JUMPING FOR JOY—Texas is experiencing one of the best years for bluebonnets and wildflowers in the last decade. These four Texas A&M students found a field of bluebonnets six miles south of Navasota on Sunday afternoon. They had a camera set up on a timer and tried timing a synchronized jump to capture themselves. The Examiner, here, captures them capturing themselves.

(FEATURE)
More than an estimated 10,000 sandhill cranes descend on the Platte River each evening this time of year, creating a stunning sunset scene at the Rowe Sanctuary near Gibbon. A staff of mostly volunteers leads informative tours at both sunset and sunrise, taking careful steps to be sure viewers do not distract the birds in any way. Watching the cranes land is a multisensory experience that draws spectators from around the globe.

(FEATURE)
Longtime Laurentian and World War II Vet, Ralph "Bud" Reining, salutes the stars and stripes blowing in the wind while the "Star Spangled Banner" was played over the loud speaker.

(FEATURE)
AMERICORPS: These eight AmeriCorps volunteers were treated to a tour of Van Damme Cove sea caves via kayak by State Parks and Craig Comen, owner of Mendocino Kayak, after they spent two months working along the Mendocino Coast. Clockwise, from the flower life jacket: Sydney Lawson, May Doung, Taylor Burback, Brad Winckelman, Carolyn Stevens, Alyssa Pun, Michael Green and Sarah Gadomski. (FEATURE)
DELIBERATE MISS
— Capt. Giltner (NE) senior Drew Ott was a force on both ends of the court in the Class D2 state championship game against Howells. He finished with a game-high 22 points and 18 rebounds. The Hornets were down by four points with two seconds left. A free-throw cut the margin to three, and after the shooter deliberately missed, Ott swatted the ball to the corner, where Jake Findley hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer to send it to overtime. Giltner won it by 10 in double overtime.

(SPORTS)
HIGH HURDLES - Victor Venegas placed first in the 110m high hurdles.
(SPORTS)
FIRETRAINING - The second structure called "the tree" simulates a break in a propane line. Firefighters use water as a barricade to get to the shut-off valve on the ground. (NEWS)
A jogger stops to stretch on the Pudding Creek Trestle as Venus passes the sun in the background. The photo was taken through a homemade filter made by cutting a hole in a lens cap and covering it with exposed negatives over an arc-welding lens (hence, the green hue).