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Cloverleaf Cleanup Clears Illegal Dumping Debris



Harris County Precinct 2 brought together nearly 100 volunteers for a sweeping effort that removed tires, bulky waste, illegally dumped debris. See Story Below & on page 5

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VOLUME 14, NO. 27 (#623)

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Precinct 2-led Volunteers Deliver Landmark Cleanup Effort in Cloverleaf

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

CLOVERLEAF- A landmark community cleanup led by Harris County Precinct 2 brought together nearly 100 volunteers, local churches, businesses, county agencies and residents for a sweeping effort that removed tires, bulky waste, illegally dumped debris and brush from neighborhoods across Cloverleaf.

The Cloverleaf Adopt-A-Mile Community Cleanup and Keep2Clean Trash Drop-Off Event, held Saturday, June 13, marked the first large-scale collaborative Adopt-A-Mile initiative in the community. Despite summer heat and periods of rain, 97 volunteers turned out to clean streets, recover shopping carts from ditches, collect tires, clear limbs and brush from culverts and help restore pride throughout the area.

Luz Maria Lopez, community liaison for Harris County Precinct 2 and the



office of Commissioner Adrian Garcia, said the day showed the power of neighbors and partners working together toward a common goal.

"What we accomplished together was more than a cleanup—it was a demonstration of what is possible when a community unites with a shared purpose,"

Lopez said.

The effort also included a Keep2Clean drop-off site that served more than 150 vehicles, collected more than 1,300 tires, removed approximately 370 cubic yards of waste and filled more than 12 large containers with trash and bulky waste.

Volunteers and part-

ners adopted and worked along neighborhood streets including Freeport, Manor, Nancy Rose, Barbara Mae, Hollywood, Beacon, Frankie, Nadolney and Alderson, while Cloverleaf Community Outreach focused on the broader Cloverleaf area. Participating Adopt-A-Mile partners included Brother-in-Law's BBQ,

Martinez Complete Auto Service, GLT Houston Church, Cloverleaf Community Outreach, El Mante Tire Shop #6, Harris County Water District No. 36, The Healing Vein, the Hernandez family, TVC Houston Church and Next Generation Church.

Lopez said those partners did more than show up for one day. Their commitment to continued quarterly cleanups, she said, demonstrated "true community leadership and pride."

The event drew support from across the community. McDonald's provided breakfast, Best Trash sponsored lunch, Brother-in-Law's BBQ hosted the event and prepared lunch, and Judge Lucia Bates donated bottled water. Deputies with Harris County Constable Eagleton's Office helped keep volunteers safe as they worked along adopted miles.

Harris County Public

Continued. See HISTORIC
CLOVERLEAF CLEANUP, Page 5

Channelview ISD Benefits from SPARK Partnership to Boost Student Recreation

By Anthony Mireles, M.A.
Channelview ISD Department
of Communications,

CHANNELVIEW, Texas — Channelview ISD is celebrating a significant investment in student recreation and community wellness through two grants awarded to SPARK, totaling \$165,000, to enhance outdoor spaces across the district.

The Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation has awarded \$150,000 to SPARK to support improvements in Channelview ISD that promote active play, outdoor learning, and community engagement. The Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation is a Houston-based



private philanthropic organization that supports those working boldly toward a healthy, harmonious world for people and nature. This grant reflects the Foundation's commitment to ensuring places for children, families and communities to connect with nature and one another.

In addition, the Susan Vaughan Foundation has

awarded a grant to SPARK specifically to support enhancements to the soccer fields at McGhee Elementary School. Together, these grants will create expanded opportunities for students to participate in physical activity while providing high-quality recreational spaces that serve both the school and the surrounding community.

"We are grateful to the Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation, the Susan Vaughan Foundation, and SPARK for their shared commitment to investing in our students and our community," said Channelview ISD Superintendent

Continued. See CHANNELVIEW ISD
RECEIVES \$165,000 FOR, Page 3

Channelview Spill Draws OSHA Fines

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

CHANNELVIEW - The U.S. Department of Labor is proposing more than \$3.5 million in fines against three companies for alleged worker safety violations related to a sulfuric acid spill late last year in Channelview, with the bulk of that fine total levied against a subcontractor.

OSHA has issued citations against the company it said was responsible for the December spill and is also proposing fines against a contractor and subcontractor that were hired to provide cleanup.

The department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) found that BWC Termi-



nals employees mixed fresh and contaminated sulfuric acid, which created "tank overpressure" and caused a supply line to rupture, according to an OSHA news release late last week.

The resulting spill released 1 million gallons of sulfuric acid, some of which went into the Hous-

ton Ship Channel, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo said in the aftermath of the December spill. Two people were taken to the hospital and another 44 individuals were treated for injuries at the scene.

The three companies

Continued. See OSHA PROPOSES
MORE THAN \$3.5M IN, Page 3

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Galena Park Faces First Flooding Challenge Under New Administration

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

GALENA PARK, TX - On July 7, the newly elected administration in Galena Park encountered its first significant challenge as city officials responded to flooding at the entrance of the Galena Manor subdivision. The incident occurred around 10 p.m. near Clinton Drive following heavy downpours that swept through the Houston area.

The flooding, a recurring issue due to drainage problems, blocked part of the neighborhood entrance. In response, city officials, including Mayor Oscar Mireles, the police chief, fire chief, and public works crews, quickly mobilized to manage the situation. Crews worked tirelessly



Mayor Oscar Mireles mobilized to manage the situation.

throughout the night to pump out the standing water, ensuring that no homes were affected and no evacuations were necessary.

In addition to the Galena Manor subdivision, flooding was also reported along Panther Creek. City officials dispatched crews to monitor the conditions and respond as needed, demonstrating their commitment to addressing the community's drainage concerns.

While the city has plans to tackle these drainage issues in the long term, the swift action taken by the new administration and its team on July 7 highlighted their dedication to safeguarding the residents of Galena Park from future flooding events.



ICE Temporarily Suspends Most Vehicle Stops Nationwide During Policy Review

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

TEXAS — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has temporarily suspended most routine vehicle stops nationwide as the agency reviews enforcement procedures following recent deadly encounters involving immigration officers, according to reports.

The directive does not represent a complete ban on all vehicle-related enforcement activity. Officials said exceptions remain for certain operations, including cases involving criminal warrants, public safety concerns or other specific enforcement needs.

The policy change comes after two fatal shootings involving ICE officers, including the death of Lorenzo Salgado Araujo in Houston, which prompted increased scrutiny of vehicle stop procedures and officer tactics.



ICE Agents on a vehicle inspection early this year.

The temporary suspension is intended to allow the agency to review current practices and determine whether additional guidance or changes are needed for operations involving vehicles.

The move has drawn reactions from both supporters and critics of the agency's enforcement policies. Supporters say the review is necessary to improve officer safety and ensure proper procedures are followed, while critics have called for greater oversight of immigration enforcement actions.

ICE officials have not indicated how long the suspension will remain in place or when a final review of vehicle stop procedures will be completed.

Local law enforcement agencies and community organizations are continuing to monitor developments as federal officials evaluate the impact of the policy change.

(Editor's note: This story will be updated as more information becomes available.)

JC Council Moves to Cool Data Center Rumors

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

JACINTO CITY, Texas — Jacinto City officials called a special council meeting to address growing talk about a possible data center in the city, adopting a resolution that formally opposes data center development within city limits until more information, impact analysis and regulatory review can be completed.

The action came after residents raised concerns about whether a data center could be headed to the city, particularly near the 4200 Fidelity Road site, a roughly 27-acre property city officials have been working to return to productive use.



City Manager Lon Squyres, City of Jacinto City

City Manager Lon Squyres said two people spoke during public comment at the meeting, both saying they opposed data centers while thanking the city for taking up the resolution.

"They were both acknowledging that they were in opposition to data centers and appreciated the resolution and expected us to stay actively engaged and transparent," Squyres said.

He told those at the meeting the city would share what it learns as it receives information. That same day, a representative connected to the property told him someone had previously asked questions that sounded like they could have come from a data center prospect.

"There's a good chance that a data center actually has visited the site," Squyres said. "It was early on. They've only seen them once. They haven't seen them again."

The resolution, identified as Resolution 2026-10R, states that the City Council opposes the "development and construction of data centers within the city limits of the City of Jacinto City until additional information, impact analysis, and regulatory considerations can be evaluated."

The resolution cites possible effects on municipal infrastructure, including electrical demand, water consumption, wastewater capacity, drainage systems, transportation networks, emergency services, land use compatibility, environmental sustainability and long-term economic development planning.

It also notes the rapid growth of artificial intelligence technologies and hyperscale computing facilities, which the council said has led to increasing requests for data center development in Texas and along the Gulf Coast.

Squyres said the city is not currently pursuing a data center for the Fidelity Road property. Instead, he said officials have been working with another company, which he could not

name because no agreement has been finalized.

"We've invested a lot of time and energy into the clients looking into the 4200 Fidelity site and they're not a data center," Squyres said.

He said city officials have met with the company about six times, and both the city's engineers and the company's engineers are reviewing issues tied to the property. Squyres said he also traveled out of state to visit a similar facility operated by the company.

"The site I visited actually belongs to a competitor of the prospective business. They process the same type of material in a manner similar to what is being proposed for the Fidelity site," he said.

"We didn't see anything that would be dirty or environmentally unsound," Squyres said. "Noise levels were well within what we would expect them to be. So things are looking up."

Squyres said the city remains hopeful the company will choose the site. If the deal moves forward, he said the business could bring an estimated 120 to 140 jobs to Jacinto City.

"We think, we're still in anticipation that company will end up in the site," he said. "At least that's what we're hoping."

The 4200 Fidelity Road property is significant for Jacinto City because the community is largely built out and has limited land available for new development.

"We are landlocked," Squyres said.

He said the property is currently generating taxes based mainly on the land and existing structure, but the value has dropped.

"It's lost \$17 million property value," Squyres said. "So they're paying about half the property taxes that they would have been paying. So we're looking forward to somebody going in there and putting a viable business in."

The loss in property value affects city finances, he said.

"If we lose dollars in property value, it's got to be made up somewhere or

something's got to be cut," Squyres said.

Still, he said the city is trying to be selective about development and wants a business that benefits the tax base without creating problems for residents.

"We want a good neighbor at the same time," he said.

Squyres said Jacinto City actively works to recruit businesses, including through the Economic Alliance, the Chamber of Commerce and the school district when appropriate. He said Galena Park ISD Superintendent John Moore has discussed the possibility of considering available tax incentives if the project is one the city supports and believes is neighborhood-friendly.

The city also has seen some commercial activity elsewhere. Squyres said the former movie theater area is "just about full," additional commercial buildings have been approved near the bayou, and Faust Distributing's expansion helped offset some of the loss tied to the Fidelity Road property.

He also pointed to the opening of Frenchy's Chicken in the former Church's Chicken building, saying the restaurant hired many local students.

"They did a good job remodeling," Squyres said. "They've hired a ton of kids, mostly Galena Park High School kids."

For now, city leaders said the resolution is intended to make clear that Jacinto City is not ready to welcome data center development without further study.

The resolution says any future consideration of data centers should be "deliberate, transparent, data-driven, and aligned with the City's infrastructure capabilities."

Squyres made it clear, "There are absolutely no plans to pursue a data center."

The site I visited actually belongs to a competitor of the prospective business. They process the same type material in a manner similar to what is being proposed for the Fidelity site.

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CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Connecting Neighbors

We are truly blessed to live in an area where so many people care about others. Yes, at times it is frustrating to think about how often our communities are in the news for the wrong reasons. Too many times, we hear negative things about the eastside, and I just want to remind those of you who live, work, worship and volunteer out in the unincorporated area of East Harris County that we have a network of loving and caring individuals and organizations. Are we perfect? No, a long way from it but at least we try our best to make others feel welcome.

This past Saturday I attended a FREE workshop presented by **East Harris County Empowerment Council** and I cannot tell you how exciting the presentations were. One of the most exciting was a presentation by Darnald Kimble, Jr. If you have not had the pleasure of meeting him, please reach out to him. He is extremely involved in our area. He is a graduate of North Shore Senior High as well as Baylor University. He is more than a business owner, he is an awesome Photographer, Insurance Agent, Coach and member of the Board of Directors for North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce and so much more. But who he *really* shines bright when you hear his heart when he speaks about his personal vision statement. He recently held the first organizational Meeting for **North Channel Toastmasters Club**. I have known him for several years but hearing his vision statement was the cherry on top of the sundae. Want to hear it? Join us on Wednesday, July 15 for the next Toastmasters Meeting at 6:30 p.m. (This one will be on zoom. Contact either he or myself on Facebook for the link.)

Still not convinced that there are great things happening in the community? Join community members at one of the many Back-to-School events over the course of the next month. One that I hope you will attend is sponsored by **Jayden's Pathway** on Sunday, August 2 from 11 – 2 p.m. at the W.D. Ley Family YMCA. You will meet family and friends of one of the young men murdered in our community, Jayden. They refused to react to the world and become bitter have founded an awesome non-profit to reach out and help young people and help them along life's rough roads. They have been hosting young development programs as well as continuing to encourage youth to make positive choices. Many of the young people who have been coached by Chris Butler through the years have not only been involved in youth sports but proudly played for high school championship teams in our area.

In addition, we have several groups hosting free meals in our area. **Fellowship of the Nations** offers a free meal on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. **Set Free Church** offers free Friday Lunches from 11 – 1 p.m. and **Hands of Hope** offers a free lunch monthly on the third Saturday from 11 – 1 p.m. at **Channelview First Assembly of God**.

Make this a week of getting out and meeting community members and enjoying a hug and finding opportunities to be a blessing.



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Community Events

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Free Community Meal, 11 - 1 p.m. Set Free Church
Saturday, July 18
Community Workday Remembering Louis Erebia, 8 - 12 p.m., North Shore Little League Fields
Hands of Hope Community Meal, 11 - 1 p.m. Channelview First Assembly of God Church
Sunday, July 19
Third Sunday Food Distribution, 12 - 2 p.m., W. D. Ley Family YMCA
Monday, July 20
CERT Training Registration, 832-258-5102
Wednesday, July 22
Constable Jerry Garcia Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway, 10:30 a.m., Jacinto City Town Center
Next Generation Senior Adult Bible Study, 11:30 a.m.
Fellowship of Purpose Mid-Day, Mid—Week Bible Study, 12 p.m.
Rusty Buckets Senior Club Monthly Meeting, 1 p.m., Call for Location (713) 927-1975
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Free Community Meal, 11 - 1 p.m. Set Free Church

ASK DIAMOND JIM



Diamond Jim: “What is an Amulet?”

Amulet
Originally a Latin word meaning a “thing worn as a charm against spells and disease,” it’s not seen in English until around the 17th century.

Some cultures believe certain jewelry possesses magical powers. Amulets are worn or kept close as protection from harm, whereas other types of charm<<https://gemkids.gia.edu/jewelry/amulets#charm>>s may be created to offer the wearer superhuman abilities or wisdom. Most are thought to bring good fortune.

A talisman, like an amulet, is a lucky charm. However, a talisman is created specifically to aid its wearer with special magical powers or protection.

Protective
An amulet is meant to protect its wearer from harm, illness, injury or death. Since the earliest of times, people all around the world have believed a special stone, figurine, or even inscribed enchanted word could invoke supernatural protective powers.

Religious
Amulets have their origin in ancient religions. Since the days of Old Babylonia, gods and demons have been formed into figurines that were believed to offer favors to their wearers: an ancient Hittite weather-god could have been worn to ensure good weather, and ugly demons were used as protectors to fight off other bad demons.

The ancient Egyptians wore the Eye of Horus, the symbolic eye of their sky god, and it was often worn for both protection and prosperity. The early Christians kept this tradition by shaping their sacred emblems into their treasures: carved crosses, crucifixes and holy images became jewelry. Figurines of Catholic saints, such as Saint Christopher, were also thought to bring good fortune.

Similarly, other religions such as Buddhism, Islam, and Hindu use a combination of ancient and current images for protection.

Still Today
Amulets have withstood the test of time, and they are still quite prevalent today. They can often be found on gold or silver charm bracelets or worn singly as a pendant on a chain. If you’re looking to have a little “Good Luck” to come your way, you might consider getting an amulet of your choice from Diamond Jim’s PINEFOREST JEWELRY Experience.

Credit to GIA for much of the content in this article

OSHA proposes more than \$3.5M in fines after Channelview chemical spill,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

facing fines have 15 business days from time of citation to comply, ask for an “informal” conference with the local OSHA director or contest the agency’s findings.

OSHA is proposing a fine of \$82,750 against BWC Terminals. The company is facing six citations for allegedly failing to provide hazardous materials training, “exposing workers to chemical burns,” and “deficiencies” in respirator usage.

BWC said in a statement it is contesting OSHA’s findings.

“BWC Terminals (BWC) acknowledges, but respectfully disagrees with several of OSHA’s findings as they relate to BWC and intends to appeal the citations through the appropriate legal and regulatory processes within the requested timeframe,” the company said. “BWC does not agree that it bypassed OSHA require-

ments or took actions that put workers at risk, and we believe the record will reflect that. We are committed to transparency and will provide updates as additional information becomes available. The safety of our employees, the surrounding community, and the environment is our highest priority. We remain focused on continuous improvement and on maintaining safe, responsible, and environmentally sound operations across our facilities.”

BWC contracted with Coastal Environmental Solutions Inc. to clean up the spill. Coastal Environmental then hired One Way Environmental Services LLC as a subcontractor to provide workers during the cleanup process.

Those two companies are also facing proposed fines for OSHA violations. They did not immediately respond to requests for

comment.

Coastal Environmental Solutions Inc. could face a fine of \$392,501 for “two willful and five serious violations,” that include alleged failures to properly train employees and create an emergency response plan for hazardous waste as well as a lack of respirator use.

One Way Environmental Services LLC is facing \$3,045,452 in fines for “18 willful egregious and five serious violations.” OSHA alleges the company sent employees to clean up the spill without proper training, safety measures and tests for respirator fits.

“Despite having full knowledge of the severe hazards involved in the spill and cleanup response, these three employers chose to bypass OSHA requirements and put their workers at serious risk,” Assistant Secretary for Occupational Health and Safety David Keeling said

in a news release. “Their joint failure to protect workers was not an oversight, it was a choice that resulted in preventable employee injuries and environmental impacts. We will not hesitate to hold employers accountable when they ignore federal laws that are in place to protect workers’ safety and health.”

Hidalgo praised the federal government and local employees for their investigation into the chemical spill.

“This decision represents an important statement about the importance of worker safety, particularly in our county’s most important industry,” she said in a statement. “All companies must be held to the same standards and I believe it is only fair to demand accountability when a company doesn’t meet them.”

Channelview ISD receives \$165,000 for campus recreation improvements,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dent Dr. Tory C. Hill. “These partnerships allow us to create spaces where students can learn, play, and thrive while strengthening the connection between our schools and the families we serve.”

SPARK partners with schools and communities to transform school grounds into vibrant parks and recreational spaces that are accessible beyond

the school day. Through this partnership, Channelview ISD continues to expand opportunities that support student wellness, healthy lifestyles, and neighborhood engagement.

“These grants represent more than financial support. They are an investment in our students’ overall well-being,” said Mrs. LaKeisha LeBlanc, Assistant Superintendent

for Educational Services. “Quality outdoor spaces encourage collaboration, physical activity, and meaningful connections among students, families, and the community. We are thankful to SPARK and its philanthropic partners for helping bring this vision to life.”

The improvements funded through these grants will enhance recre-

ational opportunities for students at McGhee Elementary while supporting the district’s broader commitment to providing safe, engaging, and

innovative learning environments. learning, the district continues to create opportunities that strengthen schools and enrich the community.

Bracelet yourself





Diamond Jim's

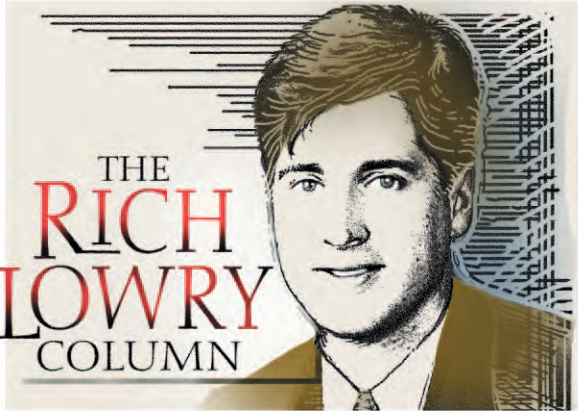
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Zohran Mandani's bogus opposition

Zohran Mamdani's bogus explanation for opposing Israel
It's a shame, really. New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani is such a strong supporter of pluralism that he has to single out the state of Israel for unique opprobrium. Asked by Jonathan Karl of ABC News in an interview for "This Week" whether he supports Israel's status as a Jewish state, Mamdani said he doesn't — he'd only support Israel "as a state with equal rights."

"I believe that any state that privileges one religion over another is one that I can't tell you I support," he continued, "whether it be Israel or Saudi Arabia or anywhere else."

Mamdani makes it sound as though Israel is a theocracy, and so he has to withhold his support until such time as it meets his exacting standards for state neutrality in religious matters and freedom of conscience.

The same is true, sadly, of Saudi Arabia. When was the last time, though, that you heard Mamdani or his movement, the Democratic Socialists of America, inveighing with great moral passion against Saudi Arabia?

This Mamdani line of argument is built on a falsehood about Israel and is transparently an exercise in bad faith and double standards.

Israel doesn't have an official religion — repeat, it has no state religion. Instead, it is the homeland for Jews. Its Basic Law says that Israel is "the nation-state of the Jewish people, in which it realizes its natural, cultural, religious and historical right to self-determination." In other words, Israel is for the Jews in much the same way, say, that Poland is for the Poles or Japan for the Japanese.

That these countries have distinct national identities defined by the peoples who live in them doesn't mean they aren't free societies. The Israeli Declaration of Independence says the Jewish state "will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture."

And, indeed, there is freedom of religion in Israel. Christian, Muslim, Druze and Baha'i communities maintain their own religious institutions and are free to worship as they please. The wrinkle is that — in an inheritance from the Ottoman Empire — Israel recognizes various religions and gives their courts authority over matters such as marriage and divorce.

To liken any of this to Saudi Arabia is perverse. The desert kingdom is an absolute monarchy with no political rights and a state-enforced official religion; the Quran is its constitution.

If Mamdani were sincere in saying he cannot support any state that privileges one religion over another, he'd have to set himself against most Muslim countries in the world, which make Islam their official religion and often discriminate against religious minorities. He'd have to look askance at Nordic countries, where there are established churches. He'd hate England for the official status of the Anglican Church, and utterly disdain Greece for its special recognition of the Eastern Orthodox Church.

Mamdani, by the way, recently skipped New York City's Israel Day parade but attended the Pakistan Day parade, despite the fact that Islam is Pakistan's state religion and religious minorities face legal and informal discrimination in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

More consequentially, if the mayor took his pluralism seriously, he would oppose a Palestinian state on grounds that Palestinian society needs to further evolve to embrace Western norms — lest we risk creating a new Islamic state that represses its people and rests on a foundation of Islamic law.

Of course, Mamdani will never do this. His purported universalism is a pretext, a way to dress up his irrational animus toward Israel.

Mamdani told Jonathan Karl that his view on Israel "comes back to a fundamental belief that we should all be considered equal." Such is the mayor's commitment to equality that he singles out one people and one state for particular obloquy and asks us to believe that pluralism demands that the Jews cannot have a homeland.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

Texas Home Insurers See Record Profits

Preliminary data indicates Texas home insurers earned a 22% profit on premiums collected last year, according to the Houston Chronicle. It was the best year insurers have had in two decades and follows several years of double-digit rate increases and flat or slightly negative returns for insurers due to increased natural disasters.

Insurance rates increased statewide by an average of 4.3% last year, according to the Texas Department of Insurance, which was significantly lower than the rate increases of preceding years. Homeowners were still paying about 80% more for home insurance in 2025 than they paid in 2020.

Texas Department of Insurance Commissioner Amanda Crawford said given the profits Texas insurers reaped last year, they should "strongly consider whether or not a rate decrease might be in order." However, insurers can change their rates without getting state approval.

Rates in Texas are among the highest in the country.

TALARICO FAR OUTPACES OPPONENT IN FUNDRAISING

State Rep. James Talarico continues to dominate fundraising in the U.S. Senate race, raising \$30 million in the second quarter, according to The Dallas Morning News. Meanwhile, Paxton reported his strongest fundraising quarter so far, with his campaign saying most donations came after the attorney general ousted Sen. John Cornyn in a late-May runoff.

"We are uniting Texans onto one team to change this broken, corrupt political system and bring down costs for working families," Talarico said in a statement.

The Paxton campaign said its increased fundraising success reflects donor enthusiasm to "send a proven conservative fighter" to the U.S. Senate.

APPEALS COURT REJECTS BID TO REVIVE TEXAS DREAM ACT

In a 2-1 decision, the 5th U.S. Circuit of Appeals rejected an appeal of a 2025 ruling that struck down the de-



CADES-OLD Texas Dream Act, which allowed Texas students without legal status to pay in-state college tuition, the Texas Standard reported.

Until the Texas Dream Act was overturned last summer, students without legal status qualified for in-state tuition if they lived in Texas for at least three years and graduated from a Texas high school or earned a GED. About 57,000 students without legal status were enrolled in Texas colleges in 2022.

The appeals court decision means affected students will continue to pay out-of-state tuition rates at Texas public colleges and universities.

STATE LAUNCHES TEXAS CLASSROOM COMMISSION

A new teacher-led initiative, aimed at "putting Texas educators at the center of shaping the future of public education," was launched last week. The Texas Classroom Commission will be led by Courtney Boswell MacDonald of Kerrville, a former teacher and current chair of the State Board for Educator Certification.

"The Texas Classroom Commission will bring together exemplary public-school educators to identify innovative solutions that help students succeed, improve the learning environment in classrooms, and strengthen our schools," Gov. Greg Abbott said.

The commission will consist of current and retired public school classroom teachers. It will deliver recommendations to the Texas Legislature before the start of the 90th legislative session in January.

HISTORICALLY STRONG EL NIÑO LIKELY COMING THIS FALL

El Niño, one of the planet's most powerful climate patterns, is quickly gaining strength and has an 81% chance of reaching historic strength this fall, the Austin American-Statesman reported. That could mean cooler, wetter weather in Texas, according to meteorologist Mary Wasson.

During the last super El Niño event, in 2015-2016, Central Texas, in particular, experienced two of its largest floods. However, a strengthening El Niño typically reduces the threat of tropical storms and hurricanes impacting the Texas Gulf Coast.

Above-normal rainfall is favored in West Texas this fall, with wetter conditions expanding statewide by December, Wasson wrote.

TEXAS' ACA ENROLLMENT SHRINKS BY 4% AFTER TAX CREDIT EXPIRES

The number of Texans who paid for their first month of Affordable Care Act coverage dropped 4%, The Tribune reported. It was the state's first year-over-year decline since 2019. The decrease comes after a pandemic-era subsidy of ACA premiums expired at the end of last year.

The enrollment decline was less steep in Texas than most other states, according to data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The state's ACA population fell from 3.42 million in 2025 to 3.28 million in 2026 after the tax credit expire and premiums rose.

"We saw record growth in ACA enrollment when there was an enhanced premium tax credit," said Justin Lo, a senior researcher for national health policy group KFF. "This is the first time we've seen a decrease in enrollment."

RESEARCHERS TO LAUNCH TEXAS WINE GRAPES INTO SPACE

Researchers at Texas A&M AgriLife are getting ready to launch Texas wine grape seeds into space, the Texas Standard reported. The plants will be placed on TAMU-SPIRIT-1, an orbital research platform that will be flown above the International Space Station.

The grape seeds will orbit the Earth for six months before returning to be planted and examined.

Adrej Syvante, an assistant professor and viticulture specialist at AgriLife, said the experiment could reveal what happens to the seeds when they are exposed to cosmic radiation. That could help guide which crops are grown aboard space platforms when long-term human occupation in space increases.

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

Raspberry Time



As far as I know, most of my people were farmers. On both my parents' sides, my Scandinavian ancestors came across the ocean looking for better topsoil. I know immigrants came for many reasons—to start businesses and escape oppression and to avoid starvation. But, as far as I know, my ancestors were in search of better dirt. And they found it. A full foot of topsoil was a treasure beyond measure to these farmers who had tried to make a living on rocky soil.

Perhaps it is why I am not a gardener. I suspect I have a lot of my ancestors still in me. Perhaps I am rebelling against the work that was in my family's life blood. But however I might feel about planting and weeding, I think there is something within me that recognizes the cycles of the seasons, the coming of summer and the pause that comes in the middle of the summer.

Every year, I try to celebrate the summer solstice. I start a new journal. I read my journal from the last six months. I take a long walk late in the evening. I try to make note of the fact that this is the longest day of the year to be more mindful of the passage of time. And since I grew up in a northern state, I always felt I should take advantage of the short, warm months.

It only occurred to me this year that the summer might be a good time to rest.

The seeds are in the ground. The harvest is months away. While a farmer never had the luxury of idleness, it is too late to do any more planting, this time of year. There comes a point when we have done all we can do, and we must wait for the harvest.

"Will you pick my raspberries?" my sister asked.

"Can I eat some of them?"

"Of course!"

"Then yes, I certainly will."

My sister is going to Argentina with her husband and her son to meet her daughter, Isabelle, who has been working there for the past year. They will have a terrific time, with Isabelle as a tour guide. They will see a lot and do a lot and make amazing memories.

My sister is a teacher. She grabs the summer with a gusto to that astonishes me every year. She flies out the door on the first day that school is out with more plans and activities than I would attempt in many months. She is a flurry of camping and gardening and traveling and home improvement, and she can never believe how soon September rolls around.

Meanwhile, I have no plans to go anywhere except "up north" to visit my parents all summer long. And I am not at all unhappy about it.

Because I finally realized that, for me, the summer is not about getting busier. The spring was busy. The fall will be busier. This time—right as the serious heat sets in and the first of the berries are ripe—this time is a good time to pause.

It's not a long rest. We all know the harvest is coming.

But I am taking a moment to enjoy the summer's heat. I feel the days are already growing shorter and the season will change before I know it, and it will be hard to remember what it felt like when I walked in the late evening and the air was still warm and heavy.

I'll pick my sister's raspberries, and I'll eat more than a few.

Till next time,
Carrie

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Historic Cloverleaf cleanup unites community, removes tons of illegal dumping,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Health, Yasmin Hart, the RISE Program, Guadalupe Washington, Lea Barton and Samuel Jurado also assisted residents throughout the day, including helping senior citizens and families without transportation bring items to the drop-off site using Adopt-A-Mile trucks and trailers.

“Because of everyone’s collective efforts,” Lopez said, the cleanup produced “remarkable accomplishments that directly improved the quality of life for our residents.”

Beyond the numbers, Lopez said the day created visible momentum. As

Precinct 2 staff and constable deputies moved through the adopted streets, residents waved from their homes, joined in the effort, cut their yards, thanked volunteers and asked how they could participate in future cleanups.

“These moments remind us that community transformation begins with people who are willing to serve,” Lopez said.

Lopez said the cleanup was about more than removing trash. It was also about building relationships, strengthening partnerships, inspiring civic pride and creating momentum for a cleaner and safer Cloverleaf.

“Every bag of litter collected, every tire removed, every conversation shared with a resident, and every act of kindness contributed to the success of this historic event,” she said.

Precinct 2 and its community partners are expected to continue the effort through future quarterly cleanups, building on the momentum created by the June event.

The next meeting is set for Thursday, July 16, 2026, at both 9 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the Hampton Inn and Suites at 14120 Karisa Court in Houston, 77049 off Beltway 8.

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Attention Non-Profit Private Schools and Homeschoolers

Non-profit private schools and homeschoolers who legally qualify as non-profit (currently hold a 501-C3 certificate) are invited to meet with a representative from Channelview Independent School District to learn more about federally funded services available for eligible residents of Channelview ISD. Please contact Dee Doyle (dee.doyle@cvisd.org), Director of Innovation, Grants, and Federal Programs, no later than Thursday, July 30, 2026.

Atención: Escuelas privadas sin fines de lucro y familias que educan en casa

Las escuelas privadas sin fines de lucro y las familias que educan en casa que legalmente califican como organizaciones sin fines de lucro y que actualmente cuentan con un certificado 501(c)(3) están invitadas a reunirse con un representante del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Channelview para obtener más información sobre los servicios financiados con fondos federales disponibles para los residentes elegibles de Channelview ISD. Favor de comunicarse con Dee Doyle (dee.doyle@cvisd.org), Directora de Innovación, Subvenciones y Programas Federales, a más tardar el jueves, 30 de julio de 2026.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
City of Jacinto City

Independent Auditing Services

The City of Jacinto City, Texas is requesting Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) from qualified Certified Public Accounting (CPA) firms to provide independent auditing services for the City’s annual financial audit. The City is soliciting qualifications in accordance with the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act (Texas Government Code Chapter 2254). Firms will be evaluated and ranked solely on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualifications. **Compensation or fee proposals shall not be submitted with the Statement of Qualifications.** Following the evaluation and ranking process, the city will negotiate a fair and reasonable fee with the highest-ranked firm. The selected firm will be expected to perform the City’s annual financial audit in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS), Government Auditing Standards (Yellow Book), Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), applicable Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements, and other applicable federal and state requirements, including Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200) when a Single Audit is required.

Please electronically submit your SOQs in .pdf format via email to: christal.rodriguez@jacintocity-tx.gov OR submit 2 copies of your SOQs in a sealed envelope clearly marked: “RFQ-Independent Auditing Services” to the following address: *Att: Christal Rodriguez, 1301 Mercury Dr. Jacinto City, Texas 77029.* The RFQ will also be available on the City’s website at: www.jacintocity-tx.gov/public_notice

SOQs must be received by the City of Jacinto City no later than 5:00 pm on Thursday, August 6, 2026, to be considered. *Qualifications received after the deadline will not be considered.* The City reserves the right to reject any or all Statements of Qualifications, waive informalities and irregularities, request additional information, conduct interviews, negotiate with the highest-ranked qualified firm, or cancel this solicitation when such action is determined to be in the best interest of the City. The City of Jacinto City is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages participation by all qualified firms.

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Molly Shannon, left, and Will Ferrell stars in 'The Hawk.'

“The Hawk.”

“The Hawk” (TV-MA) — This absurd comedy series was co-created by and stars a comedic actor who’s well-versed in absurdity, the fabulous Will Ferrell (“You’re Cordially Invited”). Starring alongside another “Saturday Night Live” alum, Molly Shannon, Ferrell plays professional golfer Lonnie “The Hawk” Hawkins, aka 2004’s top golfer. Determined that he has what it takes to get back to the top, Lonnie signs on for a PGA tour with his son, Lance (Jimmy Tatro). With his can-do attitude, good humor, and awful fashion sense, nothing can stop Lonnie from redeeming his golf legacy. All 10 episodes premiere on July 16. (Netflix)

“Tron: Ares” (PG-13) — The sequel to “Tron: Legacy” (2010) didn’t quite make up its \$220 million budget in the-

aters, with only \$142.2 million recouped at the box office. It also failed to receive glowing reviews from critics, which is surprising considering its lead actor, Jared Leto (“Masters of the Universe”). Rounding out the rest of the cast are “The Morning Show’s” Greta Lee, “Dahmer’s” Evan Peters, and “The Abandons” Gillian Anderson. Taking place in 2025, the film follows two companies that are locked in a race to bring digital programs into the real world. One company, led by Julian Dillinger (Peters), introduces the “perfect expendable soldier” in his program Ares, but what Julian never expected is that Ares’ self-awareness might overpower his expendability. Out now to stream! (Disney+)

“Reminders of Him” (PG-13) — Romance and

young adult novelist Colleen Hoover keeps cranking out books, and major studios keep adapting it into films for fans to enjoy! This latest adaptation out now is based on Hoover’s 2022 novel and stars Maika Monroe (“Longlegs”) as Kenna Rowan. After spending six years in prison for vehicular manslaughter that resulted in her boyfriend Scotty’s (Rudy Pankow) death, Kenna plans to start anew in her hometown and meet the daughter she had while she was serving time. Coincidentally, she meets Ledger (Tyriq Withers), who just happens to be Scotty’s lifelong best friend. The two have an instant connection, leaving them both with a choice to remain stuck in the horrors of the past or brave a different future together. (Peacock)

“Dancing with the Stars: The Next Pro” (TV-PG) — This new spinoff of the longtime competition reality show “Dancing with the Stars” is set to premiere on July 14. As the title teases, the spinoff will focus on finding the next dancer who’ll join the “DWTS” cast as a pro. Hosted by reigning mirror ball champ Robert Irwin, the series features 12 contestants who will live and train together in a “grueling audition process” for the length of the eight-episode show. Additionally, the charming mom-and-son duo Shirley and Mark Ballas serve as judges for these 12 contestants, which is a treat for anyone who’s seen them (or dad Corky!) as pros on the original show. Contestants hail from all over the United States, as well as Ukraine, England and Canada. (Hulu)

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Q:Where can I watch reruns of the medical show “House,” and what ever happened to actress Jennifer Morrison? I haven’t seen her in anything in a while. — M.E.

A: Jennifer Morrison, who played Dr. Allison Cameron on the Fox series “House,” departed the show after six seasons. She went on to star in the fairytale drama series “Once Upon a Time” on ABC, and most recently, she played the First Lady of the United States on Netflix’s “The Night Agent.” She’s also developed quite a career as a director of episodic television shows like “Euphoria,” “Dr. Death,” and “The Five-Star Weekend.”

If you have a subscription to Amazon Prime Video or Hulu, you can watch “House” on these platforms.

Q: When’s the new movie about Facebook coming out, and why isn’t Jesse Eisenberg playing Mark Zuckerberg in it? — E.P.

A:It’s hard to believe that it’s been over 15 years since Aaron Sorkin’s “The Social Network” came out — the film that he wrote and directed about the early rise of Mark Zuckerberg’s life as a student at Harvard and how Zuckerberg launched Facebook. Jesse Eisenberg could have easily reprised his Oscar-nominated role of the future billionaire in its upcoming sequel, “The Social Reckoning,” but he declined.

Sorkin told Vanity Fair that he spent three days trying to change the actor’s mind, but Eisenberg stated that he “simply did not want to be conflated with Mark Zuckerberg anymore” and that he has his problems with Zuckerberg.

In the sequel, which will hit theaters on Oct. 9, 2026, another Oscar-nominated actor, Jeremy Strong (“The Apprentice” and HBO’s “Succession”), assumes the role of the billionaire. Why a sequel? After the trailer for the movie premiered recently at CinemaCon, Sorkin stated, “There isn’t a life that Facebook’s algorithm hasn’t touched, and that influence has shaped everything. So, it’s time to say more.”



Jennifer Morrison as Dr. Allison Cameron on “House”

The film also stars Jeremy Allen White (“The Bear”) as Wall Street Journal reporter Jeff Horwitz and Oscar winner Mikey Madison (“Anora”) as Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen.

Q: Was that really John Oliver I saw with jet-black hair on “General Hospital” recently? How did this happen? — M.C.

A:Yes, even though he’s best known as the hilarious Emmy-winning host of HBO’s “Last Week Tonight,” he recently made his daytime soap debut on “General Hospital.” Back in March, he had expressed a strong desire to appear on a soap during one of his “Last Week Tonight” segments. Not only did ABC’s “GH” respond with a resounding “yes,” but so did Peacock’s “Days of Our Lives.”

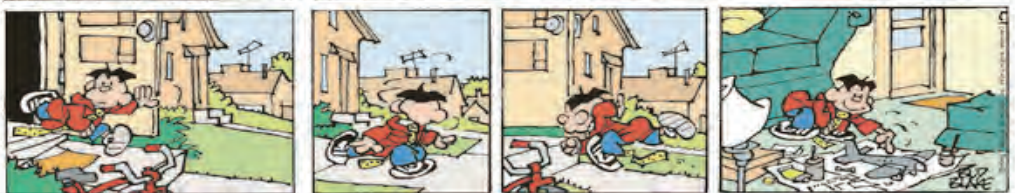
He will appear in three episodes of “GH” in July as the head of the WSB (World Security Bureau) and has a mystery role on “Days” for another three episodes, which will air on Aug. 11, 12 and 14.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU

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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 3-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. Cabinet is wider; 2. Apron is different; 3. Hair is different; 4. Arm is missing; 5. Curtain is missing; 6. Broom is different.

1. “Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery”; 2. Signed on Aug. 2, 1776. Adopted by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776; 3. Africa; 4. “The Wonder Years”; 5. Bloomington, Minnesota; 6. Gluteus maximus; 7. About 97%; 8. 6 ounces; 9. A goshing; 10. 2006

July 13, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Valley
 - 5 Unruly crowds
 - 9 Dean’s list stat
 - 12 Pinnacle
 - 13 Each
 - 14 Science room
 - 15 Show loyalty to
 - 17 Mentalist Geller
 - 18 Green land
 - 19 Critic Roger
 - 21 Finished
 - 24 Love god
 - 25 Parliamentarian
 - 26 Raised children, say
 - 30 Lucy of “Kill Bill”
 - 31 Desert haven
 - 32 Call — day
 - 33 Native of Yerevan
 - 35 Read quickly
 - 36 Mast
 - 37 Bracelet site
 - 38 Pocket breads
 - 40 Japanese soup
 - 42 Hindu honorific
 - 43 Street game
 - 48 Pouch
 - 49 Actress Fisher
- DOWN**
- 1 German article
 - 2 Suitable
 - 3 Floral garland
 - 4 Surpass
 - 5 Bryn —
 - 6 Mayberry boy
 - 7 Automaton, for short
 - 8 Orbs
 - 9 Crafter’s adhesive
 - 10 Henry VIII’s Catherine
 - 11 Slightly
 - 16 Josh
 - 20 “— voyage!”
 - 21 First lady of scat
 - 22 Dark film genre
 - 23 Chicken choice
 - 24 Actress Moran
 - 26 Twosome
 - 27 Botanist Gray
 - 28 List-ending abbr.
 - 29 “Great” dog
 - 31 Jackie’s Ari
 - 34 Ecol. watch-dog
 - 35 Stuck-up
 - 37 Request
 - 38 “Hey!”
 - 39 Nest egg choices
 - 40 “— 18” (Uris novel)
 - 41 Optimist’s credo
 - 44 Mao — -tung
 - 45 Celestial altar
 - 46 Like Abner
 - 47 Country music’s Greenwood



Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. MOVIES: Which 1997 film features a villain named Dr. Evil?
- 2. HISTORY: When was the Declaration of Independence officially signed?
- 3. GEOGRAPHY: The country of Eritrea is located on which continent?
- 4. TELEVISION: Which 1980s-90s sitcom includes a neighbor named Winnie Cooper?
- 5. U.S. CITIES: Which city is home to the Mall of America, the largest mall in the United States?
- 6. ANATOMY: What is the largest muscle in the human body?
- 7. SCIENCE: How much of Earth’s water is saltwater?
- 8. MEASUREMENTS: How many ounces is 3/4 of a cup?
- 9. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby goose called?
- 10. MUSIC: When was Taylor Swift’s first album released?

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

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