

FBI Arrests Crosby Man for Racketeering, Page 2

Judge Stephens Remembers Sylvester Turner, Page 4

Celebrating 100 Years



Cecil Newton celebrates his 100th Birthday with Baytown Mayor Charles Johnson, Son Richard Newton and daughter Judy Robinson. See Story.

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star Courier

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THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025

P.O. DRAWER 446, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

Highlands Little League Opening Day March 22

Highlands Little League Opening Day Saturday, March 22, with Parade at 10pm, ending at Kaminski LL Park.

Fish Fry Benefit 11am to 3pm to replace stolen equipment. Only \$10 per meal ticket.

Sponsored by Sampson Lodge, Highlands Rotary Club, and Baytown Shrine Club.

Info: Jason Davis, 832-888-5550

Crosby Huffman Chamber Luncheon March 20

Crosby Huffman Chamber of Commerce Monthly Luncheon, Thursday March 20 at 11:30am.

Program: Business Spotlight.

Port of Houston Proposal Aims to Protect Local Waterways from Barge Fleeting

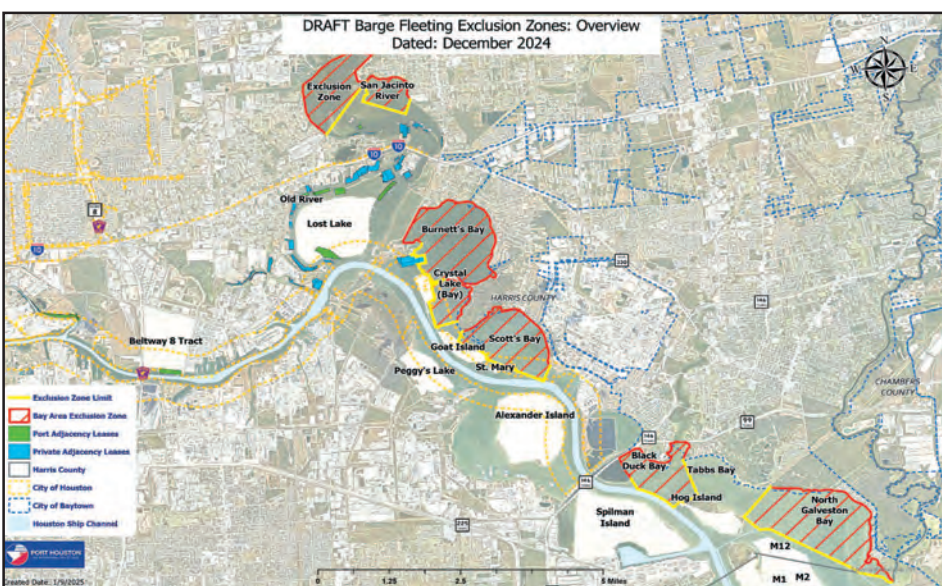
By David Taylor
Managing Editor

A public meeting hosted by the Port of Houston Authority in Baytown Tuesday night sounded like good news for area residents on unsightly barge fleeting potentially saving the areas bays. The meeting was important enough it attracted two former Baytown mayors in Stephen DonCarlos, Calvin Munding, and current mayor Charles Johnson.

Many attending feared the worst—the Port was planning on allowing barge fleeting in the bays and lakes along the Ship Channel.

DonCarlos, who has served as a Port Commissioner since 2013, allayed resident's anxiety.

"This is not that we are allowing barge fleeting in



Map of the proposed Barge Fleeting Exclusion Zones. The map is also available online at <https://www.northchannelstar.com>, or <https://www.starcouriernews.com> and can be zoomed in for a closer view.

Burnett's Bay, Crystal Lake Bay, Scott's Bay, or Black Duck Bay," he told attendees.

Instead, DonCarlos said the Port was bringing a proposal that would ultimately protect both the safety and view of residents living in those areas.

Three years ago, the barge companies were interested in extending their current barge fleeting area

and wanted to secure approximately two-thirds of the way across the mouth of Burnett Bay.

"That immediately set off alarm bells to me and I blocked it at that time,"

DonCarlos said. Since then, he said they have been working on the proposal of a barge fleeting policy that would balance the interests of the barging companies that need places to park and the rights of the residents.

"My position all along and my reason for insisting on this policy is that we wanted to protect your view and your safety. The issue, obviously, is you did not buy houses along the bay so you could look out at a sea of barges. Secondly, if you are a recreational boater, you don't need to interact with barges with your jet skis or ski boats or anything. I pointed out to the commissioners that we have a lot of recreational activity, and we want to keep barges and our city

Continued. See GOOD NEWS FOR BAYTOWN RESIDENTS, Page 5

CROSBY SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Crosby ISD Spring Break: Records Set, Awards Earned

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families,

Happy Spring Break to our students, staff members, and families! I hope everyone is enjoying activities that make them happy. From traveling to staycations, take this week to reconnect with your loved ones. We'll see our students back in class on Monday, March 17, as we count down the final two months of the school year.

We're off and running this spring semester! Just check out the recent accomplishment by students in the Barrett Elementary School Run Club! They



Dr. Paula Patterson
Crosby Superintendent

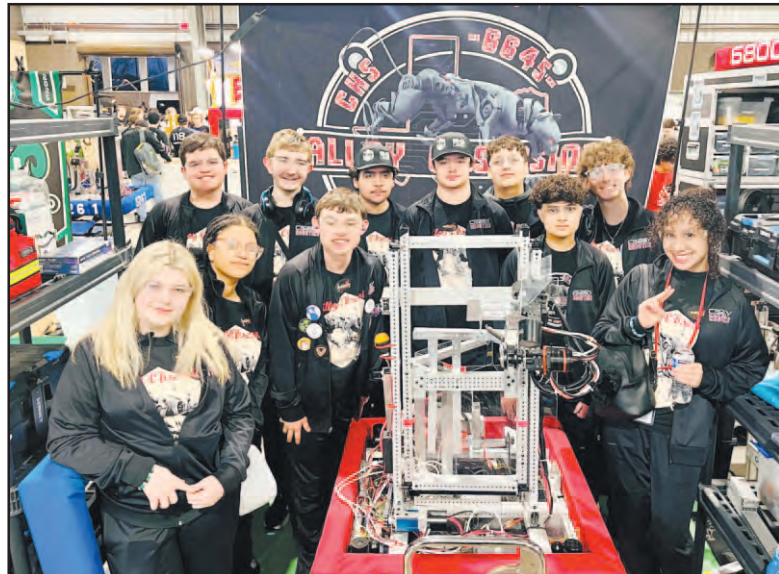
practiced for weeks and months and on Saturday, March 1, they completed the San Jacinto Texas Independence Fun Run! The kids were so proud to have finished the 5k race at the San Jacinto Monument,

and we love their focus on physical fitness, too!

I think the world of my Cabinet members, and I love when others see the great things they're doing. Congratulations to Crosby ISD's Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Yvonne Johnson. She received the Public Education Ambassador Award from TASBO (the Texas Association of School Business Officials) this month. Ms. Johnson leads with integrity, and she is exceptionally gifted at communicating the complicated business of school finance. During her tenure, the Crosby ISD Board of Trustees has been able to adopt non-deficit budgets – a rarity among Texas school districts. Thank you to Ms. Johnson for ensuring Crosby ISD remains on a sound financial footing.

Also, kudos to the Crosby ISD Communications Department for earning a record-

Continued. See CROSBY SUPERINTENDENT, page 2



Crosby High School Robotics Team is competing in two tournaments this month. We very much appreciate the support of the parents who have spent months working after school and in the evenings with students to perfect their machine.

From World War 2 to Color Television, Centenarian has Seen it all

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Cecil J. V. Newton has lived 100 years, or 1,200 months, or 5,218 weeks, or 36,525 days. However the days might be added up, by the number of friends who came to celebrate his century's celebration, it has been a life well-lived.

"Not a single day was wasted," said Mike Allard, lead pastor of Crossroads Fellowship in North Shore, Newton's home church.

The former Highlands, Texas native was honored last Saturday with a birthday celebration hosted by his daughter Judy Robinson of Highlands, and son Richard Newton of Colleyville, Texas at The Lodge of Pine Creek in Baytown. Newton welcomed a host of friends and family numbering



Cecil Newton enjoyed sharing cake and refreshments with the many friends and family at his birthday last Saturday at The Lodge at Pine Creek.

more than 100 and during a brief ceremony and fond storytelling, Baytown Mayor Charles Johnson proclaimed it Cecil J. V. Newton day in Baytown, Texas to commemorate his special occasion. Newton was also the recipient of a United States flag flown over the Texas capitol on his birthday by State Rep. Briscoe Cain. Texas House

Resolution No. 174 that will go down in history also honored Newton on his birthday, March 5, 2025 "as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives."

"Do you know how many people in America

Continued. See NEWTON'S CENTURY OF LIFE, Page 7

Harris County Sues Wastewater Facility in Crosby for Water Quality Violations

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

A wastewater facility in Crosby is in hot water after they allegedly refused to correct problems.

Harris County Attorney Christian D. Menefee announced on Thursday that he has filed a lawsuit against Roving Meadows Utilities, Inc., and secured a court order to temporarily stop its Crosby wastewater treatment facility from continuing serious water quality violations that allegedly threaten public health in the community.

"Clean water is a basic necessity—families shouldn't have to worry about bacteria or sewage in their water," Menefee said. "When we find bacteria levels more than 1,000



Harris County Attorney Christian D. Menefee announced on Thursday that he has filed a lawsuit against Roving Meadows Utilities, Inc., and secured a court order to temporarily stop its Crosby wastewater treatment facility from continuing serious water quality violations that allegedly threaten public health in the community.

times the legal limit, we have to act fast to protect Harris County residents."

According to a press release from the County At-

torney's office, Harris County Pollution Control Services inspected the facility a total of seven times between March 2021 and January 2025. During those inspections, multiple violations were found including extremely high levels of E. coli bacteria and raw sewage leaking directly onto the ground.

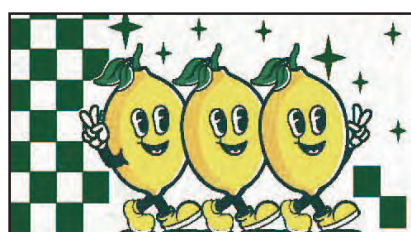
Menefee says the facility, located at 3806 FM 1942, releases water into local county ditches that feed into the Trinity-San Jacinto Coastal Basin.

The County Attorney said the company ignored repeated warnings to fix the issues and now find themselves facing court.

"What makes this case

Continued. See WASTEWATER FACILITY IN CROSBY, Page 5

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Celebrations Continue: Award-Winning initiatives and Record-Breaking Performances Illuminate Crosby ISD,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

breaking 10 Star Awards from TSPRA (the Texas School Public Relations Association). Director of Communications, Mr. Brett Birkinbine, accepted the award for the best instructional video in Texas last month. The "Turkey Talk" video featured CHS Culinary Arts instructor, Chef Vasso Espinosa, demonstrating how to cook the perfect Thanksgiving turkey. You can watch the video now on our YouTube channel. In all, Crosby ISD earned 1 Best in Texas award, 5 gold, 3 silver, and 1 bronze star for the 2023-24 school year.

Crosby High School is home to one of the best and strongest powerlifters in the state! Junior Kayleigh Bowling broke the regional powerlifting record earlier this month. At the meet, she broke the regional bench press record by benching 300 pounds! We'll be cheering her on at State! By the way, Kayleigh has qualified for State every year since she was a freshman. Wow!

Good luck this month to the Crosby High School Robotics Team! The students are competing twice in March, including on March 28-30 at Clear Brook High School in Friendswood. We very much appreciate the support of the parents who have spent months working after school and in the evenings with students to perfect their machine. We also appreciate the spon-

sors, including Crosby Fencing Company and McCoy's Building Supply in Baytown, for donating the supplies our students needed to build a robot practice field. Also a shout-out to the team sponsor, Ms. Angelique Pool, the Crosby ISD CTE (Career and Technical Education) Coordinator. It truly takes a community to help our students succeed.

Speaking of community connections, our Business Partners of the Month shared their expertise with students at Crosby Middle School. Tatum MacNaughton and Charlene Findley from Boom Real Estate in Crosby spent a day this month discussing the importance of digital marketing in the real estate world. They visited Ms. Crear's class, two of Ms. Eagleton's business classes, and then stayed after school for the National Junior Honor Society meeting with Ms. McComb. They shared key concepts for interview skills and had students create digital ads. They also talked about investing in the community where you live, and why it's good business to volunteer in your community. Thank you, Boom Real Estate!

The month also marked "Read Across America" Day. Board of Trustee members, district staff, and Crosby High School students had a chance to read to elementary students, as we work to ignite a love of reading in our



Crosby ISD students read books to each other during "Read Across America Day" on February 28. The day also marked the district's celebration of Go Texan Day!



Crosby ISD Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Yvonne Johnson, received the Texas Public Education Ambassador Award from TASBO (Texas Association of School Business Officials) this month. Ms. Johnson leads with integrity, and she is exceptionally gifted at communicating the complicated business of school finance.



Barrett Elementary School student celebrates 5k medal after the San Jacinto Texas Independence Fun Run on March 1. The BES Run Club practiced for months before entering the race.



Crosby High School junior Kayleigh Bowling is headed to State for the third year in a row in powerlifting! She broke the regional bench press record earlier this month by benching 300 pounds. Kayleigh has qualified for State every year since she was a freshman.



Students in the Barrett Elementary School Run Club completed the San Jacinto Texas Independence Fun Run on March 1. They celebrated their win at the San Jacinto Monument.

younger students. Some students dressed like their favorite book characters, and others wore their best western wear as we cele-

brated Go Texan Day on the same day as Read Across America Day. What a fun fusion!

We are Committed to Excellence! Go Coogs!

FBI charges Crosby man with Racketeering, motorcycle gang activity

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Brandon K. Hantz, 33, of Crosby has been indicted and charged with multiple counts of racketeering, a result of his alleged involvement with the Bandidos motorcycle gang.

"Loco" or "Gun Drop," his motorcycle gang nicknames, discovered his fate when a 22-count indictment was handed down by a federal grand jury and unsealed in the Southern District of Texas (SDTX) on Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025.

Current and former members of the Bandidos Outlaw Motorcycle Gang and Mascareros Motorcycle Club have been charged for their alleged roles in a criminal enterprise engaged in violent criminal activity in and around Houston. The Mascareros is a support club of the Bandidos.

The indictment accuses them of various crimes, including engaging in a conspiracy to commit racketeering activity and committing violent crimes in furtherance of the gang such as murder, attempted murder, and assault.

The Bandidos are well-known as a self-identified 'outlaw' motorcycle organization with a transnational membership of approximately 1,500 to 2,000 across the United States and an additional 1,000 to 1,500 internationally, including Mexico.

"Ensuring the safety of the public is SDTX's paramount concern," said U.S. Attorney Nicholas J.



FBI officials are joined by other law enforcement agencies in announcing the serious charges against Bandido gang members from across the area.

Ganji. "The indictment here not only alleges shocking crimes of violence but also alleges that these offenses were committed openly and wantonly, where any innocent member of the public could have been hurt or killed."

"Today's indictment is an important step in eliminating the Bandidos Outlaw Motorcycle Gang," said Supervisory Official Antoinette T. Bacon of the Justice Department's Criminal Division. "The Bandidos declare war on rivals—and they wage that war on our streets. Criminal behavior like this has no place in America, and the Department of Justice is fully committed to bringing peace back to our communities."

According to an FBI press release, "The indictment alleges that beginning in 2019, a violent turf war erupted between the Bandidos and B*EAST, a rival outlaw motorcycle gang in the Houston area. As part of this turf war, Bandidos national leadership al-

legedly put out a 'smash on site' order to commit physical assaults, including murder, against B*EAST members. The turf war has resulted in gunfire exchanged on public roadways and in public establishments with innocent civilians present, according to the charges."

Brandon Keith Hantz may look familiar since he is a former contestant from Survivor: South Pacific and Survivor: Caramoan. He made his first appearance on the popular reality television show at 19 years old and listed in his profile that he was a born-again Christian. Hantz made it to the final five with his alliance but eventually lost. He returned to the show during Survivor: Caramoan. His rage and unstable emotional state resulted in the Bikal tribe voting him off the show.

Hantz said he has been an oil tanker crewman and his personal claim to fame was his little boy, Elijah. He also enjoyed shooting guns,

and eating crawfish.

He said he tried out for the show to achieve financial freedom and "to show everyone there is more than one side to the Hantz family other than being mean."

When asked why he thought he would be the Sole Survivor and winner of the show, he replied "I'm very handsome, smart, cunning, manipulative and funny."

He also said on his application that his inspiration in life was "Jesus, because he died for me."

John M. Pfeffer aka Big John, 32, Darvi Hinojosa aka 10 Round, 35, Bradley Rickenbacker aka Dolla Bill, 37, all of Katy; Michael H. Dunphy aka Money Mike, 57, Cleveland; Christopher Sanchez aka Monster, 40, Tomball; and Brandon K. Hantz aka Loco and Gun Drop, 33, Crosby; are charged with conspiracy to commit racketeering activity. Pfeffer, Dunphy, Hinojosa, Rickenbacker and Sanchez are further charged with multiple counts of assault in aid of racketeering. Pfeffer, Hinojosa, Rickenbacker and Sanchez are also charged with using a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence, while Sanchez faces charges of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Hantz is also charged with ar-

son.

Pfeffer, Hinojosa, Rickenbacker and Sanchez each face up to life in prison if convicted, while Dunphy and Hantz each face up to 20 years on each of their counts upon conviction.

The indictment also charges David Vargas aka Brake Check and First Time, 33, Houston, with murder in aid of racketeering; using a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence resulting in death; attempted murder in aid of racketeering; and using, carrying, brandishing, discharging and possessing a firearm during and in relation to the attempted murders. All those charges relate to the killing of a rival and the shooting of two others. Murder in aid of racketeering carries a mandatory life sentence or the death penalty, if convicted.

Further, Pfeffer and Rickenbacker are also charged with assault in aid of racketeering and using a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence along with Marky Baker aka Pinche Guero and Guero, 40, Ronnie McCabe aka Meathead, 56, and Jeremy Cox aka JD, 37, all of Houston; Roy Gomez aka Repo, 50, Richmond; and Marcel Lett, 56, Pearl-and. These charges are in relation to an alleged assault and robbery that resulted in the death of a rival. If convicted, they face up to life in prison.



Brandon K. Hantz, 33, of Crosby has been indicted and charged with multiple counts of racketeering, a result of his alleged involvement

Hinojosa is also charged along with John Sblendorio aka Tech9, 54, Houston, with conspiracy to commit murder in aid of racketeering, attempted murder in aid of racketeering, assault in aid of racketeering and using a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence in connection with the shooting of a rival gang member. Hinojosa is also charged with conspiracy to distribute cocaine and three counts of possession with intent to distribute cocaine. Sblendorio and Hinojosa each face up to life in prison, if convicted.

A Katy man, Sean G. Christison, aka Skinman, 30, is charged with possession with intent to distribute cocaine and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. He faces a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

Several of those were expected to make their initial appearance before U.S. Magistrate Judge Dena Hanovice Palermo at 2 p.m. Feb. 20.

Barbers Hill Press

Dayton

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

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THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

MONT BELVIEU CITY EVENTS Women's Golf Clinic

These clinics are for all players at any skill level! We want to provide a social experience to have fun and meet new friends! Our goal is to help you grow in your game and overcome self doubt to gain self confidence and trust in yourself and the game!

Drinks and snacks to follow golf.

9:30 AM - 11 AM \$35 per person Stop by the pro shop or call to sign up! (281)385-6666

Date:

March 15, 2025

Time:

9:30 AM-11:00 AM

Location:

View Facility
Eagle Pointe Golf Course
Address:
12440 Eagle Pointe Dr
Mont Belvieu, TX 77523

More Upcoming Clinic Dates:

April 12
May 17
June 14
July 19
August 16
September 13
October 18
November 15
December 13

Spring Sprint 5k & Kids 1k

Welcome to the 2nd annual Spring Sprint!

This event is a family 5K run/walk and kids fun run. The 5K course starts and ends at Mont Belvieu City Park. Run on City streets and sidewalks; finishing the last mile on the gravel trail around the City Park.

Registration is open December 1st - March 25th.

KIDS 1K

Run begins at 8AM

\$10 per runner

5K FUN RUN

Run begins at 8:15AM

\$30 per runner

Date:

March 22, 2025

Time:

8:00 AM-10:00 AM

Location:

City Park
Address:
10900 Eagle Drive
Mont Belvieu, TX 77523

Joe Matthews Park Ribbon Cutting

Join us as we celebrate the grand reopening of Joe Matthews Park on March 24th! This revitalized community space now features a kayak launch, inclusive playground, butterfly garden, new walking trails, and enhanced recreational areas.

Be among the first to explore the park's new amenities and enjoy fun giveaways for kids.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 4:00 PM

Date:

March 24, 2025

Time:

4:00 PM-4:30 PM

Location:

Joe Matthews Park
4133-4203 Oak Ridge Dr,
Mont Belvieu, TX 77523

Visit our New Website for Chambers County News:
www.BHDPRESS.com

Battleship Texas Finds New Permanent Home at Galveston Pier

The permanent home for the battleship had been in limbo for well over a year after the board had authorized and then backed out of, a leasing agreement. From August 2022 to March 2024, Battleship Texas was dry-docked in Galveston as it underwent repairs.

After more than a year of uncertainty, Battleship Texas will now be moored at Pier 15 in Galveston.

The decision to move the USS Texas — the last remaining World War I dreadnought battleship — to the Galveston Pier, was approved earlier this week by the Galveston Wharves Board of Trustees. The permanent home for the battleship had been in limbo for well over a year after the board had authorized and then backed out of, a leasing agreement. From August 2022 to March 2024, Battleship Texas was dry-docked in Galveston as it underwent repairs.

During the Tuesday board meeting, Vice Chairman Jeff Patterson said that although some details



still needed to be ironed out, a permanent location for the ship had been determined.

"We have come to a decision on where we can locate the Battleship Texas," Patterson said. "The two main considerations for this location were really the safety of the channel — that was the driving force that we heard from pilots

from the Coast Guard and from the Corps of Engineers."

Another reason for choosing Pier 15, Patterson said, is because it is more likely to protect this ship from storms.

"Getting it out of the channel is a better location for hurricanes," he said. "The other part is that this location doesn't really com-

promise any of our future expansion plans, whatever those might be. This isn't a space that's available for the public or for us to use in the future."

Currently, the battleship is owned by the Battleship Texas Foundation. Patterson said the foundation is funded by the state, meaning that Galveston residents will not have to

foot the bill for mooring the ship.

"I'd also just like to say to the public that there are no port funds that are being used to move the Battleship Texas here," he said. "That's financed by the state of Texas and by the Battleship Texas Foundation."

Following the vote, the foundation shared a statement via social media that the new location will bring tourism and education to Texans across the state.

"Big news for Battleship Texas! After years of hard work and dedication, we're thrilled to have the support of the Wharves Board to bring TEXAS to Pier 15 in Galveston- just a short walk from Pier 21 and the historic Galveston Strand," the foundation wrote in an Instagram post. Texas, the last ship of its kind, will promote tourism, educate future generations, and create a visitor experience worthy of her crew and legacy."

The exact opening date for Battleship Texas has not yet been finalized.

Spreading the Love of Reading: Read Across America Day at United Way

Baytown, TX (March 6, 2025) — In celebration of Read Across America Day this week, United Way of Greater Baytown Area and Chambers County (UWGBACC) united staff, board members, and community partners to inspire a lifelong love of reading among local students. Volunteers visited classrooms across the community, bringing stories to life and sharing the transformative power of books.

"Reading is the foundation for learning and opportunity," said Kaci Pena, Community Engagement Director at United Way. "Through stories, we can travel the world, embark on adventures beyond imagination, and unlock doors to new possibilities. By engaging with students today, we are fostering a love for reading that can shape their futures."

As part of the celebration, over 500 students received a brand-new book, made possible through the generosity of ExxonMobil Baytown. Each book included a special bookmark highlighting the Little Free Library network, a United Way-supported initiative



that ensures access to free books for readers of all ages. With more than 20 Little Free Libraries strategically placed throughout the community, UWGBACC is committed to making literacy resources available to everyone.

"United Way believes that every

child should have the tools they need to learn and succeed," said Pena. "By providing access to books and encouraging reading, we are helping build stronger, more literate communities."

For more information on the Little Free Libraries and to find out how you can donate books visit

www.unitedwaygbacc.org/little-free-libraries.

Report From U.S. Congressman Brian Babin President Trump Outlines Vision for America in Joint Address to Congress

Fellow Texans,

Last week, President Trump delivered a powerful Joint Address to Congress, showcasing a stark contrast to the past four years. In just weeks, he has moved at record speed to secure our border, tackle inflation, cut reckless spending, unleash American energy, and restore common sense to Washington. His unwavering commitment to putting America First is already making a difference for East Texas families.

He laid out a bold vision, one where freedom thrives, government overreach is eliminated, and every American has the opportunity to prosper. President Trump made it clear: power belongs to We the People, and the American Dream is alive and well.



U.S. Rep. Brian Babin

Unfortunately, Democrats chose politics over patriotism. They refused to escort the President into the Chamber which is customary, remained seated as he honored inspiring guests, including a child with cancer, a West Point-bound teenager, and families of fallen heroes, and held protest signs through-



out his speech.

No matter the distractions, we remain focused on delivering real results. I will continue working alongside President Trump to advance his America First agenda. We've made great strides, but the best is yet to come!

During his address, President Trump recognized four extraordinary Texans: Alexis Nungaray, D.J. Daniel, Elliston Berry,

and Roberto Ortiz. These individuals represent the best of our state and our nation, demonstrating courage, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to service.

Their stories remind us that America's strength comes from its people, and I am proud to see them honored on the national stage.

Powering America's Comeback

I voted YES on key leg-

islation to roll back burdensome Biden Administration regulations, lower energy costs, and restore American energy independence.

*H.J. Res 42: Reverses a DOE rule that drives up appliance costs and burdens manufacturers and small businesses.

*H.J. Res 61: Blocks the EPA's job-killing emissions rule that threatens American tire manufacturers.

*S.J. Res 11: Eliminates Biden's restrictive oil and gas exploration rule, cutting bureaucratic red tape and boosting energy production.

President Trump and House Republicans are working together to ensure America is not just energy independent—but energy dominant. Texas will power America's comeback!

Sincerely,
Rep. Brian Babin

OPINION PAGE

REMEMBERING SYLVESTER TURNER

By JUDGE JOE STEPHENS



Judge Joe Stephens on Sylvester Turner

I just had dinner with Sylvester this past January. He was more than a friend and mentor he was a tireless advocate for the people, a true servant leader who never wavered in his commitment to Houston.

From his days as a State Representative to his transformative leadership as Mayor and, most recently, as a Congressman, Sylvester embodied what it meant to be a public servant. His wisdom was a gift to those willing to listen, and his presence was a force in any room.

I remember his energy, his joy he wasn't just about business and politics. He knew how to celebrate life. He danced all night at my wife's 42nd birthday party, just as he fought tirelessly for the people of Houston.

I had the privilege of doing business with his title company downtown, and even then, you could see his leadership, his vision, his determination. We always knew he was destined to lead our great city, and when that time came, he rose to the challenge with grace, resilience, and an unshakable belief in the people he served.

Sylvester Turner's legacy will live on in the city he loved, in the lives he touched, and in the countless lessons he imparted. His community-minded, selfless approach to leadership is something that many politicians present and future should aspire to.

We have lost a leader, a mentor, and a friend. But we will never lose the lessons he taught us, the example he set, or the love he had for Houston. Rest in power, Sylvester you will be missed, but your spirit will remain with us always.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Voucher Bill Has Backing of House Majority

A slim majority of Texas House members have indicated they will back House Bill 3, which creates education savings accounts that allow families to use taxpayer money for private school education.

"For the first time in our great state's history, the Texas House has the votes to pass a universal school choice program," Gov. Greg Abbott said in a statement.

The Texas Senate has already passed a voucher bill, though it contains different provisions. The two measures will have to be reconciled before a bill reaches Abbott's desk.

The House bill has more stringent requirements based on income and whether a child has a disability. Both bills carry a \$1 billion price tag.

House Speaker Dustin Burrows, R-Lubbock, said his chamber welcomed public input.

"We want to continue to make the bill better and improve it," he said. "If there's room for improvement or to make the bill better, that's part of the process."

FIRST MEASLES FATALITY RECORDED IN WEST TEXAS AS CASES RISE

A measles outbreak in West Texas has resulted in the death of a school-aged child, and 146 cases have been identified as of Friday, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

An additional case was reported in an adult living in Rockwall County, in North Texas. An adult male tested positive after traveling out of the country. State officials say he was not vaccinated.

Dr. Peter Hotez, co-director of the Center for Vaccine Development at Texas Children's Hospital, told the Houston Chronicle also believes the outbreak, the state's largest in 30 years, will continue to increase because of a growing number of children who are not being



By Gary Borders

vaccinated. The Centers for Disease Control estimates nine in 10 people who are not vaccinated will become infected if exposed to measles.

"I think these numbers will continue to accelerate for a while," Hotez said. "So this is going to be a very large, very dangerous measles epidemic."

SENATE VOTES TO BAN LOTTERY BROKERS

The state Senate voted unanimously last week to outlaw third-party brokers who buy mass numbers of Texas lottery tickets online, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

Abbott last week ordered the Texas Rangers to investigate that incident and another last week in which a player won \$83.5 million with tickets purchased through an online courier company, the Chronicle reported.

"Texans must be able to trust in our state's lottery system and know that the lottery is conducted with integrity and lawfully," Abbott said in a statement.

Lottery Commissioner Clark Smith, appointed by Abbott in 2023, resigned abruptly last week.

WILDFIRE RISK GROWING IN WESTERN HALF OF STATE

State officials are gearing up for an increased wildfire danger across the western half of Texas, including the Panhandle, South Plains, Permian Basin, and parts of the Hill

Country. The Texas A&M Forest Service is reporting one active wildfire in Kimble County. It has consumed 722 acres and was 70% contained as of Sunday.

"It's important for Texans to prepare for wildfires, work to prevent them and heed warnings of local officials" Jared Karns, forest service fire chief, said.

Texas comptroller's office recently released a report concluding that Texas communities face elevated wildfire threats as subdivisions spread into previously undeveloped areas with easy-to-ignite vegetation. Since 2005, more than 243,000 separate Texas wildfires have burned 13.9 million acres.

Last year, the Smokehouse Creek Fire near Canadian burned more than 1 million acres, the largest wildfire in state history.

As of Sunday, 100 Texas counties had burn bans in place.

'FLOODGATE' OF UNCERTIFIED TEACHERS CAUSING CONCERN

More than half of new teachers hired last year lacked state certification, according to The News, and Education Commissioner Mike Morath expressed concern at a recent House committee hearing.

"We are setting these folks up for a very rough ride," Education Commissioner Mike Morath told lawmakers during a recent House committee hearing.

The Legislature a decade ago loosened hiring requirements for school districts to hire teachers because of a shortage of certified applicants.

"We need to take responsibility for some of that because we've made it easier to get into a classroom without certification," state Rep. Gina Hinojosa, D-Austin, told her colleagues.

The Texas Education Agency reports that schools with higher shares of uncertified teachers have worse outcomes on annual standardized tests. Legislation has been proposed to rein in the system that allows districts to hire uncertified teachers.

GROWING NUMBER OF LEAKING OIL WELLS CAUSING CONCERN

State regulators are struggling with a growing number of leaking oil wells that threaten to contaminate aquifers, according to an investigative report in the Chronicle. The latest known leak is from an orphaned well in Pecos County, from which black, salty water is flowing along the sandy surface.

"The number one concern is groundwater contamination," Schuyler Wight, a neighboring rancher, said. "Also, this well is adjacent to the Imperial Reservoir, which impacts downstream."

The Texas Railroad Commission plans to send a rig to plug the Pecos well. It has requested \$100 million in new funding from the Legislature to address the issue.

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

What Peter Does



"What is the cat doing?" I asked my husband, Peter. "He's levitating," Peter said. Or at least I thought that's what he said.

"The cat is levitating?" "Meditating!" "Oh." We have a lot of conversations like this, and I suspect Peter and I are not alone.

I was lying in bed later that evening, imagining our cat, Felix, floating over the nightstand, and the thing that struck me was that Peter would take it in stride.

Peter and I will celebrate our 10th anniversary this week, which doesn't seem possible for two reasons. First, because it cannot be possible that 10 years have passed since we got married, and second, because it cannot be possible there was ever a time I was not married to Peter.

In the past 10 years, I have learned that if the cat was to suddenly start to levitate, Peter would not fly off the handle. He would do some quick research and determine how frequent cat levitation was and if there was cause for concern.

It's called "learned helplessness," when the patient forgets how to make her own coffee (or buy it, for that matter), and everything required for her meal shows up, like magic, in the cupboard. That would be me. Peter occasionally expresses frustration if we run out of something, because he has a secret inventory system that I am entirely oblivious to.

Peter plans our travel. Peter pays the bills. Peter knows how I am feeling before I do—which is handy because then I can just ask him. "Why do I feel this way?" I'll ask.

"You've felt this way before," he'll remind me. "It will pass." And he is always right. Peter does all these things because he cares for me. After 10 years, I know what Peter does and, because he does these things every day without saying a word, I could easily take what he does for granted.

Because we were not young when we married 10 years ago, and even then, I knew that coffee does not appear by magic and the bathroom is not automatically filled with toilet paper. I knew that problems have to be solved, that life would serve up an increasing number of problems as we aged, and that having someone beside me to help solve those problems was a precious gift.

Peter often reminds me that we don't know if we will be given another day together or another 30 years. "But either way," he says, "it will be too short." And he is right. But as long as we are together, I know Peter will be there to help figure out whatever comes our way. And so, no, I was not overly worried about the cat levitating yesterday. It would certainly be unusual, but it would be nothing that Peter could not handle.

Till next time, Carrie

Advertisement for Star Courier newspaper, including contact information for the Barbers Hill, Dayton, and North Channel editions, and details about the publisher and subscription rates.

Port barge fleeting proposal good news for residents,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

zens apart,” the port commissioner said.

He said he is cautiously optimistic that the proposal is a fitting compromise and barge companies have seen the maps and seem to be fine with the proposal for the most part.

“You will all continue to enjoy a beautiful bayside view and hopefully safety for utilizing our bays,” he said.

Baytown has the most residential areas along the bays and stands to be affected more by barges, large terminals, and barge speed.

“I’m encouraging the companies to go on the industrial side of the channel. You’ll probably see some activity around the DuPont plant over there. We are not encouraging or allowing, through this program, barge fleeting near your homes or inside the bay,” the former mayor DonCarlos said.

The port is a significant driver of the local, state, and federal economy. In 2022, they provide 1.4 million jobs in Texas, 3.37 million nationwide, and \$906 billion in economic impact across the U.S.

“That’s a big deal and we’re still talking about numbers that are three years ago,” said Garry McMahan, real property manager at the port who is responsible for barge fleeting leasing.

The Port of Houston ranks No. 1 in several categories: waterborne tonnage, export state, in exports of Petroleum and petroleum products, in res-in exports with 50 percent market share, container port in the U.S. Gulf Coast, in deep water vessel traffic, and No. 1 port in the U.S. The Port of Houston handles at least 73 percent of containers in the U.S. Gulf of America. Each year, the port handles more than 8,300 deep draft ship calls and more than 200,000 barge transits.

“We’re here today because these barges have to go somewhere and that’s what we want to talk about,” McMahan said.

Both McMahan and DonCarlos equated the



Garry McMahan, real property manager at the port who is responsible for barge fleeting leasing, read over the list of lease requirements and application considerations.

barge fleeting issue to the wild, wild west.

“Several years ago, they were parking anywhere and everywhere they could find a spot and it became a navigation issue.

Their solution was, if a barge company wanted to fleet a barge in Harris County, they would have to get a lease from the Port Houston Authority.

For the most part, it solved the issue, however, with the turn of the economy, more and more barge companies are likely to offend.

McMahan presented a map demonstrating where the restricted areas for barge fleeting have been proposed. If the public and barge companies agree, the proposal could go before commissioners as early as the April meeting this year.

Former Baytown mayor Calvin Munding lived across the street from Burnett’s Bay.

“I spent all my childhood fishing and playing in Burnett Bay,” he said. “It’s a shallow bay

Munding said it’s a proven fact that there are suspended contaminants in the floor of the bay.

“If these guys got in here with tugboats or barges, it would release all of that. I’m glad to hear that they’re closing that off because the real threat would not be a loose barge, it would have been environmental bringing those



Former Baytown mayor Stephen DonCarlos opened the public meeting on barge fleeting announcing that they port was not going to allow barge fleeting in several of the local bays.

barges and tugboats in here,” he claimed.

Munding also serves on the board of the Cedar Bayou Navigation District.

“None of us knows how much more container shipping and traffic is coming. The growth could be staggering, so all the more reason that growth will be managed by the port,” Munding said.

DonCarlos said there will be some education meetings between the port and barge fleeters in preparation for the changes.

“It is going to be a major change for us at the port because we’ve never had actual exclusionary zones in a policy,” he said.

Port staff will pour over the comments made at the public meeting and digest the information and make changes to the rules before presenting the final copy to commissioners at the April board meeting.

Goose Creek CISD Students Shine at Chapter MATHCOUNTS Competition



Goose Creek CISD proudly announces the impressive performance of its junior high students at the recent Chapter MATHCOUNTS Competition. Approximately 50 talented students from five junior high schools—Baytown Junior School, Cedar Bayou Junior School, E.F. Green Junior School, Gentry Junior School, and Highlands Junior School—represented GCCISD.

MATHCOUNTS is a national middle school mathematics competition promoting student interest and mathematics achievement. It provides engaging math programs to U.S. middle school students of all ability levels to build confidence and improve atti-

tudes about math and problem-solving.

Highlands Junior School, led by Coach Kirti Kulkarni, secured 3rd Place in the Team Competition. Congratulations to team members Amelia Solis, Leobardo Rueda, Ian Elliot, and Rafael Hernandez.

E.F. Green Junior School, led by Coach Rashad Abdul-Jabbar, achieved an impressive 2nd Place in the Team Competition. Congratulations to team members Anay Gupta, Yashvir Gill, Manavendra Chouhan, and Vihann Singh.

A special highlight of the competition was E.F. Green’s Anay Gupta, who was selected to participate in the highly competitive

Countdown Round. This intense, head-to-head contest pits top-scoring chapter competitors against each other in rapid-fire rounds—answering questions in only 45 seconds with a live audience. After three grueling rounds, Anay Gupta emerged victorious, claiming the Countdown Round Championship for E.F. Green Junior School and GCCISD.

E.F. Green Junior School will proudly represent Goose Creek CISD at the MATHCOUNTS State Competition on March 8 in Irving, Texas. The district extends its best wishes to the E.F. Green team as they prepare to compete at the next level.

CHAMBER NEWS

5T Farms joins the Crosby-Huffman Chamber, invites the public



Ambassadors with the Crosby-Huffman Area Chamber of Commerce welcomed 5T Farm co-owners into the Chamber at their recent ribbon cutting on the farm located at 14833 Parish Road in Crosby. From petting the miniature cows, to fine feathered friends, to their own home-spun Farmacy with health products, the good friends are inviting the community onto their property to enjoy farm life.

Harris county sues wastewater facility in Crosby,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

particularly concerning is the potential threat to public health and the environment, and the unwillingness to correct these violations,” Menefee added. “Enough is enough. If you break the law and put people at risk, we will hold

you accountable.”

Menefee is seeking legal remedy to force the company to fix its treatment processes, improve monitoring, and immediately report any future violations.

The county attorney is asking residents who have concerns about water quality to reach out to Harris County Pollution Control Services by visiting their website

pcs.harriscountytexas.gov.

Celebrating Career and Technical Education Month in Goose Creek ISD

By Erin Cook, GCCISD CTE Recruitment

February was Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month, a time to celebrate how CTE helps shape students’ futures. Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District (GCCISD) is proud to provide innovative opportunities that prepare students for success in a variety of career fields.

GCCISD offers a wide range of courses across all 14 Texas Education Agency (TEA) career clusters, including agriculture, business, construction, arts and audio-visual technology, education, energy, health science, hospitality, human services, information technology, law and public services, manufacturing, engineering, and transportation, distribution, and logistics. These pathways provide hands-on experience in industries such as construction, health care, and technology, equipping students with valuable skills that make them competitive in the workforce.

In addition to its existing programs, GCCISD continuously adapts to meet industry needs. A great example is the new Logistics Program, which responds to the growing demand for skilled workers in the Gulf Coast Region. This program prepares students for careers like logistics coordinator, supply chain analyst, or port operations manager.

Student Spotlight: Samuel Munguia – Instrumentation Student, STEM Academy at Lee High School Instrumentation student at the STEM Academy at Lee High School, Samuel will graduate with an Associate Degree of Applied Science in Instrumentation Technology from Lee College. He enjoys hands-on simulations based on local refinery plant operations the lab at Lee High School provides and plans to join one of the refineries in Baytown after graduation.

Student Spotlight: Erik Gonzalez – Culinary Arts Student, Culinary Academy at Stuart Career Tech High School

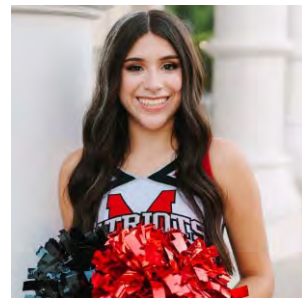
Culinary Arts student at Stuart Career Tech High School, Erik’s passion for sustainable farming led him to the



Samuel, Instrumentation.



Erik, Culinary.



Brianna, Business.

grams go beyond individual students. Through these programs, students can earn valuable industry certifications, college credits, and associate degrees, helping fill the skills gap many employers face. Work-based learning experiences, such as internships, make students job-ready upon graduation.

For employers, CTE programs provide access to a pool of trained, motivated individuals who require less on-the-job training and are often better equipped to meet industry demands. These trained employees tend to have higher retention rates, benefiting both businesses and the economy.

Baytown businesses can partner with GCCISD CTE programs to help shape the next generation of skilled workers. Opportunities like hosting internships, offering job shadowing, and joining advisory boards allow businesses to directly influence program development, ensuring students graduate with the skills and knowledge needed to contribute to the workforce immediately.

For more information on how your business can benefit from these opportunities, visit the GCCISD CTE website at gccisd.net/page/cte.home or connect with us on social media @CTEInAction.

CTE’s Community Impact
The benefits of CTE pro-

Women's History Month Honoree - (2nd of a series) Texan Kendra Scott National Entrepreneur of the Year From \$500 startup to billion-dollar fashion empire

By Allan Jamail

March 8, 2025 ~ Kendra Baumgartner Scott (born March 27, 1974) is an American fashion designer. She is the executive chairwoman, designer, and former chief executive officer of Kendra Scott, LLC. In 2017 she was officially named the Ernst & Young's National Entrepreneur of the Year.

Scott is celebrating Women's History Month this month and every month by empowering women. She said she's given well over \$50 million to women and youth causes so that generations to come get to shine bright, and we're just getting started.

My wife Linda is a Kendra Scott follower; she has a nice collection of Kendra's jewelry which she's gotten from some of Scott's local shops. And each year at the Houston Rodeo she'll visit the Yellow Rose booth at the exhibit hall.

The 51 year old self-made multi-millionaire worth \$460 million, Kendra Baumgartner was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin. At age 16, in 1990 her family moved to Houston, Texas, where she graduated from Klein High School. Scott fell in love and "followed a boy" to Texas A&M University, which she attended for one year before dropping out to move to Austin, Texas, at age 19 to help with her ill stepfather.

In 2002, just three months after her first son was born, Kendra launched her own name brand of jewelry line with only \$500. Her vibrant personality and unique eye for design captivated Austin businesses and customers alike, paving the way for

a billion-dollar lifestyle brand that's celebrated for its design and material innovation, vibrant use of color, and signature silhouettes. Her company continues to operate out of Austin, Texas, where she resides with her family and many beloved animals.

Her home is on the winding banks of Lake Austin, in a thick wood of live oaks and elm trees. Her four-acre estate looks like a veritable Mediterranean oasis. Some who have visited have spontaneously likened the landscape to Positano, Italy, with its hilly layers and twinkling views of the water, even as Austin skyscrapers ascend Oz-like in the distance.

Scott said, "I wanted this house to look and feel like it had beautifully weathered—and would continue to stand—the test of time," says Scott, whose brood includes children and four large, rambunctious dogs. The manor's red-clay-clad hipped roofs and corbels aplenty are iconic Mediterranean elements, and to some, may seem curiously situated in the Lone Star State.

The first collection she made in the spare bedroom of her Austin home. She walked from store to store around Austin, selling to local boutiques, and at the last boutique, she had to sell all of her samples to purchase enough materials to cover the orders she had made that first day.

Scott opened her first business, the Hat Box, which specializes in comfortable hats designed for women going through chemotherapy. Scott sold "comfortable but stylish" pieces and donated a por-



tion of the proceeds to cancer research.

In 2005, Scott's designs were chosen to accessorize Oscar de la Renta's spring 2006 runway show. Scott's designs also appeared in Randolph Duke's 2007 runway show.

Because of the financial crisis of 2007–2008, she nearly had to close her company, but she received an order from Nordstrom for some of their stores; this gave her exposure and allowed her to expand her business.

Scott's first retail store opened on Austin's South Congress Avenue in 2010. In the same year, she began her e-commerce business and launched the brand's Color Bar experience.

In 2011 she opened her second store on Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills. In 2014 Scott opened stores around the South and Midwest while ignoring the fashion elite in New York and Los Angeles. Later,

in 2016, she sold a minority stake in her company to the private equity firm Berkshire Partners at a valuation of \$1 billion.

Valued at over \$1 billion, her brand encompasses fashion jewelry, fine jewelry, home accessories, nail lacquer, and beauty products.

At the end of 2019, Scott had 102 retail stores, now she has 138 stores. In addition to an e-commerce business, Scott's merchandise is sold in London's Selfridges, Nordstrom, Neiman Marcus, Von Maur, Bloomingdale's, and over 1,000 specialty boutiques worldwide. 95 percent of her more than 2,000 staff is women. In February 2021, Scott stepped down as CEO, retaining the Executive Chairwoman title, and named Tom Nolan as Kendra Scott's CEO.

She's been married three times, first to John Scott, then Matt Davis and now to Thomas Evans. She's the mother of three sons. She said, "I

want my employees to put their family first, and I trust and believe them that they'll do their job, whatever that looks like."

Scott is a philanthropist with a history of supporting women's and children's causes. In 2015, Scott launched the Kendra Cares Program, which brings the company's customizable Color Bar jewelry experience to pediatric hospitals across the country. In 2017, Scott's company hosted more than 10,000 Kendra Gives Back across her stores. She gave the money to local causes and also donated more than 75,000 pieces of jewelry.

In 2019, Scott donated \$1 million to The University of Texas to launch the Kendra Scott Women's Entrepreneurial Leadership Institute. It will serve as a community of diversity, inclusion, and entrepreneurship, empowering women to advocate for themselves and find the space to make their impact. Scott has a history of supporting women's causes.

In announcing the new institute, Scott said that "we are creating a program focused on redefining leadership and entrepreneurship through a gender-enlightened lens. With this institute, we want to create a pipeline of courageous, creative female leaders who will shatter stereotypes of what an entrepreneur should look like, and will challenge the rulebooks that have governed the business world for generations."

Former president of the University of Texas, Gregory L. Fenves said, "We are creating a center where aspiring women

leaders can gain knowledge, motivation and experience for their careers and lives after graduation. It is an honor to partner with Kendra Scott — one of the most creative and dynamic entrepreneurs in the country — to empower and inspire the next generation of women CEOs, founders and innovators."

In 2023, Kendra furthered her commitment to philanthropy by launching the Kendra Scott Foundation within the Kendra Scott business to empower women and youth in the areas of health and wellness, education, and entrepreneurship.

Kendra said about her products, "Fashion is a form of art. The art that we create helps us show the world who we are. Its self-expression and self-love, we want to give that to everyone."

Her philosophy is, "We are proud to be a part of jewelry's rich history and seek to make our mark by incorporating classical jewelry-making techniques with the latest design technologies to create beautiful product that stands out, season after season," Scott said.

You can learn more about Scott in her founder's story in her memoir titled, Born to Shine. In it she said, "Being passionate about the work means nothing if you aren't passionate about the world, and your place in it." Born to Shine is available in many locations and available via internet search.

Houston's Yellow Rose Kendra Scott's store is located in the Heights, for locations visit; www.kendrascott.com

Highlands Rotary welcomes New Member

Highlands Rotary Club recently welcomed a New Member, Karrie Torina.

At right Pictured receiving her membership certificate are Connie Russell, who sponsored her daughter, Club President GayLynn Milliorn, and Karrie Torina with certificate.

Welcome, Karrie.



Dealing with the loss of a loved one is never easy, but maybe these guys can help!

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Baytown Honors Cecil J. V. Newton's century of life & legacy,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

live to be 100? About one in every 1,000 people," said his daughter Judy.

"We think dad is one in a million and during his 100 years, there's been a lot of change," she added.

"When he was born, people walked everywhere, and they had no television, no telephone, and no internet. But the biggest change that I think about a lot is everybody that was daddy's contemporary has gone on. All our friends that we grew up with, he saw all of them go to heaven, and their spouses," she said.

Robinson also reminded the crowd that he has since made new friends.

"Daddy has all of you friends from the younger generation, and I think that's phenomenal," she said.

His son also had a few words of praise for his father.

"This is a fantastic milestone," he said. "My dad is a very accomplished man. Has done many things in his lifetime. I think this is one of the most fantastic accomplishments to live, to be 100 years old. It's amazing," he said.

"I've learned so much over the 76 years that I've been alive just watching him as he taught me tangible and intangible things. The most important is his amazing faith in God, love of Jesus, love of family, love of friends, being optimistic, being joyous, and in all situations, he always represents that. As he's gotten older, he has grown in grace and more patience," Richard said.

According to the family, Cecil J. V. Newton was born 100 years ago in the front room of a house on Barbers Hill Road in Highlands, TX. Newton

still owns this 70-acre farm, and today one of his children and three of his grandchildren home-steads there. Newton recently moved into The Lodge at Pine Creek.

Newton recalled being a 14-year-old in Highlands when the war broke out and Hitler invaded Poland. He was very grateful for his service to the country.

"They rationed food and there was a blackout—no lights after dark," he said. At the young age of 16, he entered the war effort and by 19, he was in combat in Germany. Before he left for the war, he married his childhood sweetheart, Selma Ruth Waldrep. He left for basic training and soon travelled to Europe on the Queen Mary. When the ship landed in Scotland, the troops traveled by train to the English channel.

"So many ships were sunk in the harbor, we had a hard time getting across," he related the story.

Newton was a replacement infantryman for the 87th Division who suffered numerous casualties. He was assigned to the 345th Platoon, Company E, Third Squad. Shortly after arrival, he entered combat at Koblen, Germany and faced heavy enemy fire at Bopart. While in the mountains, he and his friends were backed into a corner by a Tiger tank. They escaped and continued on to Pleun arriving when Roosevelt gave Berlin to Russia. The Nazis surrendered on May 9, 1945. His company continued through Germany clearing out concentration camps. Newton was on furlough when the US dropped the atomic bombs on Japan, and they surrendered. He remained in

the reserves following the war.

When he returned stateside, he immediately went back to work for Exxon as a laborer. He spent his entire work career at the oil company earning his way up the ladder in various positions.

While working full time, Cecil attended courses at Lee Junior College and at University of Houston, paid for by the GI Bill. He received his Bachelor of Applied Science Degree in 1959 and graduated cum laude.

Cecil retired from Exxon in 1984 after 42 years of service earning his way from the labor department to the engineering department.

Cecil and his wife Selma raised three children, Judy Newton Robinson, a local attorney who built her home next to her parents on the family farm; Richard Wayne Newton, a PhD engineer who also served as the mayor of Colleyville, Texas, and Douglas Andrew Newton of Rusk, Texas.

"I remember my grandparents. They lived in Baytown, and they would take a horse and buggy to Houston across the prairie," Richard recalled.

Cecil was interested in electronics and earned enough hours to receive his pilot's license.

He and Selma raised their three children in the church at Trinity tabernacle Assembly of God Church in Baytown.

Following retirement, he ran the sound at the church and helped his daughter Judy at her law office as the IT guy.

Newton offered his advice on how to live a long, happy life.

"Believe in God, love everybody, and keep moving. Don't ever stop," he said.



Five generations of family members were present for the note-worthy occasion.



Newton was ready to celebrate as he rolled into his birthday party at The Lodge at Pine Creek last Saturday.



At the sign-in table, a large posterboard captioned, "Back in 1925," showed the era when Newton was born.

ENTERTAINMENT

March 10, 2025 Posting Date

Amber Waves

3... 2... 1... OK, DAD, READY OR NOT HERE I COME!

WHERE COULD YOU BE? SO MANY PLACES TO LOOK. MAYBE BEHIND THE BARN?

NOPE, HMM, PERHAPS BEHIND THE HAY BALES OR IN THE PEN BEHIND THE FENCE?

OK, I'M ONLY EIGHT AND THIS IS STILL RIDICULOUS.

by Dave T. Phipps

by BUD BLAKE

HOW COULD YOU GET WORKED OUT WATCHING A PARADE?

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

DID YOU HEAR THE LATEST RUMOR ABOUT BUTTER??

NO, WHAT IS IT?

I'D TELL YOU, BUT YOU'D PROBABLY SPREAD IT.

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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 ◆◆◆ Boy!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Answers: 1. Boy is moved. 2. Shirt is different. 3. Tail is moved. 4. Window is missing. 5. Bush is larger. 6. Dog's leg is moved.

King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13				14				
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53					54					55	
56					57					58	

ACROSS

1 Solo of "Star Wars"
4 Dandy guy
7 Sir's counterpart
12 Coach Parseghian
13 Lab eggs
14 Mountain crest
15 Roulette bet
16 "Absolutely not!"
18 Genetic letters
19 Long journeys
20 Informal pronoun
22 JFK's predecessor
23 Slightly wet
27 Id counterpart
29 Small burger
31 Majestic
34 Paris school
35 Diocese part
37 Iota
38 Tennis score
39 Author Umberto
41 Slightly open
45 Stand-in
47 Japanese sash
48 "Absolutely not!"
52 Eggy quaff
53 Love, Italian-style

DOWN

1 Wizard Potter
2 Sports venue
3 Tennis star Rafael
4 Type choice
5 Go too far
6 Macadamized
7 Earth's neighbor
8 Common verb

9 "Lion" actor Patel
10 Chowd down
11 Sea, to Henri
17 Stretches (out)
21 Bolshevik leader
23 Formal decrees
24 Fuss
25 Singer Torme
26 Season opener
28 Dept. store inventory
30 Luau souvenir
31 Transcript no.
32 "Awesome!"

33 "Entourage" role
36 Olympian queen
37 Freight train unit
40 Homebuyer's option
42 Singer Nick
43 Home
44 Star in Orion's foot
45 "Close one!"
46 Holler
48 "Terrific!"
49 Author Tan
50 Heavy weight
51 --Magnon

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION: Which 1960s sitcom was about a TV comedy writer, his job and his family?
 - AD SLOGANS: Which candy slogan urges consumers to "Taste the rainbow"?
 - COMICS: Which superhero gets his power from a ring?
 - GEOGRAPHY: Which country has the most islands?
 - MEASUREMENTS: How many cups are in a pint?
 - MOVIES: Which scary 1980 movie contained the phrase "red rum" and what does it mean?
 - ANATOMY: What is the outermost layer of human skin called?
 - U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first president to ride in a car to his inauguration?
 - HISTORY: When did India gain its independence from Great Britain?
 - CHILDREN'S LITERATURE: Who lives at 32 Windsor Gardens?
- © 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

Answers

King Crossword

Solution time: 26 mins.

Answers

King Crossword



LEADING CANCER CARE in Baytown

At Houston Methodist Neal Cancer Center, our dedicated oncologists are working to stop cancer using the latest innovations in research, treatments and technology. From genetic screenings and clinical trials to advanced imaging and robotic surgery, our cutting-edge cancer care is available in Baytown.

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