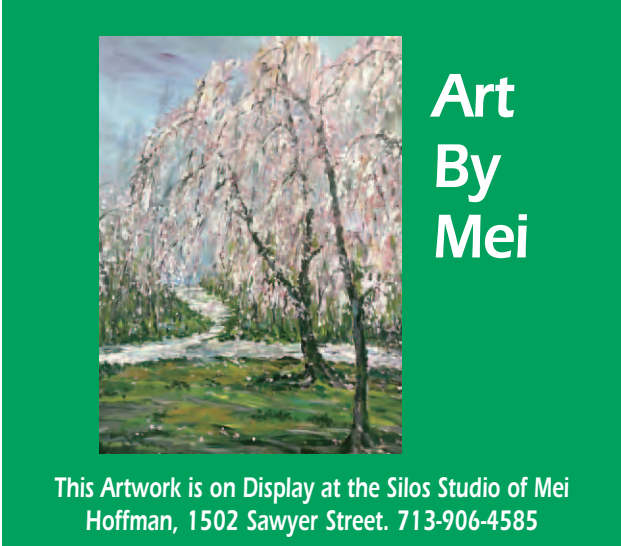




Peyton Givans Wins Third Straight Grand Champion Market Steer Title at Crosby F & R

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

CROSBY, Texas — Peyton Givans, a seventh-grader at Crosby Middle School, won her third consecutive Grand Champion Market Steer title at the Crosby Fair and Rodeo, continuing a run of success that has made her one of the event's most consistent exhibitors.

Givans also earned Champion Junior Showmanship honors for the third time in her Crosby Fair and Rodeo career. Her 1,435-pound heavyweight market steer, "Eyes on Me," was selected as grand champion by judge Ryan Rash, who called it "a solid champion with a fantastic exhibitor." The steer



Buyers, friends and family joined Peyton in the ring following her sale. From left, Kristy Cochran, Jim Givans, JJ Givans, David Givans, Brittany Givans, Ryan Smejkal, Bryan Adams, Ryan Rash, Peyton Givans, and Evelyn Kipe.

later sold to Third Coast Terminal for \$12,750.

Reserve Champion Market Steer went to Brady Harlien, also a seventh-grader at Crosby Middle School, with his 1,285-pound middleweight steer, "Gator." Harlien's steer sold for \$12,700 to Scott Stephens and associates, underscoring the depth of competition in this year's show.

Peyton Givans said one of her favorite parts of the fair is seeing the level of competition each year.

"I love to look at the quality of the projects that everyone brings," she said. "It is getting tougher each year, and this year all the animals were so good from the top to the bottom. I love

when exhibitors from other towns talk about how tough the Crosby Fair and Rodeo is with the competition that shows up each year."

She said this year's sales felt stronger than last year's and credited fair organizers and buyers for improving support for exhibitors.

"This year the sale was much better and support was great," Givans said. "The fair board made a lot of changes for us exhibitors to get the numbers up, and they worked hard at it, and it showed. I really do appreciate their

Continued. See THREE-TIME CHAMPION CREDITS FAMILY, Page 2

★
IN THE STARS

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WHERE:
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Crosby to Mark America's 250th with Liberty Tree Dedication, Community Celebration

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

CROSBY, Texas — Crosby residents will celebrate the approaching 250th anniversary of the United States with a Liberty Tree dedication, birthday cake, patriotic music and free family activities July 2 at Crosby Park and Community Center.

The event, organized by the Old Three Hundred Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution with help from local groups and sponsors, is intended to give Crosby a local way to mark the nation's semi-quincentennial ahead of the official July 4, 2026, anniversary.

The celebration begins at 9 a.m. with a Liberty Tree presentation and ded-



ication ceremony led by Harris County Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey. Organizers said the

ceremony will include the Crosby High School JROTC Color Guard, the posting of the colors, hand-

held flags for attendees and music by Lisa Worthen, the former Crosby High School choir director, who is sched-

uled to sing the national anthem and lead "God Bless America."

A birthday cake celebration will follow at 9:30 a.m. inside the community center, with additional family activities planned from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the pavilion. Organizers said all activities will be free.

Laura Richard, regent of the Crosby chapter, said the event grew from conversations within the DAR about how local chapters could commemorate the nation's 250th birthday in a way that would be both meaningful and lasting.

"We wanted to do something memorable, meaningful — something that

Continued. See FREE FAMILY EVENT WILL FEATURE, page 2

Mayor John Whitmire Kicks Off Re-election Campaign Race for Houston's 63rd Mayor

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. ~ May, 28, 2026 at Houston's Post Oak Hotel Mayor John Whitmire's Houston's 63rd Mayor held his re-election fund raising kickoff event. The crowd of enthusiastic supporters gave numerous cheers and applause to the mayor's presentation to some of his accomplishments in his first term's election in December of 2023.

To begin the evening event Whitmire was introduced by council members, Joaquin Martinez, Sallie Alcorn and Mayor Pro-tem Martha Castex-Tatum. They each praised him for his sincere dedication of service to the citizens and his willingness to work across the aisle in Houston's non-partisan government. They said he was willing to meet them halfway to support their goals and his too in order to get things done to improve city services.

Upon taking the stage and podium the 76 year old Whitmire; Houston's oldest mayor just stood in silence and gazed out at the large crowd... he said he just wanted to take a moment before speaking to see those



Houston Mayor John Whitmire with North Channel Star Photojournalist Allan Jamail. The two exchanged pleasantries, Mayor Whitmire thanked his longtime friend Jamail for covering his event. (Photo by Houston Mayor John Whitmire staff)

in attendance. He stated such a large attendance of well wishers makes him feel that all his long hours of work at city hall and late night hours and weekend time he's put in has been worth it.

Whitmire emphasized his record of goals accomplished wasn't just his record of service but that of the team of council members, administrative officials and Houston's personnel. He said the way our team succeeds is, "we don't politicize the problems and or issues."

A loud uproar of approval was given when Whitmire announced the completion of this year's budget without tax increases and concluding in saying, Houston's on a roll, I'm fired up and looking forward to completing my eight years as your mayor."

The mayor said public safety was still his top priority as it was when his campaigned in 2023. He said in his first term there's been a rise in public safety personnel hiring. He said over 800 police and over 600 fire department cadets have been trained. When

Continued. See NC STAR SPECIAL COVER STORY:, Page 5

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Three-time champion credits family, buyers and fierce competition for continued success,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

support along with all of the buyers that came out to support our projects.”

David Givans said this year's steer show stood out because of how competitive it was from top to bottom, with entries more evenly matched than in many previous years.

“This year, it was really a good year to see just because the quality was so consistent from the top to the bottom,” David Givans said. “There were so many animals that were so closely evaluated. It was definitely a nerve-wracking year just because they were so evenly matched against each other.”

Givans dad wasn't sure they would be return champions this year.

“I didn't bring in the quality that we typically keep for ourselves. I try to keep one or two for my kids and then we sell the rest that are the higher quality. This year, I sold all the quality projects and my kids kind of got what was left over,” he said. Peyton's calf fed right, grew right, and happened to be what the judge was looking for in a grand champion. Last year's show was really down for steer exhibitors and this year it was up slightly, including bidding. “My kids have

been blessed,” Givans said. “I've always told them they needed to learn to lose before you can learn to win.” Peyton started off with a reserve champion win her very first year five years ago. The second year, she fell towards the bottom of the sale order. “It taught her how to lose and be humble—win with grace and lose with grace,” he said. Since then, she's been on a great stretch earning three straight Grand Champion wins since. Despite the expense, Givans said “There's nothing that we wouldn't do for them.”

Free family event will feature patriotic music, activities and community spirit,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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would not just be thrown away and forgotten,” Richard said. “The Liberty Tree is a symbol of liberty and unity, and it reminds people that communities need places where they can come together, talk to each other and work through things together.”

Richard said chapter members first considered what kind of permanent marker or monument could best represent the occasion. They eventually settled on the Liberty Tree, a symbol rooted in Revolutionary War history.

In colonial Boston, the Liberty Tree became a gathering place for protest against British policies, especially after the Stamp Act of 1765. Patriots known as the Sons of Liberty used the tree as a rallying point, decorating it with banners and signs.

Although British loyalists later cut it down in 1775, the Liberty Tree endured as a symbol of resistance, civic action and unity.

For Richard, that symbolism still resonates.

“This is where we come and talk to each other. This is where we meet up. This is where we talk out things and figure out solutions,” she said. “I think that is a great message for today.”

Richard said organizers initially hoped to join an existing community celebration but found that no local event was in the works.

“Nobody was doing anything, so we just went from there,” she said. “What started as a little Liberty Tree celebration has turned into quite an event.”

The event has since

drawn support from scouts, local historical groups, the American Legion, the chamber of commerce, school organizations and businesses. Richard said American Heritage Girls also may participate.

Activities planned for the pavilion include children's games, patriotic crafts, a caricature artist, a Declaration of Independence writing activity, a community banner project, snow cones, hot dogs and educational displays. Organizers also will collect nonperishable food donations for disabled veterans.

The event is free and open to the public.

For additional information about the event, please contact the Old Three Hundred Chapter at old300chapter@gmail.com.

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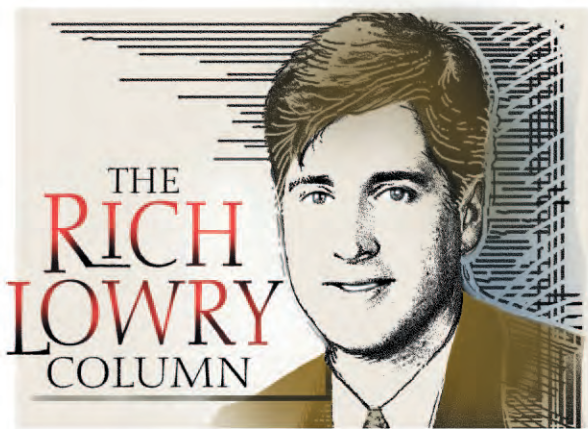
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UK Blocks Uygur, Piker

The U.K. government banned left-wing influencers Cenk Uygur and Hasan Piker from traveling to the country because they blame everything on the Jews — and, true to form, Uygur and Piker blamed the Jews.

Uygur and Piker were to speak at a South by Southwest conference in London and participate in an event at the Oxford Union when their visas were canceled. They immediately smelled a rat, and, as usual, one emanating from Jerusalem.

“I’ve been banned for criticizing Israel,” Uygur posted on social media. “Are we free anymore? This is oppression of Western citizens by our own governments on behalf of a different country!”

Piker chimed in, “The U.K. has revoked my visa as well. All at the behest of Israel. The West is betraying ‘liberal values’ for a genocidal fascist foreign government. Soon we will all become Israel.”

Like most everything the duo says — Piker is Uygur’s nephew and got his start on his podcast — this is poisonous nonsense, although it doesn’t make the U.K.’s decision any better.

Britain now conducts itself like a nation that has never heard of John Milton, John Stuart Mill or Bertrand Russell, its storied advocates of free speech down through the centuries.

The U.K. routinely excludes controversial figures from traveling to the country from abroad, and actively tries to suppress speech offensive to gays, Muslims, trans people, Jews or others. You can get arrested, as TV writer Graham Linehan found out, for posting pungent opinions about biological males using female locker rooms, or for silently praying outside an abortion clinic.

If we needed a reminder of the wisdom of our Founders writing the First Amendment into the Constitution, the free-floating illiberalism of the British government trying to enforce faddish norms provides it.

The Home Office, which was responsible for revoking the Uygur and Piker visas, says that their presence in the country might not have been “conducive to the public good” — whatever that means.

Certainly, it would be very bad for Britain if the country were to adopt wholesale the malignant views of Uygur and Piker, but that wasn’t going to come about as a result of, say, one of them having a 40-minute speaking slot at a South by Southwest satellite event.

Traditionally, in free societies, people are allowed to say dumb and hateful things. Either they discredit themselves by doing so, or perhaps they eventually win people over to their views. Regardless, free and robust debate has been considered a good in and of itself, something a country run by a raucous, free-wheeling Parliament should readily understand.

Are the Jews behind the exclusion of Uygur and Piker? Yet, there were Jewish groups who didn’t want them to come, but excluding them was a decision entirely in keeping with the government’s practice of trying to suppress views that it deems extreme. Just a couple of weeks ago, right-wing figures critical of Islam and supportive of Israel saw their visas revoked.

The British government isn’t a tool of the Zionists. It is a left-of-center Labour government. The Home Secretary is a Muslim of Pakistani origin who has attended anti-Israel protests. The government has said it would jail Bibi Netanyahu if he travels to Britain, sanctioned Israeli officials, restricted arms sales to the Jewish state, and recognized a Palestinian state.

If the revocation of the visas is an Israeli op, it’s a profoundly counterproductive one. In authoritarian societies, people can truly be suppressed — if China wants to get rid of a nettlesome figure, it simply disappears him or her. In an open society, in contrast, there are many channels for expression, and official hostility tends to make the targeted voices more famous and interesting, whether it’s James Joyce or the Sex Pistols.

Surely, Cenk Uygur and Hasan Piker are better known in the U.K. now than they were a few days ago, and that’s not, as they say in Britain, conducive to the public good.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Paxton Hopes to unify republicans after runoff

Attorney General Ken Paxton and his allies began working to repair fissures among GOP voters after he routed incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn in the March 26 runoff, The Dallas Morning News reported. Both Paxton and his general election opponent, Democratic nominee James Talarico, swiftly went on the attack in what promises to be the most expensive Senate general election race in history.

“The future of Texas and the future of America is on the line, and I intend to do everything I can to expand our movement,” Paxton told supporters in Plano.

Talarico is seeking to appeal to Republicans and independents who balked at supporting Paxton during the primary campaign. The attorney general has been enveloped in several scandals since being elected in 2014. Talarico called his opponent “morally unfit” for office.

“This November, working Texans — Democrats, independents and Republicans alike — are going to come together to defeat the most corrupt politician in America and the broken political system that he represents,” Talarico said.

HILL COUNTRY RANCH TO BECOME SECOND-LARGEST STATE PARK

Nearly 54,000 acres of a former Hill Country ranch will soon become the second-largest park in Texas, The Texas Tribune reported. The former Silver Lake Ranch features steep canyons and rolling hills about 150 miles west of San Antonio, between Rocksprings and Uvalde in Kinney and Edwards counties.

It is the first land purchase made under a \$1 billion Centennial Parks Conservation Fund established by the Legislature and approved by voters in 2023. Previously, the ranch was partially owned by the Moody Foundation, which donated its 88% share. Texas Parks and



Wildlife purchased the remainder of the property for \$11.85 million.

“Silver Lake Ranch represents the natural beauty, history and spirit of our state, and we are honored to make this gift to Texas Parks and Wildlife to ensure it remains protected and enjoyed by all Texans for years ahead,” foundation trustee Ross Moody said.

The future park, to be named Silver Lake State Park, features a 30-acre spring-fed lake and miles of frontage along the West Nueces River.

An opening date has not been set.

FAA GROUNDS SPACEX STARSHIP AGAIN AFTER CRASH

The massive rocket Starship has been grounded again after the lower stage of the rocket plunged into the Gulf of Mexico a few minutes after liftoff, the Statesman reported. The Federal Aviation Administration has ordered an investigation into what went wrong.

The May 22 mishap forced six aircraft to delay their departures and forced another five into holding patterns, the FAA said. No injuries or damage were reported.

This is the seventh grounding in 12 flights for Starship rockets. SpaceX has approvals to launch and land the craft as many as 25 times a year at its base near Boca Chica Beach in far south Texas.

“A return to flight of the Starship-Super Heavy vehicle is based on the FAA

determining that any system, process, or procedure related to the mishap does not affect public safety,” the FAA said.

RESEARCHERS: CITIES CAN CHANGE STORM BEHAVIOR

A team of researchers has examined more than two decades of climate data in Texas to understand how urban and rural areas interact with storms, according to the Texas Standard. State Climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon was part of the research team.

“Probably the biggest finding was how important urban areas were toward individual thunderstorms or smaller-scale collections of thunderstorms,” he said. “Every single city we looked at, the storms were enhanced there — both during the daytime and especially nighttime. There’s a bigger influence in those types of precipitation events.”

Nielsen-Gammon said that while storms are influenced by the presence of cities, often increasing their severity, the extent of that influence depends on the type of storm. The higher temperatures found in cities because of concrete and buildings can affect both the severity and the wind pattern, according to experts..

GOP LEADERS BACK FRENCH AFTER RUNOFF WIN

Several GOP officials who opposed Bo French’s successful bid to unseat incumbent Railroad Commissioner Jim Wright now say they will back him in the general election, the Houston Chronicle reported. That includes Abbott, Wright’s fellow commissioners Wayne Christian and Christi Craddick, and Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham. “Republicans are UNITED and ready to win in November to keep Texas, TEXAS!” Abbott’s campaign wrote in a post on X.

One notable exception thus far is Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who was among French’s harshest critics. French, the former Tarrant County GOP chair, has made a number of controversial statements, including calling for a ban on Islam in Texas.

French will face Jon Rosenthal, a Houston Democrat and oil and gas engineer, in the November general election.

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@texapress.com



On The Shoreline



I spent last week with my parents, which is always fun.

My father has been having trouble with his legs, and tasks that involve getting up from the ground are hard for him, particularly if the ground is steep or slippery — and that is a pretty accurate description of the shoreline where the dock lives over the winter.

But we both thought the dock should get in the water, and I told my dad I’d help, so we made our way down to the shoreline to tackle the project.

We had a few things working against us.

The ground, as I mentioned, is very steep, and it was slick with last year’s leaves. The dock had wheels at the end and was tacked on to a frame on the hill. It had to be loosened from the frame so it could slide down into the water. This is a task that used to take my dad no time at all, but instead of doing it himself, he had to instruct his daughter on how to do it, and his daughter has no demonstrable engineering skills.

And that wasn’t the full extent of the problem, because my dad’s eyesight is not good, so he couldn’t really see what I was up to. He had to describe what I should be doing without being able to see if I was doing it.

Then the last screw holding the dock in place got stuck. I am sure that screw was stuck due to operator error (I use a screwdriver approximately once every five years) but whatever the cause, the screw was jammed and the whole thing was hung up. We surveyed the situation.

“I don’t think it’s coming loose,” my dad concluded.

“What if we hit it with a hammer?” I suggested. Hitting things with hammers was something I felt qualified to try.

“No ...” My dad was thinking. “Can you just push it?”

My dad suspected there wasn’t much holding the dock in place and, once it was free, it would merrily roll down the hill on its own accord.

“I don’t know if I can push it. But I can kick it.” And so I did. I sat on my butt in the slippery leaves, and I kicked the dock. The little chunk of two-by-six with the one remaining screw holding it in place split into two, and the dock came loose with a mighty “whoosh!” and rolled down the hill.

Fortunately, both my dad and I were out of the way.

“I don’t know where that block went,” I told my dad.

“Forget about it,” he said.

We got the dock into the water. It was a little cattywampus, but it was more or less ready for another season.

“I might need to get a kid to help me with some things this fall,” my dad said, as if this was a major concession at 92. He thanked me for helping him and apologized for needing the help.

“Dad, we all do as much as we can, for as long as we’re able.”

“I guess that’s so.”

That night, I saw a boat trolling along the shoreline as the sun set.

“Hey, Dad, there’s a guy fishing right off the end of the dock.”

“I hope he knows the rules,” my dad said.

“The rules?”

“He’s gotta leave half of whatever he catches at the end of the dock for me.”

“We’ll have to put up a sign on the shoreline so he knows the rules,” I told my dad.

“We’ll have to do that,” my dad said.

Till next time,
Carrie

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Crowd roars as Whitmire vows no tax hikes, celebrates public safety gains at re-election kickoff,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

he took office there were over a 1,000 broken water main lines and now it less than 100.

Whitmire stated he's working to improve trash pickup services, water and sewer services, the homeless issues, never ending potholes and others.

Sixty percent of Houston's water supply is coming from the original water purification plant built in 1954. The plant also provides 100% of the water to ship channel industries. The plant is old and will eventually be in need of upgrading he remarked.

N. C. Star writer Allan Jamail said, "John and I have been friends for about fifty-five years. He's a no-nonsense "public servant". He literally takes the words "public servant" to heart. I don't know of any other elected official who's is more determined to help people regardless of the person's standing of importance in relation to others within our society."

During his 2023 victory speech Whitmire told supporters, "The first way you solve your problem is admit you have one, and I don't mind telling folks what a great city we have, but we've got great challenges," "We'll meet our challenges. It will be an opportunity for us to show the nation what the city of Houston can do. We will not kick our cans down the road any longer."

Whitmire was born



Houston's Mayor John Whitmire addresses the crowd of supporters at Houston's Post Oak Hotel, May, 28th. Whitmire thanked them for coming to his re-election fund raising event saying they've inspired him to continue serving Houstonians. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

August 13, 1949 in Hillsboro, Texas, north of Waco, to James Madison Whitmire, the Hill County clerk, and the former Ruth Marie Harris, a nurse. His parents divorced when he was seven years old, and the family moved several times, facing difficult financial circumstances.

In his early teenage years, he moved to North Houston and attended Waltrip High School. Whitmire attended college at the University of Houston to study political science while paying for

his education by working for the Texas State Welfare Department, where he interviewed food stamp recipients for compliance.

Whitmire known for working across the aisle with Republicans is a member of the Democratic Party, and he was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in January of 1973 and served until January 1983. In 1983, he won the Senate District 15 seat, and resigned it effectively December 31, 2023 after his election as Mayor of Houston.

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Crosby ISD Approves Employee Raises and New Bus Driver Pay Rate for 2026–2027 School Year



CROSBY ISD

ALL STAFF PAY RAISE

3%*

Thank you to the Crosby ISD Board of Trustees for passing our staff pay raises.

NEW TEACHER PAY RANGE:

\$68,100

to start

*The raise is based on the midpoint of the pay duration.



CROSBY - Crosby Independent School District is proud to announce that the Board of Trustees has approved a 3%* pay raise for all employees as part of the 2026–2027 budget, continuing the district's commitment to supporting and investing in its staff.

As part of the approved compensation plan, the starting teacher salary in Crosby ISD will increase to \$68,100 for the 2026–2027 school year, helping the district remain competitive in attracting and retaining exceptional educators.

In addition, Crosby ISD has approved a new starting hourly rate of \$25.15 for bus drivers beginning with the 2026–2027 school year. This increase reflects the district's appreciation for the transportation team members who safely serve students each day and play a critical role in district operations.

The district remains committed to investing in its employees while continuing to provide out-

Abbott Again Orders Texas Colleges to Keep Tuition Rates Flat



By Gerardo Hernandez,

AUSTIN — Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has directed public colleges and universities across the state to keep tuition and mandatory fees unchanged for the upcoming 2026-27 academic year, extending a tuition freeze that has been in place since 2023.

In a letter sent to leaders of the state's public higher education institutions, Abbott said Texas has made significant investments in higher education and student financial aid, allowing schools to maintain current tuition rates without increasing costs for students and families.

The directive applies to public two-year and four-year institutions, as well as health-related institutions. Abbott stated that undergraduate tuition and fees should remain at current levels for another academic year.

The governor's order comes as some university systems have considered adjustments to certain fees to address operational costs and campus needs. Abbott's letter, however, called for institutions to refrain from increasing charges to students.

Supporters of the tuition freeze say it helps improve affordability and expands access to higher education at a time when many families continue to face financial pressures. They argue that keeping costs stable can reduce student debt and encourage college enrollment.

Some higher education leaders have noted that colleges and universities continue to face rising expenses related to staffing, facilities, technology and student services. They have said institutions must balance affordability with maintaining educational programs and campus operations.

Texas lawmakers have allocated additional funding to public higher education in recent years, including investments aimed at improving student outcomes and expanding financial aid opportunities.

The tuition freeze will remain in effect through the 2026-27 academic year unless state leaders authorize changes in the future.

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Javier Bardem, left, and Amy Adams star in "Cape Fear.."

“Cape Fear”

“Michael” (PG-13) — Antoine Fuqua, director of “Training Day” and “The Equalizer” films, undertook the assignment of a lifetime by signing on to direct this biographical film about the King of Pop, Michael Jackson. Jaafar Jackson portrays his legendary celebrity uncle, with this being his very first acting role! The film picks up with the start of the Jackson 5 at Motown, trickling into the years where Michael emerged as a prominent solo artist with albums like “Off the Wall” and “Thriller.” Surprisingly, the film culminates in 1988, decades before Michael passed away, as he embarks on the Bad World Tour. Obviously, due to its abrupt ending and viewers’ responses, a second movie was confirmed

by Lionsgate Films in May. While the performances of the cast can be praised, specifically Jaafar and Colman Domingo (“Euphoria”) as Joe Jackson, this “biopic” leans more toward a jukebox musical due to its omission of Michael’s sexual assault allegations and the nuances that made him the controversial yet iconic figure he is today. Available to rent on June 9. (Fandango at Home)

“Cape Fear” (TV-MA) — This hair-raising psychological thriller series stars a trio of incredible actors — Javier Bardem (“F1”), Amy Adams (“Nightbitch”), and Patrick Wilson (“The Conjuring: Last Rites”). Produced by powerhouse directors Martin Scorsese and Steven Spielberg, “Cape Fear” is

based on the novel “The Executioners” by John D. MacDonald and has two film adaptations from 1962 and 1991 that precede it. Bardem plays Max Cady, an ex-convict who gets released from prison after serving a sentence for a crime that he didn’t commit. When Anna (Adams) and Tom (Wilson), the attorneys who represented him in court, hear word that Max is walking free once again, they begin to fear for their lives and the lives of their children because Max seems dead set on getting his revenge! The first two episodes are out now to stream. (Apple TV+)

“Earth, Wind & Fire (To Be Celestial Vs. That’s The Weight of The World)” (TV-MA) — This documentary film out now to stream dives deep into the best-selling Chicago band Earth, Wind & Fire, who’s had sales of more than 90 million records worldwide! Although their start began in 1969, their music continues to sound loudly today, especially songs like “September,” “Boogie Wonderland,” and “Let’s Groove.” In the doc, viewers get to see archives of visual, audio and written material from the band, as well as appearances from public figures like Barack Obama, Lionel Richie, H.E.R., Stevie Wonder, and more. Musician and filmmaker Questlove directed and produced this project, and he also helped compile the music for the doc alongside composer Raymond Angry. (HBO Max)

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HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Are you ready to meet the next superstar in “The White Lotus” universe? Season one gave us Jennifer Coolidge, while season two gave us Theo James and LEO Woodall. Season three made stars out of Patrick Schwarzenegger and Walton Goggins. Get ready for Alexander Ludwig, who was part of the first cast announcement for season four. The 34-year-old Canadian star of “Vikings” (2013-2021) also has an upcoming role in “Killing Castro,” opposite Al Pacino. It’s premiering at the Tribeca Film Festival on June 9.

In addition, Netflix will soon drop “Unabomber” with Ludwig, Russell Crowe, Jacob Tremblay and Shailene Woodley. Then Ludwig has the horror film “Night Comes” from actor/director Jay Hernandez (star of the “Magnum P.I.” reboot), as well as “What the F*ck Is My Password?” with Stephen Dorff and Kate Walsh.

Meanwhile, Schwarzenegger wrapped the rom-com “Love of Your Life” in October 2025. He also wrapped the psychological thriller “Bunker” with Penelope Cruz, Javier Bardem, Stephen Graham and Paul Dano on Feb. 9 of this year.

Season four of “The White Lotus” will drop sometime in early 2027; Laura Dern, Kumail Nanjiani, Steve Coogan, Rosie Perez, Heather Graham and Ben Kingsley will star alongside Ludwig this season.

Andy Garcia directed, wrote and stars in “Diamond,” which garnered rave reviews at the Cannes Film Festival. It’s a 1940s film-noir-style flick with Brendan Fraser, Bill Murray, Dustin Hoffman, Demian Bichir, Rosemarie DeWitt and Danny Huston. Danny is the son of John Huston, who directed the film-noir classic “The Maltese Falcon.”

Garcia’s also starring in “72 Hours” with Kevin Hart (out on July 24) and “Maserati: The Brothers” with Michele Morrone and Anthony Hopkins.

James Franco is trying to make a comeback. After an Oscar nomination for “127 Hours” (in 2010) and hosting the Oscars in 2011 with Anne Hathaway, his career came crashing down in 2014 when a 17-year-old girl accused him of sexual misconduct. In 2018, five more women



Alexander Ludwig in “vikings” (2013-2021)

accused him of inappropriate sexual or exploitative behavior. In 2019, two of his former acting students in his film class filed a lawsuit against him, which he settled in 2021 for \$2.2 million.

In 2021, Franco underwent treatment for sexual addiction so that he was able to film “Castro’s Daughter” in 2022. In 2024, he co-starred with Vincent Gallo in “Golden State Killer.” In 2025, Lionsgate acquired it, and they have plans to release it this year. In 2024, Franco also shot “The Razor’s Edge” with Tommy Lee Jones in Georgia.

There may be hope for him yet. He was added to “John Rambo,” which stars Noah Centineo and David Harbour and wrapped in mid-May.

Also attempting a comeback is Armie Hammer, who was out of Hollywood for three years due to his sex scandal. He’s since come back to shoot “Frontier Crucible” with Thomas Jane and the Canadian thriller “Citizen Vigilant” with Costas Mandylor, which opens this summer. Maybe he should make a sequel to his 2017 hit — “Call Me by Your Name ... Cause My Name’s Tainted!”

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU

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

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!

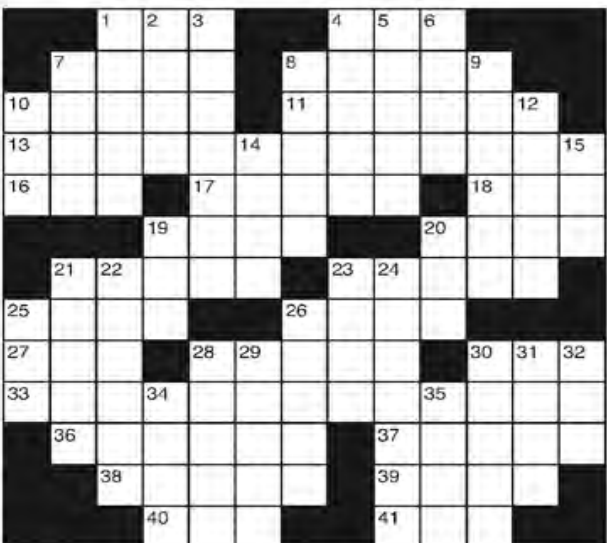
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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Strap on golf bag is moved. 2. Mouth is open. 3. Suit jacket is different. 4. Door opening is wider. 5. Pocket on golf bag is open. 6. Mouth is open. 7. Box is thicker. 8. Mouth is open. 9. Pocket on golf bag is open. 10. Mouth is open.

- ACROSS**
- Center
 - Solo in space
 - Lawn mower brand
 - Spoils, with "on"
 - Wanderer
 - Beethoven's Third
 - Time management aids
 - Citric beverage
 - Got up
 - Mosquito barrier
 - "— chic!"
 - Feel sorry for
 - Mom's sister, informally
 - "Time in a Bottle" singer
 - Impudent
 - Owl call
 - Solid-rock insert
 - Spine-tingling
 - Lupino of film
 - Commuters' buys
 - Turned to mush
 - Lounges
 - Egypt's neighbor



- DOWN**
- Bro
 - Russian river
 - Tattoos, e.g.
 - Circle dances
 - Expiate
 - Dresden denial
 - Frog's kin
 - Apollo's birthplace
 - Picturesque
 - Secret protect-ing doc.
 - Mountain crest
 - Quarry
 - Farm pen
 - Stick with a kick
 - Cauldron
 - Greek storyteller
 - Faraway orb
 - Business abbr.
 - Author's payment
 - Actress Dawber
 - "Papa" of classical music
 - Molts
 - Traction aid
 - Archipelago part
 - Editing mark
 - Ninny
 - Verifiable
 - Harboring a grudge

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Trivia test

1. TELEVISION: Who is the long-time host of the reality show “Survivor”?
2. MOVIES: What is the song playing when the lead characters dance the twist in “Pulp Fiction”?
3. U.S. STATES: The first president, George Washington, was born in which colony that would later become a state?
4. GEOGRAPHY: Which South American country controls Easter Island?
5. MYTHOLOGY: To which mythological character is the Parthenon dedicated?
6. LITERATURE: Which war is the background for Anthony Doerr’s novel “All the Light We Cannot See”?
7. MATH: What is the sum of the first five prime numbers?
8. INVENTORS: Which inventor developed more than 300 products from peanuts?
9. MUSIC: Who won Album of the Year at the 2026 Grammys?
10. HISTORY: In what year did U.S. women earn the right to open credit cards in their own names?

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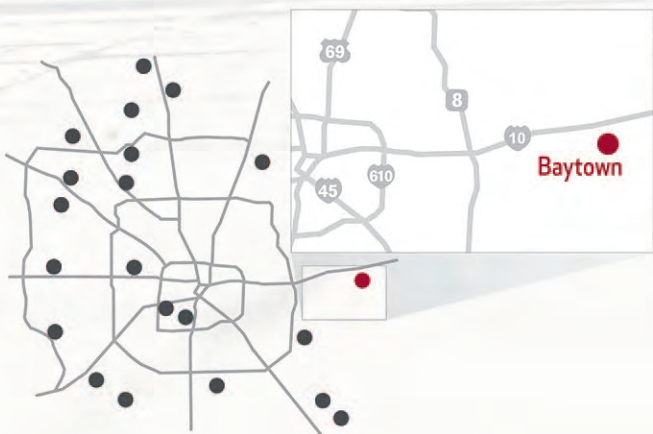
1. Jeff Probst; 2. “You Never Can Tell,” Chuck Berry; 3. Virginia; 4. Chile; 5. The Greek goddess Athena; 6. World War II; 7. 28 (2 + 3 + 5 + 7 + 11); 8. George Washington Carver; 9. Bad Bunny; 10. 1974

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