



NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

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Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
VOLUME 14, NO. 31 (#627) THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2026 www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CURRENTS

Community Events

Thursday, Aug. 13
10 a.m. — Double Nickel Club: The Double Nickel Club meets on the second Thursday of each month for adults age 55 and older. Meetings are held at St. Andrew Conference Hall, 827 Sheldon Road.
10 a.m. — Northeast Harris County Retired Educators Association: The association meets at the Joyce Zotz Education Center, 13801 Hollypark Drive.
6 p.m. — Monthly Gospel Music Concert: A gospel music concert will be held at the Flukinger Center, 16003 Lorenzo St.
6:45 p.m. — Dinner and Bible Study: East Houston Revival Center, 16221 Bear Bayou Drive, will host dinner followed by Bible study. For information, call (832) 457-4576.
Friday, Aug. 14
11 a.m. — North Shore Exes' Monthly Luncheon: The North Shore Exes will hold their monthly luncheon at Good Times Marina, 11906 Seventh St., Houston.
Saturday, Aug. 15
11 a.m. — Hands of Hope Free Community Meal: A free community meal will be offered at Channelview First Assembly of God.
Sunday, Aug. 16
Noon — Free Pop-Up Grocery Store: A free pop-up grocery store will be held at the W.D. Ley Family YMCA, 15055 Wallisville Road.
Monday, Aug. 17
No events submitted.
Tuesday, Aug. 18
6:30 p.m. — Harris County Democrats Congressional District 9 Monthly Meeting: The group will hold its monthly meeting at the Flukinger Center.
7 p.m. — Channelview ISD Board Meeting: The Channelview Independent School District board will hold its monthly meeting at the district Administration Building.
Wednesday, Aug. 19
1 p.m. — Rusty Buckets Monthly Meeting: The Rusty Buckets will hold its monthly meeting. For information, call (713) 927-1975.
5:30-7 p.m. — Fellowship of the Nations Free Dinner: A free dinner will be offered at Fellowship of the Nations, 13305 Woodforest Blvd.
7 p.m. — Bible Study and Pizza: Miracle Deliverance Holiness Church, 701 Nadoiney, will host Bible study followed by pizza.

Galena Park Branch Library

Saturday, Aug. 29
10:30 a.m. - N400 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.
Book Buddies Program: The program will resume in September, with registration details to be announced soon.

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www.NORTHCHANNELSTAR.com

North Channel leaders unite for growth, infrastructure, and flood control

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Area city representatives used a North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon to make a shared case for regional cooperation, saying the future of the area depends on stronger infrastructure, more economic development, workforce partnerships and long-delayed flood control improvements.

The panel featured Jacinto City City Manager Lon Squyres, Galena Park Fire Chief Tom Ellis and Houston District E Councilman Fred Flickinger. The discussion was moderated by North Channel Chamber Board Chairman Dr. Alexander Okwonna, who framed the conversation around the role each city plays in the broader North Channel area.

"One thing that clearly emerged today is that although the cities have unique priorities, our futures are all interconnected," Okwonna said in closing. "Businesses don't



Galena Park Fire Chief Tom Ellis spoke on behalf of the city of Galena Park at the State of the Cities luncheon at the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce. He was joined by City Manager Lon Squyres from Jacinto City, and City of Houston District E Council member Fred Flickinger.

recognize municipal boundaries, they recognize opportunity. They recognize workforce. They recognize infrastructure, public safety, and quality of life."

The luncheon focused on the question of how Jacinto City, Galena Park and Houston's North Channel communities can build on recent momentum while addressing persistent challenges.

Ellis said his commitment to public service began early.

"I come from a long line of police officers and fire-

fighters," Ellis said. "Serving is always something that my parents encouraged. We're all people and we have the ability to serve. And we have a duty and responsibility to serve."

Squyres said his service began in 1977 as a volunteer firefighter in Jacinto City.

"I felt I needed to give something back to the community," Squyres said. "I've done everything in the city from literally washing dishes all the way up to serving as city manager."

Flickinger said his path into public office grew from long-standing interest in government, grassroots groups and encouragement from former Councilman Dave Martin.

"I'd always been interested in government and politics," Flickinger said. "I hadn't really thought about running. And Dave Martin...asked me if I'd be interested in running."

Much of the discussion centered on infrastructure, with Squyres saying Jacinto City is managing nine separate grants totaling about \$25 million, with another \$10 million grant application pending through the Water Development Board.

"If we can get those things done, it's a game changer," Squyres said. "We've already rehabbed probably 75% of our water lines, about 90% of our sanitary sewers. So that's going to put us in a position where our public infrastructure will be

Continued. See NC LEADERS
STRESS COLLABORATION, Page 5

Casino Fundraiser



Date: Friday, August 14, 2026 |
6:30pm - 10:30pm
Location: Jacinto City Town Center

Casino Fundraiser is the North Channel Foundation annual fundraiser to raise funds towards the William C. Palko Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to a student in the North Channel Area attending San Jacinto College. Each year a different area of study is chosen for the scholarship.

Contact info@nceachamber.com or call 713-450-3600 for sponsorship opportunities, donations, and individual tickets.

THEME: BIKER CASINO FUNDRAISER

What to expect:
Blackjack, roulette, poker, craps
DJ - music and dancing
Food and beverages (Catering from Tacos el Primo and Chick-Fil-A)

Cash bar (all attendees receive two complimentary drink tickets)

Kendra Scott pop-up booth (20% of sales go to the North Channel Foundation)

Networking
Photobooth

Abbott pauses Texas data center projects pending state audit

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott has directed the Public Utility Commission of Texas and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas to halt proposed data center projects from moving forward until state regulators verify critical details about how the facilities would operate, from their electricity and water demands to their ownership and community impacts.

The directive, issued Monday, Aug. 3, requires PUCT and ERCOT to conduct a comprehensive verification and audit of all data centers advancing through ERCOT's interconnection process before any additional projects are



approved. Projects that do not comply with requirements set by the agencies or state law will be denied connection to the Texas grid.

"Our top priority is to protect Texans' safety and quality of life," Abbott said. "Any project that fails to comply with the requirements set forth by the PUCT and ERCOT, and by state law, must be denied connection to the Texas grid. Simply put, Texans must come first."

ERCOT is reviewing more than 474 gigawatts of requests to connect to the state grid, a figure more than five times Texas'

Continued. See GOVERNOR ABBOTT HALTS, Page 2

In Honor of Susan Lynn Hoffman

Summer Pet Care In 2026



Jacinto City citizens with their pets... L - R: Angelica Torres (**The Sourdough Girl) with Kasper & Maria Torres holding Luna their family pets.(Photo by Allan Jamail)

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, TX. ~ I dedicate this article to Susan Lynn Hoffman, the daughter of the North Channel Star Editor and Publisher Gilbert Hoffman. She died unexpectedly May 23, 2023 at the age of 64, from Cardiac Arrest suffered during a scheduled heart procedure.

Susan's interests included taking care for every conceivable stray animal she encountered.

She cared for many stray animals, including cats, dogs, and birds. She kept some, but found

Foster homes when possible. She supported animal shelters and encouraged others to

do the same. Susan, Sgt. Pierson and I love dogs and cats, we have this in common.

On July 30, 2026 at the Jacinto City Park I met pet loving citizens Angelica Torres (The Sourdough Girl) and her mom Maria Torres along with their pet dogs Kasper and Luna. (see photo)

EXTREME HEAT

Continued. See PROTECT PETS
FROM EXTREME SUMMER, Page 2

Houston Methodist Named Among Nation's Best Hospitals & No. 1 in Texas

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

HOUSTON - Houston Methodist Hospital has once again earned national recognition for patient care, being named to the U.S. News & World Report Honor Roll of the nation's best hospitals for the 10th time and retaining its position as the No. 1 hospital in Texas.

The annual 2026-27 rankings also mark the 34th consecutive year that Houston Methodist Hospital has been recognized in at least one medical specialty.

According to the hospital, it is ranked in 11 spe-



cialties, including 10 nationally and one regionally in rehabilitation. Six specialties placed among the nation's top 20: gastroenterology and GI surgery (No. 5), obstetrics and gynecology (No. 7), cardiology, heart and vascular surgery (No. 10), pulmonol-

ogy and lung surgery (No. 11), neurology and neurosurgery (No. 13), and cancer care (No. 19).

Additional nationally ranked specialties include orthopedics (No. 21, tie), diabetes and endocrinology (No. 23, tie), geriatrics (No. 24), and urology (No. 43).

Several Houston Methodist community hospitals also earned high marks in the statewide rankings.

Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital ranked No. 3 in Texas (tie) and No. 2 in the Houston metropolitan area, with six ranked specialties, including five nationally and one regionally.

Houston Methodist The Woodlands Hospital was ranked No. 7 in Texas and No. 5 in the Houston area, while Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital placed No. 9 statewide and No. 6 in the Houston region.

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital ranked No.

14 in Texas and No. 8 in the Houston metropolitan area. Houston Methodist Clear Lake Hospital was ranked No. 21 in Texas (tie) and No. 10 in the Houston area (tie).

"This recognition reflects the remarkable dedication of our physicians and employees and their tireless focus on delivering unparalleled care to our patients," said Dr. Marc L. Boom, president and chief executive officer of Houston Methodist. "While we are honored by this recognition, its true significance lies in what it represents — an unwavering commitment to putting patients first."

Governor Abbott halts Texas data center projects amid grid reliability,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



record peak electricity demand in the ERCOT region. State officials said about 90 percent of those new power requests are tied to data centers, raising concerns that rapid load growth could threaten grid reliability if projects are not fully vetted.

Abbott’s latest order builds on his June 10 directive and requires state regulators to obtain detailed information from each data center project before allowing construction-related approvals to proceed through the interconnection process. The required information includes whether developers are paying their own way or relying on state or local financial assistance, including tax incentives, grants, abatements or other public support.

The governor also directed PUCT and ERCOT to determine whether each project will provide its own electricity or rely on the ERCOT grid, including projected annual and peak electricity consumption and any plans to build or procure on-site generation. Regulators must also review projected water use, anticipated water sources, cooling technology and whether facilities will use air-cooled, closed-loop or other water-efficient systems.

Projects must also dis-

close steps to reduce impacts on neighboring property owners and communities, including noise mitigation, light controls, setbacks, traffic improvements and emergency response coordination. Abbott’s directive further requires information about ownership and controlling interests in each project.

Earlier directive sought to shield ratepayers. In his June 10 directive, Abbott told PUCT and ERCOT to take immediate steps to protect residential ratepayers from costs associated with data center expansion.

“Data centers must operate in ways that reduce costs for residential electricity customers, do not drain water needed for our communities, and take into consideration the needs of our neighborhoods,” Abbott said at the time.

That earlier order required the PUC to make data centers fully fund the electric infrastructure needed to serve their operations so those costs are not shifted to residential ratepayers. It also directed the PUC and ERCOT to identify additional actions within their authority to safeguard residential and small business customers and submit a joint memorandum to the governor’s office by July 17, 2026.

Abbott also directed the PUC to initiate action by July 31, 2026, to reduce residential transmission costs. He pledged to work with lawmakers next session to codify protections requiring data centers to add to Texas’ electric capacity rather than simply increasing demand, use water-efficient cooling systems, report accurate electricity and water usage data, phase out outdated tax incentives and adopt practices such as setbacks and noise reduction to protect nearby communities.

With the latest directive, Abbott signaled that proposed data centers will face a more rigorous state review before they can move ahead in Texas’ rapidly expanding technology and artificial intelligence infrastructure market.

Data centers are already a major presence in Texas, though estimates vary widely because public trackers use different definitions and reporting methods. Some industry databases count roughly 129 to more than 200 operating facilities in the state, while broader market estimates place the total above 600. Texas does not appear to maintain a single official historical inventory, and available public sources do not clearly identify the first data center built in the state.

Protect pets from extreme summer heat,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

WAVE CONCERNS: Angelica and Maria were anxious to help with my article in hopes readers would take notice of it and take some special care and extra steps this summer to prevent the mistreatment of pets.

It’s highly recommended instead of the normal summer care for pets pet owners this summer will change their outdoor pets water several times each day to insure they have plenty of cool fresh water and sufficient shade they can get out of the blazing hot sun light.

The Texas Safe Outdoor Act (TSOA) is a law which requires pet owners to adhere to and or conform to or risk prosecution. The law strikes the 24-hour waiting period so animal services and law enforcement can take immediate action for dogs in distress.

The TSOA in Texas will be enforced by local governments and law enforcement agencies and their officers. Cities and counties may appoint animal control officers to enforce animal-related laws and respond to complaints from the public. Law enforcement agencies can enforce laws relating to dangerous dogs that can attack people.

Patrol officers are on watch for outside pets being placed on a short leash less than 10 feet long in violation of TSOA. Also for anything that appears to be inflicting the mistreatment of a dog or cat.

Penalties for violating the new dog and cat laws include fines, seizure of the animal and even criminal charges and someone found guilty of animal cruelty could face jail time.

Some people take good care of their pets while at home indoors but then without thinking they’ll take their dogs out for a walk not realizing the hot pavement is well over 150 degrees on their paws. They sometime fail to realize the pavement temperatures are as hot on the dog’s paws exactly as it would be on their own bare feet. This is animal cruelty even though it’s unintentional.

HEAT STROKE SYMPTOMS & TREATMENT

Texas law requires fresh cool water be made available to outdoor pets to prevent them from overheating and having a heat stroke and providing for their pets some shaded shelter out of the blazing hot sun.

Dogs or cats suffering from a heat stroke may have some of these symptoms; they’ll lie down, pant when breathing, have excessive drooling, has a fast heart beat. FIRST AID TREATMENT: immediately cool down the pet by wetting it with cool water but not ice water put a fan on it and take it to a veterinarian.

ALL DOGS & CATS REQUIRED TO BE REGISTERED & LICENSED IN THEIR CITY EVERY 6 MONTHS

According to the Texas Health and Safety Code



Michi, an orange cat rescued from the streets of Monterrey, Mexico, was brought to his new life in Houston by the daughter and son of North Channel Newspaper staff writer Gerardo Hernandez.(Photo by Gerardo Hernandez)

Chapter 828, all dogs and cats must be registered with the local animal services agency by the time the animal is four months old.

NEW TEXAS LAW: Pet owners must now renew their pet’s registration every six months rather than annually. This change aims to encourage more frequent veterinary visits and ensure vaccinations stay up-to-date. Failure to register or renew a pet’s license may result in late fees or civil penalties. However, some municipalities are using positive reinforcement by offering registration discounts for micro chipped pets.

TEXAS LAW MANDATES ALL DOGS & CATS MUST BE VACCINATED

In Texas, all dogs and cats over 3 months of age must be vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian. The rabies vaccine must be administered every 1 or 3 years depending on the type of vaccine used.

Failure to vaccinate dogs against rabies may result in fines and owners can face criminal charges for allowing unvaccinated dogs to expose others to rabies. The city may also impose quarantines on dogs without proof of rabies vaccination.

TYING OUTDOOR DOGS / 10 FOOT RULE / DOG CHAINING IS ILLEGAL

Texas passed the Safe Outdoor Dogs Act (TSOA) which establishes rules about tying and chaining dogs outdoors. Dog on chains is illegal. The main changes include:

All dogs must be kept on a leash or have a physical barrier separating them from the public when outside of their owner’s property.

Dogs cannot be tied unattended outdoors with a restraint less than 10 feet long.

The leash must be attached to a proper collar or harness, not directly around the dog’s neck. Tied up dogs must have access to drinkable water and adequate shelter from the sun, heat or freezing temperatures.

Under the TSOAct owners are now barred from tying up their dogs outside with chains or weighed-down restraints. The length of an outdoor re-

straint must be 10 feet long or five times the dog’s length from nose to tail. A good walking leash length in order to keep control of a dog is from four to six feet and not over ten feet.

Tying up a dog outside is prohibited when a heat advisory or hurricane, tropical storm, or severe thunderstorm warning has been issued. Tying dogs outdoors is banned when the temperature drops below 32°F for more than 4 consecutive hours.

These rules aim to prevent inhumane treatment and dangerous conditions for outdoor dogs in Texas. Violations are punishable under the state’s animal cruelty laws.

As a patrolman before I became chief of police~city marshal I had the city’s first official K-9 dog that was used on patrol in a police unit. My German Shepherd’s name was Susan but called Susie for short. Susie helped me one night apprehend a criminal who broke into the office of the Houston Wiper & Mill Supply Co. When out at night patrolling Susie always gave me a sense of security, I kept her window down, when stopping a vehicle as I talked to a driver she would bark loud and the driver knew my K-9 was watching and nearby.

To review the Texas Laws: Chapter 821 of the Texas Health and Safety Code & Dangerous Dogs Chapter 822, Subchapters A & B, of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

REPORTING PET MISTREATMENT: The public plays a role by reporting violations. Call your local law enforcement agency any time you suspect an animal’s basic needs are not being met. Phone numbers to keep in your cell phone for reporting any crime: Houston Police – 713-884-3131, Harris County Sheriff Office 713-221-6000, Jacinto City Police – 713-672-2455, Galena Park Police – 713-675-3471, Constable Pct. 2 Jerry Garcia - 713-477-4070, Constable Pct. 3 Sherman Eagleton - 713-274-2500.

**Angelica Torres (The Sourdough Girl) the owner of the Dosey Dough Bakery, she takes orders through her website on Hotplate.com/angelicabakes.

GALENA PARK ISD SUPERINTENDENT’S MESSAGE

Dr. John C. Moore, Jr

Dear Galena Park ISD Family and Friends,

Welcome back, everyone! As we begin the 2026-2027 school year, I am thrilled to continue our journey of supporting students and helping them reach their full potential. Galena Park ISD (GPISD) truly is a Great Place to Be, and I am honored to be part of this resilient and supportive community.

This year, our “Think Big” theme encourages us to pursue Big Dreams, build Big Connections, and create meaningful opportunities for every student. As we move forward, let us continue to focus on consistency and excellence in all that we do. In the classroom, on the field, and through community activities, we remain committed to enriching



Dr. John C. Moore, Jr
Galena Park ISD Superintendent

the lives of our students academically, socially, and emotionally.

This August, our character trait is Citizenship how perfect to begin a new school year!

Citizenship is all about being an active and responsible member of our community. It means showing respect, getting involved, and working toward the common good.! encourage everyone to embrace this trait by partici-

pating in school activities, lending a helping hand, and positively contributing to the success of every student in GPISD.

Together, we can maintain an environment where everyone feels valued and connected.

Thank you for your continued dedication to this amazing partnership. Your support helps our district thrive and makes a lasting difference in the lives of our students. Here’s to a fantastic school year filled with growth, achievement, and new opportunities to Think Big.

First Day of School Wednesday, August 12
Welcome back to Galena Park ISD!

John Moore, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



2026/2027

Galena Park - Football (M) Varsity

GP Varsity Football

Date	Time	Opponent	Location	Special Notes
Aug 20	6:30 PM	vs Waltrip	GPHS Dement Field	
Aug 27	7:00 PM	vs Porter	Galena Park ISD Stadium	
Sep 3	7:00 PM	vs Kempner	Galena Park ISD Stadium	
Sep 10	7:00 PM	vs Kingwood Park	Galena Park ISD Stadium	
Sep 18	7:30 PM	@ Huffman	Huffman Falcon Stadium	
Sep 24	7:00 PM	vs Texas City	Galena Park ISD Stadium	
Oct 2	7:00 PM	@ Dayton	Bronco Stadium	
Oct 9	7:00 PM	vs Nederland	Galena Park ISD Stadium	
Oct 15	7:00 PM	@ Baytown Lee	Stallworth Stadium	
Oct 30	7:00 PM	vs Santa Fe	Galena Park ISD Stadium	
Nov 6	7:00 PM	@ Port Neches Groves		Indian Stadium

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Atom X



Audien Hearing

If you have been on a float in the pool or at the beach and tried to put your feel on the ground and found yourself with wobbly legs or weak knees, then you can relate to what has been happening in my life lately. It seems I am floating fine for a while and then, I get a phone call or message and my legs are wobbly. Yet thanks to the prayers of many, I am standing firm. For the many who have asked, my son's health is improving daily, and I am scheduled to visit him on Saturday.

And as I moved around the community the past few weeks, I have seen an abundance of events helping with school supplies, backpacks, haircuts and more. Special thanks go out to so many groups and individuals who have been giving from their hearts as well as their own funds to help people who may never

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Standing Firm

know the names of the donors. This year, there were many small businesses hosting events for back to school and I am very proud of those like Bonfire Wings who, during celebrating their 25th anniversary, distributed more than 100 backpacks filled with supplies. And while at that event, I looked up and saw this precious little boy and kept thinking "Why do I know him?" Suddenly I realized that it was a young man who I had not seen in over a decade. I had watched Willie grow up at Woodforest Baptist Church and as he came over for a hug, he loudly yelled "Momma!". Tears flowed from the happiness of seeing him standing firm despite obstacle he

had faced. Next thing I knew, the little boy asked, "Are you my grandmother?" All I could do was hug him and let him know that while he was not, he was welcome to call Grandmother or even Grammy which my three grandchildren call me. Looking around, I saw many familiar faces and was reminded of how thankful I am to have parents that when we moved here in 1971, made the choice to build a home in the Galena Park ISD so that we would have a firm foundation.

As I walked into church on Sunday, there were children giggly with excitement about the activities planned after church. The youth department had joined forces with volun-

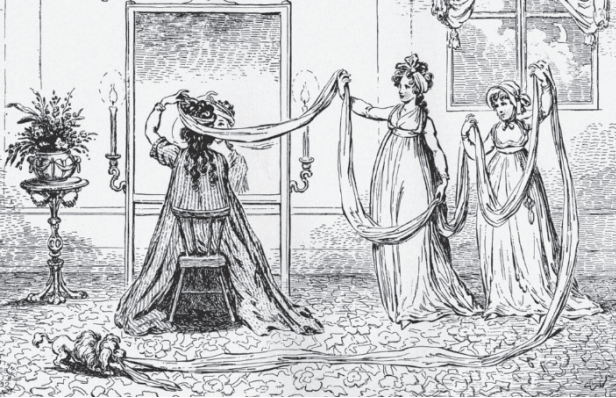
teer barbers, hairstylists, and many others who donated uniforms, athletic shoes, school supplies, food and snacks. And where would our children be without all the back-to-school events that included vaccinations? Harris County Public Health teamed up with McDonald's as well as the Foundation of Hope to provide many opportunities to have children on a healthy start for the school year. Again, when a community stands firm and builds relationships, life is not nearly as rough as it is when we become disenfranchised.

As a reminder, high school football season is here and not only do you need to show up and support the students that you see on the field and off the field but be sure to cover each one of them as well as their families and the educators, families and entire community in prayer.

ASK DIAMOND JIM



Diamond Jim: "Why do we have Bridesmaids and Groomsmen?"



Bridesmaids and groomsmen are among the most recognizable wedding traditions. These groups of close friends and family members are often a crucial part of celebrations today — a wedding party helps plan events, offers emotional support, and stands beside the couple on their wedding day.

But where did this tradition start? Were groomsmen warriors who protected the couple from disapproving relatives? Were bridesmaids meant to distract and ward off evil spirits? Myths abound, but the origins of these roles are actually much more practical than fantastical.

The First Wedding Attendants

The idea of having trusted people participate in a marriage ceremony dates back thousands of years. In many ancient societies, marriage was not only a personal relationship between two people

but also a legal, religious, and social agreement involving families and communities. Because weddings represented important social bonds, other people often served as witnesses, helpers, and participants.

How the Roles Developed

The wedding attendants we recognize today developed primarily from European wedding traditions, although many cultures around the world have long included attendants or ceremonial helpers in marriage celebrations. In medieval and early modern Europe, marriage ceremonies often involved relatives, household members, and other participants who helped support the proceedings.

The terms "bridesmaid" and "groomsman" appeared later in English — "bridesmaid" in the 16th century and "groomsman" in the 17th century — and the responsibilities of these roles varied depending on the time period, culture, and social status of the couple. Wealthy families often held elaborate weddings requiring many people to assist with clothing, ceremonies, and celebrations, while smaller communities relied on close friends and relatives for practical help and support.

Over time, attendants became less focused on practical assistance and more closely associated with friendship, loyalty, and emotional support. Certain attendants also took on more prominent roles. The title "maid of honor" originally referred to an unmarried female attendant at a royal court, particularly one who served a queen or princess. By the 19th century, it was also used for the bride's principal attendant. If that attendant was married, she was traditionally known as the matron of honor.

The groom's chief attendant was historically known as a groomsman. The term "best man" emerged in the early 19th century, with Scottish origins, and eventually became the more common title. Although the names developed separately, both roles reflect the long-standing tradition of choosing close companions to support the bride and groom during marriage ceremonies.

Fact or Folklore?

Like many wedding traditions, the history of bridesmaids and groomsmen blends documented customs with centuries of folklore — which means that some of the most familiar stories about their origins are romantic, dramatic, and difficult to prove.

The legends surrounding bridesmaids and groomsmen continue to endure because they add mystery and romance to wedding traditions. But the documented history is perhaps just as meaningful — for centuries, couples have chosen the people they trust most to stand beside them as they begin married life.

Ready to explore exquisite jewelry that tells a story? From engagement rings to unique pieces, Pineforest Jewelry has something for everyone. Dive in, create your dream piece, and let us be a part of your journey.

Thank you for reading the "Ask Diamond Jim" column and for supporting the North Channel Star Newspaper!

Diamond Jim is a master jeweler, diamond dealer and precious metals broker. Pineforest Jewelry has been a proud member of the Independent Jewelers Organization (IJO) and the Retail Jewelers Organization (RJO) for many years. See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com.

If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email jimills@pineforestjewelry.com.

2026/2027 North Shore - Football (M) Varsity NS Football

Date	Time	Opponent	Location	Special Notes
Aug 20	6:00 PM	vs Cy-Creek	Galena Park ISD Stadium	
Aug 28	7:00 PM	vs Lancaster	Galena Park ISD Stadium	
Sep 4	7:00 PM	@ John Curtis		Our Lady of Lourdes, LA
Sep 12	4:00 PM	@ South Oak Cliff		Cotton Bowl Stadium
Sep 18	7:00 PM	@ Crosby	Cougar Stadium	
Sep 25	7:00 PM	vs Atascocita	Galena Park ISD Stadium	
Oct 1	7:00 PM	@ Humble	Turner Stadium	
Oct 9	7:00 PM	@ Summer Creek	Turner Stadium	
Oct 23	7:00 PM	vs CE King	Galena Park ISD Stadium	
Oct 30	7:00 PM	@ Channelview	Maddy Stadium	
Nov 5	7:00 PM	vs Kingwood	Galena Park ISD Stadium	

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Galena Park ISD will hold a public meeting at 5:55pm, August 25, 2026 in Administration Building, 14705 Woodforest Blvd., Houston, Texas 77015. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

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

Maintenance Tax	\$0.868700/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	\$0.414310/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)
Approved by Local Voters	

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

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

Maintenance and operations	3.17 % increase
Debt Service	21.99 % increase
Total Expenditures	5.81 % increase

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

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$16,022,541,587	\$15,682,992,577
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$144,650,868	\$226,263,303
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$11,393,999,608	\$11,152,538,460
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$102,864,575	\$160,901,064

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

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$437,006,147

*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$0.875590	\$0.374310	\$1.249900	\$7,377	\$7,392
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0.837330	\$0.428340	\$1.265670	\$8,130	\$7,159
Proposed Rate	\$0.868700	\$0.414310	\$1.283010	\$8,036	\$7,328

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

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

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$190,062	\$190,305
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$73,532	\$74,929
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.249900	\$1.283010
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$919.08	\$961.35
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$42.27

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

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.28940. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.28940.

Fund Balances

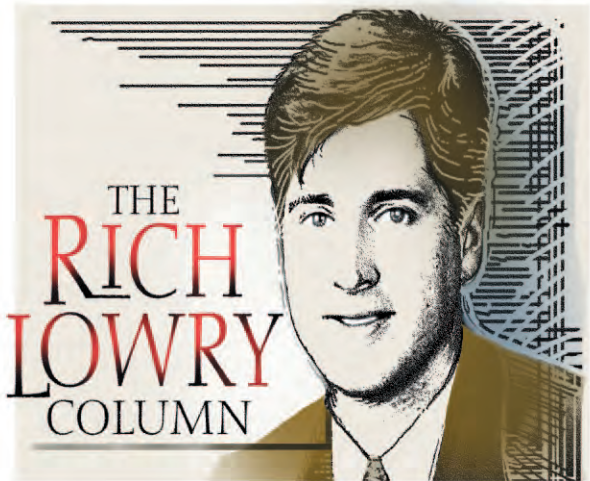
The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment.

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$222,657,139
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$11,397,301

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

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

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



The Iran War is eating Trump’s presidency

An Iran war that was supposed to be brief, and then was supposed to be over, is imposing an increasing price on Donald Trump’s presidency.

We’ve seen a second term of a Republican administration go this way before. There are distinct echoes of George W. Bush’s Iraq War — the conflict that Trump has long excoriated —in the president’s predicament.

Now, the Iran War is different from Iraq. There is no ground invasion, no regime change, no occupation, no counterinsurgency. The casualties aren’t close to the same scale, and Donald Trump has been fighting Iran for months, whereas George W. Bush was embroiled in Iraq for years (and so were his successors).

Yet, the political trajectory looks similar. Then, as now, an unpopular conflict is putting downward pressure on a Republican president’s approval rating.

Mainstream pollsters routinely have Trump’s approval rating below 40%, and some put it below 35%; Fox News has him at 39%, while CNN (34%) and AP (33%) are lower. At this juncture of Bush’s second term, his average approval rating was a roughly comparable 38%, although he had further to fall as the war continued and the financial crisis hit.

If the Iran War is not exacting nearly the same price in blood and treasure as the Iraq War, it is inflicting a direct economic cost on Americans that wasn’t present during the Iraq war.

It was often said of violent clashes in the streets of the U.S. in the 1960s, “The Vietnam War has come home.” Well, the Iran War came home the first time the average price per gallon of gasoline went above \$4. Trump would have much more leeway to engage in a protracted operation to bring Iran to heel if the public could, in effect, forget about the war for a while, but there’s a reminder every day of what’s happening in the Strait of Hormuz on gas signs across America.

In the CNN poll, 28% approve Trump’s handling of Iran, while 25% approve his handling of inflation and 21% of gas prices. These issues are related. Trump wants his presidency to matter. So, rather than being content with doing whatever he could at the margins to lower prices, he went for big, legacy-defining initiatives — tariffs and the Iran War — that raised prices. In so doing, he forfeited his signature issue of economic stewardship. In the latest Fox News poll, 33% approve of his handling of the economy and 67% disapprove.

When the memorandum of understanding with Iran was signed, Trump boasted about how, by reopening the strait, it would avoid greater economic distress; he said he didn’t want to be another Herbert Hoover. Now, the strait is basically closed again. Absent another deal, he’s faced with the choice of escalation or an ongoing low-level conflict, neither of which is going to be palatable to the public.

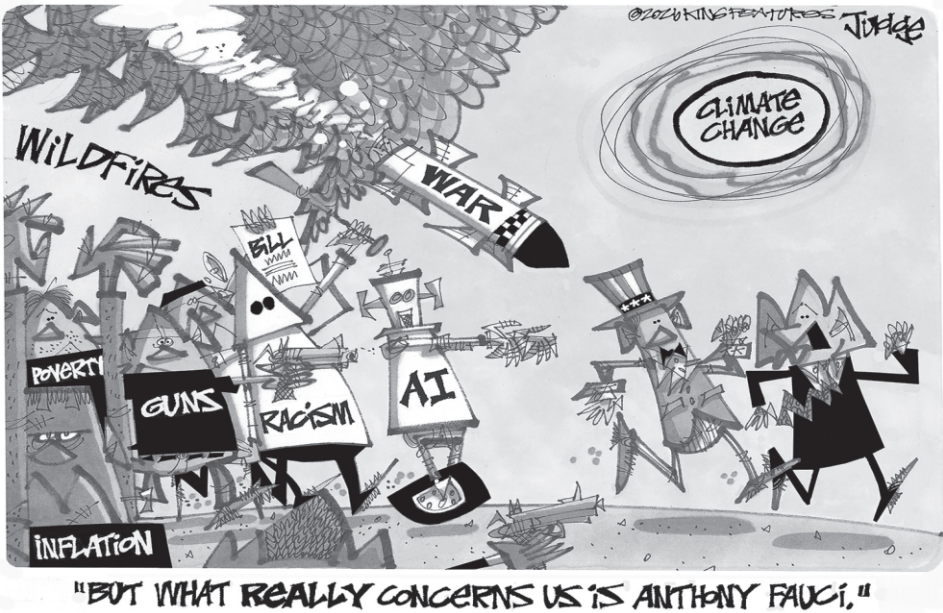
The CNN poll found that nearly three-quarters of Americans think Trump hasn’t paid enough attention to the country’s most pressing problems. The fact is that Iran wasn’t a priority for the public and there was no attempt by the White House to make it one until after it had already launched the war.

Just as Bush’s success in toppling the Taliban created the predicate for the Iraq War, Trump’s stunning capture of Nicolas Maduro made it easier to believe that the Iran war would be a cakewalk. The idealistic establishment Republican and the “America First” populist both got lured into overestimating the efficacy of American military power.

We still don’t know how the Iran war will end. Perhaps Trump will manage a satisfactory conclusion, and he has more room to bounce back up again politically than Bush did after years of the Iraq War. Still, the next Republican president would be well served to be more prudent and mindful of worst-case scenarios when launching major military operations than either of his two, otherwise very different, GOP predecessors.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Cyclosporiasis mostly in two regions in state

Nearly three-fourths of cyclosporiasis cases detected in Texas have been confined to two regions, The Dallas Morning News reported. The Texas Department of State Health Services provided numbers for each of the state’s eight public health regions. Most cases this year, from the beginning of May until late July, have been reported in two regions: Region 11 and Region 6/5S.

Region 11 includes Corpus Christi and the southernmost part of Texas. Of the 106 lab-confirmed cases statewide, 48 were reported from that region — or 45%. Region 6/5S includes the city of Houston and Harris County, and an additional 29 cases were reported in that region. Together, the two regions account for roughly 73% of the state’s cases.

The diarrhea-inducing parasite has hit other states hard. Michigan, for example, has reported thousands of cases. Texas thus far has seen cyclosporiasis cases at about the same level as in the past few years.

THC HEMP PRODUCTS ONCE AGAIN BANNED IN TEXAS

Effective July 31, products containing cannabinoids such as delta-8 THC, delta-10 THC and THCP are banned in Texas, following a years-long legal fight over state hemp regulations, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

The Texas Supreme Court on May 1 upheld the authority of the Texas Department of State Health Services to adopt rules that in effect ban those THC products.

The Texas Hemp Business Council warned businesses on July 15 to prepare for the change.

“Businesses should evaluate their inventory and prepare to remove or sell through products containing more than trace amounts of delta-8, delta-10, delta-6, THCP, and other cannabinoids that fall within the reinstated



definition before the July 31 effective date,” the council said.

Texas consumers are now largely limited to ingestible and topical hemp products made with compliant delta-9 THC. Gummies, edibles and beverages containing no more than 0.3% delta-9 THC by dry weight remain legal.

PAXTON SAYS HE WILL DEBATE TALARICO

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said last week that he will debate state Rep. James Talarico, D-Round Rock, in the state’s U.S. Senate race, though no date has been set, The Texas Tribune reported.

Talarico, the Democratic nominee, said he had accepted invitations from Texas media groups for three debates. The Paxton campaign confirmed it had received the same debate invitations and said the attorney general plans to debate but did not commit to specific dates.

“Of course, we are going to debate James Talarico, and we look forward to engaging with potential debate hosts,” Paxton senior adviser Nick Maddux said in a statement.

Talarico has agreed to televised debates on Sept. 22 in the Rio Grande Valley; Oct. 6 in Dallas; and Oct. 13 in Austin.

Maddux said the Paxton campaign was “close to terms with one outlet now and expect an announcement to be forthcoming shortly.”

Meanwhile, a new Fox polls shows Talarico with

a slight lead, according to the Houston Chronicle. The poll shows him leading Paxton by three points, 51-48, boosted by strong leads among independent voters and other key constituencies.

VOTERS WRONGLY FLAGGED AS POTENTIAL NONCITIZENS

Election officials across Texas should immediately reinstate some voters who were incorrectly flagged as possible noncitizens through a federal program, according to The Tribune. Christina Adkins, the state elections director, told county officials in a phone call that Texas Department of Public Safety records have confirmed the citizenship of some of the 2,724 registered voters singled out as potential noncitizens.

The voters were flagged after the state checked its voter roll through a federal program called Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements, or SAVE, that is used to verify the citizenship of registered voters.

Former Secretary of State Jane Nelson sent a letter in April to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services that raised concerns about the accuracy of the SAVE program, after county election officials found citizens wrongly labeled noncitizens.

ABBOTT PLAN CALLS FOR LOWER HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS

Gov. Greg Abbott last week revealed plans to lower health insurance costs and drug prices by making it cheaper for small businesses to offer insurance to their workers, the Chronicle reported. He said state mandates have made it too expensive for many small businesses to offer health insurance for their employees.

Abbott called for legislation that would allow those businesses to offer plans that don’t meet all state mandates that exceed what is required by the federal government. That generally would mean thinner coverage for employees.

“Small businesses want to provide their employees with health care insurance. It’s just good policy, it’s a good strategy, but also, it’s essential for them to be able to compete with other employers,” Abbott said at a campaign event.

The state leads the nation in uninsured people, with some 5 million Texans lacking health insurance.

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



Happy Anticipation



Since my niece, Isabelle, was little, she was always a planner. She was the only kindergartner I knew who laid out her outfit for the following day on her bed the night before.

“Which tights do you think I should wear?” she would ask me, very seriously. She would have her outfit laid out on the bed with two competing pairs of tights, and I would be tasked with determining which color would best complete the ensemble. I usually thought that either would work nicely. But I admired how Isabelle was ready for the next demanding day at kindergarten. At some point early on, Isabelle had grasped the idea that the future was something that could be planned, and she ran with it.

We would be on our way to a restaurant with my mom and dad, and Isabelle would be overwhelmed with excitement for what the day would bring. “After we have lunch, Grandpa, can we play downstairs? And after that, can we go swimming? And after that—”

This would go on and on. If she wasn’t stopped, Isabelle could easily have mapped out the rest of our lives on the drive to lunch.

“I’m not planning anything!” my father (Isabelle’s grandpa) would finally say.

I knew this was a lie; my dad has always been a planner. He always said that at least half the fun of a vacation was planning it. I come from a family of planners, and so the fact that Isabelle enjoyed anticipating the future so much should come as no surprise. And while it could get a little tiresome, having every moment planned out in excruciating detail, I understood where Isabelle was coming from. It’s nice to have something to look forward to.

Isabelle just got back from a year in Argentina. She loved it, she tells me. I wrote to her while she was still there and asked if she wanted to go to a musical when she got back. She said that she did. We went out to dinner and then we saw a musical together, just as we used to before she went away. I knew she was sad to leave Argentina, and the musical gave her something to look forward to.

I buy tickets to musicals months in advance and look forward to the event with happy anticipation. My husband, Peter, can tell you when we will travel to Mexico many months before we do. I have a reasonably good idea of what I will be working on for months in advance. The good part about this is that I always have something to look forward to. The trouble with it is that sometimes, by the time the event arrives, it is almost an anticlimax. I wonder if my life lacks spontaneity. I worry that I am falling into a rut.

But there is an old saying: “Man plans, God laughs.” And it’s true, much of my life does not turn out the way I expect. I never know what the future will bring. As good as Isabelle is at planning tomorrow’s outfit, the direction her life will take is still unknown. The same is true for all of us.

So maybe it is a good thing to have small plans to look forward to with happy anticipation. My big plans will often have to change, and life will hand out disappointments, no matter how well I plan. It’s good to have some small, sweet moments I can look forward to. And it’s important to be wearing the right color tights when they happen.

Till next time,
Carrie

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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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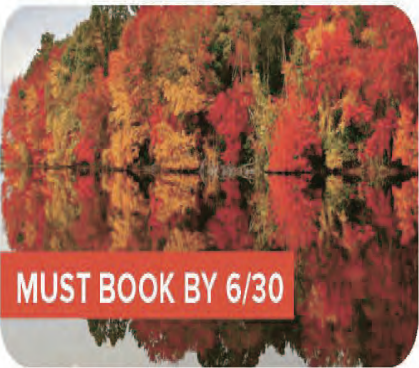
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NC leaders stress collaboration, infrastructure, flood control,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The first North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce State of the Cities luncheon was a success with the vision of each city laid out clearly. From left, City of Houston District E Council member Fred Flickinger, NCACOC Board Chairman Dr. Alexander Okwonna, Galena Park Fire Chief Tom Ellis, Jacinto City City Manager Lon Squyres, and NCACOC president and CEO Margie Buentello. Jacinto City Mayor Anna Diaz is front and center.

virtually new for all practical purposes.”

Ellis said Galena Park also is moving forward with infrastructure work, including water line improvements and pipe-bursting projects. But he said one of the most significant investments in the city’s future is coming from Galena Park ISD, including a new high school, a new MacArthur Elementary, middle school additions and renovations at the early childhood learning center.

“That influence absolutely is going to shape the future of the city,” Ellis said, pointing specifically to career and technical education programs at Galena Park High School. “Those things are huge investments in our children that are going to have life-long and generational impact on the area.”

Flickinger said economic development is a top priority for the Houston portion of the North Channel area.

“We really thought that additional economic development would benefit the area more than anything would,” Flickinger said. He noted that companies tied to maritime, industrial and supply-chain work may be drawn to the area because of its access to highways and waterways.

Ellis said Galena Park is seeing renewed investment linked to its industrial base, including activity along the Ship Channel, new industrial users and expansions by existing businesses. But he said city leaders also want to bring back smaller, locally owned businesses.

“The biggest thing that we’re trying to do, it’s great that we have all this corporate investment, but how do we start to bring back those mom-and-pop shops and things that Galena Park once had?” Ellis said. “Business time is money. So if you can make it streamlined and faster, that’s what we’re hoping to do.”

In Jacinto City, Squyres said infrastructure upgrades are already encouraging new home construction, remodeling and commercial interest. He also described a forthcoming but still unnamed green-energy-related company expected to reuse the site of a former glass bottle manufacturing plant.

“The initial investment is \$50 million, but it should be within a couple of years we’re talking about \$200 million probably,” Squyres said. “For a small city, that’s quite an investment.”

Flickinger said Houston has already made improvements in the area, including repaving Market Street from Loop 610, repaving neighborhood streets and planning future work including repaving Uvalde Road. He also pointed to park improvements and tree planting as

City of Houston District E Council member Fred Flickinger took office last year and is quickly getting acquainted with the North Shore/Songwood area of North Channel. He announced big plans for a paving project coming next year.

quality-of-life investments.

“In order to have economic development, you’ve got to have a lot of other stuff as well,” Flickinger said. “Those types of things make quite a bit of difference.”

The panelists also discussed the importance of workforce development. Ellis said schools, businesses and government must maintain close relationships to prepare residents for changing industries.

“The schools have to keep up and sort of be a little bit ahead of what’s going to happen,” Ellis said. “The only way to do that is to have those relationships with industry.”

Squyres said cities can help connect businesses with education and workforce organizations rather than try to train workers directly.

“Cities aren’t in the business of training for jobs,” Squyres said. “We’re going to point those individuals toward our colleges, toward our high schools, and they’re geared to do that.”

Flickinger said San Jacinto College is playing a major role in attracting investment, particularly in the Generation Park area.

“Education plays a huge role,” Flickinger said. “Everybody plays a part and we’ve all got to do our part to make it work.”

When Okwonna asked what single regional initiative the three communities should collaborate on, the answer quickly turned to flood control.

Squyres called the Hunting Bayou flooding issue a personal priority, saying the bayou’s configuration contributes to flooding in Jacinto City, Galena Park and Houston neighborhoods such as Songwood.

“It’s got to be fixed,” Squyres said. “This is my life mission at this point. I’m tired of seeing people get flooded.”

Ellis agreed, saying new flood maps will worsen the financial impact on Galena Park residents and businesses.

“There’s solutions to the problem,” Ellis said. “I just don’t understand why we continue to spend money on studies that we already

know the answers to, but nobody wants to put a shovel in the dirt and actually solve the problem.”

Flickinger also ranked flooding as a major concern, saying regional leaders need to push for projects that address the worst flooding first.

“Whatever helps the area helps all the area,” Flickinger said. “Whatever we can do to work together and try to bring some of these businesses into the area will absolutely help everybody.”

The panelists said changing the perception of the North Channel area will require better marketing, visible improvements and more collaboration.

Squyres said the area has not always done a good job of promoting itself.

“Our image is lacking,” Squyres said. “We’re not good at promoting ourselves. I think the chamber plays a big part in that.”

Flickinger said appearance matters in shaping public perception. “If things look nice when you drive through the area, people have a better perception of it,” Flickinger said. “Whatever we can do to spruce up the area I think makes a huge difference.”

Ellis said Galena Park is working to rebuild relationships with the chamber, industry, the school district and neighboring cities.

“It’s going to take all of us working together to get these projects done,” Ellis said. “It’s a great place to live. It’s a great place to work.”

The discussion closed with each speaker naming a one-word vision for the future. Flickinger chose “improvement.” Squyres answered, “growth with a proper flood control to support it.” Ellis followed with “improvement on flood control to promote growth.”

Okwonna thanked the panelists and said the Chamber’s role is to serve as a convener and advocate for the region.

“That is exactly why the North Channel Area Chamber exists,” Okwonna said, “to bring together, foster collaboration, to advocate for businesses, and to help our entire region prosper.”

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Sunny Sandler, Left, and Melanie Lynskey stars in “Don’t Say Good Luck.”

“Don’t Say Good Luck.”

“Camp Rock 3” (TV-G) — Almost 16 years after “Camp Rock 2: The Final Jam” premiered on The Disney Channel, the third film of the series is set to release on Aug. 14. The film was announced last fall, with news of the Jonas Brothers (“A Very Jonas Christmas Movie”) and Maria Canals-Barrera (“Wizards Beyond Waverly Place”) returning to reprise their roles. (Demi Lovato, who played lead Mitchie Torres in the previous films, serves only as an executive producer.) The film picks up as fictional band Connect 3 (Joe, Nick and Kevin Jonas) head back to their beloved camp to find a new opening act after the original opener cancels at the last minute. They plan to host a competition, and a few new campers, including Sage (Liamani Segura) and Fletch (Malachi Barton), have their sights set on taking it all. (Disney+)

“Don’t Say Good Luck” (PG-13) — Adam Sandler’s youngest daughter, Sunny Sandler (“Happy Gilmore 2”), is slowly starting to make a name for herself! In this musical teen drama, she stars as 15-year-old Sophie, opposite Melanie Lynskey (“Yellowjackets”) and Max Greenfield (“New Girl”). A theater kid with dreams of taking the stage as the lead in her high school musical, Sophie’s preparing for the biggest audition of her life, just as jaw-dropping news hits her family. Her mom’s (Lynskey) cancer has unfortunately returned, and even though Sophie’s overjoyed to eventually get the part, the weight of her mom’s illness overshadows her happiness. With no choice but to push through and continue to live her teenage life, Sophie must balance her grief against her aspirations and figure out how to find a silver lin-

ing in the situation. Premieres Aug. 14. (Netflix)

“Busboys” (R) — This goofy buddy-comedy film was self-financed by comedians David Spade (“Outcome”) and Theo Von (“Sweet Dreams”), who also decided to team up to star together in the film. Markie (Spade) and Steef (Von) are best friends in the septic cleaning sphere who are craving more cash and an easier life. After Markie’s girlfriend gets seduced by a waiter while they’re on a date, he convinces Steef that becoming waiters is the key to an upgrade in their life. So, the buds spot an opening for busboys, thinking it’ll be a quick way to move up to being a waiter. Much to their dismay, they realize they weren’t the only ones who had this idea, but viewers shouldn’t underestimate how willing Markie and Steef are to cut corners to get what they want. Out on Aug. 14. (Hulu)

“The Gates” (R) — Mason Gooding (“Scream 7”), Algee Smith (“Euphoria”), and Keith Powers (“Uglies”) are the trio leading this thriller film that’s out now to stream. “The Gates” follows three friends who are on their way to meet up with girls and decide to take a dodgy shortcut to outmaneuver the traffic. They are led into a wealthy gated community but get lost, deciding to pull over and ask one resident for help. However, before they can even utter a word, they witness the resident succumb to death at the hands of another. The killer, a pastor named Jacob (James Van Der Beek), is hot on their trail and employs the help of other residents in the community to hunt the boys down. This was Van Der Beek’s final film role before he passed on Feb. 11 of this year. (Amazon Prime Video)

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Q:What ever happened to Barbara Walters? I read that she passed away a few years ago, but I don’t remember hearing about it. — L.J.

A:Legendary broadcast journalist and celebrity interviewer Barbara Walters died in 2022 at the age of 93. She had retired from “The View,” the syndicated talk show she co-created, in 2014. According to her former co-host Lisa Ling, Walters told her that they made her quit as a host, but she remained an executive producer up until her death.

If you have a subscription to Hulu or Disney+, you can watch the documentary “Barbara Walters: Tell Me Everything,” which features some wonderful archival footage of Walters in her prime. In addition to her highly rated annual Oscar-night special, she interviewed many of the world’s most notorious leaders, including Fidel Castro, the last Shah of Iran, and Margaret Thatcher.

Q: I was rewatching the movie “O Brother, Where Art Thou?” and noticed that there are similarities to “The Odyssey.” Was this intentional? Also, what ever happened to actor Tim Blake Nelson? — W.P.

A: Yes, way before the most recent adaptation of Homer’s ancient epic poem “The Odyssey” was released by director Christopher Nolan, the Coen Brothers put their own spin on it. Their fantastic film “O Brother, Where Art Thou?” was set in Mississippi during the 1930s and starred George Clooney, John Turturro, and Tim Blake Nelson as three escaped prisoners. On their journey, the three men encounter several figures who were inspired by characters from “The Odyssey.”

Both films, as well as the classic poem, have similar characters. In the Coen Brothers’ version, Clooney plays Ulysses, who’s trying to get home to his wife, Penny. (Odysseus from “The Odyssey” has a wife named Penelope.) Ulysses meets a blind prophet at the railroad. (This corresponds to the blind seer Tiresias, who tells Odysseus a mysterious prophecy.) John Goodman plays “Big Dan” Teague, a one-eyed man with an eye patch (similar to the giant cyclops, Polyphemus). Lastly, there are the three Sirens who lure in Clooney et al., with their song that’s much like the Sirens’ song in “The Odyssey.”

As for the wonderfully talented Tim Blake



Broadcast journalist Barbara Walters (1929-2022)

Nelson, he’s carved out quite a career as a character actor — most notably on HBO’s “Watchmen,” which earned him a Critic’s Choice Award nomination. Next up for him is another HBO series — “Task” — where he’ll star alongside Mark Ruffalo and Mahershala Ali for its second season.

Q: I’ve seen that the main cast members of “Ted Lasso” will be back for its new season, but which characters won’t be returning? — N.N.

A:Most of the beloved cast of Apple TV’s “Ted Lasso” will be returning for its fourth season — that is, Jason Sudeikis, Hannah Waddingham, Juno Temple, Brett Goldstein and Brendan Hunt. However, Phil Dunster, who played Jamie Tartt, won’t be back, nor will Nick Mohammed (Nate Shelley) or Sarah Niles (Dr. Sharon Fieldstone).

Since Ted will now be coaching a women’s soccer team, pretty much all of his former team members are out, including Cristo Fernandez’s Dani and Toheeb Jimoh’s Sam. Fernandez is actually living out his lifelong dream of being a real professional footballer with the El Paso Locomotive FC.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU

		4						8	2
1	9	8						3	
2			1				4		
4					5			9	
			7			4			3
	3	9					7		
6					9	5	8		
	1		2	4				7	
						6			3

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Towel is longer. 2. The is larger. 3. Ring on stool is missing. 4. Hair is different. 5. Rope is missing. 6. Man is moved.

August 10, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Sheepish "Hello!"

4 Out of control

8 Regretted

12 U.S. Navy vessel

13 — Crunch (breakfast cereal)

14 Singer Guthrie

15 Mel of baseball

16 Manitoba tribe

17 The same

18 Cold-hardy salad veggie

21 Whatever amount

22 Green shade

23 Kick out

26 Send electronically

27 Extinct bird

30 Sunrise direction

31 Future flower

32 Border on

33 Tippy

34 A Bobbey twin

35 Dish

36 Cat's coat

37 Three, in Rome

38 Young person, metaphorically

45 Mideast airline

46 Bern's river

47 Actress Longoria

48 Lighten

49 Wall St. debuts

50 Profit

51 Times Sq. force

52 Salamander

53 Hosp. areas

DOWN

1 Gust

2 Wine region

3 Envelope abbr.

4 Emphasize

5 Tie the knot

6 Autobahn auto

7 Skateboarder's protection

8 Indian yogurt dish

9 Language of Pakistan

10 Power co. supply

11 Stadium top

19 Diplomacy

20 — -Mex cuisine

23 Long, skinny fish

24 — alai

25 Proposal fig.

26 Gaiety

27 CEO's degree, often

28 Chic no more

29 Chowd down

31 Shopper's quest

32 Novelist Waugh

34 Mother Teresa, for one

35 Mass celebrant

36 Mailed a tax return

37 Toss

38 Beheld

39 Stage show

40 Grate

41 Superhero's garment

42 Vegas game

43 Always

44 D.C. baseball team

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. U.S. STATES: Which two states do not observe Daylight Saving Time?

2. ANATOMY: How many valves does the human heart have?

3. MATH: What comes after a trillion?

4. GEOGRAPHY: What is the longest river in Europe?

5. TELEVISION: What is the name of the hospital in the sitcom "Scrubs"?

6. HISTORY: Which empire did Genghis Khan rule?

7. LITERATURE: Which children's book features a character called Augustus Gloop?

8. ART: Who painted the famous work titled "Guernica"?

9. MOVIES: In which film does Sidney Poitier's character say, "They call me Mr. Tibbs"?

10. ASTRONOMY: What is the smallest planet in our solar system?

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

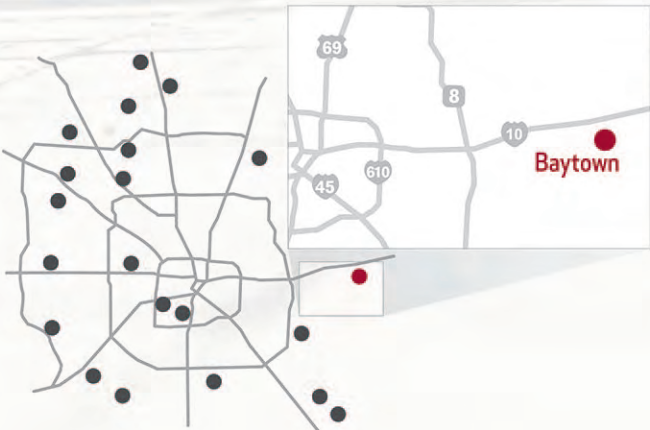
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