

BRITNEY GRINER RELOCATE TO HOUSTON, Page 2

HUFFMAN ESD #4 EARLY VOTING BEGINS, Page 5

Annual Battle of San Jacinto Reenactment



John Luna, a retired reenactor originally from San Antonio who now lives in Arlington has portrayed Juan Seguin, the Tejano leader and soldier who fought alongside Anglo Texians during the revolution. See Story below & on Page 2.

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

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THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026

HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

## Gov. Abbott Tours Crosby Training Facility (IUOE)

### Highlights New Texas Jobs Council and Workforce Investments

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

CROSBY — Gov. Greg Abbott visited Crosby Thursday to spotlight the new Texas Jobs Council and tour the International Training & Education Center, the flagship facility of the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) that trains operating and stationary engineers from across North America.

“The training and skills learned by workers like those behind me are helping ensure Texas has the best workforce in the nation,” Abbott said. “The Texas Jobs Council is delivering on that by equipping our current workforce with the resources they



Texas Gov. Greg Abbott was in Crosby, Texas touring the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) facility that trains operating and stationary engineers from across North America.

need to enhance their skills and develop premier job training at high schools, colleges, and apprenticeship programs.”

During remarks at the training center, Abbott emphasized aligning ca-



The governor boasted the nation's top facility of its kind in the nation and said Texas should replicate what's being done, potentially on a different scale, to promote more trades jobs.

reer training with the needs of Texas employers and preparing Texans to fill high-demand roles. He also credited the state's

business climate and workforce pipeline as drivers of continued job growth.

“I consider this to be the

premier facility of this kind in the country,” Abbott said after touring the campus. “Components of this can be — and I would say must be

— replicated across the state.”

Abbott said the facility demonstrates “the resources that are going into making sure that we provide a well-trained, skilled workforce,” adding that efforts like the Jobs Council are intended to help Texas “continue to have the best workforce in the United States.”

Abbott noted that Texas has invested more than \$7 billion over the past two years in career training programs statewide. He also cited House Bill 20 and House Bill 120, signed into law last year, which expands career and technical education oppor-

Continued. See GOVERNOR TOURS 7 BILLION IN CAREER, Page 5

### IN THE STARS

#### Stuffed Animal Drive for First Responders

— Drop Off by April 30  
HIGHLANDS Reminder: Small new stuffed animals needed for first responders. Drop off at San Jacinto Community Center by April 30th. Mon-Fri, 8am-8pm.

#### Historic 1937 Highlands Library Saved from Demolition

Because of your generosity, passion, and unwavering support, the historic 1937 Highlands Library has been SAVED from demolition! There truly are not enough thank-yous for the incredible support of the Perry W. and Lou F. Britton Foundation.

We are thrilled to share that the moving contract has officially been signed, and what once faced an uncertain future will soon be on its way to a new life at the Republic of Texas Plaza. If all goes as planned, this incredible piece of history will begin its journey to its new home in May—a moment we cannot wait to witness!

This victory belongs to every single one of you who donated and believed in preserving our shared history. You did not just save a building—you protected a story, a legacy, and a place for future generations to connect with the past.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you. We are beyond excited to welcome you to see it once it is set up and the necessary restorations have been completed, and it is ready for viewing. Stay tuned—the best is yet to come!

## San Jacinto Reenactment Draws Crowds, Highlights Texas' Fight for Independence

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

LA PORTE — Musket fire cracked across the grounds near the San Jacinto Monument on Saturday as cannons boomed and reenactors surged through drifting smoke, shouting “Remember the Alamo!” and “Remember La Bahía!” Thousands of visitors watched the annual Battle of San Jacinto reenactment, a two-day event presented by the San Jacinto Museum and the Texas Historical Commission to mark the decisive clash that helped secure Texas' independence.

Beyond the battlefield spectacle, organizers and volunteers said the week-



Michael Sproat, the curator at the Sam Houston Memorial Museum and Republic of Texas Presidential Library in Huntsville, prepares to shoot during the Battle of San Jacinto. He played the doctor who tends to Gen. Sam Houston during the reenactment.

end is meant to function as a living-history classroom. Families and school groups moved between campsites where reenactors demonstrated period tools, clothing and daily routines, helping visitors

understand the weeks leading up to April 21, 1836, when Gen. Sam Houston's outnumbered army surprised Mexican forces near present-day La Porte.

Among those returning



Heidie Hardin, left, warms the coffee by the fire while Leslie Sproat checks the potatoes being cooked over the open fire.

year after year is John Luna, a retired reenactor originally from San Antonio who now lives in Arlington. Luna said he has made the drive annually since 2015.

For much of the past de-

cade, Luna has portrayed Juan Seguin, the Tejano leader and soldier who fought alongside Anglo Texians during the revo-

Continued. See THOUSANDS WATCH SAN JACINTO, Page 2

## Tees 'N Tails Tournament Nets About \$14,000 for Crosby-Huffman Chamber

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

The Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce's Tees 'N Tails Golf Tournament returned to Stonebridge at Newport with a larger field than last year and a strong showing of community support, drawing about 84 golfers across 21 teams and raising critical operating funds for the nonprofit organization.

Chamber leaders called the 34th annual event a success, noting smooth logistics and favorable weather throughout the day. Organizers also thanked tournament sponsors and raffle donors whose support helped boost participation and revenue.

After expenses, the



The Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce Tees 'N Tails Golf Tournament got off to a great start with 80-plus golfers enjoying the incredible weather. Wilfred Broussard swings hard for the long drive.

tournament produced a profit of about \$14,000, according to the Chamber. The proceeds help cover

day-to-day costs and support Chamber initiatives, including community projects such as the stree-



First place winner of the golf tournament was The Crawfish Shack team. See additional Team Winners on Page 5.

light program.

In team competition, The Crawfish Shack took first place, followed by Court

Continued. See TEES 'N TAILS A BIG SWING: \$14K RAISED, Page 5

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NCUA

# Thousands watch San Jacinto Reenactment as living-history classroom brings Texas revolution to life,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lution. During reenactment vignettes, Luna said, fellow participants often enlist him to assist Andy Anderson, who plays Houston, during a scene depicting the capture of Mexican President Gen. Antonio López de Santa Anna.

“He wants me to be the translator at the capture of General Santa Ana,” Luna said.

In the reenactment, Houston—injured during the brief campaign and propped against a tree—receives the captured Santa Anna as Seguín interprets. The scene underscores how quickly the revolution turned after San Jacinto: Houston’s forces won in roughly 18 minutes, and Santa Anna’s capture soon led to agreements that recognized Texas’ independence.

Seguín’s legacy, reenactors said, is also a reminder that Tejanos were not a footnote to the revolution but active participants.

Seguín led the Tejano Volunteer Company, a unit that recruited and commanded Tejano fighters for the Texian Army.

Longtime participant Juan Gonzales, also from San Antonio, said he has taken part in the battle reenactment and living-history camps for two decades. For him, the weekend is equal parts camaraderie and community education.

At San Jacinto, Gonzales said, Tejano soldiers in Houston’s army used a simple method to reduce the risk of friendly fire during the chaos of combat: they placed playing cards or pieces of cardboard in their hatbands so fellow Texians could distinguish them from Mexi-

can soldiers at a glance, since uniforms and appearances could be similar.

The tactic mattered in a fight that unfolded quickly and at close range, he said—one that ended in a decisive victory that reshaped Texas’ future.

For many reenactors, participation is also personal—tied to family, loss and the desire to keep history tangible for the next generation.

Heidie Hardin said this is her third year participating, motivated in part by her own young children—ages 3 and 1—and a desire to preserve Texas history through hands-on storytelling.

Last year’s reenactment, she said, was especially difficult. Her father, who had played Houston in the San Jacinto reenactment, was hospitalized during the event and later died of heart issues.

Hardin now participates in a “Runaway Scrape” vignette alongside her sister and their children, portraying families fleeing Mexican troops as panic spread across settlements in 1836.

“My daddy made the cart we use in the reenactment completely from scratch except for the wheels,” Hardin said.

Hardin added that many artifacts displayed in the camps are owned by the reenactors themselves, collected or crafted to reflect the era and to invite conversation with visitors.

That sense of continuity—handing down skills, stories and objects—also shapes the experience for Leslie Sproat, whose family has become deeply involved in reenactments across Texas.

Sproat said she was re-



John Luna, a retired reenactor originally from San Antonio who now lives in Arlington has portrayed Juan Seguín, the Tejano leader and soldier who fought alongside Anglo Texians during the revolution. During reenactment vignettes, Luna said, fellow participants often enlist him to assist Andy Anderson, who plays Houston, during a scene depicting the capture of Mexican President Gen. Antonio López de Santa Anna.



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Leslie Sproat, left, gets some assistance from Heidie Hardin lighting the lamp at their tent on the San Jacinto battlefield. The two sisters are both part of the Runaway Scrape reenactment over the weekend.

sponsible for drawing her father, Mark Hegman, into the “reenactment clan.” The spark came while she was in college, she said, when she took part in a hands-on historic preservation project that her father witnessed.

“He said he had always wanted to do something like that and the next year he participated,” Sproat said. Her father later portrayed Johann Friedrich Ernst, often described as the first German immigrant to Texas and later as Gen. Sam Houston.

She added that her family has deep Texas roots, including a connection to

Albert Hamilton Latimer, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence from the Red River District.

For Michael Sproat, her husband and the curator at the Sam Houston Memorial Museum and Republic of Texas Presidential Library in Huntsville, reenacting at San Jacinto is both public history and family history. He said he is also descended from an early Republic-era ancestor—a French explorer who traveled widely across what is now Texas and Louisiana in the 1700s.

Sproat said reenact-

ments can help audiences understand the broader sweep of the era, including Santa Anna’s campaigns against regions that resisted centralized rule.

“He did it at Zacatanacas, Tamaulipas, at the Yucatan, and he did it here in Texas at Goliad, and the Alamo,” Sproat said. “He would have done it here at San Jacinto except Texas won.”

During the weekend, Sproat portrayed a doctor who tends to Houston’s injuries and described a moment reenactors use to illustrate Houston’s decision-making after the battle—particularly the

decision to keep Santa Anna alive despite widespread anger among Texian troops.

“There was more than 30 people behind Sam Houston, each of them with a knife, rope, or a gun ready to kill Santa Anna,” Sproat said. “But Sam Houston knew if they were going to be their own nation, they needed Santa Anna, so he spared his life. Later, Santa Anna would sign all the treaties that legitimized Texas’s independence.”



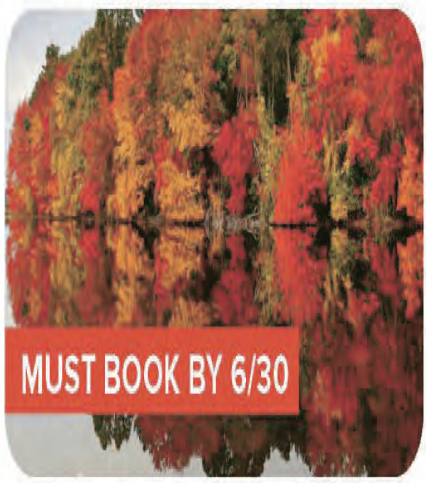
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# Brittney Griner to join Conn. Sun, then Relocate to Houston

HOUSTON - Ten-time WNBA All-Star Brittney Griner is finalizing a seven-figure deal to join the Connecticut Sun, sources confirmed to ESPN on Friday.

The move comes as the Sun prepare for their final season in Connecticut before the franchise’s relocation to Houston in 2027. Griner, 35, is a Houston native and played collegiately at Baylor.

The terms of the agreement are unknown. Sun sideline reporter Terrika Foster-Brasby first reported the deal.

Griner will join a team that is building around a young core, including Connecticut draftees Leila Lacan, Saniya Rivers and Aneeshah Morrow, as well as recently acquired players Diamond Miller and Aaliyah Edwards.

Griner, a 6-foot-9 center, is a six-time All-WNBA and seven-time All-Defensive team selection, two-time Defensive Player of the Year, eight-time blocks leader and two-time scoring champion.

Prior to last season, she had spent her entire career with the Phoenix Mercury, who drafted her No. 1 in 2013. She helped them win a championship the following year.

Last year was the start of a new era for Griner as she left Phoenix to join the Atlanta Dream. She registered a career low in minutes (20.8), points (9.8), rebounds (5.2) and blocks (1.2) and was two-time scoring champion.

Prior to last season, she had spent her entire career with the Phoenix Mercury,



Brittney Griner during a women’s basketball quarterfinal round game against Australia at 2020 olympics

who drafted her No. 1 in 2013. She helped them win a championship the following year.

Last year was the start of a new era for Griner as she left Phoenix to join the Atlanta Dream. She registered a career low in minutes (20.8), points (9.8), rebounds (5.2) and blocks (1.2) and was coming off the bench by the end of the season.

Griner has also had an illustrious international career, including as a three-time gold medalist with USA Basketball.

She missed the 2022 campaign after being wrongfully detained in Russia for nearly 10 months.



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# Barbers Hill Press

## Dayton

Serving Mont Belvieu, Dayton, Baytown and surrounding communities since 1995

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THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

### ON THE HILL

#### Message From City of Mont Belvieu about Your Water

The City of Mont Belvieu assures residents that tap water remains safe to drink despite a required notice about trihalomethane (TTHM) levels. This is not an emergency. A single sample from October 2025 at one location (9547 Hwy 146) slightly exceeded federal limits, pushing the system's annual average to 0.084 mg/L — just 0.004 mg/L above the TCEO limit of 0.080 mg/L. TTHMs are a chemical byproduct formed when chlorine disinfectant interacts with natural organic matter, a common occurrence in all treated public water systems. Health risks from TTHMs only apply to individuals consuming water at elevated levels over many years, not days or weeks.

Upon notification, Public Works immediately flushed the entire system, increased automatic flushing frequency, and is conducting more frequent in-house testing. The city is also testing a new treatment process to extend disinfectant life and has reduced chlorine residuals at well sites. A local engineering firm has been engaged to accelerate improvements.

TTHMs tend to accumulate at dead-end distribution lines — a challenge for growing communities like Mont Belvieu. The city is actively connecting these lines to improve flow.

#### What is TTHM?

TTHMs are a chemical byproduct that forms when the chlorine used to disinfect water interacts with natural organic matter. Every treated public water system in the country manages this. It is not a sign of dirty or contaminated water. It is, in fact, a sign that we are actively killing bacteria to protect you.

Unlike other Texas communities under boil water notices or facing serious public health threats, Mont Belvieu's exceedance is minor and temporary. The required notice was delivered according to state law. Residents with specific health concerns should consult their physician.

## Barbers Hill Elementary North 2nd Graders Get Behind-the-Scenes Look at MB City Hall

By Gerardo Hernandez

MONT BELVIEU — A small army of second graders took over Mont Belvieu City Hall this week, flooding the halls with questions, smiles, and plenty of energy as they got an up-close look at how their local government works.

Students from Barbers Hill Elementary North toured the City Hall, Police Department, Fire Department, and Public Works facilities as part of a behind-the-scenes field trip designed to introduce them to community operations.

The Mont Belvieu Police Department reported hosting what felt like a “never-ending parade” of young faces Wednesday morning. Officers taught the students about public safety, including how to stay safe, the importance of wearing seatbelts, and when and how to dial 9-1-1.

Students also toured the



combined City Hall, courts, police and fire complex. According to a lighthearted poll conducted by the department, four out of five second graders said they would recom-

mend the Mont Belvieu Police Department to their friends and family.

City officials described the visit as unforgettable, noting that the students asked big



questions and flashed even bigger smiles throughout the day.

“Who knows... we may have met a few future city workers, or even a mayor in the making!” the city said in a statement.

The Mont Belvieu Police Department echoed that sentiment, adding: “If you ever need something to smile about, just know that because of these kinds of kiddos in Mont Belvieu and Barbers Hill ISD, our future is bright.”

## Dayton ISD Inducts Alpha W. Henderson to Wall of Fame



Alpha Wright Henderson, right, is pictured with Dayton ISD Superintendent Dr. Travis Young during her Wall of Fame induction ceremony held April 14.

DAYTON TX - Dayton ISD honored longtime educator Alpha Wright Henderson during a Wall of Fame induction ceremony held Tuesday, April 14, 2026.

With a career spanning 44 years, Wright Henderson is recognized for her lasting impact on students, schools and the Dayton community. What began as an unexpected path into education quickly became a lifelong calling marked by dedication, adaptability

and a deep commitment to student success.

Throughout her career, Wright Henderson served in multiple roles, including business teacher, English instructor and campus support staff. Early on, she played a key role in establishing the first library at Colbert, laying the foundation for a resource that would serve generations of students. Known for her ability to connect with students on a personal level, she built strong relationships



Friends, family and community members came together to honor Apha Wright Henderson during her Wall of Fame induction ceremony on April 14.

ships that fostered trust, growth and lifelong learning.

“Ms. Wright Henderson’s legacy is one of service, perseverance and heart,” Superintendent Dr. Travis Young said. “Her influence extends far beyond the classroom, and the impact she has made on our students and community will continue for generations.”

Beyond the classroom, Wright Henderson remained active in the com-

munity through leadership roles in organizations such as the PTA and the Texas Teachers Association. She also contributed to preserving local history through her work with the Colbert Rosenwald School Museum and led initiatives that strengthened community connections.

Her legacy lives on through the many students she inspired, many of whom have gone on to become successful professionals.

The ceremony concluded with remarks from former student and Colbert Rosenwald Corporation President Dwain Atkins, followed by a recognition alongside family members, colleagues and community leaders.

Dayton ISD recognized Wright Henderson as a Wall of Fame inductee, celebrating her commitment to education and the Dayton community.

## District on Main Industrial Park Celebrates Grand Opening in Baytown, Boosting Local Growth

BAYTOWN, TX – The Baytown Chamber of Commerce is proud to welcome **District on Main Industrial Park**, Baytown’s newest hub for industrial growth and opportunity, now officially open on N. Main Street.

Strategically located just one mile from the highly trafficked I-10 corridor, District on Main offers exceptional accessibility for businesses looking to expand or establish operations in the growing Baytown market. This state-of-the-art development spans 60,000 square feet and features four modern industrial buildings, each



Baytown Chamber of Commerce staff Board Members, Ambassadors, Mayor of Baytown joined District on Main.

offering 15,000 square feet of flexible space.

Designed with versatility in mind, the park

provides leasing options ranging from 3,750 to 15,000 square feet, making it an ideal solution for

businesses of all sizes. With brand-new construction completed in January 2026, District on

Main delivers high-efficiency, modern spaces built to support a wide range of industrial operations.

The Baytown Chamber recently joined community leaders, including Baytown Mayor Charles Johnson, to celebrate the official Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting of the development.

District on Main is already home to businesses such as ESG Gunworks, LLC with additional opportunities available for companies looking to grow in a thriving economic environment.

OPINION PAGE



Sheriff Ed Gonzalez comments on Justice Served in Almendarez murder trial

By Sheriff Ed Gonzalez

Today, justice was served.

A Harris County jury has returned a guilty verdict on capital murder charges in the 2022 shooting death of our brother, Harris County Sheriff's Office Deputy Darren Almendarez.

Deputy Almendarez was off-duty, leaving the store with his wife Flor, when he courageously confronted three individuals attempting to steal the catalytic converter from his truck.



He paid the ultimate price for stepping up to protect what was his—and what belongs to all of us.

To the jury members who listened carefully and delivered this verdict: thank you. Your service helped ensure accountability for a senseless act of violence that took one of our own.

To the prosecutors, detectives, witnesses, and every member of law enforcement and the justice system who worked tirelessly on this case over the past four years—thank you. Your dedication honors Deputy Almendarez and the badge he wore with pride.

Darren, we remember you. We miss you. And today, we stand a little taller knowing your sacrifice was not forgotten.



Here's what to watch and where to watch it for the week of April 27, 2026.

- ON NOW: "Bugonia" (R) — Netflix
ON NOW: "My Brother the Minotaur" (Season 1) — Apple TV
ON NOW: "The SpongeBob Movie: Search for SquarePants" (PG) — MGM+
27-April: "Disney Animation's Songs in Sign Language" (Special Event) — Disney+
28-April: "My Killer Father: The Green Hollow Murders" (Docuseries) — Paramount+
29-April: "Widow's Bay" (Season 1) — Apple TV
30-April: "Man on Fire" (Season 1) — Netflix
30-April: "Surviving My Father: The Rachel Jeffs Story" (TV-14) — Hulu
30-April: "Spirit Untamed" (PG) — Peacock
1-May: "La Brea" (Seasons 1-4) — Netflix

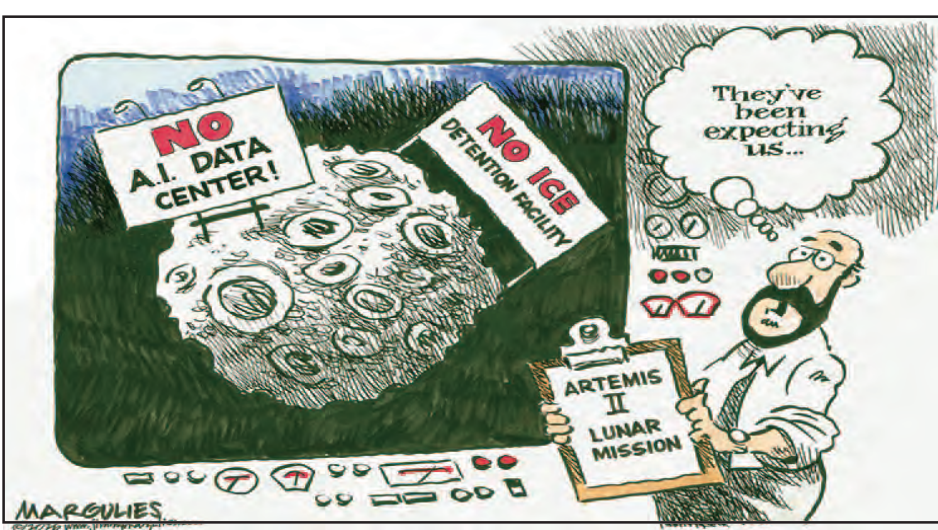
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Americanisms



"It is hard to fail, but it is worse never to have tried to succeed. In this life we get nothing save by effort." — Theodore Roosevelt

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Data Centers Set to Get Billions in Tax Breaks

An exemption for the state's booming data center industry means Texas will lose \$3.2 billion in sales tax revenue over the next two years, The Texas Tribune reported.

Lawmakers say they will consider proposals to either limit the tax break or eliminate it altogether when they meet in January for the next legislative session.

"These new numbers are extremely concerning, and I will say they're unsustainable," said state Sen. Joan Huffman, chair of the Senate Committee on Finance. "I plan to look at filing legislation to either repeal the exemption or take a very close look at it and see."

The tax break was approved by lawmakers in 2014, when there were far fewer data centers and they were much smaller. If nothing changes, exemptions could reach \$1.75 billion annually by 2030.

The state already has more than 300 active data centers, with more than 100 additional projects either under development or planned.

PATRICK WARNS GOP COULD LOSE STATE HOUSE MAJORITY

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick warned last week that the GOP risks losing its majority in the state House this November and urged party unity behind the winner of the May runoff between U.S. Sen. John Cornyn and Attorney General Ken Paxton.

Without that unity, Patrick said that state Rep. James Talarico, the Democratic nominee, could win, The Dallas Morning News reported.

House Speaker Justin Burrows said he believes the GOP will keep its majority in the chamber but agreed unity is critical.

"We've got to be on the same page," Burrows said. "We've got to be working and rowing in the same direction."

Democrats, who have not held a majority in either chamber in more than 20 years, would have to flip 14 Republican seats to achieve a majority in the 150-member House.

TEXAS COULD FACE \$700 MILLION IN SNAP PENALTIES

New federal rules designed to cut waste in the nation's food stamp program means Texas taxpayers will have to



pay \$700 million more each year to participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, The Tribune reported. Officials with Texas Health and Human Services disclosed this to lawmakers at a recent committee hearing.

Almost 9% of the state's SNAP payments had an error, slightly better than the national rate of 11%. Texas has until October 2027 to bring the error rate down below 6%.

The error rate is based on unintentional mistakes by either the agency or the client receiving the benefits that result in an overpayment or underpayment.

COURT PAUSES SMOKABLE CANNABIS BAN, HIGHER FEES

A Travis County district judge has temporarily lifted a statewide ban on the sale of smokeable hemp products, The Texas Tribune reported. The temporary restraining order is in effect until at least April 23, when another hearing is scheduled.

Texas hemp companies sued to block new state rules that have wiped out a huge portion of the legal cannabis market, the Texas Standard reported. The rules took effect March 31 and prevented stores from selling

smokable hemp products and vastly increased licensing fees. Smokable products make up the vast majority of hemp sales in the state.

"I estimated that flower is about half the market and smokable products put together including vapes are about two-thirds of the market," said Robin Goldstein, a University of California economist who researches cannabis markets. He said the Texas market had about \$4 billion in retail sales annually.

The plaintiffs are also suing over a jump in annual licensing fees for manufacturers from \$250 to \$10,000. Retailers must now pay \$5,000 per store, up from \$150.

"These provisions function not merely as regulatory tools, but as significant economic barriers not authorized by statute," the lawsuit contends.

The suit was filed by the Texas Hemp Business Council, the Hemp Industry and Farmers of America, and eight Texas-based hemp companies.

STATE TO LAUNCH STATEWIDE FOOD PERMIT JULY 1

The Department of State Health Services will begin offering statewide operating permits for food trucks in Texas beginning July 1, the Austin American-Statesman reported. Food truck owners currently must pay each city's permitting fees to operate there, which discourages them from traveling to other places to sell their food.

"It's a hassle to take time off to go and do that where we have to stop what we're doing and lose money that day," food truck owner Eloisa Schessler, of Dallas, said.

Some cities opposed the new law, fearing they may lose control of how mobile food trucks operate in their jurisdictions. They will still be able to control where and when food trucks operate, but they will not be able to collect permit and inspection fees.

TEXAS' JOB GROWTH CONTINUES TO OUTPACE NATIONAL RATE

Texas added 40,100 non-farm jobs in January to reach 14,379,500 positions, outpacing the national growth rate by 0.6 percentage points, according to the Texas Workforce Commission.

"Texas employers continue to spur our state's economic momentum, adding more than 40,000 jobs across a wide range of major industries," said TWC Chairman Joe Esparza. "TWC remains committed to supporting Texas' pro-growth policies and world-class talent pipeline that make Texas the best place to do business."

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the state remained at 4.3%, which is below the national jobless rate of 4.7%.

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

I Love Librarians



I spent yesterday with more than 5,000 librarians.

A few were library aides, and some were library trustees. But the thing they all had in common was libraries.

I never thought much about how libraries work, probably because they work so well. No matter where I am, if I walk through the door of a library, I know more or less what to expect. The staff will be helpful. Everyone will be eager to answer any question I have. No one will be in too big a hurry to help. Everything will be pretty much as I remember it as an eight-year-old.

When I was in elementary school, I would go to my school library and get help from Mrs. Shau. She rode a bicycle to work, was endlessly patient, read stories to us in the library and recommended books. It was her ability to recommend books that I remember best.

Because I didn't know what to read as a child, I still don't know—that's the truth. Finding a book that I want to read is the hardest thing about reading, and Mrs. Shau simply removed that obstacle and let me fill my book bag with books.

Backpacks had yet to be invented when I was in elementary school. They were a genius innovation which probably would have allowed me to read even more books. When I attended elementary school, I had a blue book bag with red vinyl trim, which carried my lunch (which got smushed) and my math homework (which I never did) and my library books (which were the only thing that mattered).

I read every book Mrs. Shau recommended and came back for more. Since that day, I have loved librarians. And yesterday, I got to meet a lot of them as I signed copies of "Loon Point," at a booth my publisher hosted at one of the largest library conventions in the country.

The librarians were not there only for books. They need lots of things, as it turns out, from furniture to office supplies to inventory systems. They come to these conventions to hear interesting talks on important subjects. But it seemed to me that they liked getting free books more than anything else.

I was at the welcome reception, so the doors had just opened when I started signing free books. There were tables full of food and lots of interesting things to see, but the librarians lined up for books. I had never done anything like this, so I didn't know what to expect.

"Are you a librarian?" I would ask.

"Yes!" they almost always said—and every single one of them sounded at least a little proud.

"Oh, good!" I'd answer. And I'd sign, "I love librarians! Carrie Classon" inside their book. I don't know how many books I signed, but there was a whole shelf filled with them, and I signed until we ran out of books.

Then a romance writer took my spot, and a stack of her books were taken off the shelf, and the line of librarians kept coming.

It was over before I knew it. And I was a little sad. Because, honestly, I think I could meet librarians all day long and never get tired of it.

"I love librarians!" I told them, one after another.

"We love writers!" they told me. And I'm sure that is true. But while they might love the books we write, I don't know if it's possible for them to love writers more than I loved Mrs. Shau and a book bag full of unread books.

Till next time, Carrie

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# Governor touts \$7 billion in career training investments,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Abbott received a tour of the facility from IUOE management prior to his press conference touting the new jobs council and Texas achieving No. 1 status for producing the most jobs in the nation.

tunities by strengthening partnerships with higher education and improving college and career advising.

Abbott was joined by state Rep. Briscoe Cain; Texas Jobs Council co-chair and Texas Association of Business interim president Megan Mauro; IUOE Assistant Director of the Construction Training Department Tom McNamara; IUOE Local 450 Business Manager Mark Maher Jr.; and other business and labor leaders.

Launched last month, the Texas Jobs Council is a state advisory group that meets monthly and is charged with strengthening the workforce pipeline by expanding job training and identifying ways to streamline credentialing and hiring.

The council is expected to focus on:

Executive actions state agencies can implement immediately to reduce regulatory burdens and red tape surrounding work-



State Representative Briscoe Cain, who received the endorsement of Abbott for his upcoming runoff election in May for Congress, was present supporting the governor with the implementation of the new jobs council.

force development. Policy and legislative recommendations to present to the governor and Legislature ahead of the 90th Legislative Session.

The council is scheduled to deliver a final report in November 2026 outlining recommended executive actions and legislative proposals to strengthen Texas' workforce development system.

"All of us are unified by a mission — keep Texas

the best state in America for doing business and the number one state in America for jobs," Abbott said. 042026 Abbott Visit 01 - Texas Gov. Greg Abbott was in Crosby, Texas touring the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) facility that trains operating and stationary engineers from across North America. President Donald J. Trump visited the same facility on April 10, 2019.

# Early Voting Begins for Huffman ESD #4 Commissioner Race; Three Seats on the Ballot

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

Early voting for the Huffman Emergency Services District (ESD) #4 commissioner election is already underway, with three commissioner positions on the ballot. Voters may cast ballots for up to three candidates.

As election day approaches, residents are encouraged to review information from each candidate to make an informed decision.

ESD commissioners oversee and support the fire and EMS services that protect the community. While firefighters and EMS personnel respond on the front lines, commissioners work behind the scenes to ensure departments have the resources to operate safely and effectively.

Commissioners serve for a four-year term and host monthly meetings on the second Monday of every month at 6 p.m. at Huffman Fire Station No. 1, 12207 Huffman Oaks Lane in Huffman. They can be reached at 281-255-0584.

Commissioners' responsibilities include setting and managing the district's budget, ensuring taxpayer dollars are used responsibly, approving the purchase of equipment, vehicles, and facilities, planning for future growth and service needs, supporting staffing and training needs, maintaining accountability and transparency to the community, and set the tax rate after they approve an effective budget in August each year.

In short, commissioners focus on making sure emergency services are properly funded, equipped, and prepared so they can respond when it matters most.

Residents who want to learn more about the candidates can review each campaign's information; links to candidates' social media pages are listed below.

### When to vote

**Early voting:** April 20 – April 28 (Monday–Friday), 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.\*\*  
**Election Day:** May 2, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### Where to vote

Huffman Fire Department  
12207 Huffman Oaks Lane

Voters may vote for up to three candidates, as three commissioner positions are on the ballot in this election.

### Candidates

**Shareen Redus** (incumbent) — <https://www.facebook.com/share/1C3pTCACLM/>  
**Wyatt Watkins** (incumbent) — [No page available]  
**Christy Graves** (incumbent) — <https://www.facebook.com/share/1DjAkjWPAB/>  
**Steven Jones** — <https://www.facebook.com/share/1DqCpPF7C6/>  
**Shannon Lenox** — <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1VBj1iv4Rg/>

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# Tees' N Tails a big swing: \$14k raised,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

yard by Marriott in second and Millennium Project Solutions in third. Closest to the Pin winner was Larry Chenier on the United Community Credit Union team. Chris Kosinski on the McCord Development team aced the longest drive award.

Organizers also recognized Dan Meaux for providing crawfish and shrimp for lunch. The Chamber said Stonebridge at Newport

again proved to be an ideal host site and praised the course staff, including the club's new golf professional, for helping ensure a positive experience for players and sponsors alike.



Second place finishers of the golf tournament were Courtyard by Marriott.



Millennium Project Solutions secured third place in the chamber golf tournament.



It was a first golf tournament for LoneStar Outdoor Power Equipment who brought out some of their equipment for golfers to view. Shelby Lewandowski and Maddie Stelck spent their day talking about their sales, service, and rentals.



It was a special day for John Sparks Insurance as granddad and father was joined by Gabriel, Christian, and Joshua. John has turned his business over to his son and taken retirement.

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- **Emmy Robins**

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**EXPLANATION OF SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES  
San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site  
Harris County, Texas  
April 2026**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 has issued an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) for the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site (Site). This decision document describes two significant changes made to the remedy presented in the 2017 Record of Decision (ROD) for the Site, but which do not fundamentally alter the ROD remedy. The two significant updates are: 1) an increase in estimated remedial cost for the Site's Northern Impoundments, from an estimate of approximately \$105,485,770 in 2017 U.S. dollars (USD) in the ROD to a revised cost estimate of approximately \$210,852,000 to \$262,322,000 in 2025 USD in the ESD; and 2) an increase in the volume of material excavated for disposal during Remedial Action construction at the Site's Southern Impoundment.

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 polychlorinated dibenzofurans. The changes discussed in the ESD to the estimated costs for the Northern Impoundment remedy follow the development of the Remedial Design for the Northern Impoundments and Sand Separation Area by the Site responsible parties, which was approved by EPA upon specified conditions on September 9, 2025. For the Southern Impoundment, International Paper completed the construction of the Remedial Action in 2023, and the ESD documents changes in the volume of material sent off-site for disposal during Remedial Action construction, as detailed further in the ESD.

This ESD also addresses EPA's evaluation of information regarding waste excavation depths in the Northern Impoundments developed during Remedial Design, as discussed in EPA's conditional approval of

the 100% Remedial Design, as well as EPA's consideration of information subsequently presented by the responsible parties in an October 2025 letter regarding the Northern Impoundments. As discussed in more detail in the ESD, a future modification to the excavation plans may also be considered that would allow a relatively small volume of lower concentration waste material exceeding the site-specific cleanup level to remain at the lowest elevations below the excavation surface, based on specific criteria to be developed by EPA. Any such modifications to the full excavation approach will be documented, as appropriate, in a future decision document and ensure that the remedy continues to achieve the remedial action objectives and remains protective.

All other remedy components selected in the 2017 ROD remain unchanged. Site documents are available to the public online or at the local repository. To view the ESD and its supporting documents, please visit:

<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/collections/06/AR/TXN000606611>

To view the Site's status updates, visit the Site's Profile page at: <https://epa.gov/tx/sjrwp> (see Site Documents and Data). If you do not have internet access, you can view these documents at the local repository:

Highlands Public Library  
Stratford Branch Library  
509 Stratford Street  
Highlands, Texas 77562  
(281) 426-3521

For more information about the Site, contact Robert Appelt, Remedial Project Manager at (214) 665-2730 or [appelt.robert@epa.gov](mailto:appelt.robert@epa.gov), or Janetta Coats, Sr. Community Involvement Coordinator, at (214) 665-7308 or [coats.janetta@epa.gov](mailto:coats.janetta@epa.gov).

**Looking at Alternatives for Osteoporosis Meds**

DEAR DR. ROACH: At age 48, I underwent a lumpectomy, chemo and radiation for stage I breast cancer. All is good so far, but I started experiencing osteopenia in my mid-50s, perhaps earlier than I would have because of the chemo and estrogen-blocking meds. My mother also had osteoporosis.



For the osteoporosis in my hip, I took alendronate for five years, but it didn't stop the bone loss. I am now on Prolia, which has helped. I am healthy and fairly active. How long can one take Prolia with breaks in between, and what are your thoughts on alternatives? I am concerned about "running out" of strong, effective alternatives to treat my osteoporosis. I walk 3-5 miles most days. — A.M.L.

ANSWER: You are right that the estrogen-blocking drugs you needed for your breast cancer caused accelerated bone loss and early osteoporosis. Given your family history and young age, it's very important to think about the future. Keeping up your exercise is excellent for your bones, for your overall health, and to reduce your risk of cancer.

Prolia works similarly to alendronate by slowing down the cells that break down bone, called osteoclasts. Unlike alendronate and similar drugs, Prolia stops working as soon as you stop taking it, so people who are on it need to take it continuously.

This is different from alendronate, where people can take "drug holidays" for years sometimes in order to keep the bone from becoming "frozen" and brittle, which can then put them at risk for atypical femur fractures. Between 8% and 10% of people who stop Prolia will get a fracture the following year unless they transition to a different treatment.

Bisphosphonate drugs like alendronate are often the choice for people once they stop Prolia, but they didn't work for you. I'd be concerned about the absorption of the medicine since taking the medicine with any food (even with mineral water) can reduce absorption to the point that it isn't effective.

In addition, you need enough calcium and vitamin D for bisphosphonate drugs (and Prolia) to work properly. But if you've been careful about these issues, it may just be that you are one of the people for whom bisphosphonate drugs aren't a good option.

Anabolic agents like PTH analogues (teriparatide) are another good choice since these directly build up bone. Romosozumab both builds bone and decreases breakdown. However, one option that might be a particularly good choice for you is raloxifene, which decreases the risk of breast cancer and helps keep bones strong. I suggest you ask your prescribing physician about these alternatives.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have a high-fiber diet, but I'm also adding specifically psyllium husks to my diet daily. Will this, along with my dietary oats, grains and beans, reduce my LDL cholesterol levels? How much psyllium needs to be taken daily to make a difference with LDL cholesterol? — R.P.

ANSWER: Psyllium is a common supplement to increase dietary fiber. High-fiber foods such as the grains and legumes you mentioned are part of a healthy diet, with many benefits such as the reduction of heart disease and some cancers. Fiber supplementation has been shown to improve gastrointestinal symptoms, especially constipation and diarrhea, but it's also been shown to reduce LDL cholesterol.

In a study from years ago, psyllium husks at a dose of 10 grams per day (approximately 4 teaspoons, but it can vary with different brands) reduced LDL cholesterol levels by 6% to 15% on average. This is a significant drop. For people who take statins, this has about the same effect on their LDL levels as doubling their statin dose.

I strongly recommend starting slowly and building up the dose over weeks. Most people will experience bloating and discomfort if they start at such a high dose.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu).

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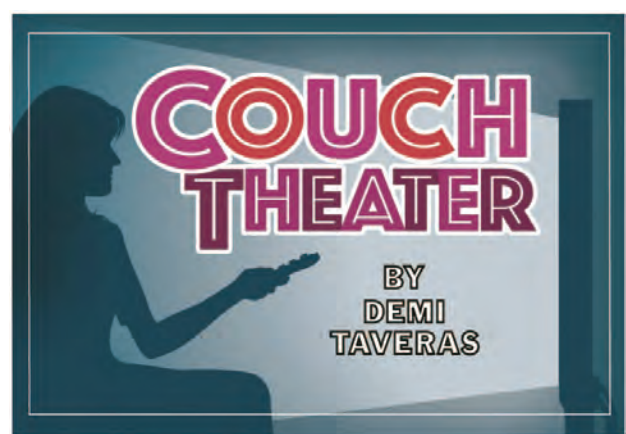
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HOLLYWOOD by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Add 'Scream' to the ever-growing list of successful movie franchises, including the Marvel Cinematic Universe, 'Star Wars,' 'Spider-Man,' 'James Bond,' 'Fast & Furious,' 'Friday the 13th,' 'Lord of the Rings,' and 'Jurassic Park.'



Ghostface in 'Scream 7'

Hugh Jackman co-stars. In June, Galitzine will hit the big screen as He-Man in 'Masters of the Universe,' opposite Oscar winner Jared Leto (as the villain Skeletor), Alison Brie, Kristen Wiig, and Idris Elba.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps



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Weekly SUDOKU grid and instructions. Difficulty: Moderate. HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS comic strip by Henry Boltinoff. Find at least six differences in details between panels.

April 20, 2026 Posting Date King Crossword grid and clues. Includes across and down clues.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez. 10 questions on TV, Geography, Inventions, Animal Kingdom, Movies, History, Geometry, Science, Literature, and Business.

Answers for King Crossword and Trivia Test. King Crossword solution time: 23 mins.



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