



The North Channel foundation's mission is to promote charity, encourage excellence in public & support economic growth in communities in the area - Story below & on PAGE 8

NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

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Woodland Acres School Makes History

Excellence is happening across Galena Park ISD!

By Allan Jamail

On August 14, 2026 in the Woodland Acres community a great educational accomplishment was made when the Mr. Mike Morath, the Texas Commissioner of Education representing the Texas Education Agency (TEA) came from Austin to compliment both Woodland Acres Middle School (WAMS) and Woodland Acres Elementary (WAES) School for getting an A rating.

With these two Public Schools each receiving the highest rating possible by the TEA is proves Public Education can be a great place to enroll children in.

Stayed tune for next week's NC Star, then I'll breakdown the grades and high marks for each category of these schools the TEA graded them on.

The event put GPISD in the spotlight, it was held in the WAMS gym which was packed with students from both schools, all dressed in their school colors and shirts. There was so much excitement in the air it was electrifying to the eyes of those in at-



GPISD Officials and Texas senators: L – R: Senator Carol Alvarado, WAES Principal Sandra Rodriguez, Trustee Ramon Garza, Supt. Dr. John Moore, Board President Linda Clark Sherrard, Mr. Mike Morath, the Texas Commissioner of Education, Norma Hernandez, Amanda Erebia, Board Secretary, Trustee Noe Esparza, Jose Jimenez, Board Vice President, WAMS Principal, Dr. Yeri Villalobos & Senator Paul Bentencourt. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

tendance. School bands were playing loudly with tunes to create an atmosphere of high anticipation for the formal ceremony to begin.

Dr. Mechelle Epps, Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services brought the event to order and she and Sherronda Hunter, Executive Director for School and Community Relations was there to insure the event fol-

lowed the planned agenda. As always they did an outstanding job.

The ceremony began with students posting the colors of the USA and Texas Flag in which students led in the pledge to them.

Dr. Yeri Villalobos the principal of Woodland Acres Middle School welcomed Texas Commissioner of Education Mr. Mike Morath, Galena Park ISD Super-

intendent of Schools; Dr. John Moore, Board of Trustees; Superintendent's cabinet; Ms. Sandra Rodriguez, principal of Woodland Acres Elementary; other district leaders; Region 4 Education Service Center Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Rodney Watson, elected officials; business partners; and members of the media.

Villalobos said "Woodland Acres Middle School has been

part of this community since 1946. For 80 years, generations of students have walked these halls, learned in these classrooms, competed on our fields and courts, performed on our stages, and gone off to make their mark on the world. However, what makes Woodland Acres special isn't simply our history. It is also the people sitting before us right now. Our students come to

school every day ready to learn, grow, compete, perform, lead, and become the best version of themselves."

"What you see happening at Woodland Acres Middle School and across Galena Park I.S.D. is intentional. We believe in Thinking Big. We believe in high expect-

Continued. See TEXAS
COMMISSIONER MIKE, Page 8

CHANNEL CURRENTS

Community Events

Thursday, August 20
5 p.m. - State Representative Ana Hernandez Birthday Fundraiser, Cadillac Bar 1802 Shepherd Dr, Houston, TX. 77007
Friday, August 21
Texas Older Citizen Day—Celebrate the Seniors in your life.
Saturday, August 22
7 p.m., - Community Prayer Line, join by callyng (727)731-7272
Sunday, August 23
Register Today for North Shore Class of 1976: **50 Year reunion**, information on Facebook in NS Clas of 76 Reunion Group
Rusty Buckets Senior Group Bus Trip, call 713-927-1975
Monday, August 24
Register Today Volunteer Deputized Voter Registrar, call 713-755-6965
Tuesday, August 25
No events submitted
Wednesday, August 26
8:30 a.m., - EHCTX LINK Meeting, Call for information 281-712-2550
6:30 p.m. - North Channel Toastmasters Zoom Meeting, call 832-896-1633
Thursday, August 27
9 a.m. - Coffee with a Cop, Hampton Inn, 14120 Karissa Court

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

Biker-themed Casino Night revs up support for North Channel area scholarships

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Bikers rolled into Jacinto City hauling "old men" and "old women," terms of endearment for husbands and wives who ride motorcycles, ready to throw down the dice for education and scholarships Friday night at the Jacinto City Town Center.

Decked in leather, jeans and bandanas, chamber members, business leaders and friends of the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce gathered for the annual Casino Fundraiser, this year carrying a biker-themed moniker meant to add a little road-warrior attitude to one of the foundation's biggest



Bill Palko, the name-sake for the scholarships offered to students by the NCACOC Education Foundation, tries his luck at the craps table.

nights of the year.

The event benefits the William C. Palko Scholarship, awarded to a student from the North Channel

area attending San Jacinto College. The scholarship focus changes each year by area of study, but the goal remains constant: helping local students take the next step in their education.

"This is one of those nights where people can have a good time and know every dollar is going back into the community," said Margie Buentello, president and CEO of the chamber. "The biker theme gives it some personality, but the heart of the event is still scholarships and student success."

The fundraiser featured casino favorites including blackjack, roulette, poker and craps, along with music, dancing, food and beverages. The chamber's event information also hosted catering from Tacos el Primo and Chick-fil-A, a cash bar with complimentary drink tickets, a photo-booth, networking and a Kendra Scott pop-up booth, with 20 percent of sales going to the foundation.

Organizers billed the evening as the North Channel Foundation's biggest fundraiser of the year, with all proceeds returning to the community and supporting the scholarship program. The event was suc-

Continued. See BIKERS ROLL INTO JACINTO, Page 8

EPA Targets Illegal Imports and Pesticides at Port Houston

HOUSTON – Last week, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) joined the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to conduct inspections and train CBP agents at the Port of Houston, and in parallel EPA inspected Houston-area retailers—all in support of the Trump Administration's continued efforts to crackdown on illegal toxic pesticides and chemical smuggling operations. The Port of Houston inspection effort follows joint EPA and CBP focused seaport inspections at the Ports of Savannah, Newark, and Los Angeles/Long Beach.

EPA's emphasis on retail sites in the Houston area suspected of selling illegal toxic and polluting imports allows the agency to trace violative products through the supply chain and back to their foreign sources.

The Trump EPA is fo-



AA Hall speaking with CBP and EPA officials and staff during Los Angeles/Long Beach inspection week. (Source: U.S Environmental Protection Agency.)

cused on disrupting the smuggling of banned pesticides, illegal chemicals, and polluting or toxic consumer products that threaten American families and communities, our food supply, and national security.

"With each enforcement push at the ports and now at retail facilities, we learn new ways for our sustained

inspection efforts to be more efficient and effective at intercepting and stopping harmful imports," said EPA's Assistant Administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Jeffrey A. Hall. "We're grateful for the strong partnership with CBP and officials at the ports of Savannah, Newark, Los Angeles/Long Beach, and Houston, who have worked with us this year to improve our targeting, expedite enforcement, and train CBP officers examining imports every day. This continued investment in our

enforcement tools and key relationships will multiply our effectiveness as we step up inspections at ports of entry across the country."

"The Port of Houston—the largest port in Texas and one of the largest in the country—drives a significant portion of our economy. By partnering with Customs and Border Protection, EPA ensures the flow of commerce can continue while keeping the American public safe from imports of illegal pesticides and other toxic products," said Region 6 Administrator Scott Mason. "And this week, EPA inspectors from across the country also conducted searches at stores across Houston suspected of selling these products. All along the supply chain, EPA is holding parties accountable for potentially exposing consumers and their families to harmful chemicals."

"The partnership between U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the EPA is vital to our mission of securing the nation's borders," said CBP Acting Port Director John Landry. "By integrating our inspection capabilities at the Port of Houston, we are better equipped to identify and intercept illegal, toxic, and hazardous imports that threaten our communities. This collaboration not only strengthens our en-

Continued. See EPA & CBP INTENSIFY, Page 3

Pct.3 Constables welcome students back to school in Channelview



By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

CHANNELVIEW, TX — The first day of school brought students, parents, teachers and staff back to Channelview ISD campuses, where Harris County Precinct 3 Constable Sherman Eagleton’s School Resource Officers were on hand to help welcome everyone back.

Lt. Howard and Dr. Tory Hill made the rounds at Channelview ISD campuses, greeting students and staff and checking in with the SROs assigned to each campus.

The Precinct 3 Constable’s Office said its SROs

were present throughout the district to help provide a safe and welcoming environment as students returned to the classroom for the new school year.

With increased traffic around campuses, the office reminded motorists to slow down in school zones, watch for pedestrians and follow traffic laws.

Drivers were also encouraged to remain alert near school entrances, crosswalks and student drop-off and pickup areas.

Officials noted that the first days of school typically bring heavier traffic, longer drop-off and pick-

up times and adjustments as families settle into new schedules. Motorists were encouraged to allow extra time and remain patient.

The Constable’s Office also encouraged the community to support students and educators and work together to make the school year safe and successful.

Precinct 3 SROs will remain visible at Channelview ISD campuses throughout the school year as part of the county’s efforts to promote school safety and support the community.

Source: Harris County Precinct 3 Constable Sherman Eagleton.



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

PERMIT NUMBER 129626

APPLICATION. K-Solv Chemicals, LLC, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Air Quality Permit Number 129626, which would authorize continued operation of a bulk petrochemical storage terminal located at 1015 Lakeside Drive, Channelview, Harris County, Texas 77530. **AVISO DE IDIOMA ALTERNATIVO.** El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/newsourcesreview/airpermits-pendingpermit-apps>. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-95.102866,29.767682&level=13>. The existing facility and/or related facilities are authorized to emit the following air contaminants: hazardous air pollutants and organic compounds.

This application was submitted to the TCEQ on July 14, 2026. The application will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, TCEQ Houston regional office, and the Harris County Public Library, North Channel Branch, 15741 Wallisville Road, Houston, Harris County, Texas beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review in the Houston regional office of the TCEQ. The application, including any updates, is available electronically at the following webpage: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/airpermit-applications-notices>

The executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. In addition to the renewal, this permitting action includes the incorporation of permits by rule related to this permit. The reasons for any changes or incorporations, to the extent they are included in the renewed permit, may include the enhancement of operational control at the plant or enforceability of the permit. **The TCEQ may act on this application without seeking further public comment or providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further information may also be obtained from K-Solv Chemicals, LLC, 16517 De Zavalla Road, Channelview, Texas 77530-4615 or by calling Mr. Philip Evans, Senior Vice President Technical Services, The WCM Group, Inc. at (281) 446-7070.

Notice Issuance Date: July 15, 2026

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CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Letting Go

Have you ever realized how hard it is to let go? It does not matter if it is of a food addiction, clutter in your house, a favorite piece of clothing or even emotions tied to a lost friend or family member. Letting go takes time, takes determination and perhaps several attempts, but most important, it takes willpower.

In a society where we want everything right now, it is even harder to explain to others that letting go is not something instant. I have watched many people try to adjust after a relationship ends and yet I recently looked at a calendar and realized that one of the most important relationships I was ever in never will end. It began in 1984 and while our divorce was final 30 years ago earlier this month, we are closer friends today than on the day we married. My children's father and I still talk and keep each other up to date on many issues, yet I am so grateful he remarried and will soon celebrate his 30th wedding anniversary. People ask with our children being adults why do we still stay in contact? Simple, due to our relationship, I understood the need of salvation, baptism and a relationship with God. I know I am a much better person today than I was 36 years ago.

Many people I know have dealt with addictions ranging from alcohol to gambling, to struggling to have power and recognition. I also know quite a few hoarders. They go shopping and even if there is no need for it, they cannot pass up a bargain. There are those who hold on to paperwork for events they participated in, records or tapes that hold special memories. I know some friends who have every trophy their children received 35+ years ago. (And some of us are old enough to remember people who hold on to plastic baggies and grocery bags.)

What about the hurts that we hold on to? Or the times we knew we needed to apologize and could not bring ourselves to do that?

Over the weekend I saw someone I have not talked with since 2014. As I sat in the parking lot waiting for friends to get in my car, I watched this person walk into the store and as soon as they walked out, I jumped out of my car and called their name. At first, it was the look of a deer in the headlights. They instantly called my name and yet looked bewildered. I smiled, gave them a hug and they were still looking confused. Finally, I realized that had not seen me in over a decade and considering I had lost 130 pounds, they might have been in shock. Finally, they smiled, set down the bag that had been in their hand and gave me a big hug. I am not sure who had the bigger smile. The first words they spoke were to apologize for an incident that happened in 2014 that forever shaped both of our families. I had long ago prayed and forgiven those involved and had never thought about this person owing me an apology. Just seeing the relief sweeping across their face, was a reminder that we all must let go of the past and live for today. Is there something you need to let go of today?

EPA & CBP intensify crackdown on illegal pesticides & chemicals at Houston Port,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

forcement posture against smuggling operations but also reinforces our broader commitment to national security and the integrity of our ports of entry, ensuring that we remain vigilant against all threats, including those related to the illicit movement of prohibited goods."

This coordinated push follows a similar push during the last week of April at the Los Angeles/Long Beach Seaport. In addition

to coordinated inspections and CBP training, Assistant Administrator Hall, along with senior Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) officials Craig Pritzlaff and Alan Hanson, visited the seaport and met with Acting Port Director Elva Muneton to discuss further developing efficiencies in inspections and enforcement. (Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.)

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ASK DIAMOND JIM



Diamond Jim: “How did August’s birthstone peridot get its name?”

Peridot’s Bizarre Name Journey Adds Intrigue to August’s Official Birthstone

AUGUST’S BIRTHSTONE is famous for its vibrant green color, but perhaps its most fascinating feature is the crazy backstory associated with its name. Believe it or not, for nearly 2,000 years, the gemstone we now know as peridot answered to the name topaz. Then, in one of gemology’s most curious twists, that familiar name was reassigned to a completely different gemstone family, leaving the original “topaz” in search of a new identity.



The story of how August’s birthstone became known as peridot is filled with unexpected turns, unanswered questions and more than a little linguistic intrigue.

Ancient Egyptians mined the vibrant yellowish-green gem on a small Red Sea island known to the Greeks and Romans as Topazioz, just off the coast of Egypt. To honor its place of origin, they named the gemstone topazion, a name that was eventually shortened to simply topaz.

Here’s where the story takes a curious turn.

Sometime during the 18th century, mineralogists reassigned the name “topaz” to an entirely different gemstone family — the one we recognize today in shades of blue, golden yellow, pink and other colors. The original “topaz” suddenly needed a new identity, and the ancient green gem became known as peridot. Why the name “topaz” was transferred remains something of a mystery, making this one of gemology’s more intriguing cases of mistaken identity.

Even the word peridot has an uncertain origin. Some scholars believe it derives from the Arabic “faridat,” meaning “gem,” while others trace it to the Old French “peridot.” Still other theories point to Greek or Latin roots. More than two centuries after the name change, experts still can’t agree on its true linguistic ancestry.

The accompanying image showcases perhaps the most famous peridot in existence — a spectacular 311.80-carat faceted gem from Zabargad, the modern Arabic name for ancient Topazioz. According to the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History and gemologist Jeffrey Edward Post in his book *Unearthed: Surprising Stories Behind the Jewels*, it is believed to be the largest faceted peridot in the world. Donated to the Smithsonian in 1926 as part of the famed Roebling Collection, the extraordinary gemstone is said to have adorned the image of a saint in an Austrian church for several centuries before entering the museum’s collection.

Peridot’s story is every bit as remarkable as its name. The gem is the transparent variety of the mineral forsterite, a magnesium-iron silicate whose signature green color comes from iron atoms replacing some of the magnesium in its crystal structure. Too little iron produces pale stones; too much creates undesirable brownish tones. The most prized peridots display a rich, saturated green with only slight hints of yellow and no brown.

Unlike most gemstones, peridot forms deep within the Earth’s mantle, roughly 20 to 55 miles below the surface. Scientists have even identified peridot in meteorites and on Mars, making August’s birthstone not only ancient, but truly out of this world.

Credit to Howard Cohen for the content in this article

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 jmills@pineforestjewelry.com.

2026 NORTH CHANNEL FOOTBALL SCHEDULES



C. E. King

Aug. 28	Friday
Sept. 4	Friday
Sept. 11	Friday
Sept. 18	Friday
Sept. 25	Friday
Oct. 3	Saturday
Oct. 9	Friday
Oct. 16	Friday
Oct. 23	Friday
Oct. 29	Thursday
Nov. 6	Friday

C. E. King vs. Conroe, 7 p.m., Panther Stadium
C. E. King at Cypress Ranch, 7 p.m., Cy-Fair Stadium
C. E. King at College Park, 7 p.m., Woodforest Bank Stadium
C. E. King vs. Kingwood, 7 p.m. Panther Stadium
C. E. King vs. Crosby, 7 p.m., Panther Stadium
C. E. King at Atascocita, 1 p.m., Turner Stadium
C. E. King vs. Humble, 7 p.m., Panther Stadium
BYE WEEK
C. E. King at North Shore, 7 p.m., Galena Park ISD Stadium
C. E. King at Summer Creek, 7 p.m., Turner Stadium
C. E. King vs. Channelview, 7 p.m., Panther Stadium

Channelview

Aug. 28	Friday
Sept. 3	Thursday
Sept. 11	Friday
Sept. 19	Saturday
Sept. 25	Friday
Oct. 2	Friday
Oct. 9	Friday
Oct. 16	Friday
Oct. 22	Thursday
Oct. 30	Friday
Nov. 6	Friday

Channelview vs. Spring, 7 p.m., Ray Maddy Memorial Stadium
Channelview at MacArthur, 7 p.m., Thorne Stadium
Channelview vs. Clear Creek, 7 p.m., Ray Maddy Memorial Stadium
Channelview at Summer Creek, 7 p.m., Turner Stadium
Channelview vs. Kingwood, 7 p.m., Ray Maddy Memorial Stadium
Channelview at Crosby, 7 p.m., Cougar Stadium
Channelview vs. Atascocita, 7 p.m., Ray Maddy Memorial Stadium
BYE WEEK
Channelview vs. Humble, 7 p.m., Turner Stadium
Channelview vs. North Shore, 7 p.m., Ray Maddy Memorial Stadium
Channelview at C. E. King, 7 p.m., Panther Stadium

Galena Park

Aug. 27	Thursday
Sept. 3	Thursday
Sept. 10	Thursday
Sept. 18	Friday
Sept. 24	Thursday
Oct. 2	Friday
Oct. 9	Friday
Oct. 15	Thursday
Oct. 23	Friday
Oct. 30	Friday
Nov. 6	Friday

Galena Park vs. Porter, 7 p.m., Galena Park ISD Stadium
Galena Park vs. Kempner, 7 p.m., Galena Park ISD Stadium
Galena Park vs. Kingwood Park, 7 p.m., Galena Park ISD Stadium
Galena Park at Huffman Hargrave, 7:30 p.m., Falcon Stadium
Galena Park vs. Texas City, 7 p.m., Galena Park ISD Stadium
Galena Park at Dayton, 7 p.m., Bronco Stadium
Galena Park vs. Nederland, 7 p.m., Galena Park ISD Stadium
Galena Park at Baytown Lee, 7 p.m., Stallworth Stadium
BYE WEEK
Galena Park vs. Santa Fe, 7, Galena Park ISD Stadium
Galena Park vs. Port Neches-Groves, 7 p.m., Indian Stadium

North Shore

Aug. 28	Friday
Sept. 4	Friday
Sept. 12	Saturday
Sept. 18	Friday
Sept. 25	Friday
Oct. 1	Thursday
Oct. 9	Friday
Oct. 16	Friday
Oct. 23	Friday
Oct. 30	Friday
Nov. 5	Thursday

North Shore vs. Lancaster, 7 p.m., Galena Park ISD Stadium
North Shore at John Curtis, 7 p.m., Cajun Field, Our Lady of Lourdes Stadium, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
North Shore at Dallas South Oak Cliff, 4 p.m., Cotton Bowl Stadium
North Shore at Crosby, 7 p.m., Cougar Stadium
North Shore vs. Atascocita, 7 p.m., Galena Park ISD Stadium
North Shore at Humble, 7 p.m., Turner Stadium
North Shore at Summer Creek, 7 p.m., Turner Stadium
BYE WEEK
North Shore vs. C. E. King, 7 p.m., Galena Park ISD Stadium
North Shore at Channelview, 7 p.m., Ray Maddy Stadium
North Shore vs. Kingwood, 7 p.m., Galena Park ISD Stadium

Neck's time



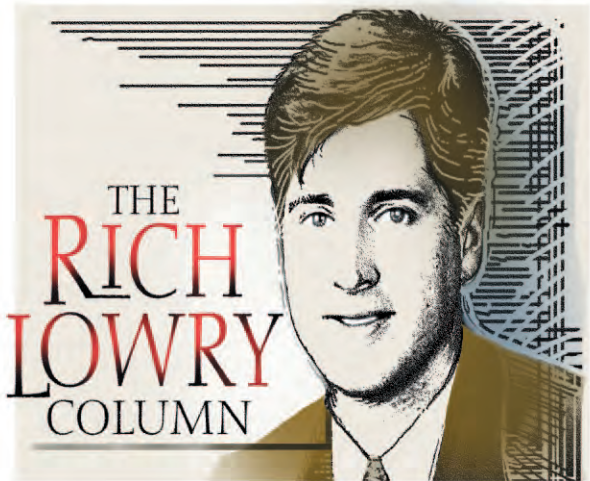
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A foreseeable and dire munitions crisis

During the 1979-1980 hostage crisis, a defiant Iran starkly demonstrated the limits of American power. Forty-five years later, it is doing the same thing, although in vastly different circumstances. Back then, when the post-Vietnam military was at a low ebb, we didn’t strike Iran, and a long-shot rescue operation ended in abject failure.

Now, with the U.S. military at its most proficient and professional in history, we have inflicted punishing blows against the regime but still haven’t been able to impose our will, in part because we are running low on the munitions necessary to prosecute the war. Not only is this embarrassing, it is dangerous.

If Operation Midnight Hammer — last year’s lightning strike against Iranian nuclear facilities — demonstrated the prowess of the U.S. military and sent a useful deterrent message to our enemies, the Iran War is now doing the opposite. We’re running low on missiles and interceptors in a months-long conflict with a beleaguered second-rate power. What would happen in a drawn-out war with a major adversary?

President Trump has posted a thunderous denunciation of leaks to the media about our depleted weapons stocks, and the leaks are indeed irresponsible. But this problem is a matter of public record and has been tracked by outside organizations.

At the end of July, the Center for Strategic and International Studies estimated that, out of an arsenal of 2,330 Patriot interceptors before the Iran war, we had roughly 800 remaining. We were down to roughly 250 THAAD interceptors from 450 at the start of the war.

On top of this, news organizations are reporting that we are almost out of ATACMS — a ground-launched precision-strike missile — and Precision Strike Missiles, the newer, longer-range successor to ATACMS.

This isn’t comforting at a time when a war with China could be in the offing. Even before Operation Epic Fury, a war game involving a conflict in the Taiwan Strait conducted by CSIS had the U.S. running out of key munitions in days or weeks.

What happened? This is a crisis a long time in the making. As defense analyst Mackenzie Eaglen of the American Enterprise Institute has warned for years, skimping on the acquisition of munitions was an easy way to meet constrained Pentagon budgets, and we relied on optimistic scenarios about potential wars to justify chronically insufficient production.

For some understandable reasons, we also emphasized sophisticated missiles and interceptors over “good enough” systems. This led to Iran, for instance, forcing us to use highly expensive, difficult-to-replace interceptors against cheap, bulk threats from drones. All this means that we’ve expended ordnance that it will take us years to build again. According to media reports, we’ve used about half our supply of Tomahawk cruise missiles, when we’ve been manufacturing fewer than 100 a year.

We need to put missile production on a wartime footing, and leverage hungry new defense firms to produce cheaper precision missiles and interceptors at scale. In World War II terms, it’s the difference between the easy-to-maintain and mass-produced Sherman tank and the exquisite and powerful, but ultimately impractical Tiger. Whatever advantages the Tiger had in armor and punch, you’d still rather be the U.S. with 50,000 Shermans than the Germans with 1,500 Tigers.

The Trump administration has been talking the right game, and there have been encouraging moves. It has signed agreements to acquire 10,000 cruise missiles over three years at a cost of a few hundred thousand dollars each, far less than a Tomahawk at more than \$2 million.

Wars always bring surprises. It should have been a shock to no one, though, that contemporary military conflict is largely missile warfare, or that we’d have trouble sustaining prolonged hostilities given that we started out with inadequate stocks. The American way of warfare is often to mess it up before adjusting and getting it right. The course correction here should be considered the most urgent priority of U.S. national security.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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EDITOR’S NOTE: *Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5832 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.*



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Texas Schools See Little Change in TEA Grading

Texas public school campuses and districts received their state report cards late last week from the Texas Education Agency, with most showing little change from the previous school year, The Texas Tribune reported.

Of the more than 9,000 campuses in the 2025-26 school year, 24% earned an A; 34% earned a B; 23% earned a C; 10% earned a D; and 4% earned an F. Some schools did not receive grades. About one in four schools saw their grades improve, while about the same number of campuses saw a drop.

TEA Commissioner Mike Morath praised the ratings, noting the hundreds of campuses in high-poverty communities that earned an A.

“We are teaching them handwriting. They are memorizing the timetables. They are thinking through more and more advanced math problems. All children can learn and achieve,” Morath said.

The grades are based on three main metrics: how students perform on the state exam and meet other college- and career-readiness benchmarks; improvement on state tests over time; and how well schools educate underserved students.

HOW THE VOUCHER NUMBERS STACK UP THUS FAR

As Texas gears up for the first year of its school voucher program, The Dallas Morning News reported that more than 27,000 students have returned their school vouchers. More than two-thirds were previously enrolled in public schools.

Although more than 122,000 students have been awarded vouchers, critics say using them can be challenging. Private schools can deny admission, charge more in tuition than the voucher covers, or be located too far away.

“Just because you got an award does not mean you have a seat in a private school,” said Dee Carney, director of the Texas Center for Voucher Transparency. “They have to pick you.”

The program offers \$10,474 to families to offset private education costs. Special-needs students can receive up to \$30,000, while homeschooled students can get \$2,000.



NATIVE AMERICAN GROUPS SUE TO BLOCK BIG BEND CONSTRUCTION

A nonprofit group that aims to protect Native American historical sites filed suit in federal court to block the Trump administration’s border security construction in Big Bend National Park, the Houston Chronicle reported. The suit claims the Department of Homeland Security does not have authority under federal law to build in national parks and seeks an injunction to stop construction and demolition work.

Construction equipment arrived at the park a few weeks ago to build new patrol roads and vehicle barriers, sparking strong opposition from park supporters and area residents. More than 40 Texas state House members, both Democrats and Republicans, have signed a letter asking Gov. Greg Abbott to halt demolition and construction in Big Bend.

“We support securing our border and recognize our duty to protect Texans. However, it is essential that border security policy be pursued in a manner that is effective, fiscally responsible, and respectful of the communities and landscapes we are sworn to protect,” the letter read.

NEW SECRETARY OF STATE OPPOSES SUIT SEEKING CLOSED PRIMARIES

Texas’ new secretary of state says he agrees with his predecessor in opposing a lawsuit seeking to restrict Republican primaries to voters registered with the party, but predicts the issue will be settled in the next legislative session, The News reported.

Newly appointed Secretary of State Robert Howden recently filed an answer as to

whether the state’s official position had changed. He recently succeeded Jane Nelson in that position.

The Texas GOP filed suit last year against the secretary of state’s office, arguing that only registered Republicans should be allowed to vote in that party’s primaries. Texans are not required to register with a specific political party, so they can vote in either party’s primary.

The party unsuccessfully tried to close the party’s primary system via legislation during last year’s legislative session, then filed the suit when that attempt failed.

APPEALS COURT RULES FOR MAIL BALLOT ID REQUIREMENTS

The U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals reinstated limits on mail-in voting enacted in 2021 that a lower court ruled violated portions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the San Antonio Express-News reported. The decision by the three-judge panel was unanimous.

The new requirements included asking those who vote by mail to provide identification or a Social Security number, or risk having their ballots rejected. The judges echoed President Donald Trump’s claim of widespread election fraud in their ruling.

“It has long been established that mail-in ballots are prone to fraud,” Judge Andrew Oldham wrote in the opinion. “That is why voting by mail jeopardizes election integrity and democracy itself.”

Several advocacy groups had sued to block the provisions, saying they further complicated voting and locked people with disabilities out of the voting process.

ERCOT ERROR LEFT TEXAS GRID WITH FEWER POWER RESERVES

An undetected error led the Electric Reliability Council of Texas to buy billions of watts less in reserve power for seven months than its plans called for, The Dallas Morning News reported. Despite that, the Texas grid has held up thus far under record demand, even as ERCOT bought 3.7 gigawatts less in reserves. That is enough electricity to power as many as 3 million homes.

The reserves fell short because an employee responsible for modeling how much backup power was needed switched jobs, according to a regulatory filing. ERCOT has responded by adding a second reviewer to verify the modeling.

Independent market grid monitor Potomac Economics used the mistake to point out that ERCOT has been overpaying for reserves since the deadly 2021 winter freeze.

“The ERCOT proposal goes too far and will result in significant excess cost with no added reliability benefit,” the monitors wrote.

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, Fortkin and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.



Fully Recovered



About a million years ago (or at least it feels that way), I used to produce theater. The season ended just before Christmas with “A Christmas Carol,” and a peculiar thing would happen just as the last show closed.

I would get a fever.

I was always in the show, and sometimes I would feel my fever rising before Scrooge had Tiny Tim on his shoulders. I’d check my forehead, and sure enough, before the audience had made it out into the cold winter night, I would have a fever, which would be followed by congestion and coughing and everything else that comes with a bad cold.

This was odd because I was never sick before that night. Of course, I was in my twenties, so keeping healthy was less of a stretch than it is now. But I frequently ate poorly, and I’m sure I didn’t always get enough sleep. The one thing that was constant was stress. I had something to worry about every single day. But as the lights went down on that final performance, my body decided it was time to be sick.

The first time this happened, I thought, “What bad luck!”

The second time it happened, I thought, “There must be a lot of germs around this time of year!”

But by the third and fourth time it happened, there was no denying what was going on. I was somehow—unwillingly—giving myself permission to get sick. And it infuriated me.

I spent the holidays sniffing and blowing my nose and probably infecting other people. It was a lousy way to spend Christmas, and it seemed terribly unfair that I couldn’t simply take a little time off.

I now realize that I was taking time off the only way I knew how.

After I left the theater, I was no more prone to illness over the holidays than any other time of year. I no longer had this extended period of pushing myself to the limit and then collapsing completely. “Good!” I said. “I’m glad that’s over!”

Then I started writing.

I wrote 1,000 words or fewer in the first days. I slowly ramped up over the subsequent weeks, and usually by the end, it felt like a mad race to the finish line. I had no idea how the story would end, and I was filled with this massive fear that, when I got to the end, it would be terrible, or there would be no ending, or the book would never be finished.

When I reached the end of the book, it felt like a miracle. And then I got sick.

The first time this happened, I thought, “What bad luck!” (I am a very slow learner.) But I have now written a few books. And every time I finished a book, I had to take a break to fully recover.

So on this last book, I told myself, “Slow down! You are going to finish.” I paced myself. I still finished. There was no disaster. And best of all, I didn’t get sick.

And I realized that I fuel a lot of activity with unbridled stress. I use panic as a means to meet deadlines and anxiety to accomplish goals. It’s a little embarrassing because it seems to me that by now, I should have a few more skills.

So I’m taking some time off before I begin editing. I’m sleeping a little longer. I’m eating a little better. The book will wait. Because I realize that, after all these years, I am still not fully recovered.

Till next time,
Carrie

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

K-Solv Chemicals, LLC, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Air Quality Permit No. 129626, which would authorize continued operation of a bulk petrochemical storage terminal located at 1015 Lakeside Drive, Channelview, Harris County, Texas 77530. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

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NOTICE TO PROPOSERS

Sealed proposals will be received by the City Secretary of the City of Jacinto City, 1301 Mercury Drive, Houston, Texas 77029. Proposals are due no later than 5:00 PM central time on September 10, 2026. Proposals will be opened during the City Council meeting at 6:00 PM on that date.

INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENTSERVICES

RFP #26-2

Any proposal received after stated closing time will be returned unopened. Reliance on the post office or delivery services will not be considered an adequate reason for granting an exception for failure to meet the required deadline for consideration of proposals. One original (paper so marked), two copies (paper) of the proposal and an electronic version in a **single searchable PDF file** are required.

The outside of the package should be clearly marked "Solid Waste Proposal" and include the proposer's name, contact person, address, telephone number, e-mail address and attention Ms. Christal Rodriguez, City Secretary.

Pre-Proposal Conference

A pre-proposal conference has been scheduled for 2:00 PM on August 27, 2026 at City Hall – 1301 Mercury Drive, Houston, Texas 77029. **It is strongly encouraged that all companies send a representative to this meeting.** Any questions or concerns regarding the contents and requirements of this RFP will be discussed at the conference and appropriate addendums to the RFP will be considered. Written responses to any RFP related question received following the conference will be published in the public notice section of the City's web site.

Right to reject

Until the final award by the City of Jacinto City, said City reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals, to waive technicalities and to proceed otherwise when the best interests of the City will be realized. Costs incurred in the preparation of a proposal are the sole responsibility of the proposer.

Open Records Act

The City is subject to the Texas Open Records Act, a state law which may require the City to make the information provided in response to this Request for Proposal available to the public upon request.

Proposer Contact with the City

To ensure an objective, orderly award process that provides all potential proposers an equal opportunity to compete for and win city business, the following requirements will be enforced during the proposal process:

Requests for information will be made either at the pre-proposal conference or to Lon Squyres (lon.squyres@jacintocity-tx.gov) only. Deadline for specification questions is Friday, September 4, 2026 at 5:00 PM.

Questions related to the bid process or submission must be directed to Ms. Christal Rodriguez, City Secretary, at (christal.rodriguez@jacintocity-tx.gov). Answers to all information pertinent requests will be published in the public notice section of the City's website.

No lobbying of city management, members of the RFP evaluation committee or the City Council will be permitted during the RFP process. No gifts, lunches or other gratuities will be accepted by the City or employees

Information Contained in the RFP

The information set forth in this Request for Proposal (RFP) and in all appendices attached hereto has been presented solely to assist interested proposers in making their own evaluation of the resources required to provide solid waste services to the City's residents and is not intended to be all inclusive or to contain all of the information that a prospective proposer may desire. The City has made no independent effort to determine the accuracy of completeness of such information. The proposer is solely responsible for making all necessary investigations and evaluations of information, which will or could affect their performance including costs of providing the requested services. Information contained in the winning proposal will be used as the basis for the resulting contractual agreements.

Addendums

Schedule changes or other addendums to the RFP will be published in the public notice section of the City's web site: jacintocity-tx.gov (then click on "Public Notices")

The City of Jacinto City's City Hall is wheelchair accessible. For accommodations or sign interpretive services needed for bid openings, please contact Christal Rodriguez at least 48 hours in advance at (713) 674-8424.

City of Jacinto City, Texas

Lon D. Squyres, City Manager

City of Jacinto City

Asphalt Overlay Project 2026

The City of Jacinto City is accepting bids for Type D 2" Asphalt to overlay existing residential streets within the city limits. Contractors will be responsible for all labor cost, material, traffic setup (lane closure signage) and notification to residents. The contractor is to ensure grading of asphalt meets Harris County specifications for proper drainage and installation. Bids must be submitted at City Hall, 1301 Mercury Drive by 5:00 p.m. on September 10, 2026 and will be opened at the regularly scheduled Council Meeting on said date at 10301 Market Street at 6:00 p.m. All bids submitted to the City of Jacinto City must be accompanied by a bid bond in the amount of 5% of total bid. A copy of the RFP can be requested by e-mail christal.rodriguez@jacintocity-tx.gov or picked up at City Hall, 1301 Mercury Drive, Jacinto City, TX 77029.

Scope of work: The restoration of several sections of residential streets in the city. Point repairs of existing base material must be standard black base material, bringing all manhole rings and water value boxes up to grade and 2" asphalt overlay with type D rated asphalt.

The City reserves the right to reject any/or all bids, to waive any/or all technicalities and to accept any bid or part thereof which in the opinion of the City Council is most advantageous to the city.

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

The Railroad Commission of Texas has disposed of equipment and/or hydrocarbons pursuant to Section 89.085 of the Texas Natural Resources Code. Any person with a legal or equitable ownership or security interest in the equipment or hydrocarbons that was in existence on the date the Commission entered into a contract to plug the following well(s) or clean the following leases/facilities may file a claim with the Commission. Contact the Houston District Office at 713-869-5001 to obtain a claim form.

SMP Code Number: 03-260839

Operator Name: Otex Resources, LLC (628135)

Lease Name: K.S./Jones (17029)

Well Number:1 (20131654)

County: Harris

SMP Code Number: 03-266276

Operator Name: Goose Creek Holdings, Inc. (315983)

Lease Name: Roden Etal (01750)

Well Number: 1 (20106233)

County: Harris

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Drew Starkey, left, and Madelyn Cline star in "Outer Banks: Season 5."

“Outer Banks: Season 5.”

“Toy Story 5” (PG) — The third-highest-grossing film of 2026 is officially available to rent on Aug. 18, after a box-office run of \$1.096 billion against its \$250 million cost. (Pixar needed the money back since this installment is also one of the most expensive animated films ever made!) Tom Hanks, Tim Allen and Joan Cusack, respectively, reprise their roles as iconic characters Woody, Buzz Lightyear and Jessie; meanwhile, Conan O’Brien (“If I had Legs I’d Kick You”) joins the cast as Smarty Pants, a toy that assists with pottery training, and Greta Lee (“Past Lives”) enters the series as Lilypad “Lily,” a frog-themed tablet. The film, which takes place two years after “Toy Story 4,” follows

our favorite group of toys and their latest debacles as electronics start to take over their playtime with their current owner, Bonnie! Fun fact: Scarlett Spears, who now voices Bonnie, also played Young Glinda in last year’s “Wicked: For Good.” (Amazon Prime Video)

“Outer Banks: Season 5” (TV-MA) — The wait is almost over for the series finale of this hit 2020 series! Fans have followed these characters from the Outer Banks of North Carolina to the Bahamas, South America and Morocco, and they’ve even had to say “goodbye” to a much-beloved main character, Rudy Pankow’s JJ Maybank. Season 5 kicks off right after JJ’s death with his friends drowning in

grief, but the Pogues are still determined to track down JJ’s killer, his biological father Chandler Groff (J. Anthony Crane), as well as the mythical artifact of the Blue Crown. The Pogues are still getting run out of their own town, and with no other people left to help them besides Sarah’s deranged brother, Rafe (Drew Starkey), they embark on yet another unbelievable adventure full of close calls with death and spur-of-the-moment action! Look for all 10 episodes of season 5 to premiere on Aug. 20. (Netflix)

“The Invite” (R) — This comedy-drama film out now to rent is Olivia Wilde’s third directorial feature film, following her 2022 psychological thriller “Don’t Worry Darling.” Wilde also stars in the film, with just three of her fellow actors rounding out the cast — Seth Rogen (“The Studio”), Penelope Cruz (“The Bride!”), and Edward Norton (“A Complete Unknown”). “The Invite” takes place over the span of one night in a San Francisco apartment owned by married couple Joe (Rogen) and Angela (Wilde). To Joe’s surprise and dismay, Angela has invited their noisy upstairs neighbors over for dinner. But when neighbors Pina (Cruz) and Hawk (Norton) arrive for dinner, the night takes quite an unexpected turn for Joe and Angela, as they receive an extremely alluring invite of their own. (Fandango at Home)

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HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Jennifer Aniston has completed the final season of “The Morning Show.” Now she’s returning to movie-making with the holiday comedy film “Naughty,” co-starring Peter Dinklage, who plays Santa Claus. Aniston’s also completed 10 episodes of Apple TV’s dramedy “I’m Glad My Mom Died,” but decided not to continue with the show due to “scheduling conflicts.” Filmmaker Jason Reitman also bowed out of the series due to “creative differences” with author Jennette McCurdy.

Meanwhile, Dinklage will star in the upcoming rom-com “Wicker” with Olivia Colman and Alexander Skarsgard. It’s set to release in October.

Ryan Gosling will star as supernatural horror hero Johnny Blaze, aka Ghost Rider, in a new film that will be directed by “Deadpool & Wolverine’s” Shawn Levy (for a 2028 release). Levy also directed Gosling in “Star Wars: Starfighter,” which hits theaters on May 28, 2027.

Ryan Coogler will direct “Black Panther 3” and has chosen David Jonsson to play the adult version of the son of T’Challa (who was portrayed by the late Chadwick Boseman). No word yet whether Michael B. Jordan is participating.

Are you ready for “Spaceballs: The New One”? The sequel to Mel Brooks’ classic 1987 film will again star Rick Moranis, Daphne Zuniga and Bill Pullman. At 100 years of age, Brooks is producing the film (alongside Josh Gad) and reprises his iconic role of Yogurt for Amazon MGM Studios. It’s set to open on April 23, 2027.

Jonathan Lipnicki, now 35, was just a kid in “Jerry Maguire” (1996), as well as two “Stuart Little” films (1999 and 2002). Now he’s making his comeback in the season four revival of “The Joe Schmo Show.” He also appeared alongside Ron Perlman and Esai Morales in the western “Cottonmouth.”

Perlman and Morales are set to star alongside Josh Bowman (of the ABC’s series “Revenge”) in the thriller film “Live 2 Die.”

Also getting a sequel is “Blade Runner” in the form of an eight-episode series for



Peter Dinklage (Set to star as Santa Claus in “Naughty”)

Amazon Prime Video. Out in November, “Blade Runner 2099” takes place 50 years after “Blade Runner 2049” and stars Oscar winner Michelle Yeoh. While Ridley Scott is one of the producers, he couldn’t direct any episodes due to scheduling conflicts.

George Clooney and Eva Longoria are playing themselves in the upcoming French comedy-drama film “Dix Pour Cent.” It’s a sequel to the TV series “Call My Agent!” which aired in France from 2015-2020. The film will air on Netflix in September.

“The Odyssey,” which cost \$250 million and has already hit \$1 billion in the box office, has been criticized for not being a literal translation of the original epic poem by Homer. Some critiques stem from the actors speaking English with American accents and Helen of Troy being portrayed by a woman of color, Lupita Nyong’o. Frankly, who’d want to struggle through a Homeric Greek dialect?

The film’s destined to join the ranks of epic classics such as “Gone with the Wind,” “The Ten Commandments,” and “Ben-Hur.” How anyone could complain about this classic film is “all Greek to me!”

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

HENRY BOLTINOFF

August 17, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Layer

4 Radiant

9 Soup legume

12 Dubai's country, for short

13 Kin of "Presto!"

14 Online chats, briefly

15 Keyboard piece for two

17 Impose

18 Pained sounds

19 Nobel-winning Mother

21 "Hooray!"

24 Story lines

25 Hollywood's Gabor

26 Genetic stuff

28 Nasser's successor

31 Stinging insect

33 Pop

35 Arias for one

36 Animal's nose

38 Mexican Mrs.

40 Teeny

41 "Phooey!"

43 Disney exec Michael

45 1912 Olympic legend

47 MGM motto start

48 Tease

49 Teen's formalwear

54 Under the weather

55 Perfume compound

56 To and —

57 Flamenco cheer

58 Belittle

59 Box office buys, slangily

7 "Get Here" singer Adams

8 Tends the lawn

9 Stops talking

10 Flightless birds

11 Hammett pooch

16 M-Q connection

20 Some HDTVs

21 Evergreen trees

22 Nobelist Pavlov

23 Latin ballroom dance

27 Small batteries

29 Sheltered

30 Wedding cake layer

32 Kitten's sound

34 Visionary

37 Designated

39 Put on a clothesline

42 Succinct

44 Lith., once

45 Small combo

46 Mound

50 Non-Rx

51 Newt

52 — Lanka

53 Boston squad, for short

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. TELEVISION: Which musical instrument does Leonard play in "The Big Bang Theory"?

2. MUSIC: In what year did the Woodstock music festival take place?

3. MOVIES: Which horror movie features a character named Ellen Ripley?

4. HISTORY: When did the French Revolution begin?

5. FOOD & DRINK: What is carpaccio?

6. U.S. STATES: How many states border Mexico?

7. GAMES: How many wooden blocks are in the game of Jenga?

8. GEOGRAPHY: What is the longest mountain chain in the world?

9. ART: Who painted the "Mona Lisa"?

10. MATH: How many sides does a hexagon have?

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King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answers

1. Cello; 2. 1969; 3. "Alien"; 4. 1789; 5. Thinly sliced raw meat or fish; 6. Four; 7. 54; 8. The Andes in South America; 9. Leonardo da Vinci; 10. Six

Bikers roll into Jacinto City for casino fundraiser, supporting local scholarships,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cessful, making a haul for scholarships.

Foundation supporters said the casino-night format gives the chamber a way to blend fun, fellowship and fundraising.

“People come in ready to laugh, play a few hands and visit with friends, but they also understand why they are here,” one volunteer said. “The students are the reason this event

matters.”

The foundation’s broader mission is to promote charity, encourage excellence in public and professional education, and support economic growth in communities served by the chamber, including Channelview, Cloverleaf, Galena Park, Generation Park, Jacinto City, North Shore and Sheldon.

Early in the week, final

numbers on how much was raised was unavailable but will be announced in the future.

To commit to sponsorship opportunities, donations or individual tickets for future events, the chamber directs residents and businesses to contact North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce at info@ncachamber.com or 713-450-3600.



Melissa Quinteros, Doris Ford, and Ray Quinteros enjoy the night pitching in funds at the Black Jack table.



Ruben Izaguirre, Jose Jimenez, Jamarcus Charles, Brianna Meddleton, and Minnie Izaguirre have a good time challenging each other at the Black Jack table.



NC Chamber staff dressed out in theme attire, ready to help members and guests at the fundraiser. From left, President and CEO Margie Buentello, Membersip Director Yesenia Jimenez, and Marketing Communications Director Bianca Vega.

Sheldon ISD Welcomes Over 100 New Teachers for 26-27 School Year



By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

Sheldon ISD celebrated a significant milestone on July 28 by welcoming over 100 new teachers to the district as part of the New Teacher Academy. Among these new educators are 18 graduates of the Registered Apprenticeship Program, who are stepping into their roles as first-year teachers. The event was marked by excitement, inspiration, and a heartfelt welcome from district leadership and community partners.

The Sheldon ISD Education Foundation, along with numerous community partners and sponsors, played a crucial role in making the event successful. A special mention goes to Generation Park, the Top Sponsor, for hosting an impressive Turtlebox giveaway. Other contributors included Chick-fil-A, Loco Cantina, Next Level Urgent Care, ESS, AFT, United Community Credit Union, Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union, Woodforest National Bank, SNL, North Shore Rotary Club, Platinum

Copper Solutions, Harris County Public Health, Texas ATM, Grand Canyon University, and many more generous partners who continue to support the district’s teachers and students. This event highlighted the robust support system that bolsters Sheldon ISD, providing nourishment and encouragement to its newest educators. The district is eager to have these passionate professionals join the Sheldon family as they embark on a new school year focused on growth, excellence, and student success.

Texas Commissioner Mike Morath Honors Woodland Acres Schools for earning top "A" ratings,

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tations. We believe in accountability. We believe in celebrating excellence, and, most importantly, that every student who walks through our doors deserves people who believe in their potential. I know this because I am a proud product of that belief,” Principal Villalobos said.

Villalobos continued, “I have been in this district as a student, as a teacher, as a school leader, as a community member, and hopefully one day as a parent. To my students, I want you to understand something today. Having the Texas Commissioner of Education visit your school is something special that I want you to remember forever. He has an opportunity to see schools and students across the state of Texas, and today, he has chosen in to be here with you because he can see how truly special each and every one of you are.”

“To Commissioner Morath and all of our distinguished guests, I want you to look around. This is what I am blessed to see and be surrounded by each day. Every day, I get to see talented students, dedicated teachers, a supportive district, and a community that believes that success is possible regardless of circumstances. We believe that high expectations, strong support systems, and exceptional educators can make a lasting difference in student outcomes.”

“Today, I stand before you with the privilege of representing our school, but make no mistake: the magic that happens every single day at Woodland Acres Middle School and throughout Galena Park ISD is not the work of one person. It is the result of countless selfless individuals who wake up each morning driven by a singular purpose, which is to serve our students and to uplift our community.”

“Many of them didn’t just choose this work, but instead, they chose to come home. They returned to the place that shaped them, determined to shape the next generation. That is the heartbeat of our success here in Galena Park ISD. That is the foundation upon which excellence is built. The teamwork extends outside of our campus doors. Every single member of GPISD believes in our mission to ensure students succeed, and we are grateful for their support.”

Concluding Villalobos said, “We are honored to share Woodland Acres and Galena Park I.S.D. with you today. What you are witnessing is more than a school and a school district. It is a community of educators, students, and families who believe in possibility, who invests in potential, and who proves every day that when you pour your heart into people, extraordinary things happen. Thank you for being here. Thank you for believing in us. And thank you for celebrating the incredible work being done in our schools, classrooms, and in the hearts of our students.”

Ms. Linda Clark Sherrard, Board of Trustees President made the following remarks:

“With respect to my colleagues who serve with me on the Board of Trustees, elected officials, and Commissioner of Education, Mike Morath - Good afternoon.

As I stand before you today as a GPISD graduate, retired GPISD employee, lifelong community member, and now Board President, the measure of pride I am feeling at this moment is really hard to put into words.

The accomplishment we are celebrating today reflects the dedication of our exceptional teachers, the hard work of our students, and the unwavering support of our families and community.

Today’s celebration is proof that when educators are empowered and students are supported, remarkable things happen. To our staff: thank you for your commitment to excellence every single day. To our students: you are the reason we do this work, and we couldn’t be prouder of you. And to our community and elected officials: your partnership makes achievements like this possible.

Commissioner Morath, thank you for taking the time to celebrate this milestone with us.

Galena Park ISD is honored



Mr. Mike Morath, the Texas Commissioner of Education representing the Texas Education Agency came to GPISD’s Woodland Acres Middle School to recognize WAMS & WAES TEA’s A-Rating. (Photo credit: Woodland Acres School Facebook page.)



(Photo credit: Woodland Acres School Facebook page.)

by your visit and we look forward to continuing our work to ensure every student succeeds.”

Dr. John Moore, GPISD Superintendent gave his appreciation to Texas Commissioner of Education: Mr. Mike Morath for coming to the district to recognize the high performance rating of schools in the district especially and WAMS and WAES.

Dr. Moore made the following statement: Good afternoon: “I would like to take a moment to thank you all for being here! We are honored that you came to help us celebrate the Woodland Acres Community. Dr. Villalobos shared how incredibly proud our principals are of our

students and faculty. I want to take a quick moment to thank our support staff. All of our

Campuses benefit from the incredibly talented team members who support the work that our

Campuses do every day. It takes a real team effort to achieve the level of success we have in

Galena Park ISD and I want you to know I am thankful for the work you do. These A’s would

Not be possible without your dedication.

One of the things that makes WAMS unique is the strong vertical alignment between the feeder elementary schools, Pyburn and Woodland Acres Elementary, and Woodland Acres Middle School. Ms. Sandra Rodriguez and Dr. Villalobos both believe that ALL

Students can perform at incredibly high levels no matter the challenges they face outside of school. Their compassion, expectations, and work ethic are what make these neighborhood schools so successful.

I want to share just a little more about the campus leaders you met today. Ms. Rodriguez

has spent the majority of her educational career in Galena Park ISD. She has been a teacher,

Campus instructional coach, assistant principal, and principal at Woodland Acres Elementary.

She is instrumental in the success of our two-way immersion program. Ms. Rodriguez recently experienced the death of an immediate family member. Despite this life-altering event,

she showed up for her students and her staff and really hit a home run! Her students consistently outperform most others in their comparison group and often earn all distinctions.

Dr. Villalobos is a product of our school system. In fact, I was Dr. Villalobos’ principal

in the 7th, 9th, and 10th grades. He and his family moved into our community and lived in an incredibly impoverished neighborhood when he was just 12 years old. As a child, Yeri lived without the basic necessities many of us take for granted. He came to Galena Park ISD at the same age many of his students are now. He spoke only Spanish at home and learned English

by watching cartoons.

Dr. Villalobos is the oldest sib-

ling in his family. He was the first to attend school, and because his parents were Spanish-speaking, he had to navigate many adult challenges at a young age. Despite not knowing the language of our schools, Mr. and Ms. Villalobos supported Dr. Villalobos and his siblings throughout their time in GPISD. Yeri represents what is so amazing about our school district.

Like the Villalobos’, GPISD believes that education will allow our students to go out into the world and achieve any dream they set for themselves. I am so proud that Ms. Rodriguez and Dr. Villalobos chose to lead their respective campuses in our community. Each team member in Galena Park ISD believes in the power of education and works hard to ensure that our students receive the best education we can possibly provide. That is what makes GPISD a great place to be!”

Mr. Mike Morath, Texas Commissioner of Education said to the GPISD trustees, principals, educators and administrators that it was an honor for him to help celebrate this incredible achievement and the hard work of the students, educators, staff, families and community of Woodland Acres Middle and Woodland Acres Elementary Schools.

Prior to becoming the state’s Education Commissioner, Morath served on the Dallas Independent School District board of trustees for more than four years. During that time, he focused on academic improvements. And by his final year on the board, DISD had seen improvement in various areas including rise in kindergarten readiness, math proficiency and graduation rates.

A strong advocate of public education, Commissioner Morath graduated from Garland High School in the Garland Independent School District. And thanks to the great public school education he received in Texas, he went on to earn a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, summa cum laude, from George Washington University in two-and-a-half years.

It’s worth noting many of the WAMS students attended WAES a few blocks away under Principal Sandra Rodriguez.

I’m proud to be on the WAES Campus Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC). Mrs. Rodriguez and Assistant Principal Alaide Zavala in our meetings strive for achieving excellence from students and teachers.

At 82 I can remember 68 years ago when I played football on the Galena Park Yellow Jackets “barefoot” football team. We wore no shoes and wore soft leather helmets we had to share helmets between offense and defense players.

Coach Coleman was my coach and we traveled to Woodland Acres Middle School to play the Mighty Hornets. We played against Howard Twilley who later became an All American College Player and later played professional for 10 years with the Miami Dolphins and was runner up for the Heisman Trophy in 1965.