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Community Events
Thursday, Aug 6
*4:00 – 8 p.m. Constable Sherman Eagleton's Annual Pork Chop Dinner Fundraiser, Baytown Youth Fairgrounds
Friday, Aug. 7
*11:30 a.m. North Channel Area Chamber Monthly Membership Luncheon Call for details: 713-450-3600
*12 p.m. Third Annual Backpack Giveaway with Supplies, Hinojosa Law Office, 540 Uvalde Road #D. Student MUST be present with adult to receive supplies.
Saturday, Aug. 8
*8 a.m. Uvalde Baptist Church Monthly Food Distribution
*9 a.m. East Harris County Empowerment Council Annual Back to School Supply Give-a-way in partnership with Channelview ISD., Bill Neal Cneter, Sheldon Road. Students must be accompanied by adults.
*11 – 1 p.m. Hands of Hope Free Community Meal, Channelview First Assembly of God.
*4 – 8 p.m. Bonfire Wings 25th Anniversary Celebration, 13030 Woodforest Blvd., Children attending with parents will receive free school supplies.

Sidewalk project aims to make Market Street pedestrian safe

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

A long-awaited sidewalk project along Market Street is moving closer to reality in Jacinto City, where officials say the improvement is aimed at giving pedestrians, seniors and mobility scooter users a safer way to travel through one of the city's busiest industrial corridors.

The project, fully funded by Harris County Precinct 2, calls for a 6-foot-wide concrete sidewalk along the south side of Market Street, running parallel to the railroad tracks beneath the oak trees. It will also include sidewalk work on the north side of Market Street



City Manager Lon Squyres, City of Jacinto City

from the west end of the project limits to about 200 feet west of Oates Road. The project limits stretch from Big Bass Apartments to approximately 250 feet west of Fidelity Street. Construction is anticipated near the end of the third quarter or beginning of the fourth quarter of 2027.

Jacinto City City Manager Lon Squyres said the project has been in the works with Harris County for several years and is now nearing completion of its design phase.

"They're just about finished with a design on it," Squyres said. "It's going to come from Big Bass and



View of Market st. at Petroleum Express. (Image: Google Maps)

around all the way on the north side to in front of Petroleum Express, and everything from there on is paved already so we don't have to do anything. And then it's going to go all the way to the bow on the south side. So on the south side of Market, under the trees, you're going to have a six-foot-wide sidewalk

from one end of the city to the other."

The design consultant for the project is R.G. Miller Engineers, Inc. The estimated cost is approximately \$2 million, with Precinct 2 covering the full cost.

"It doesn't cost the city anything," Squyres said. "This is all coming" through the county."

The sidewalk is more than a cosmetic improvement, city officials said. Along Market Street, truck traffic, warehouse driveways and limited pedestrian infrastructure have created concerns, particularly for residents near Big Bass Apartments.

Continued. See JACINTO CITY'S MARKET STREET, Page 3

Jacinto City drainage project aims to ease flooding, address safety concerns

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Jacinto City residents who have noticed new storm drain inlets being installed around town are seeing part of a \$5.3 million Texas General Land Office flood mitigation grant project designed to improve drainage and reduce street flooding during heavy rains.

City Manager Lon Squyres said the project is more than halfway complete and is one of two \$5.3 million GLO mitigation grants the city has received. The work includes new drainage inlets and storm sewer improvements, with major lines focused on Kilroy and Switzer after the original scope was reduced because of delays and rising construction costs.

Squyres said some of the public concern has centered on the appearance of the new inlets, particularly the large grates on top of the structures.

"People were seeing them and just misunderstanding what they were,"



A photo from a Facebook post from Juan Garcia shows the concerns citizens have about the new drains being installed in Jacinto City.

Squyres said. "There's a big grate on the top and everybody thinks that's where

Continued. See DRAINAGE UPGRADES AIM TO, Page 2

UIL heat safety rules now required for Texas schools

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Texas schools began the 2026-27 school year under new statewide heat safety requirements Friday as the University Interscholastic League moved its Wet Bulb Globe Temperature protocols from recommendations to mandatory standards for outdoor athletic and marching band activities.

The rules, effective Aug. 1, require UIL member schools to use WBGT readings to monitor environmental conditions and adjust practices and workouts when heat stress levels rise. WBGT factors in temperature, humidity, wind speed and solar radiation, giving coaches, athletic trainers and school leaders a broader measure of heat risk than air temperature or the traditional heat index alone.

The UIL said the change followed several years of recommended use and a recommendation from its Medical Advisory Committee, which cited continuing medical research, accepted national best practices and ongoing review of heat-re-



lated safety measures. The UIL Legislative Council approved making the standards mandatory for the new school year.

Under the plan, WBGT readings should be taken within 15 minutes before outdoor activity begins and every 30 minutes during practices or workouts.

Continued. See NEW UIL SAFETY RULES, Page 2

Lake Houston non-profit brings adaptive water sports event, September 12

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

For more than three decades, Texas Adaptive Aquatics has helped people with disabilities trade the confines of a wheelchair, crutches or daily limits for open water, a tow rope and the rush of skiing behind a boat.

Now, with a rebuilt Lake Houston facility, a wheelchair-accessible ramp into the water and a September event on the calendar, the non-profit is inviting participants back to the lake for another day of adaptive water sports, lunch and community.

The event is scheduled for Sept. 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Lake Houston, according to Roger Randall, executive director of Texas Adaptive



Aquatics.

"The event is designed for people with physical disabilities and will include specialized equipment, boats, trained volunteers and lunch for participants and their families," he said. The organization's website says Texas Adaptive Aquatics is based at 103 Page Lane in Huffman and operates as a nonprofit sports training program for children and adults with disabilities.

"We get around the water and have a good time,"

he said.

Founded in 1989 and incorporated in Texas in 1990, Texas Adaptive Aquatics offers adaptive water skiing, sailing and kayaking opportunities for people with physical and/or mental disabilities, according to the organization's background information. The nonprofit says it supplies the equipment through donations and works to help skiers learn or rediscover water sports at beginner through advanced levels.

Randall said the mis-



sion is simple: get people out on the water.

"We are a water sports program for people with disabilities," Randall said. "And we get them out water skiing on the lake and get them out of their wheelchairs or give up their crutches and get them out behind the boat and have fun."

The work began out of personal loss. Randall said he lost his fiancée in an automobile wreck in 1989 and reached a turning point.

"It came to a Y in the

road," Randall said. "I needed to do something positive or something negative, and the positive was to start this program and off we went."

Randall had already been involved with adaptive water sports in Atlanta since 1985 before returning to Houston in 1989. The first Texas lake the program used was Lake Somerville, he said, but Lake Houston soon became home.

"We found out about Lake Houston, which was kind of a hidden gem,"

Randall said. "And boy was it."

The lake's proximity to Houston made a difference.

"It's within the city limits of Houston," Randall said. "It was a lot easier, closer to the city."

The non-profit's Lake Houston story, however, has included hardship. Randall said flooding has repeatedly challenged the program, including the 1994 flood and Hurricane Harvey. Harvey, he said, devastated the site.

"The lake came up 14 feet," Randall said. "Everything got destroyed."

The organization kept going by traveling around Texas and working with other nonprofits, Randall said. In addition to Lake Houston and Lake Som-

Continued. See TEXAS ADAPTIVE AQUATICS WELCOMES, Page 3

Drainage upgrades aim to reduce flooding,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the water goes in at. And in most cases it's not."

In a Facebook post addressing residents' questions, Squyres explained that the top grates are generally designed for inspection and maintenance access, while the actual water intake openings are usually lower on the sides of the structures. Some side openings are covered during construction to keep silt and debris out of the system.

"In most cases, the large opening with the top grate is designed primarily to provide access for inspection and ventilation of the storm sewer system," Squyres wrote. "The actual water intake openings are typically located lower on the sides of the structure."

Some residents also questioned whether several of the larger openings could pose a safety risk to children. Squyres said city officials shared that concern and raised it early in the design process.

"As for the openings of some of the inlets being too large and a potential danger to children, we absolutely agree," Squyres wrote. "That issue was raised early on during the design phase."

Squyres said some openings had to be larger to achieve the required flow rate, but guards will be installed where needed to prevent entry without reducing drainage capacity.

"There will be guards placed over the openings that will restrict entry but not reduce flow," he wrote. "Typically, this is accomplished with metal rods."

In the interview, Squyres said the city had already told engineers the openings could not remain large enough for a child to be swept into them.

"We certainly don't want that happening again," he said. "We had already, early on, had that discussion with the engineering staff and said, hey, we're not going to tolerate that. It cannot happen. We've got to do something better than that."

The project has been in development for more than three years, Squyres wrote, with engineers conducting extensive surveys of the city's storm-water system before finalizing designs intended to reduce flooding residents have experienced during heavy rainfall.

The work, however, is smaller than city officials originally hoped. Squyres said the city planned several north-south drainage lines along streets such as Mercury, Switzer and Kerby, but Harris County Flood Control District concerns about enlarging openings into Turkey Run Gully led to an additional engineering study and a lengthy delay.

"They forced us to spend \$125,000 for an engineering study, modeling and stuff, to prove to them that it was a wise thing that would benefit not only us, it would benefit the people upstream, downstream, everywhere else," Squyres said.

The study supported the city's position, Squyres said, but the roughly 19- to 20-month delay drove up construc-

tion costs and reduced the amount of work the grant could cover.

"So it probably cut our project in half, actually, as far as the large lines are concerned," he said. "So we're not real happy about that, but we will see some benefit from it."

Squyres said the city continues to investigate resident concerns when they are reported. In his Facebook post, he asked residents to contact the city if they believe there is a problem at a specific location.

"We will gladly investigate your concern and follow up with you."

Residents can contact the Public Works Department at public.works@jacintocity-tx.gov or 713-453-7411, or reach Squyres directly at lon.squyres@jacintocity-tx.gov or 713-674-8424.

Squyres said the drainage work is part of a broader push to improve Jacinto City infrastructure through federal and state grants. In the Facebook post, he said the city has eight major grant projects underway involving water, wastewater and drainage improvements, and is also pursuing a \$10 million Texas Water Development Board grant to replace water lines and fire hydrants in the Jacinto Oaks area.

"We appreciate everyone's questions and interest in these projects," Squyres wrote. "If you ever have questions about your city or any of the work being done, please don't hesitate to reach out."

New UIL safety rules for texas schools,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Schools may use a scientifically approved on-site instrument or an approved internet-based WBGT forecasting resource. The requirements apply to outdoor practices, including those held under covered pavilions, and to indoor facilities that are not climate controlled.

Schools are expected to use the required WBGT activity guidelines alongside professional judgment rather than react automatically to every small change in conditions. When readings move into more restrictive categories, school personnel should consider the current classification, trend, amount of practice already completed, remaining practice time, recovery opportunities, participant condition and acclimatization status before making modifications.

The new standards also strengthen emergency preparation. Rapid cooling zones are required whenever outdoor athletic or marching band activities are conducted at WBGT levels of 79.7 degrees or higher in Class 2 areas or

82 degrees or higher in Class 3 areas. Those zones must include equipment capable of full-body immersion in ice water for a person experiencing heat illness or distress, such as a cold-water immersion tub or ice-water tarp. Shade, ice towels, sponges, misters and other cooling resources may supplement the requirement but do not replace it.

Emergency Action Plans should identify procedures for recognizing heat illness, activating emergency medical services when appropriate and providing rapid cooling through cold-water immersion or an equivalent method.

The practice limitations do not formally apply to contests, but the UIL says schools should still monitor conditions, maintain required rapid cooling zones and make responsible adjustments when needed. Possible contest modifications include adjusted start times, additional hydration opportunities, extra official timeouts, shaded ar-

chas, fans, ice towels, extended halftime, access to air-conditioned facilities and shortened quarters for sub-varsity contests when mutually agreed upon.

Violations will be handled like other UIL rules matters, with local District Executive Committees considering allegations and potential penalties. A DEC may also refer a situation to the State Executive Committee for further review.

UIL officials say the purpose of the required plan is statewide consistency, not a rebuke of coaches or athletic trainers. The league said schools should implement the protocols in good faith, communicate clearly across campuses and continue making student health and safety the priority as summer and early fall activities begin.

If a parent or student feels the new rules are not being followed, they should first contact the coach/leader and if satisfaction is not achieved, follow typical forms of complaints beginning with Level 1 hearings.



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CHARLOTTE'S
WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Endurance

This week was a series of events that just reminded me that the race is not for the swift, but instead something that must be at our own pace. I shared last week about my 35-year-old son suffering from a medical emergency on July 25. I then spent several days attempting to get information. Imagine waking up on Tuesday to a phone call that there was another family member being taken to the medical center with a life-threatening issue? While I am not at liberty to share that information, just know your prayers are very much appreciated.

In an average week, I speak to over 700 people, and I hear many stories about what they are enduring. Some have suffered family tragedies and are trying to pick up the pieces. One young woman shared with me that she recently had a miscarriage; primarily due to stress of a loved one being charged with murder. The family of the person he murdered has certainly endured much stress, pain and hurt in the past few weeks. Another young person shared that those charged in the death of her younger brother, had hired a defense attorney and some of the charges were dropped. This pain is hard as she had already lost her mother at an early age and basically as the oldest sibling, raised both the deceased as well as their younger sister. This young woman is among the strongest women I know.

I also sat in my nice, air-conditioned office working on some pressing needs for senior adults. As I was making phone calls, I could hear many of our department deputies performing their annual physical endurance testing. Too often we hear society jokingly talk about law enforcement officers eating doughnuts and always taking a break for food. In the seven years I have been employed with the agency, I rarely see doughnuts. I did just recently see two seniors in the community who had been on vacation and asked for a “vacation watch” bring a large homemade strawberry cheesecake to the deputies, and I witnessed many of them with so much determination, that it took days for the cake to be eaten. As they were taking their annual exams, you could see some struggling, yet they met the standards and passed with strength that you cannot just “muster up” one day. They endure many situations throughout the year that keep them in shape.

School starts soon and let’s remember that it takes patience and strength to wake up, get ready, love our children and encourage them to make the right choices. We need to always remember to try our best to send them to campus with a good start. We must endure rough seasons, but those truly make us better people. Not just stronger, but kinder. And if there has ever been a time when we could all use kindness, it is now. Be blessed and let’s all practice patience as well.

JC’s Market Street sidewalk project set for 2027 completion,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Squyres said some older residents and mobility scooter users have been traveling in the roadway because there has not been a continuous sidewalk available.

“They get on their little scooters, want to come to town, and they’re getting in the middle of Market Street on those scooters,” he said. “It’s just scaring us to death.”

The concern is heightened by the industrial nature of the area, where 18-wheelers and other large vehicles routinely enter and exit nearby businesses.

“Some are walking, most of them have mobility scooters, and they’ll get in the middle of the road on the mobility scooter,” Squyres said. “It’s really a dangerous situation where they’re crossing Fidelity.”

The new sidewalk will be located between Market Street and the railroad tracks on the south side of the road, in the area shaded by the existing oak trees. Squyres said the route avoids sending pedestrians across the railroad tracks while still providing another protected path through the corridor.

The project also includes pedestrian safety upgrades at signalized intersections. Push buttons and accessibility improvements are planned at the two signalized intersections within the project limits, including upgrades to meet current ADA standards.

Squyres said pedestrian crossings at lit intersections such as Fidelity, Holland and Mercury will allow users to cross more safely when needed.

“Newer ADA requirements include additional features, such as audible cues or a voice on it too,” Squyres said. “So now you’ve got to have audible cues for people, so they’re having to update those as

part of it as well.”

While Harris County will pay for the upgrades, the city will continue maintaining certain traffic signals, including those at Mercury and Holland.

“They’ll pay to update them, but we’ll have to maintain them,” Squyres said. “That’s normal. We’ve been doing that for years and years.”

Squyres said the sidewalk may also help with the growing use of electric bikes, scooters and other small mobility devices by giving users an option besides the roadway.

“With the proliferation of these little electric bikes and scooters and things, maybe that’ll give them a place to go rather than in the road,” he said. “So that might help on several fronts.”

The sidewalk project is one of several infrastructure efforts the city is pursuing. Squyres said Jacinto City has also applied for a \$10 million grant through the Texas Water Development Board to continue replacing water lines.

He said the city is about 80 percent complete with water line improvements and has used grant money to move systematically through neighborhoods.

“We have just literally, with grant money alone, marched through the city from one end of the city to the other,” Squyres said.

If awarded, the grant would help cover water line work in Jacinto Oaks and other remaining areas, including anything east of Holland and south of Market, along with a small section on the north side.

But for now, Squyres said the sidewalk project stands out as one of the city’s most visible improvements on the horizon.

“The sidewalks are probably the biggest thing that we’re doing right now,” he said.

ASK DIAMOND JIM



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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](#).

Texas Adaptive Aquatics welcomes participants back to lake Houston for adaptive water sports event,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

erville, he said the program has visited places such as Lake Palestine and Moody Gardens. The non-profit has also helped other groups learn adaptive water sports methods, allowing programs in other states to continue on their own.

“We work with other non-profits and they have folks and they bring the show on the road,” Randall said. “Just taking a circus on the road.”

Randall is known as “the Pied Piper of Lake Houston” and noted his longtime dedication to lake activities and Texas Adaptive Aquatics. Randall also organizes boat parades on Lake Houston as fundraisers and community events benefiting the non-profit, including the Freedom Boat Parade and the Christmas Boat Parade.

Randall said the organization’s new site gives the program a stronger footing after years of recovery.

“It’s a bigger facility, three acres and it’s got higher ground,” Randall said. “We built a brand new wheelchair ramp to go into the lake, so now the lake is wheelchair accessible.”

The facility also includes a lodge with bathrooms and air conditioning, he said, giving participants a place to cool off.



“It’s all nice, air conditioned so the quads can get in there and be in air conditioning,” Randall said.

For the September event, Randall said about 25 participants is a good number because it gives each person plenty of time on the water. Some participants, he said, follow the program from event to event.

“Oh, yeah,” Randall said. “Folks that follow us around and they love skiing. It’s always a good time on the water.”

Volunteers remain essential. Randall said longtime volunteers help run events, and new volunteers receive hands-on training.

“We train them,” Randall said. “We have our normal volunteers that we’ve had for years. And so, but we take out new volunteers and we put them to work and it’s hands-on training.”

The organization accepts donations through its website, [taasports.org](#), and is recognized as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, according to its website.

For participants wondering what to bring, Randall kept the list short.

“Swimsuits, a towel, a camera and a smile,” he said, “and we take care of the rest.”

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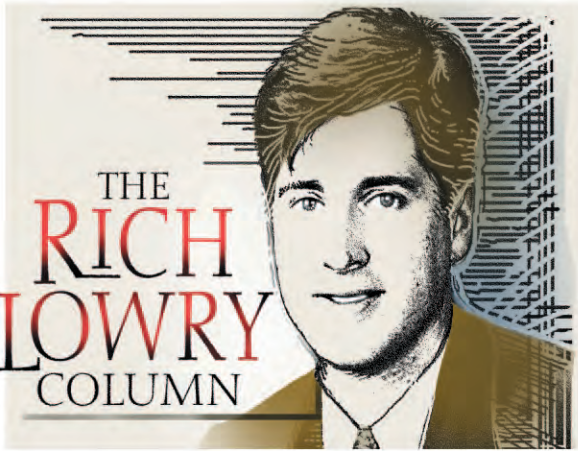
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The Preposterous case against the new defense bill

Congress has been known to slip indefensible special-interest provisions into large must-pass bills when no one is looking. What it has never done before is use such sleight of hand to hand over control of the U.S. military to a foreign country. But that’s what we’re told is on the verge of happening on Capitol Hill.

The House just passed the National Defense Authorization Act, a sprawling \$1.15 trillion bill that supposedly includes a provision buried in it “merging” the U.S. and Israeli militaries.

This provision, known as Section 219, has united some of the most fervent anti-Israel conspiracy theorists on the right and the left in denouncing the alleged betrayal of America, from Marjorie Taylor Greene to AOC, from Tucker Carlson to Cenk Uygur.

AOC has warned that the provision “is an existential threat to American sovereignty and democracy.” Marjorie Taylor Greene has said anyone who voted for the bill “sold out the American people to a foreign country.” Tucker Carlson wants literal treason trials.

So what is the substance of Section 219? Legislation often has obfuscatory titles, but this provision is deemed, with admirable clarity, the United States-Israel Defense Technology Cooperation Initiative. It calls for the secretary of defense to designate “an executive agent” to coordinate between the U.S. and Israel on “bilateral defense technology research, development, testing, evaluation, integration and industrial cooperation.” The Pentagon will come up with a plan for such cooperation and report back to Congress.

That’s it. There is nothing about merging the general staffs of the U.S. military and the IDF; nothing about creating a joint office where Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and his Israeli counterpart, Israel Katz, work together; nothing about giving Bibi Netanyahu partial control of CENTCOM.

That the United States would want a close working relationship with Israel on military technology is hardly surprising. Israel is one of the world’s most innovative societies and, given its precarious security environment, has become a leader in advanced defense technologies.

That a nefarious interpretation of the bill has gotten some traction underlines how any preposterous lie, so long as it’s about Israel, gets a hearing these days. Like many conspiracy theories, this one depends on a dark view of American society. We are allegedly so corrupt that we are handing control of our military to a foreign country without any senior military leaders or officials in an “America First” administration lodging a complaint. No wonder Tucker Carlson wants the kind of tribunals that attended the end of World War II.

At the first Nuremberg Trials, Wilhelm Keitel was found guilty of crimes against humanity and hanged; at the second Nuremberg Trials, Mike Johnson will be found guilty of supporting mutually beneficial technology sharing between allies — means of execution yet to be determined.

One perversity here is that Netanyahu conceives of the technological cooperation as a substitute for the U.S. military aid that he supports phasing out. In other words, enemies of Israel oppose U.S. military aid, and when a constructive plan is offered for how to go about ending it, they oppose that, too, as an Israeli plot.

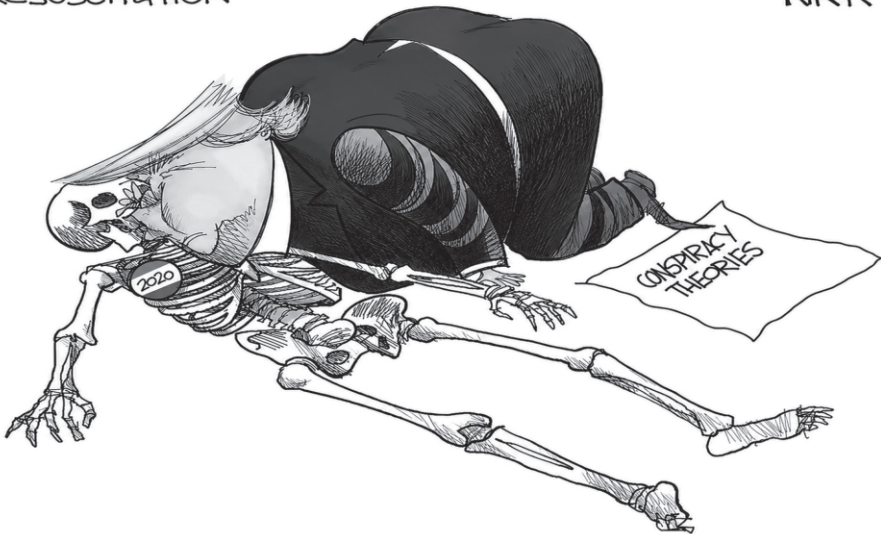
Another perversity is that the U.S. should want a very close relationship with Israel on missile defense, an area where Israel excels and that, as we’ve seen in the Ukraine and Iran wars, is crucial to modern warfare. And yet, the same people who portray themselves as zealously protective of the U.S. national interest want us to turn our back on a source of technological advance.

Israel naturally fits in the Western alliance, but nations ultimately pursue their selfish interests. If we spurn the Jewish state out of irrational animus, it will inevitably look elsewhere and perhaps build a stronger relationship with China. Then we will surely be told by the critics now obsessed with ending the U.S.-Israel relationship that Israel has shown its true colors and deserves even more of our scorn.

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

Swimming with the Sunnies



I spent last week ‘up north’ with my parents. While my husband, Peter, and my cat, Felix, stayed at home and played cat games, I drove up to my parents’ cabin four hours north.

The city was hot, but right now, even up north is hot. So I decided to go swimming.

I hadn’t been swimming in a long time. I walk in the woods every chance I get, but I don’t go in the water as often as I could. Sometimes it feels like a nuisance to get wet. Sometimes I get self-conscious putting on a bathing suit. Usually, I fret that the water will be too cold. I chicken out and take a walk instead.

But this last week was so warm that walking did not even sound tempting. So I put on the new brightly colored striped swimsuit I had bought used online (and had never worn), and I borrowed a beach towel from my mom, and I headed down the many steps from my parents’ cabin to the lakeshore.

I waded in slowly. The lake was much warmer than I remembered it being. I stood on the sandy bottom and attracted the attention of a school of sunfish. These sunnies were young and curious, and they were attracted to the bright-green-and-blue stripes of my swimsuit as well as my bright blue painted toenails. They came out from under the dock and surrounded me. They nibbled on my suit. They nibbled on my toes. One of them nibbled on my butt.

‘Stop it!’ I said and splashed them away.

They backed up for a moment, then came right back, still curious about this bright-colored new friend who had joined them in the shallow water.

‘Pesky fish!’ I shoed them away again. Still, it was good to know I’d won the Sunfish Seal of Approval. I dove in.

The first dive into a northern lake is always a shock. The top six inches of water on a hot day are several degrees warmer than the water below. But once I was fully wet, it was wonderful. I swam along the shoreline. There were tall reeds and lily pads. I checked out the cabins up and down the shore. The lake was quiet on this hot day in the middle of the week. A deer was eating tasty greens from the water’s edge. If I’d been so close to her on land, she would have run. Instead, she watched this peculiar water creature a little cautiously and continued to graze. I found some water lilies that were blooming and decided to bring some back for my mom. I picked three and then swam home with one arm, trailing lilies (and a little seaweed) behind me. Then I left the lilies on the beach and just floated for a time. Floating in the warm sunshine, a cold finger of water from deeper down occasionally found its way up as I slowly spun around, looking at the tall pine trees and the scattered clouds and the reeds along the shoreline.

It’s good to be in a lake, I decided. It was worth getting over my trepidation, putting on my new, brightly colored suit and diving in. I realized what I’d always known but forgotten: how the water is calming yet fills me with a wonderful energy.

I brought the lilies home to my mom, and we put them in a vase. She said she’d never had a bouquet from the lake before. And the next day, I went out swimming with the sunnies again.

Till next time, Carrie

★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders



New Challenge to School Funding System

The Midland school district is suing Education Commissioner Mike Morath and other state leaders in another challenge to the state’s public school finance system, known as “Robin Hood,” according to The Texas Tribune.

Three legal challenges over the past three decades have failed, with Texas courts ruling that the recapture system complies with the state constitution. Under recapture, wealthier school districts — such as Midland, with its considerable oil and gas holdings — send money to the state, which then distributes it to school districts with low property values.

In the case of Midland, the district sent \$92 million back to the state in the 2024-2025 school year, sixth highest in the state. Austin ISD sent back the most money that year at \$771 million.

“They’re setting the tax rate. We collect the taxes. We send it to the state,” Guinn, the Midland school board president, said last week. “Then we get blamed as a local district and local board member for taxes being high. It’s just a revolving door.”

School administrators have contended that state leaders have not invested adequately in traditional public-school campuses, opting instead to promote charter schools and to create a voucher program that uses public funding for private or home schooling.

BREAKAWAY BUOYS DISRUPT RIO GRANDE BRIDGES

Hundreds of federal border buoys broke loose during recent flooding, disrupting traffic at international bridges, the Texas Standard reported. The floating border barrier was installed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. It consists of interconnected orange cylinders, each 4 feet high, 15 feet long, and weighing about a ton apiece.

Officials in Eagle Pass temporarily stopped traffic on the city’s two international bridges. That city is also the location of about 2,000 feet of a separate floating barrier installed by Operation Lone Star in 2023. Those buoys remained intact during the recent flooding.

“The state buoys remain intact where they were located initially and have not moved,” Gov. Greg Abbott said. “They’re being reinforced as we speak to make sure they’re not moved.”

Many of the federal buoys became lodged into the river, while others floated into Mexico, where some were reportedly recovered by residents and



sold as scrap metal. U.S. Customs and Border Patrol said in a statement that contractors were working to recover the remaining buoys.

STATE COULD OVERHAUL UNIVERSITY FUNDING

Texas could roll out a new funding model for four-year colleges that allocates more money to schools with higher graduation and retention rates, according to the Austin American-Statesman. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board presented the model to university representatives last week. It will propose the plan to lawmakers during next year’s legislative session.

Under current law, four-year colleges receive funding from the Legislature through formula funding, largely based on the number of courses offered and the number of students enrolled. Since 1999, funding has also come from institutional enhancement funding, which is not formula-based and varies widely, from \$56 to \$5,734 per student. Some lawmakers have criticized enhancements as a “slush fund.” Sarah Keyton, deputy commissioner of the higher education agency, said the new funding model would make university budgeting more predictable.

The new model, if adopted by lawmakers, rewards universities for progress toward a degree and diplomas awarded. It was created with input from university leaders across the state.

“This formula could really accelerate our progress toward the goals of the state education plan (to) get more students earning credentials of value and entering the workforce and driving our statewide economy forward,” Keyton said.

STATE TAKES ACTION TO PROTECT RESIDENTIAL RATEPAYERS

At Abbott’s direction, the Public Utility Commission and

the Electric Reliability Council of Texas have taken action to shield residential ratepayers from the costs of data center expansion sweeping across much of the state. Those actions include:

- Requiring data centers to pay for transmission infrastructure and contribute to “meaningfully reducing” residential electric bills.
- Preventing large data centers from diverting existing power away from the ERCOT grid.
- Changing how data centers pay for the infrastructure needed to serve them.
- Developing stronger standards that data centers must meet before connecting to the grid.

A controversial data center project in Henderson County near Cedar Creek Reservoir has been pulled after the company said it couldn’t comply with Abbott’s standards, The Tribune reported. The site was expected to take 12 years to build out and to consume 5 million gallons of lake water per day by its fifth year. It drew considerable opposition from residents because of the location’s proximity to a developed subdivision.

41 SCREWORM CASES IN TEXAS TO DATE

Forty-one cases of New World screwworm cases have been confirmed in Texas by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Standard reported, with one additional case in New Mexico. The latest infestation was confirmed in a baby calf in western Starr County, the first detected case in the Rio Grande Valley.

The screwworm is the larval stage of a parasitic fly that feeds on the living tissue of warm-blooded animals. Without treatment, infestations can be fatal.

Federal and state officials are working to contain the outbreak, with several counties in South and West Texas under quarantine that limits movement of livestock.

1.6 MILLION EGGS IN TEXAS ARE RECALLED

Several brands of white and brown eggs sold in Texas are under a recall because they may be contaminated with salmonella, the Statesman reported. According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Midwest Poultry Services is voluntarily recalling nearly 1.6 million eggs.

The company announced that the eggs were produced and distributed from Texas farms between June 6 and July 3, with sell-by or best-by dates between July 20 and Aug. 17. They were shipped to Kroger stores in Texas and Louisiana and Brookshire Grocery stores in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Mississippi, as well as other smaller retail outlets.

The recalled eggs will have an identifying code number printed on the left or right sides of the carton in date-coding ink only. Only codes P-1950 or 0840962 with a Julian Date between 157 and 184 printed on the side of the carton are subject to recall.

As of July 24, the company has not identified any illnesses linked to the recalled eggs.

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.

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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, on Bid Forms provided, addressed to the Mayor and City Council, City of Jacinto City, Texas, Harris County, will be received at City Hall, 1301 Mercury Drive, Jacinto City, Texas, 77029 until **5:00 P.M. Thursday, August 27, 2026**, City Council Meeting at **6:00 P.M.** and then publicly opened and read during the **Thursday, August 27, 2026** held at the Council Chambers, 10301 Market Street, Jacinto City, 77029furnishing all labor, material, and equipment and performing all work required for the construction of "Lane Street Sewer Line Improvements" and/or "Fire Station & Annex Generators".

Scope of Work:

GLO Contract No. 25-109-002-F214 - Improvements to the sanitary sewer system include the construction and installation of approximately 2,055 LF of 15-inch pipe, 1,635 LF of 18-inch pipe, 5,740 LF of 24-inch pipe, replacing 28 manholes, inspection and cleaning of the rehabilitated line, and all appurtenances.

GLO Contract No. 25-109-003-F215 – Improvements include incorporating surge protection at the city's police station, removing and salvaging the existing generators at the city annex and fire station; coordination with CenterPoint on gas connections; two 80 kW generators; work-site preparation for placing proposed generators at both sites, including concrete pads and all appurtenances.

Accompany Bids with acceptable Cashier's or Certified Check in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total amount bid, payable without recourse to the City, or a Bid Bond of like amount from an approved surety company, as a guarantee that bidder will enter into a contract.

Plans, specifications and bidding documents for the project are available at <https://bids.lja.com>. For each set issued a non-refundable charge of \$50.00 for an electronic copy / \$100.00 for a hard copy. The hard copy may be obtained at LJA Engineering, Inc., East Houston Office, 11821 East Freeway, Suite 360, Houston TX 77029.

Examine documents at the East Houston office of LJA Engineering, Inc, Amtek Plan Room, Dodge Data & Analytics, AGC of Texas, Construct Connect and the City.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at 10:00 A.M. at the City of Jacinto City Police Department, 10429 Market Street, Houston, Texas 77029, Second Floor Conference Room. Bids from Firms other than the Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference Attendees WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

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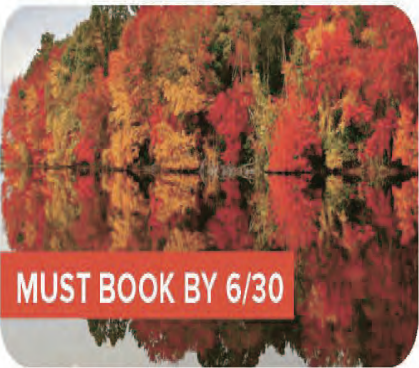
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SHELDON ISD NEWS

Sheldon ISD is proud to welcome Duaine Harris as Principal of Null Middle School

SHELDON ISD Welcomes

Duaine Harris

Principal of Michael R. Null Middle School





SHELDON ISD

Where Vision Becomes Legacy

Sheldon ISD is proud to announce Mr. Duaine P. Harris Sr. as the new Principal of Michael R. Null Middle School.

Mr. Harris brings 15 years of experience in education, having served as a teacher, assistant principal, associate principal, campus principal, and district summer school administrator. In his most recent role as Associate Principal of Michael R. Null Middle School, he has been instrumental in strengthening campus systems, supporting teacher development, fostering a collaborative school culture, and ensuring operational excellence. His leadership has focused on building sustainable systems that empower both students and staff while creating an environment where everyone can grow and succeed.

With a leadership philosophy centered on collaboration, consistency, and continuous improvement, Mr. Harris is committed to building upon the strong foundation established at Null Middle School. His focus on developing people, maintaining effective systems, and creating opportunities for both students and educators to grow will continue to move the campus forward while preserving the culture of excellence that defines the Stallion community.

Please join Sheldon ISD in congratulating Mr. Harris on his new role as Principal of Michael R. Null Middle School. We look forward to the positive impact he will continue to make as he leads our students, staff, and families into the future.

Galena Park Branch Library Hosts August Events

The Galena Park Branch Library is offering a variety of events throughout August to engage the community.

Adult Literacy Classes: Registration is open for new students interested in ESL and Citizenship classes. An assessment exam is required, and fall schedules will depend on tutor availability. Registration runs from Friday, July 31st, to Monday, August 31st.

Meet the Mayor: Residents have the opportunity to meet Mayor Mireles and other city officials on Wednesday, August 5th, at 6 PM.

Library Thrift: A free event offering gently used clothing for autumn is scheduled for Friday, August 7th, and Saturday, August 8th, from 1 PM to 4 PM.

N-400 Information Session: This free session provides an overview of the naturalization process, a citizenship interview demonstration, and a Q&A. It will take place on Saturday, August 29th, at 10:30 AM.

Book Buddies Program: The program will resume in September, with registration details to be announced soon.

Additionally, the Summer Reading Program concludes on August 1st, with prize claims open until August 8th. The library expresses gratitude for community support and encourages continued engagement. For more information, contact the library.

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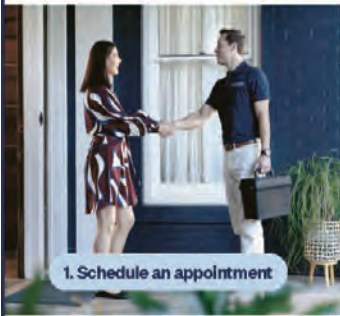
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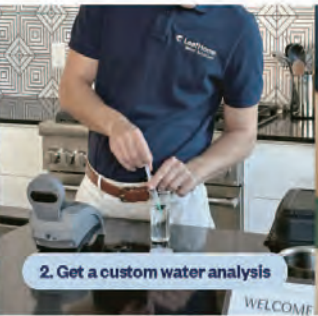
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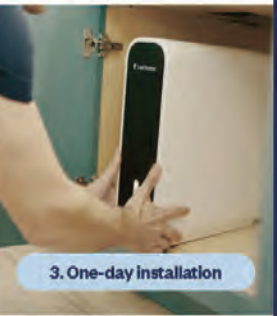
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Halle Bailey, left, and Rege-Jean Page stars in "You, Me & Tuscany."

“You, Me & Tuscany.”

“The Shards” (TV-MA) — Teen drama lovers, you continue to be fed this year, and this latest thriller series hails from none other than creator Ryan Murphy (“The Beauty”) and screenwriter Bret Easton Ellis (“American Psycho”). This series is based on Ellis’ semi-autobiographical novel from 2023 and takes place in 1981 Los Angeles. Igby Rigney (“Devil in Disguise: John Wayne Gacy”) lands his first main role in a TV series as he plays 17-year-old Ellis during his senior year of prep school. He feels like he’s on top of the world with his girlfriend and group of friends, until the arrival of a new student named Robert (Homer Gere) shakes up their dynamic. Simultaneous with Robert’s arrival is the unexpected presence of a serial killer named the Trawler, who

begins abducting people across the city. The first two episodes premiere on Aug. 5. (Hulu)

“The Devil’s Mouth” (PG-13) — Speaking of teen dramas, this survival thriller film features a cast with a couple of actors who got their big breaks in one! Lana Condor (“To All the Boys”) and Gavin Casalegno (“The Summer I Turned Pretty”) star alongside Kathryn Newton (“Ready or Not 2”) as a group of friends who wish to have one last adventure together in Thailand before graduating from college. So, the friends decide to sign up for a guided swim tour through a cave system called The Devil’s Mouth. All is well upon entering the cave, until they probe deeper into the cave and discover a deadly bull shark. With it out for blood, these amateur cave

dwellers will have to play the longest waiting game of their lives to see if they can escape this hell in one piece. Out now. (Amazon Prime Video)

“You, Me & Tuscany” (PG-13) — Halle Bailey (“The Color Purple”) and Rege-Jean Page (“Black Bag”) lead this oh-so-romantic comedy film premiering on Aug. 7. Bailey plays Anna, a young chef who put her culinary aspirations on hold after the death of her mother. After spending the night with an Italian man named Matteo (Lorenzo de Moor), who mistakenly tells her about his empty villa in Tuscany, Anna impulsively decides to fly to Tuscany and stay in Matteo’s villa without his knowledge. Once there, she immediately gets caught by his relatives and, to save face, states that she’s Matteo’s fiancée. While this appeases his family momentarily, she also encounters Matteo’s cousin, Michael (Page), and feels an intense romantic connection with him. Talk about trouble in Tuscany! (Peacock)

“Alley Cats” (TV-MA) — This British adult-animated series comes from the mind of Ricky Gervais (“The Office”), which we all should know by now is a perverse and hysterical place. The series follows a gang of feral cats, led by a large orange cat named Gus (Gervais), as they spend their time frolicking in alleys, neighborhoods, cemeteries and parking lots. While these cats do ordinary cat things like play-fight, scratch up furniture, and jump on people, they also ponder their existence and what it really means to be a beautiful ball of fluff in such a dangerous world. The six-episode series premieres on Aug. 7. (Netflix)

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Q: What’s up next for director Christopher Nolan? I feel like he can’t really top himself after such epic masterpieces like “Oppenheimer” and “The Odyssey,” right? — A.G.

A: It’s hard to top the year that Christopher Nolan had in 2023, where he took home Academy Awards for Best Picture and Best Director for “Oppenheimer.” However, he’s already generating Oscar buzz for his most recent feat, “The Odyssey,” which is the first feature film to be entirely shot on IMAX 70 mm cameras.

The man deserves a rest, however. In fact, he’s publicly stated that fans will have to wait at least three years after the release of this summer’s “The Odyssey” before seeing his name on the big screen again. Rumor has it that he’d love to direct a horror movie. He’s also admitted that a comedy would be the ultimate challenge for him.

Q: What happened to the “Supergirl” movie? I think I missed it in theaters. Was it not a big hit? — C.A.

A: Yes, unfortunately, “Supergirl” came and went at the box office and is considered a bomb. This is surprising since the movie was predicted to be a hit after its much-talked-about teaser scene during the credits of the extremely successful “Superman” movie a year earlier. “Supergirl” also starred Milly Alcock of the hit HBO series “House of the Dragon,” so it was assumed that her TV audience would follow her to DC. But this didn’t happen either apparently.

“Supergirl” had an uphill battle to climb with its \$170 million production budget and \$120 marketing budget, as well as it being released during the ultra-competitive summer movie season. Its release was followed by the release of two other family-friendly flicks: Universal’s “Minions & Monsters” and Disney’s live-action “Moana.” It probably didn’t help that Supergirl was portrayed as intoxicated during the infamous teaser trailer from last year.

According to Variety writer Rebecca Rubin, “a movie on the scale of ‘Supergirl’ would need to earn at least \$375 million to break even because theater owners get to keep about half of box-office returns.” In comparison, 2025’s “Superman” even-



Academy Award Winning director Christopher Nolan (“The Odyssey”)

tually earned \$618 million globally, and its upcoming sequel, “Man of Tomorrow,” is expected to be a surefire hit.

Q: What ever happened to the actress who played the hilarious, awkward teen Sue on “The Middle”? Wasn’t she supposed to have her own show? — L.B.

A: Yes, actress Eden Sher, who played lovable, dorky teen Sue Heck on the ABC sitcom, was supposed to star in her own spin-off of “The Middle” when it ended in 2018. She even shot a pilot for the sitcom. It was tentatively titled “Sue Sue in the City,” where a now-adult Sue had relocated from small-town Indiana to Chicago.

Sher’s still acting and doing voiceover work. She had a guest-starring role on the recent reboot of “Night Court” and appeared in the Christmas movie “A Keller Christmas Vacation.” She also hosts a rewatch podcast of “The Middle,” titled “Middling with Eden and Brock.” (Her co-host is actor Brock Ciarlelli, who played Sue’s ex-beau in the sitcom.)

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU

		6		8	3			2
2		7			9	3		
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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!

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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Line in sidewalk is moved; 2. Window sill is missing; 3. Rear car window is smaller; 4. House window is moved; 5. Man is thinner; 6. Briefcase is larger.

August 3, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 URL ending

4 "Now I get it!"

7 Shimmering fabrics

12 Texter's "I think"

13 Young bloke

14 Mover's rental

15 H.S. proficiency test

16 Held in trust

18 Census stat

19 Wonderland visitor

20 Hindu deity

22 Moray, for one

23 Ski lift type

27 TV screen choice

29 Beekeeper's place

31 Blood line?

34 Sweetie

35 Monastery

37 Play part

38 Romanov ruler

39 College URL ender

41 Appear

45 Chopin piece

47 Roman 56

48 Branch of government

52 Puzzle

53 "Called Wanda"

54 Actress Ruby

55 Before

56 Give up amateur status

57 Pink Floyd's Barrett

58 Rds.

7 "Time" co-founder

8 Sushi fish

9 Goat's plaint

10 Where Lux. is

11 Devious

17 Bruins' sch.

21 Wedding setting

23 Leans

24 Sheepish

25 Branch

26 Bagel variety

28 One for the road?

30 Cpl.'s subordinate

31 Sternward

32 Hosp. areas

33 Estuary

36 Bigfoot's kin

37 Hollywood's Hepburn

40 Couples

42 Santa's crew

43 Tennis great

44 Chris

45 Blends

46 Repeat

47 Sized up

48 Binge

49 "Avatar" craft

50 Chips go-with

51 Leb. neighbor

DOWN

1 Humidor item

2 Alpha's opposite

3 Cable company device

4 — Romeo

5 Saluted road?

6 "Paper Moon" tyke

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Trivia Test Answers

King Crossword

Solution time: 26 mins.

Answers

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RV Crash Reported on Beltway 8 Near Highway 90

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

SHELDON — Sheldon Community Fire & Rescue responded to a crash involving a recreational vehicle towing another vehicle on the northbound main lanes of Beltway 8 at the east-bound Highway 90 interchange.

According to the department, all occupants, including a pet dog, safely exited the vehicles and were alert and mobile when emergency crews arrived. Personnel with Sheldon Lake EMS evaluated those involved at the scene. No serious injuries were reported.

Fire officials said the crash may have been caused by a mechanical failure involving the RV's tie rod.



Harris County seeks public input on FY2027 budget priorities

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

HARRIS COUNTY — Harris County officials are asking residents and business owners to help shape the county's Fiscal Year 2027 budget by participating in a brief online survey aimed at identifying community priorities.

The survey is part of the county's annual budget planning process, which seeks public feedback on how limited financial resources should be allocated while continuing to provide essential services and address the county's growing needs.

County leaders said the input will help guide



decisions on future investments and ensure the FY2027 budget reflects the needs and values of Harris County residents.

The survey takes approximately three to five minutes to complete and asks participants to identify which county services they believe are most important.

To be eligible to participate, individuals must be at least 18 years old

and either reside in Harris County or own a business within the county. Participants are also asked to consent to having their responses combined with those of other respondents for use in the county's budget planning process.

County officials encourage eligible residents to complete the survey and share their perspectives as the budget development process moves forward. Public feedback will be considered alongside other financial and operational factors as county leaders prepare the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 budget. (Source: Harris County Precinct 2 website)

Retired Channelview Teacher Named 2026 'Best of the Best' by Houston Chronicle

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

CHANNELVIEW — Rebecca Hanzel, a recently retired educator from Alice Johnson Junior High, has been named the 2026 Chron Best of the Best Teacher, a prestigious honor recognizing the Greater Houston area's most outstanding educators.

The Chron Best of the Best awards are determined through community nominations and public voting, highlighting individuals who have made significant and lasting contributions across the region. Hanzel's selection reflects the deep admiration and respect she earned during her decades in the classroom.

Hanzel retired at the conclusion of the 2025-2026 school year, capping a remarkable 37-year career entirely within Channelview ISD. Colleagues and former students alike remember her as a pillar of compassion, academic excellence, and unwavering commitment to her students.

"Mrs. Hanzel's impact on generations of Alice Johnson Junior High stu-



dents is immeasurable," a district spokesperson said. "This well-deserved recognition is a testament to her lifelong dedication and the intentional excellence she brought to her work every single day."

The community has extended its gratitude to Hanzel for nearly four decades of shaping young

minds. Her legacy of excellence and heartfelt service will continue to inspire the Alice Johnson Junior High community for years to come.

Congratulations, Mrs. Hanzel, and thank you for 37 years of service to Channelview ISD. (Source: Channelview ISD facebook)



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