2021. In 2021, we set the record for the hottest December. In 2022, it was the hottest July, hottest September in 2023, October in 2024, and November in 2025,” he wrote.

Now we can add March 2026 to that list.

★ THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Things Can Change



“Carrie!” my husband, Peter, called from the bathroom.

We are still in Mexico, and Peter’s abscessed tooth had been extracted earlier that day. The extraction had been difficult. Peter was sore and tired, and he had not eaten since the night before. All this factored into what happened next.

“What’s the matter?” “I’m feeling a little faint. ...”

I ran to the bathroom. “Put your head down!” But it was too late. Peter fell straight forward like a falling tree. He hit the wall with his forehead, shattered the ceramic toilet paper holder and knocked himself out.

I am not great in emergencies, as it turns out.

Peter’s fall made a mighty crash, and I yelled something (I have no idea what) and moments later a downstairs neighbor whom we had never met (his name turned out to be Jim) was knocking on the door.

“Is everything OK up there?” Jim asked.

I don’t remember what I told him, but he got the idea. Jim was a big, strong guy, and he wrestled Peter into a seated position. Peter had a huge gash in his forehead and was still out cold.

“Peter! Wake up! Can you hear me?” I hollered into Peter’s ear.

Peter made sounds that indicated he heard me, but he was clearly not awake.

“You hold this towel on his head. I’ll go get Jorge!” Jim ran downstairs to tell Jorge, our landlubber, and I followed orders.

While I sat there on the floor with my unconscious husband, our cat, Felix, cautiously crept into the bathroom to see what all the excitement was about. He examined the blood splattered all over and tentatively made his way over to check out Peter’s face.

A moment later, Jim was back in the bathroom. Felix bolted.

“Jorge called the Red Cross,” Jim reported. Then he added, “Do you have a black-and-white cat?”

“Yes!”

“I think she just ran out the door.”

Peter started to come to. His eyes slowly focused on this tall stranger standing in his bathroom.

“We’re going to take you to the hospital,” Jim informed Peter.

“Oh, no!” Peter said. “I don’t think that’s necessary. ...”

“You’re going to the hospital!” I informed Peter. I was relieved Peter was arguing because now I knew he was fully conscious.

Felix had not gone far. He had run out the front door and made a daring leap to our balcony (three stories above the ground) where he was now waiting, expecting to be let in. Felix dove under the bed just as the men from the Red Cross showed up.

Three men dressed in red carried Peter to the living room, gave him an IV, checked his blood pressure, put a bandage on his head and hauled him out to a waiting ambulance in a matter of minutes. (Felix stayed under the bed while these three terrifying men in red did their work.)

Peter had a CT scan, and everything was normal (“except it showed I have no brain!” Peter noted), and he was sent home with a lot of stitches. The ambulance was free, I discovered, because the Red Cross is a nonprofit organization.

Jim and his wife checked out the next day. “I’m so sorry we didn’t get to thank Jim again,” I told Peter.

“I wondered what that guy was doing in my bathroom!” Peter said, examining his Frankenstein-style stitches. “Things can change in a moment, can’t they?”

They can. They do. And I thought how much worse everything could have been if we had not had caring people all around us.

Till next time,
Carrie

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NS Rotary crawfish boil nets strong sales in 51st year,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Angel Hill, from the North Shore Sr. High School Honor Society, was working the counter collecting tickets and filling orders for hungry customers.



Terri Denny, Debbie Palko, and Dee, keep the financial transactions moving with the live auction and with raffle ticket sales.



Emptying the catfish fry basket for several hours was Dr. Alexander Okwonna, the Provost for the San Jacinto College North Campus.



Student groups from Galena Park, North Shore, Channelview, and C. E. King high schools earn community service hours and a great plate of food for their hard work serving customers throughout the day.



After a year of sacrifice, sleepless nights, and hard work, fundraising chairman David Proctor shouts with joy the event is over. He was eager to thank all his colleagues in the club and the community for coming out and supporting the annual fundraiser.

fle ticket sales. As the lines formed and the kitchen crew worked through the midday rush Saturday, Proctor said the event ran smoothly — especially compared with years when volunteer coverage thinned at key times. “We didn’t have any issues at all,” Proctor said. “There was no shortage of volunteers at any point in time during the day. Everybody came in and out of their shifts, and we had enough coverage everywhere, so it went very, very smoothly.”

Proctor credited volunteer coordinator Darryl Painter’s plan to stagger shifts for helping keep stations fully staffed. Last year’s event used about 400 volunteers, Proctor said, and early counts indicated the club likely had at least that many — “probably a few more” —

this year. The day also arrived after a rainy week, but the grounds held up. “The weather did hold out for us, which was a blessing,” Proctor said. “Even though it had rained so much during the week, it wasn’t too muddy.” Beyond food and raffle tickets, the event’s auctions remain a significant part of the fundraiser. Proctor said the silent auction appeared to be a complete sell-through this year. “I know we had a lot of good items, and so far, as I recollect, everything got purchased,” he said. “That’s always a good sign, too.” He praised the volunteers who run the silent auction, singling out a longtime organizer. “Margie (Buentello) and her crew do a phenomenal

job and I’m so proud of what she does,” Proctor said. “Margie comes in, she does her thing and everybody’s happy. We’ve never had any incidents.” The event’s live auction also drew major attention, he said, noting the behind-the-scenes work required to line up items and stage them effectively. “Bill Palko spent countless hours... putting together the live auction,” Proctor said. “I learned so much about live auctions — the placement of the items on the list and the mannerism to which they’re auctioned off.” Proctor highlighted a standout item: a patriotic quilt donated by Palko’s wife. “She made a patriotic one that was extremely beautiful,” Proctor said. “I know it went for quite a bit, and we were happy

about that.” Other items often gain interest because of their community or civic ties. Proctor said Texas state Rep. Anna Hernandez donates a Texas flag each year that has been flown over the State Capitol, calling it “a hot item.” He also said a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol and donated through U.S. Rep. Sylvia Garcia was part of this year’s mix. “Those are neat items,”

Proctor said, “because that’s not something that you can just... go get.” The fundraiser also has a built-in connection to local youth programs, including FFA. Proctor said the club purchases items at area FFA auctions to support students — and then, in some cases, those purchases return as auction items, creating a cycle that benefits both students and the Rotary fundraiser. “They play a vital role in our operation, each FFA,” Proctor said. But the club’s involvement, he added, isn’t only financial. “Another reason for going to FFA is we get to be face-to-face with the kids and we get to be face-to-face with their parents and their sponsors,” Proctor said. “To me... that is also important that they know that we’re there for them.” Community partner groups help shoulder the workload, too. Proctor

praised YouthReach volunteers for showing up in force and staying on task. “When they come in, they’re there to work. They have never failed us,” Proctor said. The heavy lift for Rotarians begins long before gates open on Saturday. Friday is the big setup day — moving equipment, arranging tables, getting stations set, and making sure the pavilion is ready for a crowd. “We normally have around 55 to 60 of our members on Friday to help do what we do,” Proctor said, adding that the number varies between 40 and 65. “This year... for the most part, everybody showed up.” By the end of the day, he said, the club was in good shape. And as soon as one event ends, the next planning cycle begins. Proctor said the club was already nudging next year’s chair to start thinking ahead.

2026 Rotary Raffle

1. Ticket No: 0835 Owner: Terri QueBodeaux Sold By: Mike Bilnosky
Prize: RTIC Cooler package donated by Jose and Janie Jimenez.
2. Ticket No: 0936 Owner: David Start Sold By: B.R. Hendrix
Prize: Gift Card Package: Armentas, El Tejano, \$150 Pappas Gift Card donated by Robert Lunde and Adam Lund of golf for 4 at Battle Ground in Deer Park, \$100 Landry’s gift card donated by San Jacinto College Staff.
3. Ticket No: 1254 Owner: Mickey Bergeron Sold By: Margie Buentello
Prize: 65 Vizio Smart TV donated by North Shore Rotary.
4. Ticket No: 0426 Owner: Billie Brinkley Sold By: Shannon/Ken Pantie
Prize: YETI 45 Cooler donated by San Jacinto College Liberal Arts Division.
5. Ticket No: 1102 Owner: Issac Greenlee Sold By: Allatia
Prize: DJI Mini 4K Drone and carrying case donated by Dan Mims. Custom hand-made knife
6. Ticket No: 0618 Owner: Yesenia Ramos
Prize: 4 Houston Texans tickets (Division opponent TBD) Lowell Everitt with Everitt Industrial Supply.
7. Ticket No: 1050 Owner: Maria Berrones Sold By: Ramon Garza
Prize: Shiner Brewery tour for 10, bag of beer tokens, and \$50 gift card donated by Don Spies.
8. Ticket No: 0738 Owner: Chuck P carol Rodney Sold By: B.R. Hendrix
Prize: 4 Club level Houston Astros tickets donated by Capital Bank.
9. Ticket No: 0594 Owner: Janie Jimenez Sold By: Janie Jimenez
Prize: Whole hog cut and wrapped from the 2026 Channelview FFA Auction donated by North Shore Rotary.
10. Ticket No: 0790 Owner: Bryan Mendoza Sold By: Diamond Jim
Prize: Nintendo Switch 2 donated by Doc and Danna Nino.
11. Ticket No: 2275 Owner: Jose Jimenez State Farm Sold By: Corp Sponsor
Prize: 2 Houston Texans preseason tickets. Donated by D&L Quality Painting 2 Houston Astros tickets.-Donated by Don Nichols, 2 Club Level Houston Astros Tickets donated by Matt Davis. 2 Club Level Houston Texans vs Tennessee Titans tickets, Donated by Ramon Gaza
12. Ticket No: 0502 Owner: Nikki Peake Sold By: Palko & Association
Prize: Crawfish cooking package. Custom made high top table and chairs donated by Doc and Danna Nino
13. Ticket No: 0533 Owner: Jennifer Carnathan Sold By: Dr. Tony Hill
Prize: Whiskey Barrel table package donated by North Shore Rotarians.
14. Ticket No: 1559 Owner: Andrea Kubiak Sold By: Bill Palko
Prize: Whole hog cut and wrapped from the 2026 Channelview FFA Auction donated by North Shore Rotarians.
15. Ticket No: 1245 Owner: Rose Lopez Sold By: Bill Palko
Prize: Backyard party package: JBL Charge 6 speaker donated by Dr. Thomas Hallisey and East Loop Chiropractic; cornhole boards and RTIC party pack donated by Doc and Danna Nino.
16. Ticket No: 1542 Owner: Pam Warford Sold By: Bill Palko
Prize: City Wide YMCA Family Membership donated by WD Ley Family YMCA.
17. Ticket No: 1068 Owner: Phil Meaux Sold By: Dan Meaux
Prize: Yeti 65 donated by Mini Izaguirre.
18. Ticket No: 0342 Owner: Les Tomlin Guidry Sold By: Ramon Garza
Prize: Deluxe Fireworks Package donated by Richard Fallin with Top Dog Fireworks.
19. Ticket No: 1330 Owner: Steve Jackson Sold By: Terri Denny
Prize: Half side of beef cut and wrapped donated by North Shore Rotarians.
20. Ticket No: 0754 Owner: Babu George Sold By: Robert Lunde
Prize: 2026 Toyota Tacoma or RAV4 from Community Toyota.



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OBITUARY

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Sharon Burger



Born: July 27, 1951
Departed: April 18, 2026

OBITUARY

Sharon Burger, affectionately known as "Bunny," passed away at the age of 74. Born in Georgia, she carried her Southern roots and warmth throughout her life. She was known for her welcoming nature, kindness, and generous heart. Beyond her grace and beauty, Sharon was known for her wonderful sense of humor. She was witty, lighthearted, and playful. Family was the center of Sharon's life. She is survived by her loving and devoted son, Andy; her daughter in law, Christina; and her granddaughters, Ava and Ella, who lovingly knew her as, "Bunny." Sharon leaves behind a legacy of love, strength, grace, and laughter. Her presence will be deeply missed and remembered by all who knew her. Sharon is now at peace and reunited with her late husband, Jay Burger. May she rest in peace.



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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN AIR PERMIT (NORI) RENEWAL

PERMIT NUMBER 74412

APPLICATION. BANNER TECHNOLOGY, INC., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for Renewal of Air Quality Permit Number 74412, which would authorize continued operation of the Pleasantville Process Facility located at 959 Pleasantville Drive, Houston, Harris County, Texas 77029. AVISO DE IDIOMA ALTERNATIVO. El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/newsourcesreview/airpermits-pendingpermit-apps>. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-95.2765,29.77&level=13>. The existing facility and/or related facilities are authorized to emit the following air contaminants: hazardous air pollutants and volatile organic compounds.

This application was submitted to TCEQ on March 27, 2026. The application will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ Central Office, and the TCEQ Houston Region 12 Office located at 5425 Polk Street, Suite H, Houston, Harris County, Texas 77023, beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review in the Houston Regional Office of the TCEQ. The application, including any updates, is available electronically at the following webpage: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/airpermit-applications-notices>

The executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. An amendment application that is not subject to public notice or an opportunity for a contested case hearing is also being reviewed. The reasons for any changes or incorporations, to the extent they are included in the renewed permit, may include the enhancement of operational control at the plant or enforceability of the permit. The TCEQ may act on this application without seeking further public comment or providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.

PUBLIC COMMENT. You may submit public comments to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application and the executive director will prepare a response to those comments. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the TCEQ's jurisdiction to address in the permit process.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. You may request a contested case hearing if you are a person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the following: (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, daytime phone number; (2) applicant's name and permit number; (3) the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing;" (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility; and (7) a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period. If the request is made by a group or association, one or more members who have standing to request a hearing must be identified by name and physical address. The interests the group or association seeks to protect must also be identified. You may also submit your proposed adjustments to the application/permit which would satisfy your concerns.

The deadline to submit a request for a contested case hearing is 15 days after newspaper notice is published. If a request is timely filed, the deadline for requesting a contested case hearing will be extended to 30 days after mailing of the response to comments.

If any requests for a contested case hearing are timely filed, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for a contested case hearing to the Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. Unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing, the executive director will mail the response to comments along with notification of Commission meeting to everyone who submitted comments or is on the mailing list for this application. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material air quality concerns submitted during the comment period. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to address in this proceeding.

MAILING LIST. In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list for this application by sending a request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. Those on the mailing list will receive copies of future public notices (if any) mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk for this application.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. All public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/leComment/, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040. You can also view our website for public participation opportunities at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/participation.

Further information may also be obtained from BANNER TECHNOLOGY, INC., 959 Pleasantville Drive, Houston, Texas 77029-2431, or by calling Ms. Natasha Halageri, Senior Project Manager, TRC Environmental Corporation, at (601) 323-7775.

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Mark Wahlberg and Paul Walter Hauser star in "Balls Up."

"Balls Up"

"Malcolm in the Middle: Life's Still Unfair" (TV-14) — The Reboot Era has brought yet another revival of a beloved sitcom...

All four episodes are out now to stream. (Hulu) "Balls Up" (R) — Who will volunteer as tribute to stop Mark Wahlberg from making action/comedy films...

"Funny AF with Kevin Hart" (TV-MA) — Comedian/actor Kevin Hart ("Borderlands") hosts this new competition show that searches for the next best stand-up comedian across the nation!

In Case You Missed It "Rental Family" (PG-13) — Oscar winner Brendan Fraser ("The Whale") leads this comedy-drama film that takes place in Japan...



Q:I saw that Alec Baldwin was back in court again for the unfortunate shooting on the set of his movie. I thought that all the charges against him were dismissed. — C.W.

A: Alec Baldwin was charged with involuntary manslaughter for the accidental death of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins, but a judge dismissed the case with prejudice...

Q:When is "Dexter" coming back, and which show will it be? I remember there were two new ones. I want to catch up on the episodes. — S.L.

A:"Dexter: Resurrection" stars Michael C. Hall in the titular role and continues the story where the original "Dexter" series left off. They just began filming season two in April...

"Dexter: Original Sin" was a prequel series that starred Patrick Gibson in the title role 15 years before Hall played him. It had a loyal following, but unfortunately, its second season was scrapped...

Brian Cox ("Succession") will be joining the cast of season two of "Resurrection" as the serial killer known as the New York Ripper. Fans might recall that Cox played a younger Hannibal Lektor in the 1986 film "Manhunter"...

"Dexter: New Blood" was a limited series about Dexter's son, Harrison. Jack Alcott will be returning in the role for "Resurrection," as he did in season one. This is a lot of "Dexter" to catch up on,



Actor Alec Baldwin ("Rust")

so get busy streaming!

Q: What ever happened to the spin-off of "The Neighborhood" with the sons? I just realized it never popped up for the new fall season. — H.C.

A:Unfortunately, the proposed spin-off about the Butler sons with Marcel Spears and Sheاون McKinney in their new neighborhood in Venice Beach, California, has been scrapped by CBS...

"The Neighborhood" did have another spin-off, but it was short-lived. It starred Tracy Morgan as Calvin's (Cedric the Entertainer) cousin and aired on Paramount+, but it was canceled after one season. Fortunately, for Morgan, he's bounced back with a new hit sitcom — "The Fall and Rise of Reggie Dinkins" on NBC.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

April 27, 2026 Posting Date

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipp

TIGER



by Bud Blake

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

Weekly SUDOKU

9x9 Sudoku grid with numbers 4, 1, 8, 7, 2, 5, 6, 9, 8, 4, 1, 9, 6, 2, 6, 1, 8, 7, 2, 6, 4, 8

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. Leg is moved. 2. Design on lampshade is different. 3. Chair is shorter. 4. Curtain is shorter. 5. Doorway is wider. 6. Stripes on wallpaper are reversed.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Lopsided win
5 Have bills
8 Wan
12 Golden
13 Fleece ship
14 Fix illegally
15 Final Four gp.
16 Speed
17 Teri of "Tootsie"
18 Actor Estevez
19 Looked closely (at)
21 Pitcher Maglie
22 Bath powder
23 Speed (up)
26 Poetic contraction
28 Period of rule
31 E-Masry of "Star Wars"
33 Bro, maybe
35 Stair part
36 Deeply touched
38 Its cap. is Brussels
40 "— outta here!"
41 "Dream on!"
43 Actor Holbrook
45 Locust
47 Talisman
51 Seethe
52 Maximum contents
54 Diminutive suffix

11x11 crossword grid with numbers 1-59

- 55 Hirohito's title (Abbr.)
56 One-named supermodel
57 Sun beams
58 Verbalize
59 Church section
7 Pharaoh's land
8 The "A" of UCLA
9 Shortage
10 Fast runner
11 Lawn party site
16 Pisa farewell
20 Jug handle
23 Zodiac animal
24 Comic Philips
25 Liveliness
27 Tease
29 "My word!"
30 "Science Friday" network
32 Secondhand deals
34 "Cheer up!"
37 Carried out
39 Tibetan monk
42 Confronts
44 "— di Lammermoor"
45 Driver with a handle
46 Tiny bit
48 Walk unevenly
49 LAX guesses
50 Broadway actress Daly
53 Docs' org.

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. MOVIES: What is Indiana Jones' real first name in "Raiders of the Lost Ark"?
2. LITERATURE: What is Charlie's last name in the children's book "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory"?
3. GEOGRAPHY: What isthmus connects the Asian and African continents?
4. MATH: What is the first prime number to follow 19?
5. GEOLOGY: What type of rock is formed by cooled lava?
6. TELEVISION: What is the title character's famous line in the TV detective show "Columbo"?
7. BUSINESS: What company's stock ticker symbol is LUV?
8. ASTRONOMY: Which four planets in our solar system have rings?
9. HISTORY: About how many people worldwide were infected by the Spanish flu in the early part of the 20th century?
10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: If an animal eats only plants, what is it called?

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Thivia Test Answers: 1. Henry; 2. Bucket; 3. Isthmus of Suez; 4. 23; 5. Igneous; 6. "Just one more thing"; 7. Southwest Airlines; 8. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune; 9. Nearly one-third of the world's population; 10. An herbivore



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