



Kent and Ivy Devilliers look forward to Opening their Specialty Cajun Meat Market #2 in Highlands June 30

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star Courier

Serving Highlands, Crosby, Huffman and Surrounding Communities since 1955 ■ www.starcouriernews.com

VOL. 72, NO. 25 - \$1.00

© Copyright 2025

THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2025

HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

Goose Creek CISD Superintendent O'Brien Announces Retirement

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

After more than 30 years in Texas public education, Dr. Randal O'Brien, Superintendent of Goose Creek CISD, is set to retire at the end of the fall semester, the district announced on Friday.

The Goose Creek CISD Board of Trustees formally accepted O'Brien's retirement during a meeting on June 19. Dr. O'Brien, who first joined the district as deputy superintendent in 2013 and became its 15th superintendent in 2014, called the decision "bittersweet."

"I am deeply grateful for the support shown to me and my family as we have worked hard over the past decade, or more, to ensure that every student is provided a high-quality education," O'Brien said.

"Having been a student who could have easily fallen between the cracks my-

self, I have worked tirelessly to create pathways of success for all students."

O'Brien's career has spanned the roles of teacher, principal, district administrator, and superintendent, mainly across Texas. He holds degrees in business management, educational administration, and a doctorate in educational leadership.

Throughout his years of service, O'Brien built a reputation for student-focused leadership and community engagement. He was twice nominated as Superintendent of the Year in Region 12 and Region 4, and he has mentored numerous aspiring administrators through leadership academies. He also served as an adjunct professor at the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

"From early in my career, I knew my passion was creating opportuni-



Goose Creek CISD Superintendent Randal O'Brien

ties for student success," O'Brien said. "My mother taught me that true leadership begins with integrity, and that, along with my faith, has guided my journey. I've been blessed with a supportive family,

a visionary board, a brilliant executive team, devoted teachers, and a community that entrusted me with their most precious treasure: their children."

During his tenure,

Goose Creek CISD achieved significant milestones, including expansions in Career and Technical Education, the launch of STEM and Early College programs, and new partnerships with local industry. The district also saw the approval of more than \$600 million in school bonds, funding new campuses, classroom expansions, safety upgrades, and district-wide technology improvements.

Enrollment grew by nearly 4,000 students under his leadership, and the district earned national recognition for Career Academies, AVID instructional practices, and the innovative Early Childhood Learning Academies.

Beyond education, O'Brien has been an active member of the Baytown community through organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club. He and his wife, Monica, also a re-

tired educator, are long-time Baytown residents and enjoy spending time with their three adult children and three grandsons.

As he prepares for retirement, O'Brien said he looks forward to "spending more time with family, traveling, enjoying the outdoors, and continuing to support public education in new ways."

The district's Board of Trustees will soon begin the search for his successor. He has committed to staying through the fall semester to help ensure a smooth transition. District officials said they will keep stakeholders informed as the selection process unfolds.

"I've been truly honored to serve this community and help shape the future of so many students," O'Brien said. "I leave knowing Goose Creek is in good hands and excited for what comes next—for the district, and for myself."

IN THE STARS

Stratford Library Book Sale Saturday June 28

The Friends of the Stratford Library are having a book sale on Saturday, June 28 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The revenue from the sales will support the Children's Summer programming, various classes throughout the year and special needs of the library.

Come support and join the Friends of the Stratford Library.

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Devilleier's Boudin and Cajun Meat Market No. 2 has received the final permit for occupation and is set to open its doors at 715 South Main Street in Highlands, just a couple of miles off Interstate 10.

"Our grand opening will be on June 30 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., then our regular hours after that will be daily hours from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.," said Ivy Devillier.

The journey to opening this new location has been a long and challenging one for owners Ivy and Kent Devillier. At one point, they thought they might have to walk away from the building contract and let go



of their dream of opening a second location.

Kent was born and raised in Krotz Springs, Louisiana, who loves to hunt and cook. Following graduation, Kent spent the early part of his career working in the tank industry, often driving

long distances to work. Ivy was an immigrant from Vietnam who loved to travel and cook.

"My work to require me to be on the road all the time. I would drive all over the country to build storage tanks for different refineries

and chemical plants as a contractor. Sometimes I had to drive all the way to Texas, Florida, or Mississippi," Kent said.

"We moved to Texas because most of my work was in Texas."

While Ivy worked for one

of the world's top chemical manufacturers and Kent worked for the largest tank construction company in the United States, their friends, family, and co-workers encouraged them to take the leap and start their own business.

The Devilliers relocated to the Liberty County area and continued making sausage from home.

After moving to Texas, Kent and Ivy missed the real Cajun food with all the spices so they began making their own Boudin, a traditional Cajun sausage, and bringing it to work.

"Both my wife and I were taking the boudin along

Continued. See DEVILLIER'S BOUDIN, Page 6

Rotary awards Bicycles for Perfect Attendance

The Rotary Club of Highlands every year awards a new bicycle to each student that has perfect attendance at Highlands Elementary.

This annual project is only one of several ways that Highlands Rotary supports PIE - Partners in Education.



Rotarian Robert Woodall with some of the Bicycles that were awarded.



Rotarians at left, GayLynn Milliorn, Wayne Prescott, Weston Cotten, and members of the Highlands Elementary staff at the awards ceremony.

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Biden visits Historic Reedy Chapel in Galveston

GALVESTON, JUNE 19 - Onlookers, braving the sultry Galveston heat, lined the street along Broadway Avenue J to catch a glimpse of former President Joe Biden as he entered the Reedy Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church to celebrate the 160th anniversary of Juneteenth Thursday.

One hundred sixty years ago, Union Major General Gordon Granger proclaimed the end of slavery in Galveston — two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation. The federal holiday's roots run deep on the island as the order freed approximately 250,000 enslaved people in Texas. Some of them gath-



Former President Joe Biden's arrival to the historic Reedy Chapel Thursday evening was met with cheers, song and dance. He attended a Juneteenth ceremony inside of the church, sitting shoulder-to-shoulder with event organizers and religious leaders. (Photo HPM/Grunau)

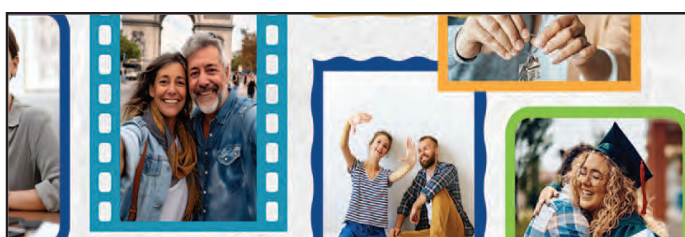
ered at the chapel on the island to worship and celebrate their freedom.

While the events of June 18, 1865, have long been

celebrated in Galveston, it was not until June 2021 that then-President Joe

Continued. See BIDEN OBSERVES JUNETEENTH, Page 2

STAR-COURIER PHONES: 713-266-3444 • E-MAIL: GRAFIKSTAR@AOL.COM • ADS: 713-977-2555



90 YEARS OF LENDING

The Perfect Loan Starts Here.



LEARN MORE!
CRCU.ORG/LOANSFORLIFE

Community Resource CREDIT UNION



Biden Observes Juneteenth in Galveston,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Biden officially made Juneteenth a federally recognized holiday.

Biden's arrival to the historic chapel Thursday evening was met with cheers, song and dance. He attended a Juneteenth ceremony inside of the church, sitting shoulder-to-shoulder with event organizers and religious leaders.

"Juneteenth is a day of liberation," Biden said during the ceremony. "The day of remembrance and the day of celebration."

He spoke of the importance of voting, and the history of the celebration. He mentioned the attendance of Erica Lee Carter — daughter of the late Sheila Jackson Lee, a long-time Houston congresswoman who championed the federal holiday.

"There is nothing beyond our capacity when we act together," Biden said.

Naisha Lanay Graves traveled from Dallas for the occasion. She's been attending the Juneteenth celebrations in Galveston for at least 10 years.

American flags adorn sidewalks around Reedy Chapel ahead of a Juneteenth emancipation service that welcomed former President Joe Biden to Galveston Thursday.

"To just be here, it is eye-opening," Graves said. "You feel the energy from the people."

Rev. Lernetta Patterson, the pastor at Reedy Chapel, said Wednesday that the church had formally invited the former president before his recent cancer diagnosis.

"We had a thought that it's the 160th anniversary of Juneteenth, and who better to come and to be in attendance than the person who signed Juneteenth into a federal holiday," Patterson said. "So, we wrote a letter and invited him, and it took a while for his staff to reply and to say



American flags adorn sidewalks around Reedy Chapel ahead of a Juneteenth emancipation service that welcomed former President Joe Biden to Galveston Thursday. (Photo Doud/HMP)

that he was coming. And after we heard about his health concerns, we were a little doubtful that he might come, but it all turned out wonderful."

Bearing the heat, Sharon Baptiste, a member of the historic church and event organizer, said the crowds this year were incomparable to years past. She quickly shuffled around the hours-long event in the brutal Texas heat in preparation for Biden's arrival.

Fullen said the Galveston Police Department requested additional personnel from the sheriff's office to assist with dignitaries planning to be in Galveston for the Juneteenth events, including

Biden. Closing out Thursday's service, Rev. Michael Waters of the Abundant Life A.M.E. in Dallas spoke of women's health rights and the recent immigration raids throughout the nation and said that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

"So, let's keep working together, let's keep building together, let's keep hoping together, let's keep loving together, let's keep resisting together, let's keep organizing together," Waters said. "Let's keep watching together until that great day when justice flows like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream, and we shall all be free."

GRAND OPENING

Monday, June 30, 10am to 7pm



Authentic Cajun Foods freshly prepared every day.. cracklins, smoked/fresh boudins, boudin balls, chicken balls, smoked/fresh sausages, and many more.



Cracklins Boudin Stuffed Meats Frozen and Fresh



Devilleier's Boudin and Cajun Meat Market #2
715 S. Main Street, Highlands, TX 77562
Store: 832-838-8264 Open Daily 6am to 7pm

Tragic Jet ski accident claims life of 20-year old in Lake Houston

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

A 20-year-old Texas woman, Ashley Gil, tragically lost her life after falling off a jet ski at Lake Houston in the 12300 block of Sonnier Drive in Deussen Park on Tuesday, June 17.

"Our dive team was called to go out after a female who was on the back of a jet ski, had fallen off, and did not have on a life jacket. Our dive team went out and they searched all the 17th until they couldn't see anymore. Then they had to call the search. They went back out on the 18th, searched all day, and found nothing. This morning (Thursday, July 19) they went out and a female who matches the description of the missing female was located. However, final identification goes to the medical examiner's office."

Just hours before the incident, Ashley had sent a video of herself riding the jet ski to her boyfriend, Jason Rodriguez. Investigators are currently looking into the circumstances surrounding Ashley's death. According to the Houston Police Department (HPD), Ashley was not wearing a life jacket when she fell from the jet ski, which was carrying multiple people at the time.

In a statement to ABC 13 Houston, Rodriguez said, "I was out of town working the day of the incident, and I received a video of Ashley having fun on the jet ski at about noon that day, several hours before she allegedly fell. She was wearing a



life jacket in the video." Jason and Ashley's loved ones still have questions regarding what occurred that day.

According to ABC 13, Ashley's mother does not understand why this happened and why the people who were with her daughter on Tuesday haven't reached out about what happened or about the search for her daughter.

Rodriguez added that a man fishing nearby told them no one had a sense of urgency to immediately search for her. "To be honest with you, they didn't even pay attention. They don't know when they lost her, where they lost her, and when they came back, it looked like they didn't even care," he told ABC 13, according to what the fisherman saw.

Investigators are awaiting the results of Ashley's autopsy to confirm her cause of death.

"My heart goes out to her family, her loved ones, and everyone affected by this tragic loss," said Com-

missioner Rodney Ellis who is responsible for the park.

Ashley's sister, Kathy Gil, has since created a GoFundMe to help their mother pay for funeral expenses for Ashley, as well as any other unexpected costs that may arise because of their loss. The GoFundMe has raised nearly \$8,000 toward a goal of \$10,000 as of Sunday, June 22.

According to her friends, Ashley was working toward becoming a real estate agent.

"Ashley was a bright light in the lives of so many, full of love, laughter, and kindness. She had an incredible spirit that touched everyone around her. Her absence leaves a deep void in the hearts of our family, friends, and all who knew her," the GoFundMe reads.

The investigation is ongoing as authorities work to determine the events leading up to the incident and Ashley's cause of death.

Consumer Cellular

NO HIDDEN FEES.
NO HIDDEN ANYTHING.
FREEDOM CALLS.

Plans start at just \$20/month.

855-821-6277

© 2024 Consumer Cellular Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change.

We Buy Houses!

Liz Buys Houses Connects Home Sellers with Legitimate Cash Buyers Nationwide!
No Repairs. No Fuss.



- Fair Cash Offer
- Quick Closing
- No Realtor Fees
- No House Repairs
- Simple Home Sale
- Convenient Closing Date



"Selling my home with Liz Buys Houses was a game-changer! Their expertise and support throughout the process were unparalleled. I couldn't have asked for a smoother sell. KUDOS to this amazing team!"

-Michael Beck

CALL (888) 323-0422

Barbers Hill Press

Dayton

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

VOL. 30, NO. 25

© Copyright 2025

THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2025

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Summer Activity Guide

Summer is the best time of year in Mont Belvieu. With so many things going on, who can keep up? We're here for you this summer to keep the kids engaged in sports, activities, and events to keep their minds and bodies energized.

City Events

Discover the vibrant pulse of Mont Belvieu's community life, where Parks and Recreation hosts an exciting array of events throughout the year.

From lively concerts to bustling markets and captivating outdoor movie nights, there's something for everyone to enjoy in our picturesque park setting. Join us as we bring the community together for unforgettable experiences and cherished memories.

Whether you're tapping your feet to the rhythm of live music, browsing the stalls at our bustling markets, or cozying up under the stars for a cinematic adventure, City Park is the place to be for summer fun.

Operation 36® Junior Golf Academy

We have brought the Operation 36® Golf Program to Mont Belvieu! Operation 36® is an effective program to teach beginner golfers, ages 7-18 years, to learn to play.

Learn more and register online at www.montbelvieu.net/juniorgolf

Eagle Pointe Summer Membership Special

3-Month Membership

Individual: \$129.00
Family: \$159.99

On sale from May 1, 2025, until July 31, 2025.

Eagle Pointe Wave Pool

Eagle Pointe Wave Pool offers the ultimate summer escape with its pristine beach and thrilling wave experience. From toddlers to the elderly, everyone can enjoy the pool's gradual depth from ground level to six feet. Relax in shaded areas, play sand volleyball, or let the kids enjoy the play area. Grab a snack at the concession stand and enjoy background music as you lounge in paradise.

Hours of Operation

Daily Hours: 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Season: May 24th - August 10th

Post-Season Weekends:

August 16th & 17th
August 23rd & 24th
August 30th - September 1st

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

Historic Implosion of ExxonMobil's "White House" in Baytown



BAYTOWN, Texas — In a dramatic event on Saturday morning, Baytown witnessed the implosion of ExxonMobil's iconic main office building, affectionately known as the "White House." The 10-story structure, a staple of the city for over 50 years, was brought down in a matter

of seconds, enveloped in a cloud of dust.

The implosion was initiated by Debbie Himsel, a Baytown resident, who was selected through a raffle held last month. Himsel, accompanied by her family, had the honor of pushing the plunger that

triggered the demolition. As the building collapsed, she exclaimed, "Thanks for the memories!"

Despite its historical significance, Himsel expressed excitement about the change, stating, "No, it's progress. I've got the memories." The building,

which has been vacant since late last year, was demolished as part of ExxonMobil's modernization and expansion initiatives.

Himsel's connection to the building is personal; her father worked there, and she fondly recalls its opening in 1971. Although

nervous before the event, she was thrilled to be part of this historic moment.

ExxonMobil confirmed that the implosion proceeded smoothly, and while plans for the site remain undecided, the event marked a significant chapter in Baytown's history.

Sensationalism reigns today. Social media, breaking news, entertainment, and endless notifications compete for our attention - urgently. We have to seek out peace intentionally, taking time to slow down and consider the ordinary things around us that make life worthwhile, those things that can draw our attention back to God. Yes, I said ordinary things.

We love it when God moves in great and miraculous ways, but we miss much when we focus only on His grand moments, the ones that instantly transport us to the top of the mountain. We forget that God is in the everyday, that He delights in working through the ordinary.

Walk through the Bible and you'll see the evidence. God didn't choose to speak with Moses when he was living as a prince in a palace, but rather when he

was humbly herding sheep in the desert. Boaz noticed Ruth as she gathered fallen grain in his field, something only a poor person would do. Jesus stepped on the scene not as a king, but as one coming for baptism; John protested, but it was what God wanted. Peter and Andrew were fishing. The Samaritan woman was drawing water from a well. You keep seeing God meet people in their everyday lives, doing ordinary, even humble things.

And that's exactly where

He wants to meet us, to use us, and to bless us. He's there while we wash the dishes, as we fold laundry, on our commute to work, in the long line at the coffee shop, and even when we take out the trash. In fact, it's often in these ordinary times that He does His most extraordinary work.

Zechariah 4:10 NLT says, "Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin." God isn't waiting for you to be perfect or become famous. He rejoices at ev-

ery small step you take forward - starting to read your Bible for a few minutes every day, praying over your meals, reaching out to someone He puts on your heart.

Things don't have to feel spiritual to be spiritual.

When you think about Jesus' parables, you see they involved common things: seeds, lamps, coins, cloth... He used ordinary things to teach us about His extraordinary kingdom. He still uses ordinary things to touch and teach

us today, and ordinary people and actions to reach others with His love.

I often remind my church that each and every one of us is a walking warehouse of seed.

You may feel ordinary, but if you teach a struggling child how to throw a baseball, you plant seeds for success. A woman taking time to help a young girl conquer self-confidence issues is changing that child's future. A group of kids cleaning up an elderly neighbor's yard are spreading God's love in a tangible way. The actions seem ordinary, even small, but the fruit is eternal. That's miraculous.

This week don't just look for God in church. Look for Him in the ordinary. Keep your eyes open - you just might see the extraordinary.

[@myhillsidefamily](http://www.myhillsidefamily.com)

THOUGHTS FROM HILLSIDE CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice



Finding God in The Ordinary

Matilda The Musical



Based on Roald Dahl's classic children's book of the same name, *Matilda* follows Matilda Wormwood, a bright little girl who immerses herself in books.

Matilda is discarded and belittled by her dimwitted parents—her father insists on calling her a boy and harps on her "stupidity" for preferring reading to watching the telly—and her hostile headmistress, the outrageous and wicked Miss Trunchbull. Reclusive, but with an ever-growing imagination and sharp mind, and with a caring protector in her teacher Miss Honey, Matilda dreams of a better life, daring to take a stand against unjust forces and to grasp her destiny in her own, tiny hands.

Directed By: Noah Dobbs & Chelsea Denard
ALL PERFORMANCES AT LEE COLLEGE PAC
All Performance Dates:
July 25 & 26 - 8:00 pm July 27 - 2:30 pm August 1 & 2 - 8:00 pm August 3 - 2:30 pm

Baytown Little Theater Volunteer Information



Become a Part of Our Theater Family - Volunteer Today!

At BLT, we believe in the transformative power of theater, not only for our audiences but for every individual who contributes to bringing a production to life. Behind every successful show are countless moments of dedication, passion, and teamwork, much of which happens behind the scenes. Our volunteers are the heartbeat of our theater, ensuring that every performance is not just a show, but an experience.

Every Role Matters

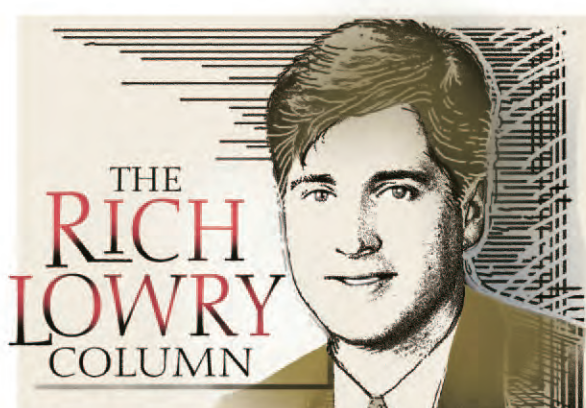
Our theater thrives on the collective efforts of individuals who share a love for the arts. Whether you're helping backstage, supporting our administrative needs, or guiding our direction by serving on the board of directors, your contribution is invaluable. Here, every volunteer is a star, playing a crucial part in the success of each production and the smooth operation of our theater.

Ready to Make a Difference?

Fill out the form at:

<https://baytownlittletheater.org/volunteering/>

OPINION PAGE



Drones: The future of warfare is here

The future of warfare is here

Ukraine may not have "the cards," as President Trump put it, but it does have drones. They were used to great effect over the weekend in an audacious attack within Russia that has focused the world's attention on a revolution in warfare.

A badly outmanned and outgunned country just reached far inside its adversary's territory to destroy or damage hugely expensive, nuclear-capable strategic aircraft with low-cost drones basically indistinguishable from ones available on Amazon.

It's not quite David versus Goliath, because the Russian giant is not going to be felled by the blow, but the diplomatic and psychological impact of the raid could be profound, as Ukraine seeks to demonstrate to the West its staying power.

For creativity and outsized effect with widely available devices, the Ukrainian attack is in the same league as Israel's beeper attack on Hezbollah operatives in Lebanon last year. Both operations also carry a message about new vulnerabilities — to a compromised supply chain and to a surprise drone attack — that should make us take notice.

We've just watched the equivalent of aviation legend Billy Mitchell's demonstration in 1921 when he had U.S. planes sink a former German battleship, in a display of the emerging potency of air power.

Ukraine's Operation Spider Web combined Mission Impossible-style intrigue — the drones were secreted within Russia and some of them launched from containers attached to trucks, unbeknownst to the drivers — with clever innovation.

The attacks spanned several time zones and hit 41 Russian aircraft, according to the Ukrainians. The operation was the latest iteration of a cat-and-mouse drone war between Ukraine and Russia. The Ukraine conflict is essentially a war of attrition, yet it is anything but static, as the means of waging it change almost by the week. Offensive innovation is met with defensive countermove, triggering another change on offense.

Drones are vulnerable to electronic jamming? Then, they'll be controlled by massive spools of fiber optic cable. Drones threaten supply routes? Then, the roads will be covered with netting. And drones will be attacked by other drones. What the siren of the Stuka dive-bomber was to the Blitzkrieg — an unmistakable herald of a new way of waging war — the high-pitched whirr of the drone is to the Ukraine war.

Estimates are that drones now inflict about 70% of casualties on both sides, and there are literally millions of them. Russia deployed roughly 4 million drones last year, and Ukraine about 1.5 million. We have much to learn from all this. After last weekend, every commander of a U.S. base should be thinking anew about potential vulnerability to drone attack, and it's not hard to imagine the Chinese utilizing drones to execute a wide-ranging strike in the Western Pacific if Beijing goes after Taiwan.

Once a leader in drone technology when its Predators were taking out targets in the War on Terror, the U.S. hasn't kept up with the adaptations happening in the Ukraine war. Inevitably, our own bureaucratic processes are our worst enemy.

As head of the U.S. National Drone Association, Nathan Ecelbarger, writes, the system for acquiring drones "remains deeply flawed, overly bureaucratic and resistant to innovation."

We'll have to focus more on defenses, too, from early detection to counter-drone capabilities. The problem with using missiles to defeat drones is the asymmetry in expense — an SM-2 missile costs millions, whereas a Houthi drone costs thousands. And drone swarms could overcome a battery of missiles.

This is the reason why the work of next-generation defense firms like Epirus, which has developed a scalable, high-power microwave technology platform that can knock a swarm of drones from the sky, is so important.

What's happening in the Ukraine war is the norm in human conflict. It's adapt or watch your castle get reduced to rubble, your fleet get sent to the bottom of the ocean or a leg of your nuclear triad get assaulted by, essentially, a plaything of hobbyists.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

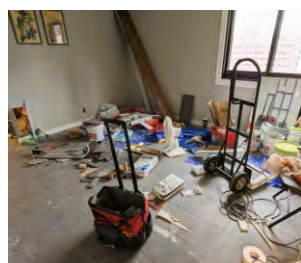
(c) 2025 by King Features Synd., Inc.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5906 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.



THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

An Intrusion



"You know," my mother tells me, "It's not normal to have a tiled bedroom."

"It's not normal to have a flooded bedroom three times in less than two years!" is what I replied.

And it's true. This latest flood in our bedroom is the third time in 18 months that water has escaped whatever pipe, drain or faucet was supposed to be containing it, in what my husband, Peter, euphemistically refers to as "a water intrusion." In none of these cases did the leak actually originate in our apartment. This is one of the unmentioned perils of living in a multi-unit building. We don't just experience our issues; we get issues from everyone above us.

"We should have bought a unit on the top floor," Peter says. And we could have. A nearly identical condo was for sale on the top floor when we bought ours. But the one on the top floor had newer things that we'd have wanted to rip out, while the condo we bought had much older, original things we ripped out—and felt a lot less guilty doing it. So that was the one we bought. It never occurred to me if we were on the top floor there would be less water available to run down on our heads.

So, after we got back from Mexico this last time and went "Splash! Splash! Splash!" to our bed, one of the first things I said to Peter was, "I'm done with carpeting. I think we should tile the bedroom."

"Uh-huh," Peter said. "And maybe just put a floor drain under the bed."

"What do you have against the people downstairs?"

I have nothing against the people downstairs. They seem as if they are pretty nice, so we are not putting in a floor drain, although I fully expect some pipe that has never leaked before will eventually leak, and I will be happy the result ends up on my nice, permanent ceramic tile instead of soaking the carpeting once again.

But my mother thinks it's not normal. I remembered my mother's Swedish relatives who came to visit in the '80s. They did not think wall-to-wall carpeting was normal. They were concerned it would not be clean. They thought area rugs were the way to go. I reminded my 100% Swedish mother of this, in an attempt to make this whole tiling of the bedroom thing look like a return to my roots.

And, of course, it's not just Scandinavia. People in tropical climates aren't as likely to have carpeting. It can get moldy. It is harder to clean. The only really compelling reason to have carpeting in the bedroom is that it is easier on your feet when you hop out of bed to go to the bathroom in the middle of the night.

"The floor can be cold!" my mother reminded me. I've decided cold is better than wet.

So now Meshack, our wonderful Kenyan tiler, is back. Meshack's hours are somewhat relaxed, so we are not exactly sure when the job will be finished. But he did an amazing job on our two bathrooms with the crazy mini tiles I selected (which will give you vertigo if you look at them too long), and he's doing a great job with this floor as well—which is not quite as jazzy and I'm pretty sure any Scandinavian would approve of.

"Well, you'll have to get an area rug," my mother concluded.

And I'm sure we will. But not right away. Not until we go a few months without another "intrusion."

Till next time, Carrie

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders



Abbott calls latest session his "best"

Gov. Greg Abbott says he got everything he pushed for during the Legislature's 89th session, which ended on June 2. The Dallas Morning News reported that the governor believes the "school choice" bill that passed will rejuvenate the state's education system. "More important for Texans, this has been the most transformative session for the future of Texas, and the positive effects of the session are going to be felt for decades," Abbott said. Besides the voucher bill, which allows students to use public money for private school, he noted changes to bail policy, a large infusion of funding for the state's water needs, and passage of property tax relief, which will total \$51 billion. Abbott is up for reelection in 2026 and would become the state's longest-serving governor if he wins. At this point, he faces no major opposition either in the primary or the general election. With more than \$70 million stashed away in campaign funds, he says he's unworried about potential opponents. "There's only one goal, and that's to win, and so I will run very aggressively," Abbott said.



ation from every angle that it deserves," Abbott said of Senate Bill 3, which would outlaw all hemp-derived products containing THC, effective in September. He has until June 22 to decide The proposed ban has sparked opposition from people who run THC businesses, veterans groups, and others. The state now has more than 8,500 retailers selling THC products, which can have a high similar to that of marijuana, which is illegal except for medical reasons. The ban was a priority of Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who presides over the Senate.

STATE TO BECOME LEADER IN PSYCHEDELIC DRUG RESEARCH

At the same time Texas is poised to ban THC products, state leaders are investing \$50 million in a psychedelic drug, ibogaine, that purports to have medicinal benefits, according to The Texas Tribune. Senate Bill 2308 creates a consortium of universities, hospitals, and drug developers to conduct clinical trials on ibogaine, extracted from an an-

GOVERNOR STILL UNDECIDED ON THE BAN

Abbott said last week he has still not decided if he will sign or veto legislation banning THC products in Texas, the Houston Chronicle reported. "I'm going to give it the thoughtful consider-

cient African shrub, which has been used in Mexican clinics to treat addiction and brain trauma. Key to the bill's passage in Texas were the cheerleading efforts of former Gov. Rick Perry. Since ending his tenure as U.S. Energy Secretary in 2021, he has become one of the highest-profile advocates of researching the beneficial medical effects of some psychedelics. According to The Tribune, "Stanford Medicine conducted a study in 2024 that found ibogaine, when combined with magnesium to protect the heart, safely and effectively reduces PTSD, anxiety and depression and improves functioning" in veterans with traumatic brain injury. Ibogaine is unlikely to be used recreationally because it does not provide an enjoyable high and leaves the user in a state of temporary paralysis. Even with the \$50 million in funding, Texas is likely at least six years from seeing any possibility of FDA approval for clinical trials.

STATE'S RAINY DAY FUND REACHES CAP

The Texas Economic Stabilization Fund, popularly called the Rainy Day Fund, has reached its statutory cap for the first time with more than \$24 billion in the state's piggy bank, the state public-health funding.

MEASLES OUTBREAK SEES SLIGHT INCREASE

After a week of no measles outbreaks in Texas, two new cases were reported last week, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services, bringing the total to 744 with 96 total hospitalizations and two fatalities, both school-aged children. Fewer than 10 of the confirmed cases are considered actively infectious. Dawson, Gaines, Lamar, and Lubbock counties still have ongoing measles transmission, according to DSHS. A majority of the total cases were located in Gaines County, on the border with New Mexico.

Advertisement for Star Courier newspaper, including contact information, subscription rates, and staff details.

Devillier's Boudin overcomes challenges to open new location in Highlands,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with our other home-made Cajun dishes to work to share with our co-workers, and they liked the food so much that they would want to buy some," Kent said. However, the original recipe was too spicy for many people, so they adjusted the seasoning four times until they found the perfect balance.

"That's why our Devillier's seasoning is named #4, because we adjusted our seasoning four times. It was too spicy for the folks here," Kent said.

"We would spend the whole weekend making the boudin, packaging it, and putting it in the freezer," Ivy said. They used the extra product to help at different events as their side business continued to grow.

"While it was stressful at first because neither one of us have any experience of running a business, it is much better now with systems in place," Ivy said. "We still learn new things daily."

Finding a location for their business in Baytown was a struggle.

"Everything was a struggle," Ivy said. "The bank wouldn't give us a loan, everything was coming out of our own pocket, we just couldn't get any help."

"We were trying to get open and we thought we were going to lose our contract with the landlord because it was taking forever," Ivy said. Kent decided to quit his job and use his 401K to help fund the business.

Ivy took on the task of drawing out the floor plan for the first and later the second location and worked with the builders until Kent quit his job.

On July 1, they celebrated the fifth anniversary of their first store.

"We began building it out

in November of 2019 using our own money to start the construction and when the pandemic hit, we thought we were going to lose everything because restaurants were being forced to close their doors," Ivy said. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, they managed to keep the business afloat.

"If you look at our original paperwork, we were going to open a restaurant, but we converted to retail to stay in business," Ivy said.

They opened on July 1, 2020, while COVID-19 was still raging, working from daylight to dark. They closed just two days later on July 3 to restock the shelves because of the amount of support from the community.

"It was a great problem!" Ivy exclaimed. "We are so grateful that our community came and show their support to our small business and bought out all of our food in two days."

With Kent working full-time at the store, they can stay ahead of the demand. Everything they sell is fresh and made daily, including their pork cracklins, chicken cracklins, beef jerkys, sausage, which comes in various flavors like cheese, green onions, beef and pork, Andouille hogshead cheese, boudin balls, meat pies, crawfish pies, cracklings, etouffee shrimp, gumbo, chicken and sausage gumbo, beef tips, and seafood gumbo. Also on the menu are side dishes like cabbage, homemade mac and cheese, sweet potatoes, and more, all available fresh or frozen.

Their love for Louisiana culture is evident in their logo and throughout the retail area.

There is also a small area for restaurant seating, serv-



ing lunch plate daily from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"We cook all our food with seasoning without having to add to it," Ivy said.

In their five years of business, Ivy, now working full-time with the business, said they've had some bumps in the road.

"If there was a bump, we hit it, maybe a couple of times, backed over it and hit it again," she laughed. She

works at the front of the house while Kent handles the back.

After four years of trying to get permits, they are finally able to show off their new location to the eastside community. To reach the Devilliers, on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/DevilliersBoudin> or call the store at 832-838-8264.



Olshan Since 1933 Foundation Solutions **90** Celebrating 90 Years of Service

Your Trusted Foundation Repair Expert Since 1933

Our Services:

- Foundation Repair
- Crawl Space Recovery
- Water Management
- Basement Waterproofing
- Concrete Lifting
- Basement Wall Recovery

Payment Plans as Low as \$125/mo

FREE Home Evaluations

Industry-Leading Warranty Options

Patented Technology

Limited Time Offer

Up to **\$250 off** Foundation Repair

Schedule Your Free Evaluation!

(855) 587-2176

Offer valid from 9/1/2024 to 1/1/2026. Only valid to new customers. \$250 savings valid on projects \$2,999 or more. Cannot be combined with any other offers or promotions. Offer is non-transferable, has no cash value and cannot be applied to previous purchases. Void where prohibited by law. Terms of offer are subject to change.

A Help Button Should Go Where You Go!

To be truly independent, your personal emergency device needs to work on the go.

MobileHelp® allows you to summon emergency help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by simply pressing your personal help button. Unlike traditional systems that only work inside your home, a MobileHelp medical alert system extends help beyond the home. Now you can participate in all your favorite activities such as gardening, taking walks, shopping and traveling all with the peace of mind of having a personal alert system with you. MobileHelp, the "on-the-go" help button, is powered by one of the nation's largest cellular networks, so there's virtually no limit to your help button's range.

No landline? No problem! While traditional alert systems require a landline, with the MobileHelp system, a landline is not necessary. Whether you are home or away from home, a simple press of your help button activates your system, providing the central station with your information and location. Our trained emergency operators will know who you are and where you are located. If you're one of the millions of people that have waited for an alert service because it didn't fit your lifestyle, or settled for a traditional system even though it only worked in the home, then we welcome you to try MobileHelp. Experience peace of mind in the home or on the go.



PF-SPAD/05/111658

OUR BEST OFFER EVER!

\$19.95*

MobileHelp

1-844-495-5111

*For a limited time - promotions available for select systems and subscription plans, please call for specific details. Offers are valid for new customers and for the first year of service and cannot be combined with any other offers. \$19.95 is the monthly subscription price for a MobileHelp Classic (at home only) system. There is a one-time \$49.95 processing fee to subscribe to this plan. Equipment shown is the MobileHelp DUO (at home and on the go) system available at a higher monthly cost. Most equipment is included at no cost while actively subscribing and must be returned upon cancellation. Free one month of service offer valid with purchase of Annual plan and includes month 13 at no additional charge. Refer to terms and conditions for specific details. Depending on the promotion chosen, you may receive an additional savings of \$5.50 off the \$11 retail price of Fall Detection service. After first year, Fall Detection pricing reverts to discounted price of \$8.25/month when combined with MobileHelp Connect Premium. Fall Detection does not detect 100% of falls. If able, users should push their help button when they need assistance. Fall detection is not intended to replace a caregiver. MobileHelp is a registered trademark, patented technology. Current GPS location may not always be available in every situation on the cellular network at all times. Expedited shipping offer is for Annual plans made prior to 3 PM EST Mon-Fri. Expedited shipping is standard 2-day - no deliveries on Saturdays/Sundays or to Hawaii or Alaska. Shipping delays may occur due to situations beyond our control.

GET OUR SPECIAL OFFER NOW:

- ✓ FREE EXPEDITED SHIPPING*
- ✓ FREE ONE MONTH SERVICE*
- ✓ 50% OFF AUTO FALL DETECT*
- ✓ plus FREE EQUIPMENT TO USE!*



Unlike "stay-at-home" emergency systems MobileHelp protects you:

Places where your Help Button will work	MobileHelp	Traditional Help Buttons
At Home	✓	✓
On a Walk	✓	✗
On Vacation	✓	✗
At the Park	✓	✗
Shopping	✓	✗

MobileHelp Features:

- Simple one-button operation
- 24/7 access to U.S. based emergency operators
- Affordable service
- GPS location detection
- Amplified 2-way voice communication
- Available Nationwide

Best Company

BEST OF THE BEST

2023



NHPN-0106 Rev. 1

SAVE \$350 when you transform your patio into an outdoor oasis.



SunSetter

America's #1 Awning

- Instant shade—at the touch of a button.
- Enjoy more quality time with family and friends.
- Up to 10-Year Limited Warranty.

Call 1-844-203-0444 now to SAVE \$350 TODAY!

America's #1 Awning!

"Hello, this is MobileHelp. How may I assist you?"

OUR BEST OFFER EVER!

\$19.95*

MobileHelp

1-844-495-5111

*For a limited time - promotions available for select systems and subscription plans, please call for specific details. Offers are valid for new customers and for the first year of service and cannot be combined with any other offers. \$19.95 is the monthly subscription price for a MobileHelp Classic (at home only) system. There is a one-time \$49.95 processing fee to subscribe to this plan. Equipment shown is the MobileHelp DUO (at home and on the go) system available at a higher monthly cost. Most equipment is included at no cost while actively subscribing and must be returned upon cancellation. Free one month of service offer valid with purchase of Annual plan and includes month 13 at no additional charge. Refer to terms and conditions for specific details. Depending on the promotion chosen, you may receive an additional savings of \$5.50 off the \$11 retail price of Fall Detection service. After first year, Fall Detection pricing reverts to discounted price of \$8.25/month when combined with MobileHelp Connect Premium. Fall Detection does not detect 100% of falls. If able, users should push their help button when they need assistance. Fall detection is not intended to replace a caregiver. MobileHelp is a registered trademark, patented technology. Current GPS location may not always be available in every situation on the cellular network at all times. Expedited shipping offer is for Annual plans made prior to 3 PM EST Mon-Fri. Expedited shipping is standard 2-day - no deliveries on Saturdays/Sundays or to Hawaii or Alaska. Shipping delays may occur due to situations beyond our control.

WSJ WINE
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

TOP 12

Wines You Need to Try
plus Bonus Bottles & Glasses
JUST \$219⁹⁹ \$69⁹⁹ **SAVE \$150**



Our Top 12 wines feature nothing but award winners and 5-star favorites. Enjoy them all plus two bonus California Cabs and a pair of Dartington Crystal stemless glasses—for only \$69.99 (plus \$19.99 shipping & tax) as your introduction to the WSJ Wine Discovery Club.

Then, look forward to a dozen exciting new finds every three months. Take only the cases you want—each saving you at least 20%—and skip or cancel anytime. We'll also reward you with further bonus bottles and members-only treats throughout the year. Plus, every wine comes with our 100% money-back guarantee.

GO TO
wsjwine.com/Cork9
OR CALL 1-866-452-1664 and mention code Cork9
Monday-Friday 9 AM-9 PM and Saturday 9 AM-6 PM ET

WSJ Wine is operated independently of The Wall Street Journal and Dow Jones & Company, Inc. Full terms and conditions online. Void where prohibited by law.

Fireworks Sales for July 4th Holiday Underway

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Tuesday, June 24, marked the beginning of the Fourth of July season, top fireworks retailers are gearing up for the festivities. Once open, stores will be selling fireworks through July 4 at midnight.

Brandi Dumas, spokesperson for the Harris County Fire Marshals office, emphasized the importance of safety when using fireworks.

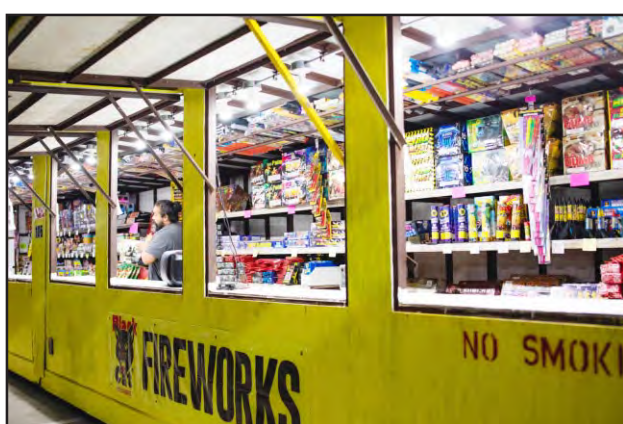
"One of my big things is always leave fireworks to the professionals," she said.

"If you use them, even though they are allowed to be ignited in unincorporated Harris County, some HOAs, in some areas do not allow fireworks to be ignited. Make sure you understand and know the law where you can and cannot ignite fireworks," she said.

Dumas also emphasized proper disposal.

"Usually, most people set off fireworks around midnight, nighttime when it's dark and then people go to bed. We want to make sure that people know that they need to properly dispose of those fireworks, so that they're not putting themselves and their property in danger."

Dumas also provided



tips for proper disposal of fireworks.

"What the fireworks experts always tell them is to let those fireworks cool off but pick them up. You don't want to leave a mess. When they have cooled off enough, put them in a bucket of water and let them just soak. Take it and put it in a bag, a trash bag by itself, still soaking wet and always, always, never place that in a trash can, especially one that is up against your home. Take it out to the street or move it away from your home in case the embers do catch fire, they'll just melt the trash can and not catch fire to your home."

For those who prefer to watch professional fireworks shows, Dumas recommended visiting the fire marshal's website at <https://www.hcfmo.net/>.

"We'll have safety information there and where the professional displays

are going to be."

Many non-profits earn money working for fireworks stands like the North Shore Sr. High band on I-10, the Crosby High School band just off US 90, and Huffman Project Graduation in Atascocita, and other groups.

Americans have been using fireworks to celebrate the 4th of July since 1777, marking the first anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Fireworks Safety Rules

—Know where you can legally shoot fireworks. All local cities ban shooting fireworks within their boundaries. Additionally, fireworks may not be shot within 600 feet of a church, hospital, day care center or school, within 100 feet of a place where flammable liquids or fireworks are stored and may not be thrown from a mo-

tor vehicle.

—Always read and follow label directions.

—Have an adult present. Supervise children—fireworks are not toys!

—Always shoot fireworks on level ground away from buildings and vegetation.

—Stay away from illegal explosives. Never experiment or make your own fireworks.

—Always have water handy (a garden hose or a bucket).

—Never try to re-light a "dud" firework. (Wait 15-20 minutes and then, if it doesn't go off, soak it in a bucket of water and dispose of it safely.)

—Light only one firework at a time.

—Never throw or point fireworks at other people.

—The shooter should wear eye protection. Never have any part of your body over the fireworks.

—Dispose of fireworks properly by soaking them in water and then disposing of them in your trash can. Do not put fireworks that are still hot in the trash can—this can lead to house and/or garage fires.

—If necessary to store fireworks, keep them in a cool, dry place.

—And be courteous to your neighbors. Don't shoot fireworks in the early morning hours and pick up your debris.

Current and Back Issues are available on our website: www.starcouriernews.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

Call 713-266-3444

Your AD will reach up to 40,000 readers in our FIVE newspapers, with a combined circulation of 20,000 copies. Get ACTION on your AD. Rates start at only \$18 for 20 words. A bargain!

GOLD



★★★★★
"Coin was everything I was hoping for and beautifully packaged."
JERRY

★★★★★
"I cannot recommend this company enough."
WAHOO

★★★★★
"Global Coin does an excellent job of sales and quick delivery."
DAVE

★★★★★
"They are very professional and treat me like a valued customer."
HARRY

No Fees. No Surprises.

Just One Incredible Offer at One Incredible Price.

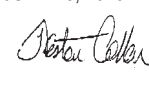
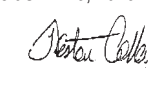
Buy the NEW 2025 1 oz Gold Eagle in MS70
Spot price + Free U.S. shipping & 30-day returns

- ★ Proven hedge against inflation
- ★ Perfect MS70 condition
- ★ Limited supplies - Don't miss out!

1-855-210-7104

GLOBAL COIN Disclaimer: Price subject to change based on current market conditions.

A DEALER YOU CAN TRUST — Trustpilot  BBB  NGC  PCG  A+  ACCREDITED BUSINESS

LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE
<p>NOTICE TO CREDITORS</p> <p>Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 533043; Estate of EUSTACE CLEMENT LeBLANC Deceased; In Probate Court No. 5 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on MAY 28, 2025 to:</p> <p>ELRIDGE CLINT LeBLANC</p> <p>The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:</p> <p>c/o Weston Cotten 1500 E. Wallisville Road Highlands, TX 77562</p> <p>All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this JUNE 18, 2025</p> <p> by WESTON COTTEN Attorney for the Estate</p>	<p>NOTICE TO CREDITORS</p> <p>Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 534532; Estate of DON MICHAEL NEWBURY Deceased; In Probate Court No. 3 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on MAY 27, 2025 to:</p> <p>DIANNE NEWBURY</p> <p>The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:</p> <p>c/o Weston Cotten 1500 E. Wallisville Road Highlands, TX 77562</p> <p>All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this JUNE 23, 2025</p> <p> by WESTON COTTEN Attorney for the Estate</p>		

SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money

Business Directory

SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money

 <p>281-428-1187 1-800-345-8471 Sales & Repair Service Baytown, Texas John Henderson 628 Cedar Bayou Rd.</p>	 <p>713-702-3200 JOHNNY GAENE OWNER-INSPECTOR 911 S. MAIN HIGHLANDS TX, 77562</p>	 <p>Signs & Banners 281-462-1200 www.graphicsunlimitedinc.net 213 Kernohan • Crosby, TX 77532</p>	<p>WESTON COTTEN, ATTORNEY HIGHLANDS 281-421-4050 1500 E. Wallisville Rd. <small>NOT CERTIFIED BY THE TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION</small></p>
 <p>HILL MATERIALS 119 Listi Ln, Highlands hillmaterials.com</p> <p>WE DELIVER TO YOU (281) 843-5000 residential • commercial • industrial</p>	<p>SMALL ADS BRING BIG RESULTS Ask about our Business Directory Package 13 Weeks + Story + Display for \$260 Ask about our Ribbon Cutting Package Photo + Story + Web for \$260 713-266-3444</p>	<p>Star  Courier Your Hometown Newspaper News tips and Ad Inquiries: 713-266-3444</p>	

To advertise in the Business Directory, please call 713-266-3444 for details



Dakota Fanning, left, and Olwen Fouere star in 'The Watchers.'

'The Watchers'

'Squid Game: Season 3' (TV-MA) — After two unbelievably entertaining and heartbreaking seasons, the South Korean survival-thriller series 'Squid Game' is coming to an end with its third season. Viewers were dragged along for Gi-hun's insane ride through the first round of the deadly games, then another time for a second round of even deadlier games. We've seen how close Jun-ho has gotten to finding his brother and the island, and we've seen the Front Man become even more sinister than we could have imagined. Season three kicks off with the remaining players from season two and the Front Man back in his position of power, and you can bet that this final round of games will be unforgettable. Premieres June 27. (Netflix)

'The Actor' (R) — This crime-mystery film led by Andre Holland ('Moonlight') and Gemma Chan ('Crazy Rich Asians') tells the story of a New York actor in the 1950s named Paul Cole (Holland). After being beaten and left for dead in Ohio, Paul wakes up with a bout of amnesia and tries to piece together information about his life. Stranded in an unknown town with a scrambled brain and without enough money to buy a train ticket home, Paul is forced to claw his way back to the status he once had. But the catch is ... when he makes it back to his city living and socialite ways, will he want that same life back? Premieres June 30. (Hulu)

'Frozen: The Hit Broadway Musical' (TV-PG) — For die-hard fans of the 2013 smash hit

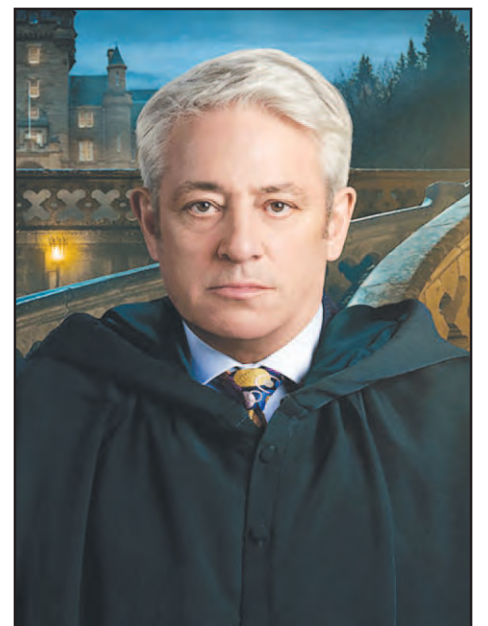
'Frozen' (as well as those who like to catch the Frozen Sing-Along Celebration at Hollywood Studios in Disney World), now is the chance to catch the hit Broadway musical from the comfort of your own couch. Samantha Barks ('Les Miserables') and Stephanie McKeon ('Fair City') respectively star as Princess Elsa and Princess Anna, who face the hardest challenge of their lives when Elsa accidentally freezes their kingdom in an eternal winter. The musical includes 12 original songs that weren't featured in the film in addition to songs like 'Let It Go' and 'Do You Want to Build a Snowman?' The West End production featured in this special ran more than 1,000 performances over three years! Check it out now. (Disney+)

In Case You Missed It 'The Watchers' (PG-13) — Not only does director M. Night Shyamalan have exceptional creative talent, but his daughter Ishana Night Shyamalan also exudes the same kind of directorial artistry. In her directorial debut, she cast Dakota Fanning ('The Perfect Couple') as her first 'final girl' — Mina, a 28-year-old burdened by the trauma of losing her mother in a car accident. While working at a pet shop in Galway, Ireland, Mina is asked by her boss to transport a parrot to a zoo in Belfast, but her car breaks down midway near a forest. Now stuck in the middle of a woods that is haunted by mysterious creatures, Mina's only saving grace is a woman named Madeline, who hesitantly allows Mina into her bunker to escape the inevitable death that the night brings. Out now. (Max) (c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.



Q: I saw the announcement about the new contestants on 'The Traitors,' but I read that there was going to be someone very controversial on it. Who is it supposed to be? Also, why is there no older British guy this time around? — K.S.

A: The United States version of the hit competitive reality show 'The Traitors' recently announced its celebrity cast of contestants — with one glaring omission. There was no relatively unknown 'British guy' in the mix like politician John Bercow in season two and royal Lord Ivar Mountbatten in season three. There is, however, a female British Bravo celebrity (and Margot Robbie lookalike) this upcoming season: Caroline Stanbury, formerly of 'Ladies of London' and 'The Real Housewives of Dubai.'



John Bercow ('The Traitors: Season 2')

Stanbury joins other current and former 'Real Housewives' stars Candace Dillard Bassett, Lisa Rinna, and Porsha Williams. Dorinda Medley, formerly of 'RHONY,' is getting a second chance to compete after getting booted off so early in season three.

As far as controversial celebs, the two who seem to anger 'Traitors' fans the most are actor Michael Rapaport because of his political views and Colton Underwood ('The Bachelor'), who once had a restraining order filed against him.

Rounding out the cast are singer Eric Nam; Ian Terry ('Big Brother'); Olympic figure skaters Johnny Weir and Tara Lipinski; Kristen Kish ('Top Chef'); Rob Cesternino ('Survivor'); Mark Ballas ('Dancing with the Stars'); Maura Higgins ('Love Island'); Monet X Change ('RuPaul's Drag Race'); Natalie Anderson ('Survivor'); Rob Rausch ('Love Island'); Tiffany Mitchell ('Big Brother'); Yamil Arocho ('Survivor'); and actors Ron Funches and Stephen Colletti.

If past seasons are any indicator, look for 'Traitors' to debut its new season on Peacock in January 2026.

Q: Wasn't there already a kids' movie years ago called 'How to Train Your Dragon'? Is this new one a rerelease? — J.S.

A: You're not imagining things. 'How to Train Your Dragon' was an animated motion picture released in 2010. It was followed up by two sequels and, now in 2025,

a live-action remake. Much like Disney's recent remake of 'Lilo & Stitch,' it's paid off at the box office, grossing over \$198 million worldwide at the box office its first weekend. ***

Q: Is 'Mare of Easttown' ever coming back for another season? The first one was so good. — S.E.

A: There are no plans at the moment for another season of the acclaimed HBO series 'Mare of Easttown.' However, the show's creator Brad Ingelsby and Emmy-winning star Kate Winslet have expressed that they are open to it. In the meantime, Ingelsby has a new project that recently debuted on Apple TV+, starring Julianne Moore ('Sirens') and Sydney Sweeney ('Euphoria').

'Echo Valley' is much like 'Mare' because it centers around a murder mystery. Ingelsby told TV Insider that Winslet's and Moore's characters are similar in that they 'both have a resilience that comes from having weathered storms as kids.' Also like 'Mare of Easttown,' there is a surprising twist. Of course, I won't spoil it for you — you'll have to tune in to find out.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com. (c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU grid and difficulty instructions

HOCUS-FOCUS comic strip and puzzle instructions

June 23, 2025 Posting Date King Crossword

King Crossword grid and word list (ACROSS, DOWN)

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez with 10 questions

Answers to Trivia Test and King Crossword

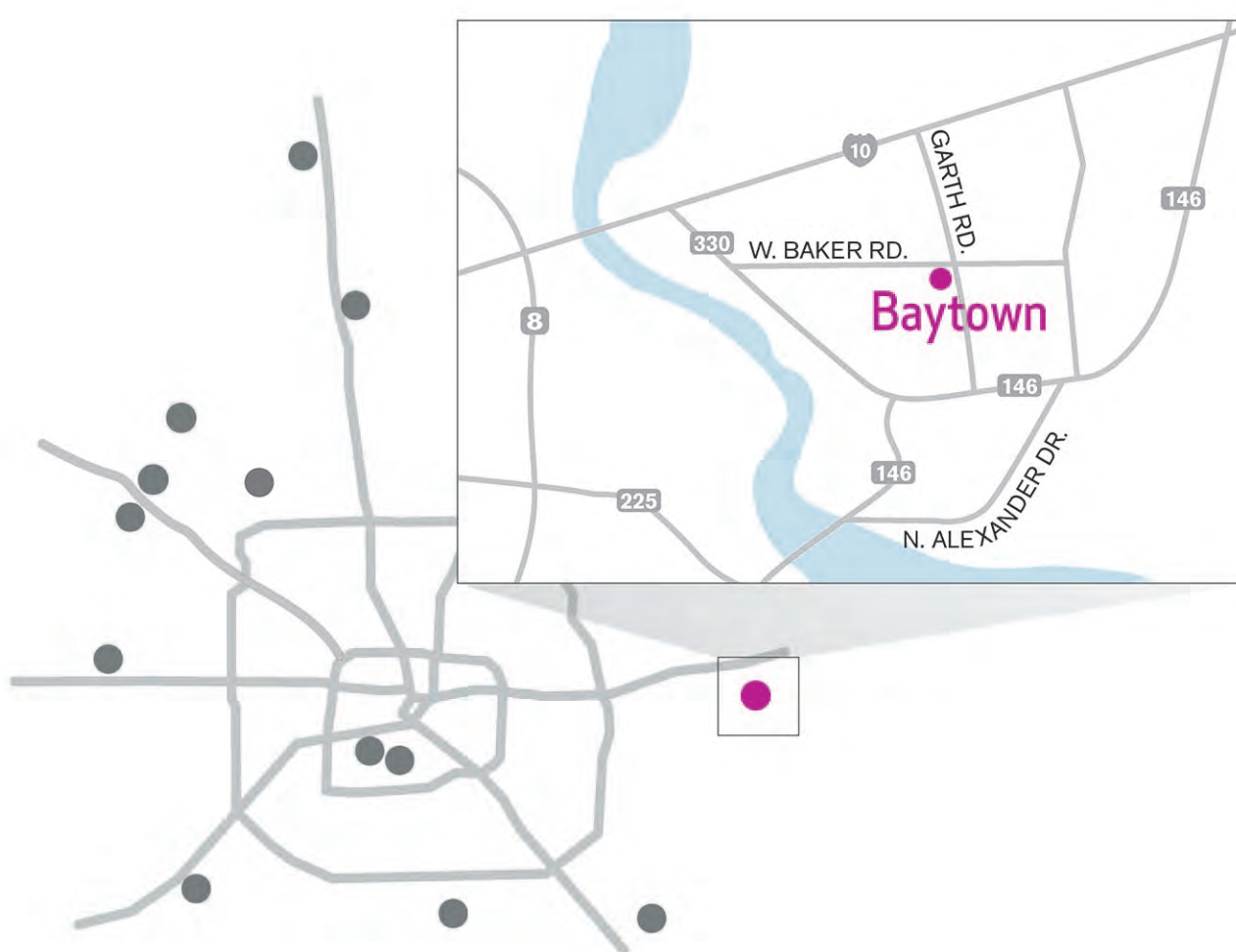


Early Detection Starts With Your ANNUAL MAMMOGRAM

The recommended age to start your annual mammogram is 40. Schedule yours today.

At Houston Methodist Breast Care Centers, our board-certified experts use the latest imaging technology to provide you with cutting-edge breast screenings — such as 3D mammograms — to detect even the smallest lumps and abnormalities with accuracy. We offer:

- 10+ convenient locations across Greater Houston
- Expanded hours available at most locations
- Online scheduling with readily available appointments
- Access to medical records and test results through MyChart



HOUSTON
Methodist[®]
BREAST CARE CENTER



Scan the **QR code**, visit houstonmethodist.org/mammogram or call **346.356.PINK (7465)** to schedule your mammogram today.

We do not require a doctor's order for your annual screening mammogram.