



NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

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Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
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Waste Pits Cleanup Estimate Rises

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

HIGHLANDS — Federal environmental officials met with residents Tuesday evening to discuss the latest developments in the long-running cleanup of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site, including changes to the cleanup plan and a new enforcement order directing responsible parties to carry out remedial work.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6, in cooperation with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Harris County agencies, local officials and industry representatives, hosted a community meeting Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2026, at the Highland Community Center, 604 Highland Woods Drive in Highlands.

EPA officials provided residents with updates on cleanup activities at the site and answered questions about the project, which has drawn public concern for years because of dioxin and furan contamination along the San Jacinto River near Interstate 10. The meeting included a discussion



of an Explanation of Significant Differences, or ESD, a decision document that outlines changes to the remedy EPA approved in its 2017 Record of Decision. According to EPA, the changes do not fundamentally alter the original cleanup plan, which calls for excavation and off-site disposal of

contaminated material from the waste pits.

The ESD identifies two major updates: a substantial increase in estimated remedial costs for the Northern Impoundments and an increase in the volume of material excavated for disposal from the Southern Impoundment. The

Continued. See EPA DETAILS WASTE PITS CLEAN UP CHANGES, Page 6

Galena Park Police Chase Ends in Death

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

GALENA PARK, TX. — Police are searching for a driver who allegedly fled after a pursuit ended with a young man found dead inside a car early Saturday September 5.

Galena Park police said an officer was conducting traffic enforcement around 3 a.m. in the 7700 block of Clinton Drive when a gray Infiniti was spotted traveling over the speed limit.

Police said the officer attempted to make a traffic stop, but the driver accelerated and a pursuit began.

The chase continued toward the 7400 block of



Clinton Drive, where police said the Infiniti lost control and the officer briefly lost sight of the vehicle.

The officer later came across evidence of a crash and continued down the roadway before finding the Infiniti stopped near the 7200 block of Clinton Drive.

Inside the vehicle, officers found a young Hispanic man in his late teens or early 20s dead in the passenger seat.

Investigators said evidence at the scene indicates the man was not driving the car.

Continued. See GP POLICE CHASE ENDS, Page 3

CHANNEL CURRENTS

Community Events

The Heritage Hall Senior Center is buzzing with activity this week, offering a robust schedule designed to keep Jacinto City's seniors active, healthy, and socially engaged. From essential food distribution to cultural celebrations, the Center continues to serve as a vital community hub.

Thursday, September 10th, is a double-duty day. Seniors can start with Chair Exercise at 9 AM, followed by a game of Nutritional Items Bingo. Please note the Center will close early at 12:30 PM.

Friday, September 11th, offers a sweet start to the day with a special "Breakfast to Celebrate Grandparents Day" at 9 AM. The exercise class is canceled for this celebratory morning.

Lucia Bates Elected District 10 Director of Texas JPCA

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

East Harris County, Texas — Harris County Justice of the Peace Lucia Bates has been elected District 10 director of the Justice of the Peace and Constables Association of Texas during the association's 82nd Annual Education Conference in Sugar Land, Texas.

Bates, who serves Precinct 3, Place 2, was elected during the association's 82nd annual education conference in Sugar Land.

"As the newly elected District 10 Director for the Justices of the Peace and Constables Association, my mission remains rooted in public trust,



Judge Lucia Bates.
newly elected District 10 Director for the Justices of the Peace

collaborative leadership, and unwavering service. True justice is a collec-

tive effort, and I look forward to uniting our region's courts to better

protect and empower every person across our communities."

As District 10 director, Bates will help represent a 27-county region in Southeast Texas and support JPCA efforts involving policy, education and advocacy for justices of the peace and constables across the state.

Bates joined JPCA in 2019 after winning her primary election and has remained active in the organization. She has served on the Court Personnel Education Committee and the Justice of the Peace Education Committee, helping develop training and resources for courts and their staff.

In her new role, Judge Bates will help guide JPCA's efforts across a district encompassing 27 counties in Southeast Texas. She will represent the interests of both urban and rural communities and assist in shaping policies, educational programs, and advocacy efforts affecting justices of the peace and constables throughout the state.

Bates was elected Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3, Place 2 in 2019 where she presides over civil, criminal, and community matters in accordance with Texas law and is serving her second term. She is up for reelection in November 2026.

Jackets Hold Off Kempner, 16-9

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. ~ Thursday, September 3, 2026 at the GPISD stadium the Galena Park Yellow Jackets defeated the Fort Bend Kempner Cougars 16-9 in front of their home-field crowd.

Neither team was able to score in the first quarter's 12 minutes. The teams remained scoreless through the first quarter, with both defenses limiting scoring opportunities until halfway into the 2nd quarter when the Jackets' junior running back Jamile Hurks leaped over a defender

to score the game's first touchdown (TD).

The extra point kick attempt was blocked, the Cougar ran it back the length of field to score a two-point-conversion making the score Jackets 6, Cougars 2 when the first half ended.

Midway into the 3rd quarter the Jacket's was near the end zone but was unable to get a touchdown, they settled for a 3 point field-goal, keeping them ahead 9 to 2 as the quar-



GP's #4 power running back Jamile Hurks goes airborne for games 1st score. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

ter ended.

The defensive battle continued into the 4th quarter until Jacket's junior quarterback Jacob Muro connected on a 27 yard TD pass to the wide open sophomore receiver Ayden Felder; sophomore kicker Ezra Rodriguez's kick was good making the score 16 - 2.

The Cougars responded with a TD, cutting the

Jackets' lead to 7 and making the final minutes competitive. **Yellow Jacket's Head Coach Spiro Amaranos' tough defense tightened up giving the Yellow Jackets the 16-9 win.**

GP's passing and running game helped create opportunities for the Yel-

Continued. See JACKETS' DEFENSE LEADS 16-9 VICTORY, Page 3

2026 GP Yellow Jackets Varsity Cheerleaders



Galena Park 2026 Varsity Cheerleaders.

Top row L-R: Miracle Dominguez, Head Cheerleader Andrea Aguirre, Squad Leader Dayana Ramos, Paola Melgoza, Sarah Cardenas
Middle row L-R: Cheer Sponsor Stephanie Gonzalez, Camila Piña, Ruth Gonzalez, Roxana Camacho, Geovanna Minjares
Bottom row L-R: Elexa Camacho, Jordyn Williams, Flordelis Vazquez, Kylie Mayes, Melody Ramirez, Mar'kayla Toliver. (Photo by Linda Jamail)

Data Centers Fuel Texas Grid Debate



By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

AUSTIN - Growing opposition to Texas’ booming data center industry is putting a major transmission-line expansion under renewed scrutiny, while energy officials warn that delaying the projects could increase the risk of power shortages in West Texas.

The debate comes as lawmakers and state officials call for a pause or reassessment of planned transmission construction designed to strengthen the state’s electric grid.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which manages the state’s power grid, has warned that West Texas could face rolling blackouts if additional transmission capacity is not built.

The controversy intensified after Gov. Greg Abbott announced an audit of data centers seeking connections to the Texas electric grid. The announcement prompted ERCOT to pause construction of the transmission projects while the state examines the growing demand from large electricity users.

“Whatever the complexities of the policies engaged here — and the degree to which the deployment of these high-capacity power lines and

the construction of data centers are distinct issues — in this moment, it’s the politics that matter at least as much as the policy,” said Jim Henson, director of the Texas Politics Project at the University of Texas at Austin.

The Public Utility Commission of Texas previously approved plans for a network of 765-kilovolt transmission lines intended to address the state’s long-term transmission needs.

The proposal followed the February 2021 winter storm that caused widespread power outages and highlighted vulnerabilities in the Texas electric system.

West Texas energy producers have expressed concern that the region does not have enough generation and transmission capacity to keep pace with growing demand.

“The world’s most important energy basin is currently running on a patchwork of portable generators that just are not equipped for long-term needs or production growth,” said Todd Staples, president of the Texas Oil and Gas Association.

The transmission debate comes as Texas continues to attract major investments in data centers and other energy-in-

tensive industries. Supporters of the transmission expansion argue that additional infrastructure is needed to keep electricity moving reliably across the state as demand increases.

Opponents, meanwhile, have questioned whether the proposed transmission buildout is being driven in part by the rapid growth of data centers and whether ratepayers could ultimately bear some of the costs.

Dozens of legislators and state officials have urged the state to reconsider the transmission plans before additional construction moves forward.

The final decision on whether the transmission lines will be built rests with the Public Utility Commission. All five PUC commissioners are appointed by Abbott.

The governor has not taken a position on whether the transmission projects should ultimately proceed.

As Texas weighs the competing demands of economic development, data center expansion and grid reliability, state officials face a decision over how much transmission infrastructure will be needed to keep electricity flowing as demand continues to grow.

Galena Park Branch Library September Events

Book Buddies—Literacy program that pairs teen volunteers and children (K-3rd) for 45 minutes of reading. We are still accepting applications for little buddies. Parents must attend a short orientation beforehand.

When: Starting Thursday, September 10th at 4:30pm

FOL Book Sale—Support the library and library programming by buying from the Friends of the Library book sale.

When: Tuesday, September 15th at 3:30pm

Hispanic Heritage Events for Families- Fiesta - September 15, Music of Mexico - September 22, Hispanic Folktales - September 29

Chismeando en inglés—Conversation practice for more advanced adult English language learners.

When: Wednesday, September 16th at 11am

Career Day—Tweens, teens, and their families are welcome to come meet professionals in different fields and ask them questions about their careers.

When: Monday, September 21st at 3:30pm

JACINTO CITY LIBRARY

Fall English Classes

REGISTER AT THE FRONT DESK
REGISTRARSE EN LA RECEPCION

JOURNAL CLUB
5 PM, 09/24

Basic Computer Class
Wednesdays
1:30 PM

Teen Anime Night
SEPT 16TH 2026
4-5:30PM

BOOK buddies

Book Buddies is a **FREE** literacy program that brings child and adults together to share the joy of reading. It pairs trained adult volunteers (Big Buddies) with children in K-3rd grades (Little Buddies).
Starting Sept 10 @4:30pm
Apply in person

Pokémon CRAFT NIGHT
September 18 @4pm

Story time
Wednesday's @10:30am

Jacinto City Library September Events Calendar

HOURS	MON	11-6 PM
	TUE	10-6 PM
	WED	10-6 PM
	THU	10-8 PM
	FRI	1-6 PM
	SAT	10-5 PM

Check us out on social media

[@JacintoCityLibrary](#)
[@JacintoCityLibrary](#)


921 AKRON ST. ☎832-827-5520

NEWS TIPS & ADVERTISING INQUIRIES

713-266-3444

The Mayor and City Council of Jacinto City will meet in Special Session on Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at 10301 Market Street for the purpose of a Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

The proposed budget will raise more revenue from property taxes than last year's budget by an amount of \$ 247,436.00, which is a 5.52 percent increase from last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$ 50,020.00

Property Tax Rate Comparison	2025-2026	2026-2027
Property Tax Rate	0.603444/100	0.639585/100
No-New-Revenue Tax Rate	\$0.589981/\$100	\$0.590739/\$100
No-New-Revenue Maintenance & Operations Tax Rate	\$0.589981/\$100	\$0.590739/\$100
Voter-Approval Tax Rate	\$0.611033/\$100	\$0.639586/\$100
De minimis rate	\$0.656062/\$100	\$0.677589/\$100

Total debt obligation for CITY OF JACINTO CITY secured by property taxes: \$ 0.00

During the 2025-2026 Budget year, \$ 3,500.00 was projected for advertising and \$ 1535.00 has been spent as of 7/31/2026. The 2026-2027 Budget Proposal includes \$ 3500.00 for advertising.

Jacinto City did not budget for or spend funds on lobbying efforts in the 2025-2026 budget and there is no such funding proposed for the 2026-2027 budget.

Public Participation is Encouraged

Christal Rodriguez, City Secretary

ORDINANCE 2026-05

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GALENA PARK, TEXAS, ADOPTING NEW RESIDENTIAL WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICE RATES; AMENDING THE CITY'S FEE SCHEDULE PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 58-23 AND 58-24 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; ESTABLISHING A SENIOR RESIDENTIAL RATE AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS THEREFORE; PROVIDING FOR ADMINISTRATION AND VERIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING PROVISIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND CONTAINING OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE SUBJECT.

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, October 8, 2026**, City Council Meeting at **6:00 P.M.** and then publicly opened and read during the **Thursday, October 8, 2026** held at the Council Chambers, 10301 Market Street, Jacinto City, 77029, and then publicly opened and read for construction of the **"Emergency Communications Improvements."**

Scope of Work: Upgrading the emergency radio communications equipment for the City of Jacinto City

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 Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at 10:00 A.M. at the City of Jacinto City Police Department, 10429 Market Street, Houston, Texas 77029

City of Jacinto City
Ana Diaz
Mayor

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Life is for Living

If I were to try to explain a typical day to most people, they would let me know that they could never live my life. I have one friend who repeatedly calls for an update and usually by the third sentence they say, “Charlie you do too much.” Or there are those who tell me that they cannot understand why I “waste time” on others.

Anyone who knows me knows that I have a heart of service mixed with compassion and a love for east Harris County. Many do not realize that I have been blessed to not only have had opportunities to serve but the spirit of helping others was instilled in my life at an early age. My mother was born in Chicago but in high school she lived in Port Arthur. Her formative years were spent with her Hungarian grandparents who had an appreciation for America, who became their home in their young adult years. Since my father worked in management, she was able to spend most of our childhood volunteering with our schools, our church and with amazing projects throughout the Houston area.

Imagine how fortunate I am to now be employed doing something that I love that was something she volunteered with in the early 1970’s? I saw her devotion to contacting senior citizens when she made a daily call to a senior who became a friend. Several years later when “Ms. Bozo” passed my mother was matched to a sweet older woman named Mrs. Jackson. My mom took this volunteer project to heart and did more than make a daily phone call. She began taking her friend to various appointments, to her church and to the various activities in Mrs. Jackson’s community of Fifth Ward. (This also helped my mother meet some amazing people and learn much more than history books could teach her.) She began standing up for the rights of others. She taught me to take a stand even if the situation did not directly affect me.

As my brother and I grew older, she began working outside of the home yet continued to volunteer with her church. The memories I have of her fighting for environmental justice as well as starting the feeding kitchen at St Andrew Catholic Church with friends, as well as the compassionate neighbors she introduced me to as she represented one of the 13 faith communities that founded North Channel Assistance Ministries are priceless. Rarely has my mother met a stranger.

Several years ago, after some heart issues I cannot say I was surprised when I received a phone call from a concerned HCSO Lieutenant asking if he has misunderstood the last prayer request. He went on to share that he had been praying for her to have a quick recovery and was shocked to see her out there “checking in on the homeless” near the Beltway. I explained that you cannot slow her down. She truly knows that life is for living. A few of you are aware she had her own medical scare last week but thank God she is doing much better. So, this week as she celebrates another birthday, we certainly have another reason to be grateful.

GP Police chase ends in death,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Police believe the driver got out of the vehicle and ran from the scene. That person had not been located as of Saturday morning.

Investigators said they have developed some leads and are also using Flock camera technology as part of the effort to identify the driver.

Anyone with information is asked to call police at 713-247-4072.

The investigation remains ongoing.

Americanisms



“The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity.”
— Dorothy Parker

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Jackets’ defense leads 16-9 victory,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

low Jackets’ offense.

Galena Park was called for 7 penalties giving up 65 yards, three for 15 yds each (2 personal fouls). The Linda Jamail statistician.

Galena Parks’ next game will be a home non-district game against Kingwood Park’s Panthers, both teams are 1 – 1.



Yellow Jackets team captains Team Captains – L-R: #10-Roger Hernandez, #2-Ramiro Cadriel and #74-Dylan Arriaga. (Photo by Linda Jamail)

Jackets’ #5 Ayden Felder catches a 27yd Jacob Muro TD pass. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



Swarming Yellow Jackets #33 Isaac Vieyra & #45 Alex Brito gang tackles the runner on the Cougars 4-yd line for a loss of yds. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



GP’s #82 Ezra Rodriguez kicks season’s 1st field goal.(Photo by Allan Jamail)

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: “What determines the quality of pearls?”

Pearl Quality 101 – How GIA Examines and Classifies Pearls

If pearls are your gemstone of choice, you’ll want to learn more about GIA’s 7 Pearl Value Factors™ – the criteria GIA (Gemological Institute of America) uses to classify and describe pearl quality. Read on to learn about how pearl quality is determined and what you can do to find out how your pearls measure up.



Describing Pearl Quality: GIA’s 7 Pearl Value Factors

Pearls come in a wide variety of sizes, shapes, and colors. GIA’s 7 Pearl Value Factors provide a common language to describe them and communicate their quality:

- 1. Size**
The size of round and near-round pearls is expressed in terms of their diameter measured in millimeters. One millimeter is about 1/25 of an inch. Other shapes are measured according to their length/depth and diameter/width.
- 2. Shape**
The three main categories of shape are spherical, symmetrical, and asymmetrical (semi-baroque and baroque). Pearls come in seven basic shapes: round, near-round, button, drop, oval, semi-baroque, and baroque.
- 3. Color**
There are three components: bodycolor (dominant, overall color of the pearl), overtone (one or more translucent colors that lie over the bodycolor), and orient (iridescent rainbow colors that shimmer on or just below a pearl’s surface). Note: not all pearls will exhibit all three characteristics.
- 4. Luster**
Luster is the intensity of light reflected from a pearl’s surface. Luster is one of the factors that give a natural or cultured pearl its unique beauty. Pearls with excellent luster have sharp bright reflections on the surface. Different pearl varieties have different standards for luster. The GIA Luster Scale ranges from Excellent to Poor.
- 5. Surface**
Pearls commonly have blemishes or irregularities that are normally confined to the surface. Surface characteristics are judged by size, number, location, visibility, and the types of blemish. If surface characteristics are numerous or severe, they can affect the durability of a pearl and severely lower its value. They have less effect on the pearl’s beauty and value if they are few in number, or if they are minor enough to be hidden by a drill-hole or mounting. The GIA Surface Scale classifies pearls as Clean, Lightly Spotted, Moderately Spotted, or Heavily Spotted.
- 6. Nacre Quality**
Nacre is the substance that makes up a pearl, layer after layer. Thickness is important when evaluating nacre quality to make sure that cultured pearls are durable as well as beautiful. Nacre thickness measurements are provided as optional descriptions on GIA pearl reports. However, GIA pearl reports will clearly note if the nacre coating is too thin and/or damaged, thereby posing a potential impact on a pearl’s durability. Natural or non-bead cultured pearls with nacre quality issues (damage will also be noted).
- 7. Matching**

This relates to the uniformity of pearls in strands, earrings, or other multiple-pearl jewelry items, and is highly dependent upon a skilled grader to determine matching the other six value factors. The GIA Matching Scale ranges from Excellent to Poor, or listed as Not Applicable for single pearls and certain intentionally mismatched jewelry items.

Each value factor is important in determining a pearl’s overall quality.

Visit us and see our amazing collection of pearl jewelry firsthand. Discover stunning necklaces, earrings, bracelets, and rings with something to fit every budget.

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.

You're staring at me again!



I love it when you do that!

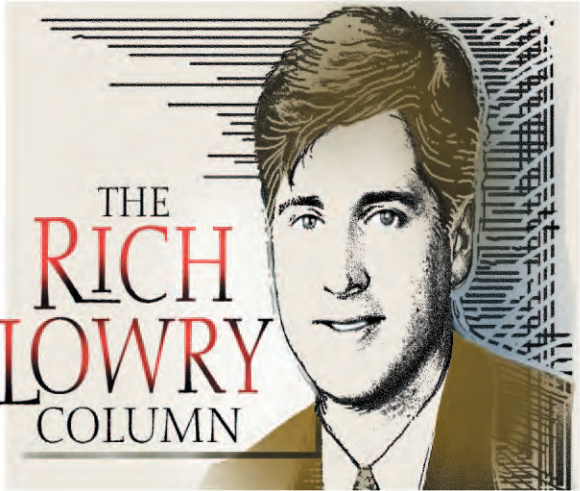


Diamond Jim's
Pineforest Jewelry
Experience

6840 E. Sam Houston Pkwy N
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(713) 451-1321 PineforestJewelry.com

In North Shore, nearly everyone reads the NORTH CHANNEL STAR.
Your Hometown Newspaper.



A Foolhardy Conflict with an Inoffensive Ally

President Trump’s tariffs aren’t popular, but he’s found a way to make them even less so — a trade war with America’s most inoffensive ally.

When one thinks of countries that deserve to be subjected to a steady stream of insults (it’s Lake America now, not Lake Ontario) and a punishing regime of tariffs, Canada is far down the list.

Ottawa has been a loyal, if occasionally annoying, friend of the United States for nearly 100 years. The presence of a well-meaning country with similar values along the 5,000-mile border to our north is a gigantic geostrategic blessing, although one that is apparently lost on President Trump.

Both sides deserve blame for the breakdown in negotiations, but news reports suggest it was the U.S. that made additional demands at the 11th hour. Now both sides are imposing new duties on the other, and Trump is threatening 50% tariffs on all Canadian cars, trucks and parts beginning in the new year.

It is certainly true that we can impose more pain on the Canadians than they can on us and grind them down economically. We can also land the 101st Airborne in Nova Scotia. But why would we want to do it?

The contention with Canada is characteristic of Trump’s economically senseless, legally dubious and politically harmful push to tariff everything and everyone he can.

Trump’s imposition of all these duties — often relying on strained interpretations of U.S. statutes — has run directly counter to his promise in the 2024 campaign to reduce prices, a pledge central to his victory. Although the administration maintains that the cost of tariffs isn’t passed on to U.S. consumers — instead borne by foreign countries and producers — its actions implicitly concede the opposite.

The administration excluded an array of consumer electronics from new reciprocal tariffs on China to avoid unpopular price increases, and it lifted tariffs on a long list of foodstuffs late last year. Twice this year, including about a week ago, the administration widened exceptions for beef imports. If tariffs were genuinely cost-free, none of this would have been deemed necessary by the most protectionist administration since that of Herbert Hoover.

A chief argument for tariffs is that they will revive American manufacturing. Even if this is true, it’s a long-term play, whereas the disruption from tariffs is experienced immediately. It’s also a questionable proposition; increasing the price of imported goods used in manufacturing, which is the effect of the scattershot tariffs, doesn’t do U.S. producers any favors. It is telling that the National Association of Manufacturers opposes the sweeping tariffs.

Polling consistently finds that the duties are unpopular. Majorities oppose Trump’s handling of the issue, and the public believes that the tariffs have increased prices and should be lowered. The trade war with Canada in particular fares poorly. A YouGov survey found that 62% of people oppose the imposition of 50% tariffs on many Canadian imports.

At the end of the day, Trump has chosen a long-standing ideological goal and his legacy over his short-term political standing. He has advocated for major tariffs for decades and has finally gotten them. They are likely to endure, even if they hurt now. His most probable Republican successor, J.D. Vance, presumably wouldn’t roll them back, and the Democratic candidate in 2028 might be equally protectionist. Regardless, it’s going to be difficult for future presidents to give up the revenue generated by the duties.

And so a president who campaigned on lowering prices has embraced a policy that, at the margins, increases them. Unless things are smoothed over with our Friendly Neighbor to the North, there will be more where that came from — in a dispute with a country that no one considers an economic threat to the United States.

If the midterms end up sending a broad message of discontent, the tariffs will surely be a reason why.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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Sub Headline: Trump Tariffs Escalate Trade War

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.*



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

Wildfires Sweeping Through North Texas

The Ross Fire in North Texas scorched 85,000 acres in just three days across Jack and Palo Pinto counties, with it doubling in size in a few hours last week, The Texas Tribune reported. As of Sunday morning, the Texas A&M Forest Service said the fire was 31% contained.

No injuries have been reported, but some rural residents were advised to evacuate. With much of the state experiencing extreme dry heat, the Forest Service reported 10 active fires as of Sunday that have scorched more than 90,000 acres across Texas.

Fire severely damaged Worth Ranch, an 800-acre historic Scouting America camp along the Brazos River.

JUDGE AGAIN BLOCKS DRAG SHOW BAN

A federal judge once again blocked a Texas law banning certain drag show performances, The Dallas Morning News reported. The judge said the law’s restrictions violate the U.S. Constitution.

U.S. District Judge David Hittner last week ruled that Senate Bill 12 is an unconstitutional ban on free speech and permanently barred Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton from enforcing the law.

The 2023 law, heavily backed by Republican lawmakers, prohibited “sexually oriented performances” in front of minors or on public property where children might see them. The law did not prohibit all drag shows. In a 36-page ruling, Hittner concluded that the law was both overly broad and unconstitutionally vague.

Paxton said he would appeal the decision “immediately.”

TRIBE OPENS TEMPORARY CASINO IN EAST TEXAS

The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe recently opened a new temporary casino in Leggett, just north of Livingston, with plans to build a much larger resort on the site, the Houston Chronicle reported.

“Naskila Casino Leggett is the beginning of new be-



ginnings for the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas,” Ricky Sylestine, tribal council chairman, said in a statement. The new 24-hour facility features more than 300 electronic bingo machines as well as gaming rooms and a grill. The tribe held a groundbreaking ceremony in June for a 685,000-square-foot casino with a large gaming floor, a 366-room hotel and other entertainment amenities. The first phase is planned this be finished in late 2028.

Tribal leaders say the casino will create new economic opportunities and become a significant economic driver for East Texas.

PAXTON’S NET WORTH JUMPS IN LATEST DISCLOSURE

Lucrative real estate holdings have allowed Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton’s net worth to increase by hundreds of thousands of dollars over the past year, according to a recent financial disclosure, the Chronicle reported.

One property in Broken Bow, Okla., rose in value from at least \$100,001 in June 2025 to between \$1 million and \$5 million this month, according to Paxton’s disclosure. A vacant piece of land in Johnson County, valued between \$15,001 and \$50,000 last year, is now reported to be worth between \$1 million and \$5 million. The law does not require exact valuations; instead, it uses ranges of value.

Paxton is the GOP nominee in the U.S. Senate race this November. His opponent, Democrat James Tarlicio, reported much

smaller financial holdings, with his income ranging from \$84,000 to \$97,000.

ABBOTT PUSHES THREE-YEAR COLLEGE DEGREES

Gov. Greg Abbott is pushing Texas public universities to offer students three-year bachelor’s degrees, The News reported. His proposed legislation is part of an effort to cut college costs for Texas students.

The legislation also requires universities to offer at least 10 degrees that can be completed in three years and 90 credit hours, down from typical bachelor’s degrees that require four years and 120 hours.

“Every additional year means more tuition and fees, but also more in housing and living expenses. It’s also more time before students are able to go into the job that they are seeking while they’re in college,” Abbott said at a campaign stop at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches.

The Texas Legislature will need to approve Abbott’s proposal before it becomes a reality. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board would work with universities to ensure that the reduced-credit degrees maintain “high academic standards.”

THECB has formed working groups to identify which degree programs and high-demand occupations would be best suited for the accelerated programs.

STATE TO END FUNDING FOR FLOCK LICENSE PLATE CAMERAS

Abbott last week ordered state agencies to stop funding Flock cameras, the AI-powered license plate readers, The News reported. Many Texas cities that use the cameras have relied on state money to purchase them.

The Tribune reported that the state has devoted at least \$30 million from a \$1 auto insurance fee now imposed on Texans to fund the placement of cameras along the state’s streets and highways.

The cameras have drawn pushback. A Lufkin police officer has been charged with 100 felony counts of alleged misuse of Flock information. Other criminal investigations are also underway.

“To the extent that cities get any funding for those cameras, most of it comes from the federal government. To the extent any funding comes from Texas agencies, those agencies are clarifying that those funds cannot be used for Flock cameras,” Abbott spokesperson Andrew Mahaleris said in a statement.

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

Email: gborders@texaspress.com

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Filled with Loons



I’m sure someone must have mentioned that I’d be on a boat.

But I somehow missed that information entirely until I was given directions to a boat landing. A book club was reading my novel, “Loon Point.” Someone in the book club knew my mother, and she wrote, asking if I would attend the meeting. “Loon Point” is described as book club fiction by my publisher, but I usually don’t hear about book club meetings unless someone mentions it after the fact. This time, however, I ended up at a boat landing—in the middle of nowhere.

I got there a little early, before anyone who looked like a member of the book club had arrived. I parked my car and walked to the dock, where a man was parking a pontoon boat.

“Is this the Mantrap Lake boat landing?” I asked.

“You here for the book club?” he replied.

“How did you know?”

“I’ll be on the pontoon.”

“Are you in the book club?”

“Oh, no! I just help out with the boat.”

Before long, a couple of cars pulled up, filled with women who looked like they might be members of a book club.

“Are you Carrie?” they asked. They had an advantage as my picture is on the book.

I told them I was, and they all introduced themselves one after the other. I hoped there wouldn’t be a quiz.

“You’re blonder than you are on your book,” one of them noted.

“The picture is in black and white!” another one replied.

“I get blonder three times a year,” I confessed.

Then we all put on life jackets and piled into the pontoon boat. I still wasn’t sure why I was getting on a boat. I couldn’t quite understand why a boat was necessary for a book club. I realized that I was feeling a little grumpy.

But I soon learned that we weren’t getting on the boat to talk about “Loon Point.” We were there for something much more important. We were there to look at loons.

It turns out this book club likes to do things related to the book. They read a book about an octopus and visited an aquarium where a large octopus lived. They read a book about Swedish immigrants and visited a restored immigrant cabin. And today they were on Mantrap Lake, a lake that was filled with loons.

The name was apt. I can imagine early explorers getting completely lost in this large, sprawling lake filled with tiny bays. And in every bay, there were loons. The fellow who gave us the tour on the pontoon boat told us they put out 24 man-made nests, and every one of them was used by loons. We heard loons calling to one another across the lake and saw loons diving into the deep water.

“How many loons are on this lake?” I asked the man driving the boat. He didn’t know. There were a lot. There were also a lot of bald eagles and bear and miles of state-forest land surrounding the lake.

It was a wonderful boat trip, all the more so because it was so unexpected.

I had this idea of what a book club looked like, and it didn’t look like getting on a boat in the middle of nowhere. I never imagined an adventurous group of readers would bring me to a remote lake in northern Minnesota to see loons. It was so much more fun—so much more memorable—than anything I had expected. I returned home, my head filled with loons.

Till next time
Carrie

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SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 2

Texas hopes to make statement against No. 1 Ohio State: Texans look to do the same when they open season against Bills

The NFL begins its 107th season with the a rematch of Super Bowl 60 when the reigning champs the Seattle Seahawks host New England on Wednesday night on NBC at 7:20 p.m.

And while that will be an interesting opener, Houston Texans fans will be focused on their team hosting Josh Allen and the Buffalo Bills on Sunday at noon on CBS. DeMeco Ryans' Texans would like nothing more than to send a message to the rest of the AFC that they are indeed true contenders to win the conference in 2026 and a season-opening win over a very good Buffalo team would give them plenty of momentum heading into the remainder of the season.

The NFL takes center stage this weekend, although there are plenty of solid games on the NCAA schedule, which we will get to later in this column. On Friday night, the Los Angeles Rams, the prohibitive favorite to win the NFC and Super Bowl, and San Francisco 49ers head down under to meet in Melbourne, Australia at 7:35 p.m. on Netflix. LA is loaded on both sides of the ball and added a huge piece to the defense when three-time Defensive Player of the Year Arnold Donald came out of retirement to pair with Myles Garrett to give the Rams perhaps the best front defensive line in the NFL.

The revamped Dallas Cowboys open the season on Sunday Night Football when they visit the New York Giants and their new head coach, former Baltimore Super Bowl winner John Harbaugh. Harbaugh parted ways with the Baltimore Ravens after 18 years and 180 wins and a Super Bowl title. You had better believe he will have Giants fans stoked to take on Jerry Jones' team come Sunday night. Over the offseason and in the draft, the Cowboys improved what was a bad defense with a number of key additions via trades and the draft. One of the biggest moves was drafting Ohio State All-American safety Caleb Downs to shore up the secondary. The offense was one of the best in the NFL a year ago, and if the defense improves just a bit, Dallas fans could be in for a special year.

Week 1 concludes with Monday Night Football with a big AFC West battle as defending division champ



Denver visits Kansas City at 7:15 p.m. on ABC. This game will mark the return of Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes, who sustained an ACL injury in December, but apparently has completed a full recovery and is ready to lead KC back to being a playoff contender after finishing 6-11 a year ago.

The center of attention on the college schedule will be on Austin when the No. 5-ranked Texas Longhorns host No. 1-ranked Ohio State at 6:30 p.m. on ABC. A year ago, these two teams met in the opener in Columbus, with the Buckeyes winning 14-7. UT head coach Steve Sarkisian and quarterback Arch Manning know this is a huge game for their team's national title hopes. It should be an interesting evening in Texas' capital city.

Also this weekend, No. 10 Oklahoma visits No. 16 Michigan as Kyle Whittingham, the former Utah head coach (265-177 in 22 years at Utah) coaches his first big game at the Big House.

Aldine ISD's five varsity programs will play their final non-district games before league play begins in two weeks. In week one, only Eisenhower and MacArthur won their season openers. On Thursday night, Aldine will play at Caney Creek, while on the same evening Eisenhower will visit Baytown Lee and Nimitz will host Cy-Ranch. On Friday night, MacArthur will host Porter and on Saturday, Davis will host Fort Bend Bush.

Without further ado, let's take a look at this weekend's games.

NCAA

Oklahoma at Michigan - This will feature two Top 20 teams at No.10-ranked Oklahoma visits No. 16-ranked Michigan in Ann Arbor on Saturday. A year ago, the Sooners defeated the Wolverines in Norman, 24-13. A lot has changed since that game. Michigan fired head coach Sherrod Moore after he was accused of an inappropri-

ate relationship with a female staff member. He was replaced by Whittingham, who had a lot of success at Utah. Whittingham inherited a team that finished 9-4 a year ago and returns dual-threat QB Bryce Underwood (2,428 passing yards, 11 TDs/ 9 interceptions/392 rushing yards, 6 TDs) and running back Jordan Marshall (932 yards, 10 TDs). The Sooners also return their dual-threat QB in John Mateer (2,885 passing yards, 14 TDs/431 rushing yards, 2 TDs in 12 games), running back Lloyd Avant (417 yards, 5 TDs) and big-play wideout Isaiah Sategna (67 receptions, 965 yards, 8 TDs). OU also has a stout defense led by defensive tackle David Stone (6-3, 310 pounds), who recorded 42 tackles and 1.5 sacks a year ago. Look for Michigan to get some payback this time around. My pick, Michigan 23, Oklahoma 20

Ohio State at Texas - No. 1-ranked Ohio State head to Austin to take on No. 5-ranked Texas to not only take on a very talented Longhorns team, but also the Texas heat. The forecast calls for a high of 95 degrees on Saturday and even though this will be a 6:30 p.m. start (ABC), it should still be toasty for the team from Columbus. A year ago, the Buckeyes won a 14-7 defensive battle at home. OSU returns a talented offensive team led by QB Julian Sayin (3,610 yards, 32 TDs), perhaps the top wideout in the nation in Jeremiah Smith (87 receptions, 1,243 yards, 12 TDs) and an up-and-coming star running back in Bo Jackson (1,090 yards, 6 TDs). The Buckeyes lost a lot of talent on defense to the NFL, but there is plenty of talent ready to step up. That until will get severely tested by a loaded UT defense led by QB Arch Manning (3,163 passing yards, 26 TDs/399 rushing yards, 10 TDs). Manning has a new stud receiver to throw to in Auburn transfer Cam Coleman (56 receptions, 708 yards, 5 TDs) to go along with the dependable Ryan Wingo (54 receptions, 834 yards, 7

TDs). Sarkisian upgraded a woeful running game by bringing in Ralek Brown (1,147 yards, 4 TDs) from Arizona State. The defense is stacked, led by top five NFL draft prospect Collin Simmons (12 sacks) at defensive end. Look for Simmons and his teammates to be the difference makers in this game as the 'Horns pick up one of their biggest wins in years, and vault up in the national rankings. My pick, Texas 24, Ohio State 20

NFL

New England at Seattle - The NFL kicks off the 2026 season with a rematch of SB 60 when the Patriots visit the defending champs in Seattle. Seattle dominated NE 29-13. You can be sure NE head coach Mike Vrabel, who led his first Patriots team to a 16-4 record, has reminded his team of the beating they took in their biggest game of the year. NE has a solid team led by star QB Drake Maye (4,394 passing yards, 31 TDS/450 rushing yards, 4 TDs). Maye received a new toy to throw to in the offseason when the Pats acquired former Eagles star wideout A.J. Brown (78 receptions, 1,003 yards, 7 TDs). Brown should open up the vertical passing game for Maye. NE has two solid running backs in TreVeon Henderson (911 yards, 9 TDs) and Rhamondre Stevenson (603 yards, 7 TDs). NE's offense will face a stern Seattle defense that returns most of its starters from last year's dominating team. The offense is loaded as well led by QB Sam Darnold (4,048 yards, 25 TDS) and one of the best wide receivers in the league in Jaxon Smith-Njigba (119 receptions, 1,793 yards, 10 TDs). Seattle did lose starting running back Kenneth Walker III to the Chiefs, and will call on rookie Jadarian Price from Notre Dame to handle the ground game until Zach Charbonet returns from his ACL injury. Look for Seattle to send a message to the rest of the NFL that they are once again the team to beat in the NFL in 2026. My pick, Seattle 26, New England 23

San Francisco vs. Los Angeles Rams - These two bitter NFC West rivals head to Melbourne, Australia to start their seasons. Both were playoff teams a year ago with the 49ers losing badly to Seattle in the NFC Divisional round, while the Rams lost a tight one in the NFC title game to Seattle. SF will go as far as QB Brock Purdy (2,167 yards, 20 TDs in 9 games) and running back Christian McCaffrey (1,202 rushing

yards, 10 TDs/102 receptions, 924 yards, 7 TDs) take them. The Rams are loaded on offense led by reigning MVP Matthew Stafford at QB (4,707 yards, 46 TDs), running back Kyren Williams (1,252 rushing yards, 10 TDs/36 receptions, 381 yards, 3 TDs) and productive wideouts Puka Nacua (129 receptions, 1,715 yards, 10 TDs) and Davante Adams (60 receptions, 789 yards, 14 TDs). The Rams also are stout on defense and added defensive end Myles Garrett (23 sacks), last year's Defensive Player of the Year and just last week three-time Defensive Player of the Year Aaron Donald came out of retirement to return to team up with Garrett. Look for the Rams to send a message to the rest of the NFL that they are gunning for the Lombardi this year. My pick, Los Angeles Rams 31, San Francisco 17

Buffalo at Houston - The Texans host the Bills in their home opener at noon on Sunday with hopes of making it two in a row over Josh Allen's team. Last year, the Texans defeated Buffalo 23-19 at NRG Stadium as the defense sacked Allen (3,668 passing yards, 25 TDs/579 rushing yards, 14 TDs) eight times. I'm sure Allen remembers that game and will be out for revenge in the season opener. He's not a one-man offense. He's got weapons galore around him in running back James Cook (1,621 rushing yards, 12 TDs/33 receptions, 291 yards, 2 TDs) and newly-acquired wideout D.J. Moore (50 receptions, 682 yards, 7 TDs). The Texans also upgraded their offense by acquiring running back David Montgomery (775 yards, 12 TDs/38 receptions, 341 yards), which should improve the running game and provide QB C.J. Stroud (3,041 yards, 19 TDs) some help in slowing down defenses' pass rush. Stroud once again has his top target back in Nico Collins (71 receptions, 1,117 yards, 6 TDs). Look for Houston's stout defense, led by defensive ends Will Anderson Jr. (12 sacks) and Danielle Hunter (15 sacks) to make key plays down the stretch as the Texans pick up a big season-opening win. My pick, Houston 26, Buffalo 23

Dallas at New York Giants - The Cowboys head to The Meadowlands to take on the Giants and their new head coach John Harbaugh on Sunday Night Football. Both teams want to get off to solid starts after disappointing 2025 seasons. Dallas finished 7-9-1 a year ago, and spent the offseason upgrading its dreadful defense by adding an up-and-coming defensive

coordinator in 34-year-old Christian Parker. They shored up the secondary by drafting Ohio State All-American safety Caleb Dows and will have nine new starters on defense, led by defensive tackle Quinton Williams. The offense is one of the best in the league led by QB Dak Prescott (4,552 yards, 30 TDs), running back Javonte Williams (1,201 yards, 11 TDs) and productive wideouts CeeDee Lamb (75 receptions, 1,077 yards, 3 TDs) and George Pickens (93 receptions, 1,429 yards, 9 TDs). The Giants should be vastly improved under Harbaugh's leadership. He will look to see an improved QB in Jaxson Dart (2,272 passing yards, 15 TDs/487 rushing yards, 9 TDs) and hopes running back Cam Scatattabo (487 yards, 5 TDs in eight games) can remain healthy for a full season. Look for Prescott to make a few more plays down the stretch than Dart to lead Dallas to a road win in Week 1. My pick, Dallas 27, New York Giants 20

Denver at Kansas City - Week 1 concludes on Monday Night Football with an AFC West battle between Denver, the defending division champs, and the Chiefs, who are coming off a 6-11 season. The Chiefs will get star QB Patrick Mahomes (3,587 yards, 22 TDs in 14 games) back after he suffered a torn ACL in December. Mahomes has looked good in training camp and the front office provide him with a new weapon in former Seattle running back Kenneth Walker III (1,627 yards, 5 TDs), MVP of SB 60. He will also have budding star wideout Rashee Rice (53 receptions, 571 yards, 5 TDs in eight games) and dependable tight end Travis Kelce (76 receptions, 851 yards, 5 TDs) back in the fold. The Broncos reached the AFC title game a year ago, but fell to NE when QB Bo Nix (3,931 passing yards, 25 TDs/356 rushing yards, 5 TDs) could not play due to a broken ankle he sustained in Denver's Divisional round win over Buffalo. Nix also has a new weapon to throw to in speedy wide receiver Jalen Waddle (64 receptions, 910 yards, 6 TDs with a bad Miami team last year). He will pair with the steady Courtland Sutton (74 receptions, 1,017 yards, 7 TDs) to give secondary fits all season long. Look for Mahomes to be fired up, along with Chief nation, for this one as he leads the home team to a season open victory. My pick, Kansas City 30, Denver 27

NC FOOTBALL SCORES/SCHEDULES

LAST WEEK IN FOOTBALL

THURSDAY

Aldine MacArthur 37, Channelview 28
Galena Park 16, Fort Bend Kempner 9

FRIDAY

#2 Galena Park North Shore 27, #2 John Curtis Christian, LA 17
#18 Cypress Ranch 31, #3 C. E. King 28

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, SEPT. 10

Galena Park vs. Kingwood Park, 7 p.m., Galena Park ISD Stadium

FRIDAY, SEPT. 11

C. E. King at College Park, 7 p.m., Woodforest Bank Stadium
Channelview vs. Clear Creek, 7 p.m., Ray Maddry Memorial Stadium

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12

North Shore at Dallas South Oak Cliff, 4 p.m., Cotton Bowl Stadium



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Atom X



Audien Hearing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Presentation slides from the meet-

(ROD). EPA will also discuss a Unilateral Administrative Order

On October 11, 2017, EPA approved the cleanup plan to address dioxin contamination at the site. The

The meeting is being held in a fully accessible facility. Should you have any specific needs or questions about the facility, please contact Janetta Coats, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at 214-665-7308 or 1-800-533-3508 (toll-free) or coats.janetta@epa.gov. The presentation slides will be posted online on the [San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site webpage](#).

The 2017 selected remedy for the Site requires the excavation and off-site disposal of waste materials and contaminated soil/sediment from the Site impoundments, which are located both north and south of Interstate Highway 10 (I-10) on the San Jacinto River. The primary hazardous substances documented at the Site are polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and

All other remedy components selected in the 2017 ROD remain unchanged.

The ESD is available at:
ESD in Administrative Record

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Patrick Brammall star in "Last Seen."

“Last Seen.”

“Why Did I Get Married Again?” (PG-13) — In 2007, Tyler Perry directed a cast featuring Janet Jackson (“For Colored Girls”) and Jill Scott (“Outlaw Johnny Black”) for a comedy drama titled “Why Did I Get Married?” In 2010, the cast reprised their roles for “Why Did I Get Married Too?” But for this new sequel that premieres Sept. 9, Jackson is notably missing. The show goes on, however, with the addition of Taraji P. Henson (“Straw”). This third film follows the longtime friend group in their overseas trek to Italy for the wedding of Marcus (Michael Jai White) and Angela’s (Tasha Smith) daughter, who feels a great pressure to be perfect due to

the images that the older couples perpetuate within their marriages. With her father and his friends also disapproving of her betrothed, it’s bound to be a messy vacation! (Netflix)

“Scary Movie” (R) — Die-hard Halloween fans know that the arrival of September signifies the start of everything spooky, and we’re already kicking off the first week of September with an OG spooky-season franchise. Also known as “Scary Movie 6,” this parody film was written and produced by the Wayans brothers (Marlon, Shawn, Keenen Ivory and Craig), and it’s considered to be a “spiritual sequel” to the first two “Scary Movie” films. Marlon and Shawn

Wayans star opposite Anna Faris (“I, Object”) and Regina Hall (“The Sheep Detectives”), who reprise their respective roles of Cindy Campbell and Brenda Meeks. This sixth film features nods to the “Scream” franchise, “KPop Demon Hunters,” and “John Wick.” It’s out now to stream after earning \$231.4 million in box office grosses, making it the second-highest-grossing film in the franchise so far. (Paramount+)

“Last Seen” (TV-MA) — This new suspenseful Australian series is led by Patrick Brammall, who you might’ve recently seen as Anne Hathaway’s love interest in “The Devil Wears Prada 2.” Based on the novel “The Dispatcher” by Ryan David Jahn, the six-episode series follows a police dispatcher named Ian, whose daughter went missing 11 years prior at only 3 years old. When he receives a distressing call from a confused and lost teenage girl, she mentions that her name could possibly be Maggie, which was his daughter’s name. Ian becomes convinced that this teenager is his daughter, but with a serious lack of evidence and pretty much nothing to go on, he’s urged to let it go by those closest to him. Still, Ian begins to abandon all logic to figure out her whereabouts. The first two episodes premiere on Sept. 9, with subsequent episodes releasing every Wednesday. (Apple TV)

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HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Vin Diesel set aside four years to perfect the final script for “Fast Forever” in order to create a spectacular finale. The film is now due on March 17, 2028. Currently, all of Diesel’s energy is focused on this 11th “Fast & Furious” film.

Dwayne Johnson plays Luke Hobbs in the franchise, and of course, he’s already completed his next action-adventure film — “Jumanji: Open World,” which will be unwrapped on Christmas Day. In addition, he’s producing and starring in “Lizard Music,” co-starring Alicia Silverstone and Regina Hall; it’s about a boy who stumbles on a secret late-night broadcast of lizards playing music.

But Johnson better hurry because the original “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles,” who’ve been absent since 2023, are preparing their comeback film for 2027. Their last film, “Mutant Mayhem,” cost \$70 million and grossed \$182 million.

Zendaya’s estimated net worth is \$40 million, while her new husband Tom Holland’s net worth is \$25 million, but this is all about to change! In addition to his \$20 million salary as Spider-Man, he’ll earn a staggering \$100 million from “Spider-Man: Brand New Day,” which has already passed the \$2 billion mark to become the third highest-grossing film of all time.

The fifth highest-grossing film is now “Titanic” at \$2.257 billion. The fourth is “Avatar: The Way of Water” at \$2.334 billion. “Avengers: Endgame” remains the second highest-grossing film at \$2.797 billion, and the highest-grossing film of all time is still the original “Avatar” at \$2.923 billion.

Don’t be surprised if “Spider-Man: Brand New Day” keeps climbing; not to mention, Holland and Zendaya’s other film that was released this year, “The Odyssey,” has already grossed \$1.555 billion. Lest we forget, “Spider-Man 5” is in its early planning stages and will once again star Holland and Zendaya.

The dynamic duo are currently honeymooning, but Zendaya still has “Dune: Part Three” opening on Dec. 18 and



Vin Diesel (Upcoming in “Fast Forever”)

“Shrek 5” opening on June 30, 2027.

They’re denying that heads have rolled at Disney after the dismal earnings of the live-action “Moana” (which cost \$250 million and only earned \$315.4 million). Meanwhile, “Moana 2” (2024) cost \$150 million and grossed more than \$1 billion! This triggered what they’re calling a structural consolidation “affecting approximately 1,000 corporate and marketing positions” across the Walt Disney Company. In other words: “We goofed, and you are now fired or have been reassigned!”

Actor David Krumholtz’s most recent claim to fame was starring in “Supergirl” (which cost \$190 million but only grossed \$126.4 million), as well as a small starring role in “Oppenheimer.” However, he’s announced that he’s taking a break because he’s frustrated, fed up and fried with the movie business because “the profession has lost its gleam!” We’d be sad about this if we knew who he was. ... Talk about delusions of grandeur!

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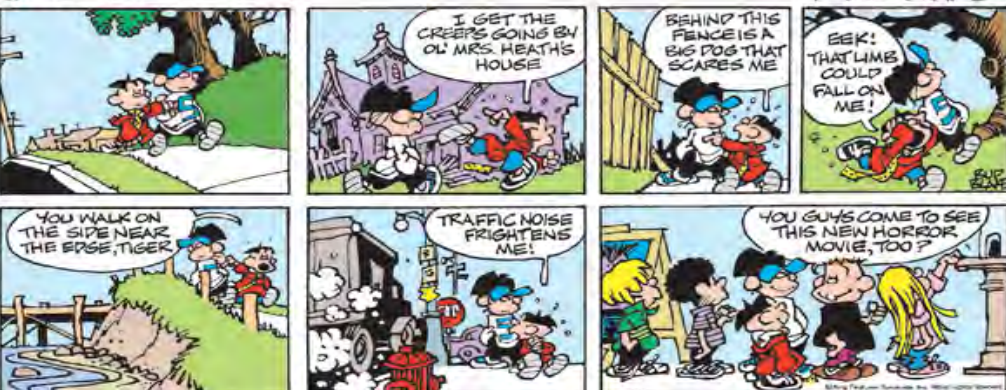
ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

TIGER



by Bud Blake

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

Weekly SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Hand is moved. 2. Paper on desk is missing. 3. Desk is not as wide. 4. Window is not as wide. 5. The 15 difference. 6. Blinds are higher.

1. Oscar Wilde; 2. Niagara Falls, New York; 3. “Up”; 4. Eggo waffles; 5. Tin mining district; 6. A fever-inducing agent; 7. Horseshy; 8. Seasoned slices of raw beef or fish; 9. Indian Ocean; 10. Baking soda

September 7, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Grass clump
 - 5 Pampering, for short
 - 8 Bay Area force, briefly
 - 12 Beige
 - 13 Taunting laugh
 - 14 — Minor
 - 15 Airline to Tel Aviv
 - 16 Greek vowel
 - 17 Endure
 - 18 Lustrious fabrics
 - 20 Ascribe
 - 22 Soda
 - 23 Abysmal
 - 24 Fairy tale figures
 - 27 Surname of Judas
 - 32 Terre Haute sch.
 - 33 From — Z
 - 34 Ruckus
 - 35 Element No. 78
 - 38 Recognized
 - 39 Train lines (Abbr.)
 - 40 CBS logo
 - 42 More like Unger
 - 45 Signed over
 - 49 China setting
 - 50 Here (Fr.)
 - 52 Mani counterpart

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42	43				44		45			46	47	48
49					50	51			52			
53					54				55			
56					57				58			

- 53 Not naked
- 54 Darjeeling, e.g.
- 55 “— to differ!”
- 56 Earth tones
- 57 Buddhist sect
- 58 Metal boxes
- 8 Inferior
- 9 Follower of Sigmund’s methods
- 10 Jr.-year exam
- 11 Challenge
- 19 Rejection
- 21 CEO’s degree, maybe
- 24 Trendy
- 25 Visual communication syst.
- 26 Protector
- 28 “Rugrats” dad
- 29 Late-night host, usually
- 30 Poetic tribute
- 31 AAA job
- 36 Three-note chords
- 37 British verb ending
- 38 “Consider this a gift”
- 41 Old pronoun
- 42 Diplomacy
- 43 “La — Bonita”
- 44 Cracker name
- 46 Mazar of “Younger”
- 47 Idyllic place
- 48 Uses a shovel
- 51 Bee follower

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. LITERATURE: Which author published his only novel in 1890, “The Picture of Dorian Gray”?

2. GEOGRAPHY: What well-known scenic destination includes Horseshoe Falls and Goat Island?

3. MOVIES: Which animated movie features 10,297 balloons?

4. TELEVISION: What is Eleven’s favorite food in “Stranger Things”?

5. LANGUAGE: What is a stannary?

6. ANATOMY: What is a pyrogen?

7. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the fastest flying insect?

8. FOOD & DRINK: What is carpaccio?

9. SCIENCE: What is the warmest ocean in the world?

10. CHEMISTRY: What is a common name for sodium bicarbonate?

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

HCC Northeast Welcomes First-Year Students



Houston City College (HCC) Northeast hosted a welcome event for first-year college students. The first-year students included recent high school graduates, students seeking to upgrade their skills and those using HCC as a stop on their path toward a bachelor's degree.

The workshop celebrated students for choosing to invest in their education and was designed to prepare them for success by sharing information about the resources and support services available at HCC.

President Betty Fortune, Ed.D. welcomed the students and shared that HCC Northeast is committed to providing the guidance and solutions required to **Build their Futures Forward**. Many first-year students face challenges balancing work, family responsibilities and financial obligations while pursuing their education. The workshop reinforced that students do not have to navigate their educational journeys alone.

The session opened with keynote speaker and former HCC student Renee Jefferson Patterson, District II trustee. Students listened intently as Patterson shared her experience as a student, the personal challenges she



overcame, the support provided by faculty and how her persistence ultimately led to her role as a business owner and trustee. Patterson closed her remarks by reassuring students that she advocates for their success and works to ensure they receive the support they need.

In addition to the keynote address, students participated in an interactive session that offered strategies for building communication skills, developing confidence when speaking with faculty or requesting help, and strengthening networking abilities.

They also heard from a panel of former students who shared their experiences at HCC and explained how the college prepared them to transfer

and complete their bachelor's degrees.

The workshop included activities and prizes generously donated by PrimeWay Federal Credit Union. The day culminated with a college resource fair, where students visited resource tables, spoke with college representatives and connected with peers on similar educational journeys. Resources included financial coaching, tutoring and career services, the food pantry and recreational opportunities. By enrolling in college, these first-year students have already taken an important first step, and their early commitment to their education can contribute to positive academic outcomes.

North Channel Chamber Celebrates Member Milestones



The North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce recognized members who have achieved their fifth anniversary as members. Celebrating from left are representatives from Channelview Family Medicine, Explorer Pipeline Company, Hampton Inn and Suites Houston East Beltway 8, and Raise Your Hand Texas. They are joined by Margie Buentello, president and CEO of the chamber.



Celebrating 10 year anniversaries from left is representatives from Whataburger, City Fire Protection, LLC, Frost Bank, and Communities in Schools. Buentello, president and CEO of the chamber, is far right.



JW Communications celebrated their 15-year anniversary membership with the chamber with Buentello.



Chairman of the Board Dr. Alexander Okwonna recognized Margie Buentello, president and CEO of the chamber, for her 30th year anniversary serving the chamber.

Mustangs Defeat Louisiana Patriots

North Shore 27 - John Curtis 17

By Allan Jamail

Lafayette, La. – Friday, September 4, 2026 the North Shore Mustangs went east and crossed the Sabine River into Louisiana and played one of the state's best high school football teams, defeating the John Curtis Christian Patriots from River Ridge; 27 ~ 17.

The two teams met at the neutral field of Our Lady of Lourdes Stadium also referred to as Lafayette's Cajun Field.

In the first quarter Coach Willie Gaston's Mustangs scored first off a 15 yard TD pass from quarterback (QB) Ja'Voris Taylor to running back Kaden Brandley, kicker Rey Amezcuita added the extra point. The defense shutout the Patriots 7 – 0.

After a Nshore fumble recovery near the Patriots own goal line QB Ja'Voris Taylor scored on a keeper and kicker



Amezcuita kicked the extra point, giving them a 14 – 3 lead.

The Patriots only could manage a 3 point field goal in the first half against the tough Mustangs defense. Halftime score: 14 – 3.

In the 3rd quarter John Curtis tightened the scored 14 -10 on a 15 yd TD pass. Later with seconds left in the 3rd quarter the Patriots took a 17 to 14 lead on a running play.

Trailing by 3 the Mustangs took back the lead 20 – 17 with 8 minutes left in the 4th quarter on a 15 yd pass from Ja'Voris Taylor to receiver Jaden Kendrick, the extra point failed.

The Eastside Boys wasn't finished, they

iced the game with just 2 minutes remaining when junior running back Jemarkeus Houston scampered 15 yds into the Patriots end zone, kicker Amezcuita added the extra point making the final score 27 – 17. Linda Jamail statistician.

Nshore state ranked #3 extended their win streak to 8 games with a 2 – 0 season record and will next play the state's #7 ranked South Oak Cliff Golden Bears Texas in the famous Dallas Cotton Bowl.

The Mustang's travel to the Dallas Texas Cotton Bowl on Saturday, September 12th. The game is billed the Parish Classic with the Battle of the 2026 High School's State Champions. Galena Park's North Shore Mustangs state ranked #3 will play state ranked #7 South Oak Cliff Golden Bears while Duncanville's Panthers will play the DeSota Eagles.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Final
Mustangs	7	7	0	13	27
Patriots	0	3	14	0	17

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