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THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026

www.northchannelstar.com

Channelview Students Get Free Laptops

By Allan Jamail

Channelview, TX. – May 14, 2026 ~ One hundred Channelview high school students got a boost to their future careers by being gifted free laptops from AT&T and Compudopt.

Register for a free computer at Houston's Compudopt website: www.compudopt.org/houston

Assisting in the event was State Representative Ana Hernandez and East Harris County Empowerment Council (EHCEC).

Welcoming remarks were made by CVISD Superintendent Dr. Tory Hill, Rep. Ana Hernandez, Tanya Makany Rivera (AT&T), Megan Steckly (CEO, Compudopt) and Renee Griffin (Senior Mgr. EHCEC).

Representative Ana Hernandez said, "Regular access to a computer



Some of the Channelview High School Students with their free laptops along with Superintendent Dr. Troy Hill, CEO Megan Steckly of Compudopt, Rep. Ana Hernandez & AT&T's Tanya Makany Rivera. (Photo By Allan Jamail)

is no longer a luxury in today's ever-connected society." "Our students will fall behind – educationally and economically – without the tools to harness the promise and power of the internet. The computers students will receive today are critical to their everyday lives and their future. I appreciate AT&T, Com-

pudopt and the East Harris County Empowerment Council for their support of our community."

Renee Griffin, the Senior Mgr. for EHCEC said, "On behalf of EHCEC, I want to extend a sincere thank-you to State Representative Ana Hernandez for being with us today and for her continued advoca-

cy on behalf of our communities and students. We also want to thank Tanya and our partners at AT&T for their ongoing investment in opportunities that help young people succeed. Your partnership truly makes a difference."

"At East Harris County Empowerment Council, our mission is to transform

lives by connecting people to resources, opportunity, and pathways to long-term success. Today's device distribution is a powerful example of that mission in action."

Griffin stated the computers represent more than technology. They represent access to internship applications, workforce

training, college and career resources, and meaningful opportunities that help students prepare for their future.

"Through our High School Internship Program, students from Crosby ISD, Sheldon ISD, and Channelview ISD are gaining valuable exposure to professional development, financial literacy, career readiness, and hands-on learning experiences that position them for success beyond high school."

"Having reliable access to technology is critical to that journey. We are proud to stand alongside partners like AT&T, Compudopt, and Representative Hernandez in supporting the next generation of leaders right here in East Harris County. To the students receiving devices today: we believe in your

Continued. See PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS, Page 8

Crosby Fair & Rodeo Marks 80 Years of Tradition

Event Runs May 29 Through June 6

By Gerardo Hernandez,

CROSBY TX— For 80 years, families and rodeo fans have gathered in Crosby to celebrate a tradition rooted in Texas heritage, agriculture and hometown pride, and organizers say the 2026 Crosby Fair & Rodeo could be one of the most memorable events in decades.

The annual celebration returns this week with a packed schedule featuring rodeo competition, carnival rides, a barbecue cook-off, youth livestock events and several nights of live music aimed at bringing together longtime fairgoers and a new generation of fans.

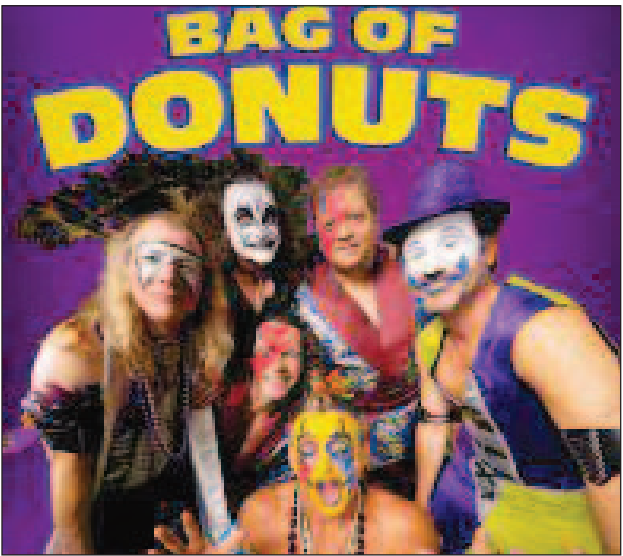
Among the headliners announced for this year's fair is rising country music

artist John Foster, who will perform June 6 alongside opening act The Droptines. Foster, the runner-up from Season 23 of "American Idol," has gained national attention for his traditional country sound.

Organizers described the June 6 concert as the type of high-energy entertainment the Crosby Fair & Rodeo has become known for over the years.

Texas country fans will also see Southeast Texas duo Bottomland perform June 5, bringing a blend of southern rock and country roots music shaped by years of performing in Texas honky-tonks.

Earlier in the fair week, legendary Red Dirt band The Great Divide will take the stage May 30 alongside



Crosby Fair & Rodeo opens this Friday, May 29 with the start of the Cookoff and the BAG OF DONUTS entertainment.

rising country artist Hayden Haddock in what organizers are calling one of the fair's biggest concert

nights.

Kicking off the celebration May 29 will be Louisiana-based entertainment

group Bag of Donuts, known for its elaborate costumes, crowd interaction and "Superpop" performance style covering hits from multiple decades promising a guaranteed night of emotions and fun as they usually performs in Crosby.

The 2026 Crosby Fair & Rodeo schedule includes:

BBQ Cook-Off — May 29-30

Youth Fair — June 1-3

Live Auction — June 4

Rodeo Performances — June 5-6

Organizers recently launched sales for the fair's 80th anniversary membership package, which includes admission throughout fair week, a commemorative anniversary shirt and a membership badge that you can buy at

Crosby rodeo website.

www.crosbyrodeo.com Proceeds from memberships and events help fund scholarships and support agriculture and youth education programs in the Crosby area.

The rodeo organization said the event continues a tradition dating back to 1946 and remains focused on supporting local students and the community through livestock and educational opportunities.

Additional information and updates are available through the Crosby Fair & Rodeo official website and the rodeo's Facebook page.

Continued. See CROSBY RODEO OPENS MAY 29, Page 5

2025 North Shore Mustangs Championship Ring Day

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park ISD Stadium ~ May 19, 2026 ~ the North Shore Eastside 2025 Mustangs brought their championship season to an end with each player, trainer, manager and ball boy receiving a lifetime memento championship ring.

The engraved gold and silver ring has a removal magnetic top revealing on the inside the scores of the five games leading to the final championship game. Also inside is the engraved AT&T stadium field.

Inside the finger hole are the 5 years of their 5 previous championship games and the date of this the sixth championship victory 12-20-25.

On the side of the ring has the score 10-7 of the championship game de-



North Shore Mustang Championship players proudly showing their rings. L-R: David Martinez, Daniel Cruz, Elijah Brown, Lynell Hunter, Jayden Johnson, Kobe Charles and Ezarian Fields. (Photos by Linda Jamail)



North Shore Mustang Championship players proudly showing their rings. Group 1. L-R: Jermarkeus Houston, Da'Sean Royal, Mikhael White, Jakyi Whitehead, Hezekiah Johnson, Juan Hernandez & Kaden Brandley. (Photos by Linda Jamail)

feating Duncanville, each player's name is on the outside. On each end it has 3 rubies, totaling 6 in all.

The slogans, Eastside, Nothing's Easy, Woop-Up-On-Em, Brotherhood and Eastside is scattered around the outside.

The top has a large Zirconia diamond for this year's win and 5 red rubies for each of the school's previous championship wins, a large NS with a silver galloping Mustang, a copy of the championship trophy. Circling the top outer perimeter in capitalized letters is: 6A-D1 2025 STATE CHAMPIONS.

Since the championship game the team was honored with a spectacular banquet, a parade through the community and the

Continued. See MUSTANGS PLAYERS PROUDLY, Page 6

50-280 (Rev. 01-26/8)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS
BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

Sheldon Independent School District will hold a public
(name of school district)
meeting at 7:00 pm, June 16, 2026 at Donald P. Ney Administration Building
(time, date, year) (name of room, building, physical location)
in Houston, Texas 77044. This meeting is to discuss
(city, state)
the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate the school district will adopt.

The school district invites public participation in the discussion.

The tax rate the school district ultimately adopts at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax \$ 0.75520 /\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax
Approved by Local Voters \$ 0.50000 /\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	1.50	% increase	or	-	% (decrease)
Debt service	8.45	% increase	or	-	% (decrease)
Total expenditures	2.95	% increase	or	-	% (decrease)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value
(as calculated under Tax Code Section 26.04)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 9,675,446,711	\$ 9,324,278,723
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 145,368,564	\$ 176,022,119
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 7,322,766,168	\$ 7,056,988,149
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 110,020,760	\$ 133,220,600

* Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(8).
** New property is defined by Tax Code Section 26.012(17).
*** Taxable value is defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(10).

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$ 484 MM

* Outstanding principal.

50-280 (Rev. 01-26/8) (Back)

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance and Operations	Interest and Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ 0.75520	\$ 0.50000*	\$ 1.25520	\$ 9,419	\$ 5,450
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 0.87617	\$ 0.51817*	\$ 1.39435	\$ 10,382	\$ 5,340
Proposed Rate	\$ 0.75520	\$ 0.50000*	\$ 1.25520	\$ 9,872	\$ 5,471

* The interest and sinking fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment or both.
The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 212,839	\$ 201,052
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 93,477	\$ 90,016
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.25520	\$ 1.25520
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 1,173.32	\$ 1,129.88
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ (43.44)

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person age 65 or older or their surviving spouse, if the surviving spouse was age 55 or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.25520. This election will be automatically held
(school voter-approval rate)
if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of 1.25520.
(school voter-approval rate)

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 32.3 MM
Interest and Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 25.5 MM

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Making Memories and Touching Lives

I traveled to Austin on Sunday, May 17 to attend the 21st Texas Silver-Haired Legislative Session. Spending five days with others who work towards writing resolutions to help Senior Adults in Texas have a better quality of life, gave me a boost of energy that cannot be explained. After standing on the floor of the Texas House Chambers, reading multiple resolutions ranging from equipping independent living facilities with better safety measures to increasing the amount of SNAP benefits for Seniors, it also opened my eyes to many challenges.

While there were some resolutions I could not relate to, there were many more that I could. I realize now more than ever why God moved me from working at the community college to a position on talking with and learning more daily about the needs of our aging adults. I love the relationships that I have formed over the past seven years while working with the Constable's Office. Each week, I learn so much history and learn to appreciate others more than I thought possible. Serving on the TSHL allows me to realize that no matter where the Seniors live, there are common issues. So many families are impacted by the same issues yet how their communities react is quite different. Those of us who live in the North Channel Area are truly blessed to have neighbors, elected officials and many nonprofits that work together to "look out" for each other.

I ended the week attending my firstborn granddaughter's high school graduation. Again, despite the event being held across town, there were over 1,100 graduates being recognized and so many loving and happy audience members. As I looked around, I saw families who have lived in our area even longer than my family. Our family had four generations present and others were new to the community and celebrating with only one other generation. I saw graduates who had families deeply involved in the school district, as well as the community. I met others who had just moved into the district this year. There were learning opportunities as guests were asking about some graduates that have more than one surname and certainly a huge thank you goes out to the those who read off the many names and did their absolute best to pronounce them correctly. The exact number of scholarships awarded was not announced but it was mentioned that it was several million dollars. That says much about the generous community we live in as well as the determination of the students to locate funding sources. While this was one of several high school graduations held in our area, I know the others reflected the same. We have a community that promotes education, unity, and successful futures. The area faces great challenges; yet many accomplishments and when we all work together, we all win.

Be blessed and make a difference this week.

Community Events

Friday, May 29

9 a.m. Channelview Ministry Team Meeting,

Monday, June 1

Sign up for Harris County Constable PCT 3 Citizen Police Academy, email Media@cn3.hctx.net

Tuesday, June 2

The Rusty Buckets Senior Group invites all Seniors in the community to participate in upcoming trips and events. For information, please email therustybuckets72@yahoo.com

Wednesday, June 3

11:30 a.m., Senior Adult Bible Study, Next Generation Church,
12 p.m. New Mid-Day Bible Study at Fellowship of Purpose, 14203 Wallisville Road

Thursday, June 4

Registration open for Pipeline Hoops ALL WORK NO WHISTLE Youth Hoop Camo. Ages 6 & up. June 9 - 23, afternoons. For more information, please call 832-272-1680

June 5

7 p.m. Houston Eastside Prayer Gathering,

Saturday, June 6

9 a.m.- Car Wash Fundraiser for Jayden's Pathway to Purpose to be held at W.D.Ley Family YMCA, 15055 Wallisville Road

ASK DIAMOND JIM



Diamond Jim: “What is Lapis Lazuli?”

Lapis is a beautiful rock and is an aggregate of several minerals, mainly lazurite, calcite, and pyrite (That's right, fools-gold).

The rock can also contain lesser amounts of diopside, amphibole, feldspar, or mica. Lazurite is the ingredient responsible for producing the gem's most prized color—bright royal blue.

Lapis frequently contains varying amounts of whitish calcite matrix—the host rock that surrounds the gem—or flecks or veins of glinting yellow pyrite, or both. The gem can also have a smoothly uniform bodycolor, free of visible pyrite and calcite.

Lapis is semitranslucent to opaque, with a waxy to vitreous luster. It has fair toughness, and its hardness ranges from 5 to 6 on the Mohs scale, depending on the mix of minerals.

Worldwide, lapis is mined in several areas. The traditional source of the finest lapis lazuli is the same today as it was thousands of years ago—the mountains of Afghanistan. Other major sources are Chile and Lake Baikal in Siberia, Russia. Minor sources are Angola, Canada, Colorado (US), and Pakistan.

Badakshan, a province in present-day Afghanistan, is a forbidding wasteland of mountains, bare of any vegetation. The sheer mountain faces rise as high as 17,000 feet, and are scored with treacherous ravines. Humans make their way there to seek one thing only: the azure treasure that is fine lapis lazuli.

Historians believe the link between humans and lapis lazuli stretches back more than 6,500 years. The gem was treasured by the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, Greece, and Rome. They valued it for its vivid, exquisite color, and prized it as much as they prized other blue gems like sapphire and turquoise.

For thousands of years, lapis has been fashioned to show off its rich, dark color. Typically, lapis used in jewelry has been cut into cabochons, beads, inlays, and tablets. But lapis lazuli's use has never been limited to jewelry alone. It's also a popular carving material. Throughout its history, lapis has been fashioned into practical objects, including game boards, bowls, dagger handles, hair combs, and amulets.

Today, lapis is frequently fashioned into freeform and nature-themed sculptures. Some of these carvings become wearable art, others are purely decorative.

Stop by Diamond Jim's Pineforest Jewelry Experience and check out our lapis lazuli jewelry! We have an amazing collection of lab-grown diamonds and an equally impressive collection of natural minded diamonds. We hope to see you very soon!

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.

The icing on her graduation day





Diamond Jim's Pineforest Jewelry Experience

6840 E Sam Houston Pkwy N
Houston, Texas 77049

(713) 451-1321 PineforestJewelry.com

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RIISING 8TH GRADERS NSMS CMS CLASS OF 2031

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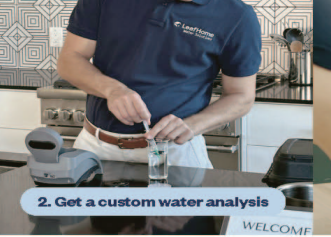
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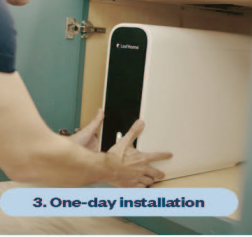
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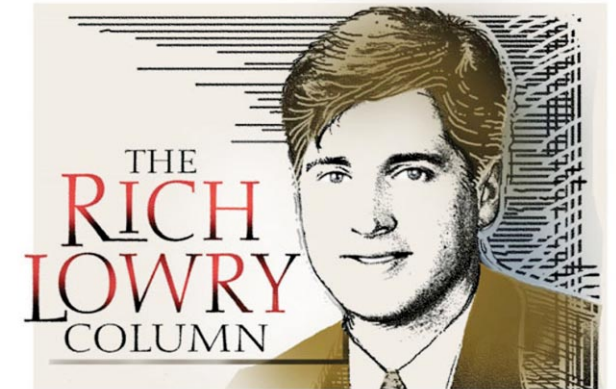
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Our Screen Culture Increasingly Can’t Read

We’ve been having a debate about “book bans” in recent years, but given the steep decline in student literacy, the deeper question is how anyone would notice whether a book is available in a school library or not. The New York Times published an eye-opening report on a study by the Educational Opportunity Project at Stanford documenting steep declines in student test scores, especially in reading.

Over the past 10 years, reading scores have declined in 83% of school districts. What looked like a COVID-19-driven catastrophe is, instead, part of a long-running trend. Reading scores were falling at a similar clip prior to the pandemic, in 2017-2019, and continued to fall into 2024. In a third of school districts, kids are reading a full grade level below where they were in 2015. This follows what had been a steady increase in test scores from 1990 to the 2010s.

The ability to read is foundational to a child’s development. It enhances verbal fluency, memory, concentration and executive function. It is associated with academic success and sundry advantages throughout life. That our schools are falling down so badly on such an elemental matter is nothing less than a civilizational failure.

Our children aren’t learning to read, in part, because we’ve forgotten how to teach them. We decided to jettison a common-sensical, tried-and-true method of reading instruction — phonics — for faddish theories that haven’t worked. It is notable that states showing improvement between 2022-2025 embraced phonics, which now goes under the rubric “the science of reading.”

It also can’t be a coincidence that these harrowing trends are playing out against the backdrop of ubiquitous screens in schools. Schools are starting to ban mobile phones, but the screen that they take away with one hand, they give with the other. According to a New York Times survey, 80% of teachers say that students at their schools have a device assigned to them; it was only a third in 2019. More than 80% said that kids get devices ... by kindergarten.

It would have been comparable recklessness if schools had decided at the outset of the television age that every schoolchild needed a personal TV. Parents struggle to get their kids off devices at home, and then send them to school, where they read “To Kill a Mockingbird” on an iPad.

Now, books haven’t disappeared from classrooms, but they aren’t nearly as prevalent as they should be. A new study by the Rand Corporation found that most English teachers assigned at least one full book during the school year, although 9% didn’t assign any, and roughly two-thirds assigned between only one to four.

Engaging with a whole book in print is so important because not all reading is equal. One analysis found that “digital reading does improve comprehension skills, but the beneficial effect is between six and seven times smaller than that of print reading.” So, too, reading a book is better than reading a series of extended passages; it requires more attention and greater immersion.

As education expert Robert Pondiscio of the American Enterprise Institute points out, it’s a mistake to think of reading as solely a technical skill, since reading comprehension also depends on what the great educational theorist E.D. Hirsch called “cultural literacy,” the basic facts about history, civics, art and the like that form our common knowledge. To our great detriment, schools have downgraded this, too.

The worst-case scenario is that we have become a screen culture that is only capable of producing screen kids. A report last year in the journal iScience found that reading for pleasure steadily declined from 2003 to 2023. On top of evidence that reading also fell from the 1940s to 2003, this makes for an 80-year decline.

The poet and essayist Joseph Brodsky said, “There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them.” And not being capable of reading them is even worse than that.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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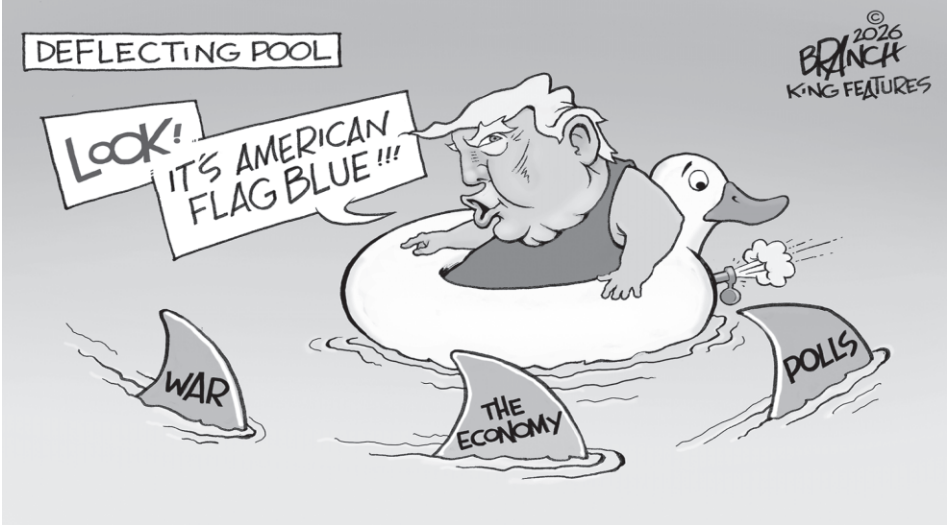
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Americanisms



“Learning how to be still, to really be still and let life happen — that stillness becomes a radiance.”
— Morgan Freeman

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



State’s Wind Projects at a Standstill

Dozens of Texas wind projects have been halted because the Department of Defense has not approved the federal permits required for them to move forward, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

Data from the American Clean Power Association indicate that the state has 54 wind projects stalled as part of a nationwide delay affecting 165 onshore wind projects.

President Donald Trump has long opposed wind power. Energy experts such as Environment Texas Executive Director Luke Metzger say the administration is using the regulations, such as ensuring a wind project would not affect military airspace, as an attack on renewable power.

“It’s hard to see this as anything other than an effort to slow or stop wind power regardless of the consequences for consumers, the environment and grid reliability,” Metzger said.

In a statement, a defense department official said DOD is still evaluating the projects.

The department’s evaluation of wind turbines “is inherently complex and time-consuming because it involves balancing two critical, and sometimes competing, interests: developing energy sources while ensuring military operations and readiness are not degraded or impaired to the extent an unacceptable risk to national security is created,” the official said.

R&D PLAYS VITAL ROLE IN STATE’S ECONOMY

Texas is one of the top five states contributing to research and development, according to a recent report from the state comptroller’s office.

The federal Bureau of Economic Analysis estimates R&D’s contribution to gross domestic product, “after accounting for the resources used to produce goods and services, employment and compensation from 2012 to 2023.”

The R&D value added by Texas businesses reached \$29.2 billion in 2023, a 131% increase from 2012. Further, R&D in the state supplied nearly 195,000 jobs and \$30.1 billion in wages, salaries and benefits in 2023.

Texas has 15 Tier 1 colleges and universities, the most in any state. In 2024, more



than 11,800 patents were issued in Texas, the second highest in the country, after California.

“When investments are made in research, the returns multiply — strengthening our competitiveness, securing our future and improving the lives of all Texans,” said Fernanda Leite, interim vice president for research at UT-Austin.

FIRST CASE IN 2026 OF WEST NILE VIRUS REPORTED

The year’s first case of West Nile virus has been reported in a Harris County resident, the Texas Department of State Health Services reported. The virus is transmitted through the bite of infected mosquitoes, though 80% of people infected with West Nile never experience symptoms.

“West Nile and other mosquito-borne illnesses are a fact of life in Texas in the warmer months, and all Texans should take precautions against mosquito bites to stay safe and healthy,” said DSHS Commissioner Jennifer A. Shuford. She advised removing standing water from homes and yards, such as in buckets, old tires and other items.

The symptoms experienced by the unlucky 20% include fever, headache, nausea, muscle and joint aches, and fatigue. Though rare, West Nile virus can be fatal.

In the past five years, there have been 976 cases of West Nile in Texas, according to DSHS, with 106 deaths during that period.

FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS STATE PARK GROWS BY 1,000 ACRES

Franklin Mountains State Park, 15 minutes from El Paso, is now 1,054 acres larger to the east as the result of a new land acquisition, the Texas Parks

and Wildlife Department reported.

“I am excited about this acquisition,” said Superintendent Cesar Mendez, “which extends the buffer zone all the way to Martin Luther King Boulevard, adding some lower elevation and flatter land to Franklin Mountains State Park and securing access points (trailheads).”

With 28,000 acres — or 43 square miles — the park is one of the largest urban wilderness parks in the world. It has more than 120 miles of trail and is a popular site with birders.

The acquisition helps safeguard the main mountain area of desert bighorn sheep habitat.

FEDERAL AID FOR PANHANDLE WILDFIRE VICTIMS

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has approved a request for grant funds to assist victims of the Hunggate Fire in Randall County, which has merged with the Chocolate Chip Fire, burning an estimated 14,000 acres and threatening more than 1,245 homes. Aid has also been granted for the Sinky Fire in Potter County, which has burned more than 2,500 acres and prompted evacuation of more than 500 acres.

“Texas has secured federal resources to further guard against wildfire threats in the Panhandle,” said Gov. Greg Abbott. “With this grant approval, Texas has additional tools to help Texans remain safe from wildfire danger.”

The approval of a Fire Management Assistance Grant makes the state eligible for 75% reimbursement from the federal government for eligible costs associated with wildfire suppression. These grants are available to states, counties and cities to support the mitigation, management, and control of fires that threaten to become major disasters.

BROKER IMPOSTER SCAMS BEING REPORTED

Several attempted broker-imposter scams over the past few months have prompted the Texas Department of Banking to warn that such ruses could pose a significant threat to financial institutions and consumers.

According to a TDB news release, “consumers are targeted after conducting searches for high-rate investment opportunities. Individuals contacted by the fraudsters are often not existing bank customers and are located across the United States.”

Some red flags to look for are cold calls, an incorrect or bogus email address, low-risk/high-reward offers, and unusual funding procedures.

Anyone who is targeted by a broker imposter is encouraged to contact the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority at finra.org.

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: gborders@texaspress.com

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

On The Balcony



I woke yesterday morning, and my cat, Felix, was nowhere to be found.

“Felix! Where are you?”

In the morning, I put milk in my coffee and a little milk in a tiny bowl for Felix, and I put both my coffee and his milk in the microwave just long enough for his milk to be warm. (My mother says Felix is spoiled. What does she know?)

But Felix was not around for his milk. Finally, I found him hiding under a living room chair. I poked him, “Hey, Felix!”

He let out a little “Meep!” that meant, “Don’t bug me!” He was staring straight out from under the chair toward the sliding balcony door. It had been a nice night, and we had left the door half open with the screen door closed. This is not any kind of security issue, since we live on the 10th floor of our building downtown.

I looked in the direction Felix was staring.

There, sitting more or less on top of a potted plant on the balcony railing, was a Canadian goose.

“Oh my gosh!”

“Meep!”

I went to fetch my husband, Peter. “Peter! You would not believe what is on the balcony.” Then, because I knew he really would not believe what was on the balcony, I told him to come and see for himself. The goose was much too large to sit either on the railing or in the pot hanging from it, but she had somehow tipped over the pot and was straddling it and the pot next to it. She looked perfectly comfortable. She looked like she might lay an egg.

“Oh my gosh!” Peter said.

And with that, the goose decided her tranquil resting spot was getting a little too crowded, and she took off. Her great wings lifted her up from my toppled plant, and she flew away. Felix arched his back and watched in amazement. We heard her call as she flew off, and Felix scampered over to the screen door to see if she was truly gone—or perhaps to see if there were more geese coming to take her place.

I have no idea how a goose landed on our balcony, 10 stories in the air. Landing on a narrow railing—even with a potted plant as a landing pad—demonstrates a kind of agility I honestly didn’t think geese were capable of.

The last couple of days, I’ve felt a little unsettled. I feel as if I’m going through a lot of changes very quickly and I haven’t had enough time to absorb them all. I feel as if my feet are not quite on the ground. I feel considerably less at ease than that goose, balanced on a railing 10 stories in the air. It’s disorienting, and it sometimes makes me a little crabby.

Changes are almost never what I expect them to be. I have an idea of how things will be and, whatever that looks like in my head, it’s different in real life. Even if the change is a good one, it’s not as easy as I imagined it would be, and it’s certainly not as comfortable.

But I know that I would not want a life that never changed and—even if I wanted it—change will come, regardless. My only choice is how I greet change and how much grace I bring to the situation.

This morning, I’m learning from Felix. He’s no longer hiding under the chair. He’s keeping an eye on the balcony door. Anything could happen on the balcony.

Till next time,
Carrie

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FRIDAY JUNE 5 – BOTTOMLAND



SATURDAY JUNE 6 – JOHN FOSTER



SATURDAY JUNE 6 -- THE DROPTINES (OPENER)

C.E. King HS Top 10 Class of 2026

Valedictorian



Abigail Marquez

Abigail Marquez, Valedictorian of the Class of 2026 at C.E. King High School, has earned numerous academic honors, including recognition as a QuestBridge National College Match Finalist, STEM Student of the Month, and C-STEM competition winner. She will graduate with an Associate of Arts in General Studies and has been actively involved in STEM programs, leadership initiatives, and community service, including volunteering with the Houston Food Bank. Abigail plans to attend Texas A&M University and pursue a career in medicine with the goal of becoming a pediatrician.

Salutatorian



Gisele R. Lopez

Gisele R. Lopez, Salutatorian of the Class of 2026 at C.E. King High School, has earned numerous academic and extracurricular honors, including the College Board School Recognition Award, AP Scholar recognition, UCA All-American honors, and multiple national cheer championships. She graduates with an Associate of Arts in General Studies, maintained All-A Honor Roll throughout high school, and completed more than 250 hours of community service. Gisele plans to attend Texas A&M University to study Data Engineering. Her guiding belief is, "I was served lemons, but / made lemonade."

Ranked Third



Brianna Jimenez

Brianna Jimenez, a top graduate of the Class of 2026 at C.E. King High School, has earned AP Scholar distinctions, multiple Sheldon Spotlight Awards, and top honors in Academic Decathlon, including the highest honors score at C.E. King. As President of Academic Decathlon and an active member of National Honor Society and Early College High School Ambassadors, she has demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication. Brianna will graduate with an Associate of Arts in Social and Behavioral Science and plans to attend University of Houston to study psychology before pursuing law school. Her guiding belief is, "You are not the opinion of someone who doesn't know you."

Ranked Fourth



Cristal Rodriguez

Cristal G. Rodriguez Blanco, a top graduate of the Class of 2026 at C.E. King High School, has earned AP Scholar and AP Scholar with Honors recognition, as well as the Sheldon Spotlight Award. She graduates with an Associate of Arts in General Studies and has been actively involved in Academic Decathlon, National Honor Society, Student Council, and Early College High School Ambassadors, serving as NHS Service Director. Cristal plans to attend National Autonomous University of Mexico to pursue nursing with a focus on neonatal intensive care. Her guiding belief is, "A negative mind will never give you a positive life."

Ranked Fifth



Monica J. Colon

Monica J. Colon Valentin, a top graduate of the Class of 2026 at C.E. King High School, is an AP Scholar and recipient of the College Board National Recognition Program and the Academic Excellence Scholarship from the University of Houston. She graduates with an Associate of Arts in General Studies and has participated in community service through the Houston Food Bank. Monica plans to pursue a career in nursing with a focus on labor and delivery at the University of Houston. Her guiding belief is: "It doesn't matter where you start as long as you make it to where you want to be."

Ranked Sixth



Aron Rangel

Aaron Rangel, a top graduate of the Class of 2026 at C.E. King High School, has been recognized for academic excellence, earning AP Scholar distinction. He will graduate with an Associate of Science in Mathematics. He plans to continue pursuing his academic goals at Texas A&M University. His guiding belief is, "Time well spent is never lost."

Ranked Seventh



Natalie C. Lazalde

Natalie C. Lazalde, a top graduate of the Class of 2026 at C.E. King High School, is an AP Scholar and will graduate with an Associate of Natural Science degree. She is a member of National Honor Society and has completed more than 100 hours of community service, including volunteering with Harris County Pets. Natalie plans to attend The University of Texas at Austin to major in Biochemistry. Her guiding belief is, "Failure is only the opportunity to begin again."

Ranked Eighth



Addy Nava

Addy Nava, a top graduate of the Class of 2026 at C.E. King High School, has consistently earned A and A/B Honor Roll recognition. She is a member of National Honor Society, earned an Associate of Arts in General Studies, and received the CTE Award of Excellence in the Human Body Systems endorsement. Addy has served as a CTE Ambassador, manager for cross country and soccer, and participated in numerous community service projects. She plans to attend University of Houston to major in Biology on the pre-med track with the goal of becoming a family physician. Her guiding belief is, "Everything happens for a reason; an obstacle is just a puzzle piece that belongs to the perfect outcome God has uniquely created."

Ranked Ninth



Emily Mireles

Emily Mireles, ranked 9th in the Class of 2026 at C.E. King High School, has maintained All-A Honor Roll throughout high school. She has been actively involved in FFA, National Honor Society, CTE Ambassadors, and CCC Ambassadors, serving in leadership roles as President and Vice President of Sheldon FFA. Emily has also contributed to her community through service projects with FFA and NHS. She plans to attend Texas A&M University to major in Animal Science and pursue her passion for helping animals.

Ranked Tenth



Anthony Servin

Anthony Servin, a top graduate of the Class of 2026 at C.E. King High School, is an AP Scholar with Honors and has received the First Generation Recognition Award, the Board of Trustees Medal, and Student of the Month recognition. He graduates with an Associate of Science in Mathematics and plans to attend Texas A&M University to major in Mechanical Engineering. His guiding belief is, "Talent without hard work is nothing."

Mustangs players proudly showing their rings,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ring day ceremony. At each event both fans and the player's families were present.

NORTH CHANNEL STAR CHAMPIONSHIP GAME RECAP: Arlington, TX. Saturday, December 20, 2025 ~ The North Shore Mustangs (Eastside Boys) dynasty lives on with a win 10-7 in the 6A –Div. 1 championship game to reclaim and bring home the title against the Duncanville Panthers. The two semifinalists met for the sixth time in eight years in front of an attendance of 39,436 at the home field of



Championship Has A Ring To It: photo of 2025 Mustangs Championship Ring (Photo By Linda Jamail)

the Dallas Cowboys (AT&T Stadium).

The victory for GPISD's Mustangs over the Panthers gives them their sixth state title, from 2003, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2021 and 2025; leading the contests between the two rivals 4-2.

The state championship win is the first for Coach Willie Gaston, a North Shore graduate and former Mustangs quarterback.

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From left, Lili Reinhart, Victoria Pedretti and Alexandra Shipp star in "Forbidden Fruits."

“Forbidden Fruits”

“The Four Seasons: Season 2” (TV-MA) — Viewers who caught season 1 of this slice-of-life dramedy series should be excited that another round of the four seasons lands in our laps on May 28! Season 2 kicks off after the passing of Steve Carell’s (“Rooster”) character, Nick, and his friends (portrayed by Tina Fey, Will Forte and Colman Domingo) are naturally grieving his passing — each in their own special and different way. But they still vow to keep up their tradition of vacationing together, along with Nick’s ex-wife (played by Kerri Kenney-Silver) and his expecting girlfriend (Erika Henningesen). Fey teased to Netflix, “They have to learn to reform as a group in a different configuration.” Whatever the configuration, I’m sure it’ll be entertaining to watch! (Netflix)

“Summer House: Season 10 Reunion” (TV-MA)

— If you are in the Bravo realm and have been watching the recent scandal unfold, you’ll be just as hyped as the rest of “Summer House” fans to finally watch the season 10 reunion. The first episode of the three-part reunion premieres May 26, when Andy Cohen (“Watch What Happens Live”) will ask intense personal questions to the cast. Stars Amanda Batula and West Wilson recently rocked the internet when news of a romantic affair between the two surfaced online. Criticism from fans stems from Batula being a close friend of co-star Ciara Miller, who is Wilson’s ex-girlfriend and still somewhat intertwined with Wilson herself. Not to mention, Batula’s still technically married to Kyle Cooke, who’s been the main star of the show since season 1. Talk about messy! Can’t wait! (Peacock)

“Mother Mary” (R) —

One of A24’s latest releases didn’t do so hot at the box office, scraping together \$3 million against a \$20 million budget. (Luckily, its main star also just had another major movie release.) Anne Hathaway (“The Devil Wears Prada 2”) leads this psychological drama film about a pop icon named Mother Mary, who reconnects with her former best friend, Sam (Michaela Coel), on the night of her comeback performance. The performance is meant to smooth over a previous accident, where Mary was suspected of trying to commit suicide on stage. Although Sam’s grown to resent Mary after their fallout, she agrees to design her a dress for the performance. Through this vulnerable moment, the two friends can repair the wound that infected their friendship — and release a few emotional demons as well. Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

“Forbidden Fruits” (R) — This comedy-horror film is based on a stage play written by Lily Houghton and landed a handful of young actresses to tell its story on the big screen. Lili Reinhart (“Riverdale”) stars as a girl named Apple, who works with her friends Fig (Alexandra Shipp) and Cherry (Victoria Pedretti) at a clothing store in a Dallas shopping mall. When Pumpkin (Lola Tung), a girl from the pretzel counter at the food court, expresses her interest in working at the store, Apple reveals that their trio is a coven of witches. To work at the store, Pumpkin must be initiated and follow Apple’s rules to a T. But little do the other girls know that Pumpkin has a secret of her own. The film is out now to rent and features Emma Chamberlain (“YOLO”) and Gabrielle Union (“Goat”) in smaller roles. (Fandango at Home)

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Q:What ever happened to French actress Marion Cotillard? She was everywhere for a long time. — W.P.

A: After winning an Oscar in 2008 for the film “La Vie en Rose,” she filmed one movie after another, and another, and another. She gave birth to her son, Marcel, in 2011 and to her daughter, Louise, in 2017. She’s actually been quite busy acting since then, but she did take some time off to spend with her children.

Most recently, she played a European executive on season four of Apple TV+’s “The Morning Show,” while being very selective about her next film project. She currently has two very different movies debuting at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival — the psychological thriller “Karma” and the comedy-drama “Roma Elastica.”

Q:I read that one of my favorite shows “High Potential” isn’t going to be back with new episodes until 2027. Why are they doing this? Wasn’t it one of the most highly rated shows last year? — J.S.

A: When ABC recently announced its fall schedule, several of its hits were noticeably absent, and ratings definitely weren’t the issue. “High Potential,” for example, drew in more than 12 million viewers for its season two finale in April. However, senior VP Ari Goldman explained during the presentation in May that they “want to give viewers a chance to watch these shows with as little interruption as possible across the season.”

Two other hit shows with ABC, “The Rookie” and “Will Trent,” didn’t debut new episodes until midseason in 2024 and 2025. Both are hits, so it looks like Goldman knows what he’s talking about. Fans of “High Potential” were annoyed last winter when the show took an early and exceptionally long winter break. This way, when it launches its third season in January 2027, there shouldn’t be too many breaks between episodes.

In the meantime, “R.J. Decker,” starring Scott Speedman (“Felicity”), will jump into the post-”Dancing with the Stars” Tuesday night time slot that was once occupied by “High Potential.” While Speedman’s show generated much criti-



Marion Cotillard (Upcoming in “Roma Elastica”)

cal acclaim during its first short season, its ratings could use a boost. It’ll be interesting to see if it can attract close to 12 million viewers for its second season finale, but it certainly won’t be from a lack of trying on ABC’s part.

Q: Is it true that there’s going to be a Wordle game show? How will it work? Is it celebrities or just regular smart people? — R.R.

A:Yes, the extremely popular New York Times word puzzle game is coming to NBC sometime in 2027. Filming will take place this summer in England. It’ll be hosted by “Today’s” Savannah Guthrie and produced by Jimmy Fallon (“The Tonight Show”).

According to NBCUniversal, “the most obsessed and competitive players will team up in squads and go head-to-head in the ‘Wordle’ arena.” I wouldn’t be surprised if there’s a celebrity version, much like “Jeopardy!” does for primetime specials.

If you’re interested in competing, sign up at Wordle.CastingCrane.com. Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

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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!

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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Sheldon ISD Teacher Honored with 2026 Appreciated Teacher Award



EAST HARRIS – Racquel Edwards, a dedicated teacher at Michael R. Null Middle School, has been named the recipient of the 2026 Appreciated Teacher Award by Sheldon ISD and Gulf Coast Educators FCU. The award was presented on May 5 in a surprise ceremony by Sheldon ISD administration and Gulf Coast Educators FCU representatives.

The Appreciated Teacher Award is an annual recognition program by Gulf Coast Educators FCU, celebrating educators who significantly impact their communities. This year, the program received around 193 nominations from over 39 school districts across Texas.

Technology giveaway supports Channelview students’ future success,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

potential, we are invested in your future, and we are excited to see all that you will accomplish,” Griffin concluded.

AT&T & Compudopt provided the laptops to the EHCEC for the distribution to students in need. The students were pre-selected by the organization prior to the event from an AT&T investment fund.

This effort is part of AT&T’s initiative to help address the digital divide through internet accessibility, affordability and safe adoption. AT&T committed 5 billion dollars to help 25 million people get and stay connected to high-speed internet by 2030. This includes distributing more than 23,000 computers to students and their families across Texas since 2021. AT&T will distribute 30,000 laptops nationwide in 2026.

Compudopt is a national nonprofit organization that aims to bridge the digital divide by providing technology access and education to under-resourced youth and their communities. Founded in Houston, Texas, it provides a full digital equity solution through three core pillars:

Compudopt Computer Giveaways: They recycle and refurbish donated computers and laptops, distributing them to families and students who lack access to technology.

Tech Education: They offer free, hands-on, curriculum-based after-school programming and digital literacy classes for students in 1st through 12th grade. Internet Connectivity: They help qualifying families identify and access low-cost or no-cost



Photo Credit (State Rep. Ana Hernandez facebook page)



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home internet solutions.

The Compudopt Computer Giveaways program uses recycle donated computers, refurbish them, and load them with essential software. Then they give computers to selected families through their Computer Giveaway Program. They also help families find no or low-cost Internet Solutions and provide free Tech Education to youth and adults, fostering learning that can lead to brighter futures.



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