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HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

# Star Courier

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026

HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

## Music Legends and Rising Stars Collide: The 2026 RODEOHOUSTON® Unveils Epic Entertainment Lineup

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

RODEOHOUSTON® has announced its highly anticipated 2026 entertainer lineup, promising an electrifying mix of world-renowned stars and breakout acts to light up NRG Stadium from March 2 to March 22.

"We strive to bring Houston the very best in live entertainment, and the 2026 lineup raises that standard once again," said Chris Boleman, president and CEO of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. "From chart-topping newcomers to artists making their long-awaited return after nearly 20 years, this year's lineup is truly a reflection of both our Western roots and the vibrant footprint of the Houston community."

The festivities kick off on March 2 with Riley Green, followed by J Balvin on March 3. Rascal Flatts will take the stage on March 4, coinciding with Armed Forces Appreciation Day. Russell Dick-

**RODEOHOUSTON®**  
ENTERTAINER LINEUP • MARCH 2-22, 2026

2 MON	RILEY GREEN <small>CORPORATE DAY PRESENTED BY HUNTSVILLE NATIONAL CREDIT UNION</small>	CHRIS STAPLETON <small>MEXICAN APPRECIATION DAY PRESENTED BY PHILADELPHIA</small>	12 THURS
3 TUES	J BALVIN	SHABOOZEY	13 FRI
4 WED	RASCAL FLATTS <small>ARMED FORCES APPRECIATION DAY PRESENTED BY HUNTSVILLE NATIONAL CREDIT UNION</small>	KELLY CLARKSON	14 SAT
5 THURS	RUSSELL DICKERSON	PEPE AGUILAR <small>PRESENTED BY PHILADELPHIA</small>	15 SUN
6 FRI	LIZZO <small>BLACK HERITAGE DAY PRESENTED BY PHILADELPHIA</small>	CROSS CANADIAN RAGWEED	16 MON
7 SAT	DWIGHT YOAKAM	THE RED CLAY STRAYS	17 TUES
8 SUN	FORREST FRANK	KOE WETZEL	18 WED
9 MON	LUKE BRYAN <small>PRESENTED BY PHILADELPHIA</small>	LAINIE WILSON	19 THURS
10 TUES	MEGAN MORONEY	PARKER MCCOLLUM	20 FRI
11 WED	CREED <small>COMMUNITY DAY PRESENTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON</small>	TIM MCGRAW	21 SAT
		CODY JOHNSON <small>WITH SPECIAL GUESTS JOHN SHERIDAN &amp; BRANDY HOLLAND</small>	22 SUN

erson, who recently wowed fans with a surprise Times Square performance, is set for March 5, while Lizzo headlines Black Heritage Day on March 6. The weekend brings Dwight Yoakam on March 7 and Forrest Frank on March 8. Luke Bryan, a Star Trail of Fame inductee, returns for his 13th performance on March 9, and Megan Moroney appears on March 10. Creed joins the lineup on March 11 for Community Day, with Chris Stapleton following on March 12 for Volunteer Appreciation Day. Shaboozey performs on March 13, and Kelly Clarkson, returning after last appearing in 2004, takes the stage on March 14.

Pepe Aguilar, a new addition and influential figure in regional Mexican music, will perform on March 15 for Go Tejano Day, immediately after the Go Tejano Mariachi Invitational Championship. Cross Canadian Ragweed

Continued. See RODEOHOUSTON, Page 6

### IN THE STARS

#### Highlands Rotary Club 51st Annual Chili Feast

When: Saturday, February 7, 2026  
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Where: St. Jude's Catholic Church, 808 South Main, Highlands. - Live Auction Begins at 1 p.m.  
Win a new 2026 Chevrolet Trailblazer or Trax from Turner Chevrolet.  
YOUR CHOICE!  
Raffle Tickets \$100  
Donation (includes 2 Chili dinners)  
Meal Tickets at Door \$10

#### Highlands Chamber Sweetheart Gala

Highlands Lynchburg Chamber will hold its Sweetheart Gala on Thursday, Feb. 12 at the Monument Inn. 6pm Social Hour, 7pm Dinner. Reservations: [allabouthighlands.org](http://allabouthighlands.org)

## Crosby Lions Club off to Successful Start

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

Just four months after its banquet on September 20, 2025, where the new Crosby Evening Lions Club (CELC) celebrated its official charter, the club has hit the road running, planning, and participating in community events to spread the gospel of the Lions Club mission.

One of the many service projects that the Lions are known for around the world is vision.

The CELC participates in the Recycle for Sight program that collects used eyeglasses, cleans and sorts them by prescription, then distributes them globally through vision screening missions, providing sight to those in need, especially in developing countries and underserved communities.

"Donations can be made to our club at our meetings, to a Lions Club member, or



The Crosby Evening Lions Club was out recruiting new members and screening children for vision impairment at the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce Children's Christmas Festival. Past District Governor Bill Simpson and Crosby Evening Lions Club Treasurer Roberto Cruz screened 63 children and sent 13 for referrals to a local optometrist.

at several locations around the area including the Crosby Brethren Church, the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce office, Sterling-White Funeral Home, Churches United In Caring, Turner Chevrolet, Stellar Bank, Community Resources Credit Union, Crosby Community Center, Crosby Chiropractic, and more," said

CELC president Deanna Becker.

In just two short months since the donation boxes have been placed around the community, the club has collected more than 200 pairs of eyeglasses.

"That's an incredible number and we appreciate the community's support. Keep them coming," Becker added.



Crosby Evening Lions Club president Deanna Becker stops to take a photo of Santa Claus at the Chamber's annual Children's Christmas Festival last December.

The glasses will be taken to the Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center (LERC) in Conroe where they will be cleaned, sanitized, minor repairs done, and sorted by prescription, then packaged for shipping.

"They'll be distributed globally through vision screening missions, to developing countries and underserved communities,

and given to those going on mission trips at no cost," said Past District Governor Bill Simpson. He also emphasized that the club could receive sunglasses and readers for donation.

Simpson assisted with CELC Treasurer Roberto Cruz at the always free eye screening event during the Continued. See CROSBY EVENING LIONS CLUB EXPANDS, Page 6

## Harris Center Highlights Broad Reach in Mental Health Care

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

The Harris Center for Mental Health and RDD, Texas's largest behavioral health provider, continues to make a significant impact in the Houston area, offering a broad range of services and resources to individuals, families, and communities. In a recent overview at the Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Maricela Silva highlighted



Maricela Silva spoke to the Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce at their January meeting representing the Harris Center for Mental Health and RDD.

Continued. See HARRIS CENTER EXPANDS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, REACHES THOUSANDS, Page 6

## State Rep. Cain Provides Legislative Update to Chamber Members

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

Members of the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce gathered for their monthly luncheon to hear from State Representative Briscoe Cain, who provided a comprehensive update on recent legislative activity in Austin and its impact on the local community.

Cain explained the structure and schedule of the Texas Legislature, noting, "We assemble in Austin on the sec

Continued. See STATE REP. CAIN PROVIDES LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, Page 5



Briscoe Cain with Chamber Board President Velma Ellison and Adrienne Sun with Cain's office.

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# Port Houston Named GCCISD CTE Partner of the Month

Story by: Kami Johnston, GCCISD CTE Business and Community Partner Facilitator

The Goose Creek CISD's (GCCISD) Career and Technical Education (CTE) Department is proud to name Port Houston the December 2025 Partner of the Month. The CTE Department has a valuable partnership with Port Houston, providing students with opportunities in the growing maritime and logistics industries. This collaboration helps prepare the next generation of workers for international trade and the Houston Ship Channel.

Port Houston, which leads efforts for the Houston Ship Channel and is a major part of the City of Houston's growth in international trade, is crucial to GCCISD's CTE programs. Their support was key to implementing the district's Maritime program, creating a direct path for students interested in careers on the water and in global shipping.

Port Houston supports higher education partner-



Pictured, from left, Andree Torres, GCCISD CTE Specialist; Jade Cox, Robert E. Lee Assistant Principal; Jennifer Guillory, GCCISD CTE Accountability & Academics Specialist; Kami Johnston, GCCISD CTE Business and Community Partnership Facilitator; Devan Short, Port Houston; Randal O'Brien, GCCISD Superintendent; Leia Miller, GCCISD CTE Director; Kevin Foxworth, GCCISD Area Executive Director; and Desiree Shankle, GCCISD CTE Specialist. (Photo by: Erin Cook, CTE Recruitment and Marketing Facilitator)

ships that provide students with a clear pathway in maritime education. Through GCCISD's partnership with San Jacinto College, students can earn a Level 1 Certificate while attending the San Jacinto College Maritime Campus in La Porte. They graduate with the skills and certifications needed to enter the workforce, with support from Port Houston to connect them to internship and employment opportunities.

The partnership does more than just offer basic support; it provides a variety of direct, engaging opportunities for students. A featured event is the Annual Port Houston Field Day, which gives students a first-hand look at port operations and the many different careers available. They also offer Lunch and Learns for students, meetings that let students hear directly from working professionals in an interactive setting.



Pictured, from left, Leia Miller, GCCISD CTE Director; Joe Rodriguez, incoming GCCISD Superintendent; Jacquie Young-Hall, Port Houston; Randal O'Brien, GCCISD Superintendent; and Jim Campisi, GCCISD School Board President. (Photo by: Carrie Pryor-Newman)

Additionally, guest speakers from Port Houston and related fields often visit classrooms to share what they know, give career advice, and link learning to the real world. Port Houston actively helps students meet contacts in the industry, growing the network of potential employers and mentors for GCCISD students. Their staff regularly attends College and Career Nights, informing students and parents about well-paying

careers in the maritime sector.

In addition to sharing their time and industry expertise, Port Houston has made meaningful financial contributions to support the work of the program.

Leia Miller, GCCISD CTE Director, praised the organization's ongoing support, stating, "Port Houston has been an invaluable partner to our CTE programs. Their willingness to support our students, whether through

time, expertise, or financial investment, demonstrates a genuine commitment to education and workforce development in the Baytown community."

Port Houston was recognized for its generous \$7,500 donation to the maritime program at Robert E. Lee High School, which was formally presented at the December 15 GCCISD Board of Trustees meeting. Through the Port Houston Maritime Education Sponsorship Program, the contribution will enhance students' learning experiences by providing critical tools, resources, and instructional support to prepare them for success in the maritime industry.

This partnership is a great example of how public education and industry leaders can successfully work together to create real career paths for students in important global industries.

For more information on how to partner with GCCISD CTE, visit our website at

<https://schools.gccisd.net/page/cte.SWC>.

# AMET Conference Showcases Community Collaboration with Goose Creek CISD

By Nancy Bonds, GCCISD Director of Communications

Goose Creek CISD (GCCISD) was honored to participate in this year's Association for Migrant Educators of Texas (AMET) Conference, hosted at the Baytown Hyatt, where students and staff helped bring the event to life through service and collaboration.

The AMET Conference welcomed more than 250 attendees, bringing together educators, partners, and advocates from across the state to collaborate, share best practices, and strengthen support for migrant students throughout Texas.

AMET is a non-profit organization that supports migrant educators across Texas to ensure every migrant student has access to a quality education. Through AMET, educators are empowered at the national, state, and local levels as they equip each child with the skills and resources necessary for success.

Talented GCCISD students, along with the district's Multilingual & Migrant Department, played a key role in enhancing the conference experience by providing entertainment and creating beautiful handmade centerpieces and décor that showcased the creativity and heart of the Goose Creek community.

Student performances throughout the conference

included a Color Guard performance by Goose Creek Memorial High School, the national anthem performed by Lance Henry of Goose Creek Memorial High School, entertainment by the Lee High School Jazz Band, and closing-session entertainment by the Gander Steel Band.

As part of the conference preparations, Mima Trujillo and Veronica Dyson from GCCISD's Community Engagement Team led a meaningful paper-flower service project in collaboration with students from the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) at West Texas A&M University. The project not only supported the AMET Conference but also helped kick off preparations for GCCISD's upcoming Día del Niño celebration next spring.

"We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to work alongside the CAMP students from West Texas A&M University," said Trujillo and Dyson. "Their enthusiasm, creativity, and willingness to serve made this project truly special and set the tone for an exciting Día del Niño celebration."

GCCISD also extends sincere appreciation to the City of Baytown for thinking of the district for this service project and for its continued support of student-centered, community-driven initiatives.

Jasmine Montoya, Director of the College Assis-



Veronica Dyson and Mima Trujillo from GCCISD's Community Engagement Team led a meaningful paper-flower service project in collaboration with students from the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) at West Texas A&M University. (Photos by: Carrie Pryor-Newman)



Pictured, from left, Antonia Loreda, GCCISD Multilingual & Migrant Clerk; Zamira (Sam) Torres-Banda, GCCISD Multilingual and Migrant Department Associate Director; Astrid Avalos, GCCISD Multilingual & Migrant Clerk; and Teresita Torres, GCCISD Multilingual and Migrant Department Secretary. (Photos by: Carrie Pryor-Newman)



Pictured, from left, Ray Lavan, GCCISD Director of Fine Arts; Zamira (Sam) Torres-Banda, GCCISD Multilingual and Migrant Department Associate Director; and GCM student Lance Henry. (Photos by: Carrie Pryor-Newman)

tance Migrant Program at West Texas A&M University, shared the impact of the experience on her students:

"Our students had a wonderful time participating in this service project. Service is an essential part of the CAMP experience because it teaches our students that their impact extends beyond the classroom. Projects like this empower migrant students to see themselves as leaders while they build confidence, connection, and a deeper sense of purpose as they prepare for their future. It's inspiring to see them give back to communities like the ones that shaped them. This service work aligns perfectly with WTAMU's mission of being a student-centered university that prepares tomorrow's leaders not only through academics, but through meaningful, regionally responsive civic engagement."

CAMP students shared that they could not stop talking about how much they enjoyed being creative and expressed interest in decorating their own CAMP office with paper flowers inspired by the project.

GCCISD thanks AMET, West Texas A&M University, the City of Baytown, and all volunteers for their kindness, collaboration, and dedication to supporting migrant students and strengthening community connections.

# Johnny Gaeke Honored with Rotary's Paul Harris Fellow +6 Service Award



Highlands Rotary Club President Patricia Scott presented Johnny Gaeke with a Paul Harris Fellow +6 Award recently.

"Thank you Johnny for your commitment to peace, service and community both locally and internationally."

Congratulations!

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# Barbers Hill Press

## Dayton

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

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

### ON THE HILL

#### Register to Run for City Council

The candidate filing window for **Mont Belvieu City Council** is now open. The positions of Mayor, Place 1, and Place 2 are open this election cycle. Serving on City Council is an incredibly rewarding way to serve your friends and neighbors by helping to guide the future of the city and keep Mont Belvieu one of the best hometowns in Texas. Filing to run for City Council Residents interested in running for the Mont Belvieu City Council must pick up a candidate packet from City Secretary Allison Dunning at City Hall during normal business hours; Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Fridays 8:00 a.m. - Noon. The completed packets must be returned to the City Secretary's Office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 13, 2026.

**Learn More**  
You can get more information about running for City Council and the upcoming election at [www.montbelvieu.net/election](http://www.montbelvieu.net/election). You can learn more about our current City Council and the council's structure at [www.montbelvieu.net/citycouncil](http://www.montbelvieu.net/citycouncil).

#### Mont Belvieu Utility Billing Questions

Recently we have become aware that some residents are concerned about an increase in their utility bills. As of October 1, 2025, residential sewer rates increased to match our residential water rates. The rate for the first 4000 residential sewer gallons went from \$19.33 to \$25.77 per 1000 gallons; there was a slight increase going from \$3.48 to \$4.64 for every additional 1000 gallons over 4000. Considering that the average home in Mont Belvieu consumes 7000 gallons of water a month, this would amount to an increase of \$9.92 on the bill. While this new sewer rate would have generated a slight increase for all of our customers, this was likely exacerbated by the drought conditions we experienced in the month of October where the average user consumed 9000 gallons.

**Why an increase?**  
City Council approved matching our sewer rates to our water rates - a very common practice - to allow proper funding of our utility system. The additional funding helps the city maintain our water and sewer infrastructure and ensures the health of our systems. Even with this conservative increase, Mont Belvieu is still proud to offer our residents some of the lowest water and sewer rates in the Greater Houston area.

## Recycling: Chambers Co. Builds a Circular Economy

Chambers County is proud to be part of an innovative circular economy project that strengthens the circularity value chain-creating new plastics, reducing landfill waste, and preventing plastic loss in our community. Through a strong public-private partnership, Chambers County has joined forces with the City of Mont Belvieu, TALKE, ExxonMobil, and Cyclix to make recycling more accessible and impactful for everyone. Plastic items collected here will be transported to the Cyclix facility in Houston, currently under construction. This facility will accept all plastic items—including those traditionally difficult to recycle. If it looks like plastic, it can be recycled. That means residents don't have to be experts recycling is simpler, easier, and more inclusive.



Items once considered unrecyclable can now be reused, helping create an economy where plastics are no longer waste, but a vital resource. "Nearly 80% of plastics end up in landfills. This project will help us change that and leave a positive impact on the future of Chambers County. I've been part of many projects during my five years as commissioner, but this one is definitely near the top of the list," says Commissioner Hammond. "Especially want to thank Tommy. He was told no-that this couldn't be done-but he kept pushing. It's been a great project and will continue to make a positive impact," says County Judge Jimmy Sylvia. Together, we're taking meaningful steps toward a cleaner, more sustainable future for Chambers County.

## Mont Belvieu Breaks Ground on Eagle Pointe Recreation Complex Expansion

New year, new you... and a new gym too! Yesterday afternoon Mont Belvieu city officials broke ground on some exciting updates and changes at Eagle Pointe Recreation Complex. Soon, EPRC will have a bigger and better weight room, new group exercise spaces, and a refreshed child watch area. We can't wait for you to see and experience it! **Recreation Complex** Eagle Pointe has a number of facilities you probably will not see anywhere else under one roof. Start with a state-of-the-art complex, add in some of the best equipment in the health industry and just for good measure, throw in all the sports amenities that any active person would enjoy. We have all the ingredients to fulfill your fitness and recreational goals making the Eagle Pointe Recreation Complex an unbeatable option for **membership**.



- All this for you!**
- Two full basketball courts
  - A racquetball court
  - A functional training room
  - Four outdoor lighted tennis courts
  - Heated indoor lap pool
  - A dedicated group exercise room
  - Styku 3D Body Mapping
  - A group cycling room with outdoor views
  - The Pointe Grill Restaurant
  - Locker rooms with saunas
  - Child watch and outdoor play area
  - Half-mile nature and jogging trail

We have more than 5,500 square feet of the industry's top strength and conditioning equipment. Fitness equipment includes recently upgrades, top industry exercise machines with more than 8,000 pounds of free weights and dumbbells ranging from 5 to 125 pounds. And you can take the boredom out of your next cardiovascular workout with our Preva Theater system! Plug in your headset and tune into any one of several different television stations or your choice of music. **Facility Closures & Special Hours:** The facility is closed New Year's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Special hours in effect for New Year's Eve, July 4th, Labor Day, Memorial Day and Christmas Eve. Hours of operation and restaurant hours are subject to change.

## United Way CEO Melissa Reabold to Retire

**Baytown** — United Way of Greater Baytown Area & Chambers County announced today that its CEO, Melissa Reabold, MBA, CFRE has shared plans to retire in June 2026. Since stepping into the role in 2017, Melissa has provided steady, mission-driven leadership and has played a vital role in strengthening our organization, advancing our impact, and guiding us through periods of growth and change. We are deeply grateful for her commitment and the strong foundation she has built. The Board of Directors has launched a formal succession process to identify the organization's next leader. A Search Committee has been established, and the position will be filled following a comprehensive and inclusive search. "The Board is committed to ensuring a smooth



and thoughtful transition," said Board President Dr. Jeffrey Bolton. "We are grateful for the CEO's leadership and look forward to building on the organization's strong momentum." The CEO will continue to serve throughout the transition period, supporting the organization and assisting with onboarding the incoming leader. Additional updates will be shared as the search progresses.

## Baytown Little Theater

Ever dreamed of being part of the magic behind the scenes? Now's your chance! Our community theater is on the lookout for passionate and dedicated volunteers to join our vibrant team. No experience? No problem! We welcome all levels of expertise and enthusiasm. This is your opportunity to dive into the world of community theater, make lasting connections, and contribute to unforgettable performances.



BID NOTICE	BID NOTICE	BID NOTICE
<b>REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE – RFP #26-002</b>		
The Barbers Hill Independent School District is accepting proposals for a multiple award bid for:		
<b>Plumbing Services</b>		
Proposals will be accepted on or before: <b>2:00 p.m., Friday February 6, 2026</b>		
The RFP can be obtained by visiting <a href="https://www.bhisd.net/departments/financetax-office/purchasing">https://www.bhisd.net/departments/financetax-office/purchasing</a> or contact Amy Presley at 281-576-2221 ext. 1268 to obtain a copy of the RFP.		
The school district reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, waive any formalities and/or technicalities in the proposal and award the contract to the best proposal that serves the interests of the district. The district may negotiate with vendors that submit viable proposals.		
02-27		

OPINION PAGE



Don't Annex Greenland

China, Russia and Iran had to be alarmed by the display of U.S. power in Venezuela, but so did Denmark, a NATO ally of the United States.

In the aftermath of the snatch-and-grab of Nicolas Maduro, Trump spoke to The Atlantic about his other foreign-policy priorities: "We do need Greenland, absolutely."

It might have been easy not too long ago to dismiss this as bluster. Not anymore — not after the strikes on the Iran nuclear program and the Venezuelan operation. We've gone from "Trump always chickens out" when he was backing off his Liberation Day tariffs to "dismiss Trump's threats at your own peril."

Trump doesn't do everything he says, but almost everything he does do, he talks about openly beforehand. In this respect, enemies of the United States can never complain that they weren't warned — and perhaps allies, too.

Denmark controls Greenland as a semi-autonomous territory. It colonized the sparsely populated island several hundred years ago. Mostly within the Arctic Circle, Greenland is not desirable real estate by any typical metric, but has outsized strategic significance.

As more waters become navigable in the Arctic Ocean, the top of the world opens up for greater geopolitical contention. Greenland occupies a crucial spot. It sits on a key naval lane between the Atlantic and the Arctic, and it has prodigious reserves of critical minerals, and maybe fossil fuels, as well.

If it fell into our lap, it'd be an excellent addition to our territorial holdings. There's a reason that American statesmen have long coveted the island.

The problem is that it's not currently available. What are other options? A lightly armed contingent of U.S. crossing guards could probably take it over in a couple of days. The challenge, though, is political and diplomatic, not military.

A NATO ally seizing the territory of another NATO ally would obviously be a grave threat to the integrity of the alliance. Would Denmark invoke Article 5 against the United States? It has the makings of a good spoof musical, but it's not something anyone should want to experience in reality.

Although Trump has said in the past that he doesn't take military force off the table — an amazing statement in and of itself — he's also talked of buying Greenland. The Danes, though, say it's not for sale, and the Greenlanders don't want to be bought.

If Trump really pushes the issue and forces Denmark and NATO into a corner with the 82nd Airborne ready to go on an airstrip somewhere, he could probably compel a sale, but it'd be courting a diplomatic crisis and damage the reputation of the United States without enough upside.

We can almost certainly get whatever we need from Greenland without violating a friendly country's sovereignty or straining a world-historical alliance to the breaking point. We already have a missile-defense base there. The 1951 Greenland Defense Agreement between Denmark and the U.S. allowing us to keep bases could presumably be updated and extended. Given the national security importance of rare earths to the U.S. and NATO, it should be possible to unlock Greenland's minerals.

Instead of clapping back at Trump, Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen should be reaching out for a steak dinner at Mar-a-Lago and offering a deal. While public pressure gets Trump's back up, private persuasion — and a warm relationship — goes a long way. The Panamanians managed to get Trump to stop talking about taking back the Canal (for now) with prudent concessions.

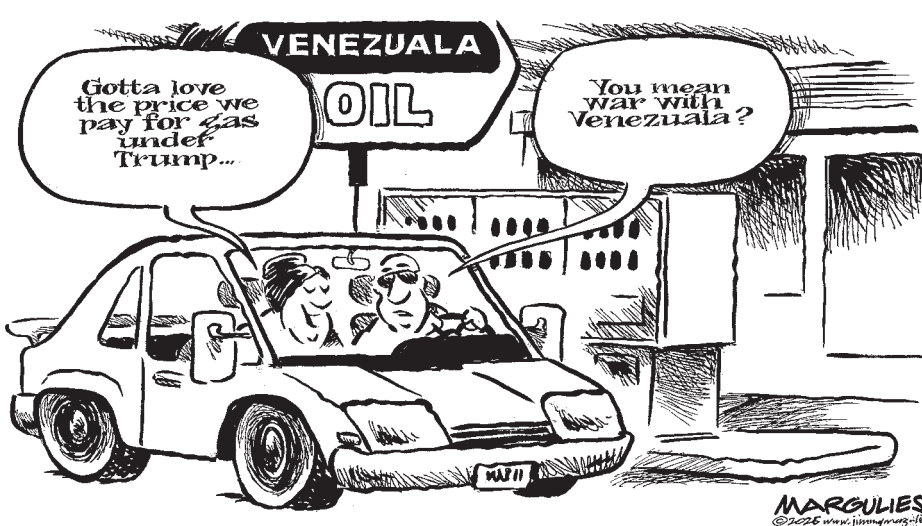
For his part, Trump should realize that making everyone in a friendly nation hate him doesn't help his cause. His talk of annexing Canada last year helped Justin Trudeau's party survive a national election that it should have lost. His Greenland saber-rattling is presumably making it harder for Denmark to work with him on sensible cooperation.

If Nicolas Maduro got what he deserved, Denmark is a different matter. Even the unsentimental, results-oriented Trump foreign policy needs to distinguish between friend and foe.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Democrats Talarico, Crockett Set First Debate

The first debate in the state's Democratic primary for U.S. Senate is set for Jan. 24 in Georgetown, The Dallas Morning News reported. U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett of Dallas and state Rep. James Talarico of Round Rock are vying for the nomination.

The seat is now held by U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, who faces two major opponents in the GOP primary: Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and U.S. Rep. Wesley Hunt of Houston. Cornyn is seeking his fifth term.

The Georgetown debate is sponsored by the Texas AFL-CIO. Crockett is stressing her standing as the race's progressive and hopes to inspire left-leaning voters to turn out in November if she wins the nomination. Talarico is emphasizing electability, noting he flipped a Republican district to get elected state representative and saying Democrats need a nominee able to compete statewide.

Early voting in the March 3 Democratic primary begins Feb. 17.

WHITE DROPS BID TO TAKE ON ABBOTT

Andrew White has dropped his bid for the Democratic nomination for governor and has thrown his support behind state Rep. Gina Hinojosa, D-Austin, who is widely seen as the frontrunner, according to the Houston Chronicle. The crowded Democratic primary has 10 candidates vying to take on Gov. Greg Abbott, who is seeking an unprecedented fourth term.

Abbott has \$90 million in his campaign war chest and faces only token opposition in his party's primary.

Besides Hinojosa, who has served in the Legislature since 2017, the primary field also includes Chris Bell, a former Houston congressman and gubernatorial nominee, and Bobby Cole, a rancher and retired firefighter.

White is the son of former Gov. Mark White. He ran for governor in 2018, coming up six percentage points short in his Democratic primary race against former Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez. She lost handily to Abbott that year in the general election.

500 MILES OF BUOYS TO BE ADDED TO RIO GRANDE

In a move to increase border security, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security plans to add floating buoys along more than 500 miles of the Rio Grande, The Texas Tribune reported.



Secretary Kristi Noem announced the deployment last week while visiting Rio Grande Valley. The state of Texas deployed 1,000 feet of the water barrier along the Rio Grande near Eagle Pass in 2023 and added another 1,000 feet in January 2025.

"Texas finally has a partner in the White House," Andrew Mahaleris, press secretary for Abbott, said in a statement Wednesday. "The floating marine barriers deployed by Texas have been a resounding success, and Gov. Abbott is proud to work with the Trump Administration and Border Patrol to expand the program."

Under the Biden administration, the federal government sued Texas over the buoys, citing migrant safety and saying that they violated water treaties between U.S. and Mexico. That case is still before the courts.

"They'll create a safer environment for agents on patrol, and securing our waterways not only protects Americans, it saves the lives of illegal aliens by deterring them from daring to attempt to cross through this treacherous water," Noem said.

TEXAS FLU LEVELS 'VERY HIGH' WITH NEW STRAIN

Flu activity in Texas has reached a "very high" level, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Austin American-Statesman reported that in the last week of December, the state recorded 25,000 flu-related emergency room visits, with children ages 5 to 11 accounting for more than a quarter of all ER visits statewide.

"It's been really, really star-

ting," said Dr. Jeff Shilt, president of Texas Children's Hospital in Austin. "What's most startling to us is the number and the severity."

The surge is fueled by a rapidly spreading H3N2 subtype of influenza A. Although the flu vaccine has been less effective against this strain, doctors emphasize that vaccination still helps protect against severe illness.

Other respiratory illnesses, such as COVID-19 and RSV, remain at low levels in Texas, according to the CDC.

TEACHERS' UNION SUES TEA OVER KIRK PROBES

One of the state's leading teachers unions has sued the Texas Education Agency in an effort to block investigations into public educators who commented negatively about conservative activist Charlie Kirk after his assassination, the Chronicle reported. The lawsuit said the probe has "unleashed a wave of retaliation and disciplinary actions against teachers" by their local school districts.

TEA launched the inquiry last fall and has yet to issue any disciplinary action. AFT represents about 66,000 educators in Texas. The agency said in December that it received more than 350 complaints from the public, of which 95 are "open and undergoing further investigation and review." The remainder have been dismissed.

TEA Commissioner Mike Morath warned soon after Kirk's death that educators who posted or shared "vile content" would be investigated for possibly violating the educator's code of ethics.

At a press conference last week, Randi Weingarten, the president of AFT, called the TEA investigations a "state-sponsored attack on teachers." She noted only Texas and Florida launched probes of this type.

"Mr. Morath decided to exploit the strategy of Mr. Kirk's senseless murder," Weingarten said. "His actions were a transparent effort to smear and shame educators, divide our communities and deny our kids opportunities to learn and thrive."

NEW WORLD SCREWORM CASE REPORTED IN TAMAUlipAS

A new case of New World screwworm was identified in December in a six-day-old calf in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas, less than 200 miles from the border. The Texas Standard reported this is the northernmost active detection of the flesh-eating larval parasite.

"The continued detections of New World Screwworm near the Texas border are grim reminders of the serious threat this pest poses to our state," Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller said in a statement.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has developed a five-point plan to address the issue, including building a sterile fly production facility in Edinburg. The parasite was eliminated from the United States decades ago through similar efforts.

"This proven strategy is key to the long-term eradication of New World Screwworm," Miller said.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Judy Keeps the Door Open



Last summer, Judy approached me one day when I was walking by an old church.

"I see you walking by here every day!" she said.

"Oh, yes. I need to walk!" I told her.

Judy is an associate pastor at this Episcopal church. She did not appear intent on getting me to church, but she was excited because they were having silent meditation in the chapel. She wondered if I might like to join.

"It's open to anyone?" I asked. "Every Tuesday night from 6:00 to 7:00. Stay as long as you want!" Judy said.

So I came the next Tuesday. Judy keeps the door open, and she puts a little sign on the sidewalk, inviting anyone to come in. I arrived a little late, after others had come, and I quietly took a seat, imagining I might sit there for 20 minutes or so.

But there was quiet music playing, and the chapel was so peaceful. It was old and small, and the pews were dark oak. There was an altar with round, golden icons over it and candles burning on it. The windows were stained glass. It smelled like old churches do, at least ones where they occasionally burn incense. The sun was still up, and the afternoon light made patterns on the stained glass. Before I knew it, Judy rang a large singing bowl, which made a resonant sound that hung in the air, and the hour was up.

"I hope you come again," Judy said. And I did.

All summer, the attendance varied. Some people came in for only a few minutes. Some stayed the entire hour. Every week, I arrived promptly at 6:00 and took a seat in the front.

And the hour became important to me. It's hard to say why, because meditation is not so much a thing I do, as a thing I don't do. My busy brain quiets for a time. Thoughts come and float away, and very slowly I feel emotions floating to the top, things that are important, things I should have noticed, things I might have forgotten.

And at the end, Judy rings the bell.

Then I left for Mexico. I told Judy I'd be gone for a while. But the first Tuesday we were back, I went to meditation. There was no one there but Judy.

"Is meditation happening?" I asked.

"Of course," she said. "Sometimes we get more people than other times. Last week, I was here by myself."

So Judy sat quietly, and so did I. And no one joined us on that cold winter night. And that is how it has been ever since. The sidewalk is cleared of snow. The little sign sits by the open door so anyone walking by will know they are welcome. But this winter, it has just been Judy and me, sitting at opposite sides of the tiny chapel for an hour in silence.

"Does it bother you to open the chapel for just one person?" I asked. I felt bad about Judy lighting the candles and sitting for an hour with only me in attendance—when I'm not even an Episcopalian.

"No," Judy said. "I need it, too."

And the next week it was the same. The quiet was the same. The same dark outside. The same smell of burning candles and a sense of peace that seemed to settle right into my bones.

"Thank you," I told Judy again. "Thank you for doing this."

"It's my pleasure," she said. "And my people say that, you know. But I wondered if Judy wasn't telling the truth."

Till next time, Carrie

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# State Rep. Cain provides legislative update to chamber members,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and Tuesday in January. The governor's able to call as many special sessions as he wants." Cain noted that they completed most of their tasks within 140 days, heightening the urgency.

Cain cited several actions taken during the 89th Texas Legislature, including an \$8.5 billion public education funding package, with \$4 billion designated for teacher and staff compensation.

"We really pushed a lot of merit-based pay. We want to reward the good teachers."

Cain said the focus on merit was because districts had the discretion on how to use the money in the past and they would give everybody the same pay raise.

"That really wasn't our idea. We were wanting to give incentives, reward the good teachers," he said.

Cain argued that merit-based pay better differentiates performance among educators.

"In some districts, there's actually classroom teachers making more than principals," Cain pointed out.

The incentive allotment could allow some teachers in certain districts to earn significantly higher salaries.

Cain said recent legislation strengthens reporting requirements and disciplinary procedures for serious student misconduct.

The new laws make it easier for teachers to report incidents involving criminal behavior. "It's much easier to get those students out of the classroom with the Teachers Bill of Rights," he said.

The Parent's Bill of Rights expands parental access to instructional materials and provides a formal process to challenge content.

"They (the legislature) gave parents control of their



Briscoe Cain spoke to the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce luncheon last Thursday and gave a legislative update. The state representative is also running for the Texas Congressional 9<sup>th</sup> seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

children's education. We've set up an ability for parents to see literature or things in a movie coming home with their children, and if they have problems with it, they can challenge it."

Also related to education, Cain said the legislature strengthened laws and policies against teachers who do inappropriate things at school.

"It is now easier to hold those teachers accountable. There are some teeth in the law so that if the administration knows of that predator school district employee and doesn't do anything about it and ignores it, there's now some accountability," he said.

Cain said the legislature also stopped China and North Korea from being able to buy land in Texas.

"We've stopped China and North Korea and foreign adversaries from purchasing land. We've set up a system to begin buying it back at the current market value," he said. There were purchases near critical infrastructures, power plants, satellite towers, refineries, and military installations that were concerning.

Other topics included property tax relief, infrastruc-

ture investments, and water resource management.

"If you voted on those constitutional amendments for a passage that puts about \$8 billion in this fund, some half of that is going to go to fix existing infrastructure," he told members.

He also addressed issues of public safety, bail reform, and border security, emphasizing the importance of recent funding increases and legislative changes.

"We gave \$6 billion to border security. We tripled that funding and the federal government's going to reimburse taxpayers," he said.

Throughout the luncheon, Cain welcomed questions and concerns from chamber members, fostering an open dialogue about the challenges and opportunities facing the Crosby-Huffman area.

"If you have issues with anything under the sun, don't hesitate to call us."

You can reach his office at 512-463-0733.

The event reinforced the Chamber's commitment to keeping its members informed and engaged in the legislative process, with Cain promising to continue advocating for the interests of local residents and businesses.

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# Crosby Evening Lions Club expands service efforts across community,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Children's Christmas Festival sponsored by the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce at Crosby Church in December.

"We screened 63 children, 13 of which received referrals to a local optometrist for further diagnosis and prescription glasses," he reported.

The children were of different ages and prescription needs.

The club also participated in the Clothe-A-Child event sponsored by Pastor Keenan Smith and Crosby Church at the Crosby Walmart on FM 2100 before Christmas.

The CELC will also be the official sponsor for the Crosby Leo Club at Crosby High School. They have their charter meeting this month on January 30 at the high school beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Cruz is the sponsor of the Leo Club at Crosby High School and estimated he has approximately 100 students involved in the program and is expecting over 150 at the program that is open to the public.

Becker said the club is open to new members and welcomes visitors to meetings.

"Our service comes from our heart to make our community a better place to



Lion Tina Burns Jordan along with several Lions Club members were assisting families during the Clothe-A-Child event at the Crosby Walmart before Christmas.

live and serve our neighbors," she said.

The club is currently planning their spaghetti dinner fundraiser for March 19 in the Parish Life Center of Crosby Brethren Church from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tickets will go on sale in the next week and will be available from any Lions Club member.

The club meets every second and fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall at the Crosby Brethren Church, 5202 1<sup>st</sup> Street. All are invited.

# Harris center expands mental health services,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ed the organization's reach and commitment to accessible care.

"We are the largest mental health provider, behavioral health provider here in Texas," Silva explained. "We are able to help people with 40-plus different languages that we know. And especially here in Houston, that's very important."

The Harris Center operates as both a nonprofit and the state-designated local Health Authority, working closely with Harris County and the state to deliver services.

Insurance is not a barrier to care at the Harris Center.

"As far as insurance, we do accept Medicaid, CHIP, and Medicare, and also private insurance. If you don't have insurance, we try to work with you. We kind of have a sliding scale and see how you're able to pay and how you can pay it," Silva assured everyone.

The Center's impact in 2025 was substantial, reaching over 702,000 adults and 191,000 children through mental health services. Their crisis and access line, a lifeline for many, answered

more than 3 million calls in Houston alone.

"This is our suicide and crisis lifeline that a lot of people call," Silva noted.

With more than 14 programs citywide, the Harris Center's services range from crisis residential care and outpatient services to criminal justice collaboration and primary care for clients. One standout initiative is the Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT), which provides on-site support for mental health or intellectual developmental disability (IDD) crises.

"Whenever you are in a situation where you need to call someone to come help you instead of if it's a crisis necessarily with someone on mental health or any IDD, instead of calling 911 because it's not as severe, you will call MCOT and it's a team of clinicians, professionals that will help," she explained.

The Harris Center also supports individuals with IDD, offering both legal and provider services, including autism programs and employment assistance. Community engagement is a growing focus, with training and outreach in schools, churches, and

workplaces.

"We train over 4,500 community members in a year," Ms. Silva shared. "If you'd like to know more about them, it has a kind of an overview of what they are about and how long they are, and also kind of who to contact here".

For those in crisis, the Center's Access Hub and dedicated phone lines—including the national 988 suicide and crisis lifeline—ensure help is available 24/7.

"Whenever you call this number, this is the number I tell everyone to call. And whenever you're having anything like, 'Hey, I need this, like I'm going through this, who can I contact?' And because we have more than 40 programs, it's just helpful to have them on the phone call," Silva emphasized.

The Harris Center's ongoing commitment to mental health, community training, and crisis response continues to provide vital support and hope for Houston and beyond. For more information or to access services, community members are encouraged to reach out directly to the Harris Center.

# Staff Member Intervenes to Prevent Crosby MS Stabbing

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

Just weeks after the tragic stabbing death of an 18-year-old student at Sterling High School in Baytown, quick action by a Crosby Middle School staff member may have prevented another potential tragedy on Wednesday, January 7.

According to a letter sent to parents and guardians by Jose Lozano, principal of Crosby Middle School, the incident occurred during afternoon dismissal when a student was found to be in possession of a pocketknife.

"During the incident, the student pursued another student; however, a staff member intervened immediately and secured the situation. No students were harmed," wrote Lozano.

The school's administra-

tive team, in coordination with Harris County Constable Precinct 3 officers, responded promptly and began a full investigation.

"Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with district policies and procedures," the letter stated.

"All secondary campuses in Crosby ISD are equipped with weapons detectors. Students undergo these detectors daily as they enter the building," the district said in a statement to the Star-Courier. However, there was no explanation on how the student was able to get a knife on campus with the scrutiny of the weapons detectors.

In a statement from Crosby ISD, officials emphasized their commitment to safety.

Principal Lozano reassured families, "The safety, respect, and well-being

of our students and staff are our highest priorities. We are committed to fostering a safe and supportive learning environment for everyone. We appreciate your partnership in reinforcing the importance of respectful and responsible behavior both at school and in the broader community," the statement read.

The incident comes as the community is still reeling from the fatal stabbing at Sterling High School in Baytown, highlighting ongoing concerns about student safety in local schools.

The suspect in the Baytown stabbing has been arrested and charged with murder.

No details have been announced by Crosby ISD on the punishment of the student involved and whether the student will return to campus.

# Houston Rodeo announces Star-Studded 2026 Lineup,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



returns on March 16, and The Red Clay Strays debut on March 17. Koe Wetzel is scheduled for March 18, with Lainey Wilson performing on March 19. Parker McCollum appears on March 20, and Tim McGraw, marking his 11th RODEOHOUSTON performance, headlines the finals on March 21. The grand finale on March 22 features Cody Johnson, joined by openers Jon Pardi and Randy Houser, in a special concert-only event with all NRG Park attractions open to the public.

This year's lineup includes nine new artists making their RODEOHOUSTON debut, such as Russell Dickerson, Lizzo, Forrest Frank, Megan Moroney, Creed, Shaboozey, Pepe Aguilar, Red Clay Strays, and Koe Wetzel. Four female artists—Lizzo, Megan Moroney, Kelly Clarkson, and Lainey Wilson—will take the stage, and for the third consecu-

tive year, two Latin artists, J Balvin and Pepe Aguilar, are featured. Tickets for individual performances go on sale in two waves on January 15, 2026, with Cody Johnson's concert-only tickets available now. RODEOHOUSTON@2026 promises a celebration of music, culture, and community, bringing together legendary performers and exciting newcomers for an unforgettable experience in Houston.

### INDIVIDUAL RODEO TICKETS

Tickets will go on sale at rodeohouston.com/tickets/ Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026, in two waves, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Wave 1 tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. for March 2 – March 11 performances.

Wave 2 tickets go on sale at 2 p.m. for March 12 – 21 performances.

Individual tickets for Cody Johnson's concert-only performance on March 22, 2026 are on sale

now.

Learn about how to purchase Cody Johnson tickets, Here.

(The Online Waiting Rooms will open at 9:30 a.m. for Wave 1 and 1:30 p.m. for Wave 2. Customers in the Waiting Room will be randomly selected to enter the store to purchase tickets at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.)

A spot in the Waiting Room does not guarantee tickets.

Standard ticket prices start at \$35. Ticket pricing includes a \$5 convenience fee.

Individual Rodeo tickets can be purchased online through rodeohouston.com.

All tickets will be delivered electronically via AXS Mobile ID Delivery; please allow 48 hours for delivery.

To access your purchased tickets, download the RODEOHOUSTON app, powered by AXS and login with the email used to purchase tickets.

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# One Construction Worker killed, One Critically Injured After Crash on Crosby Freeway

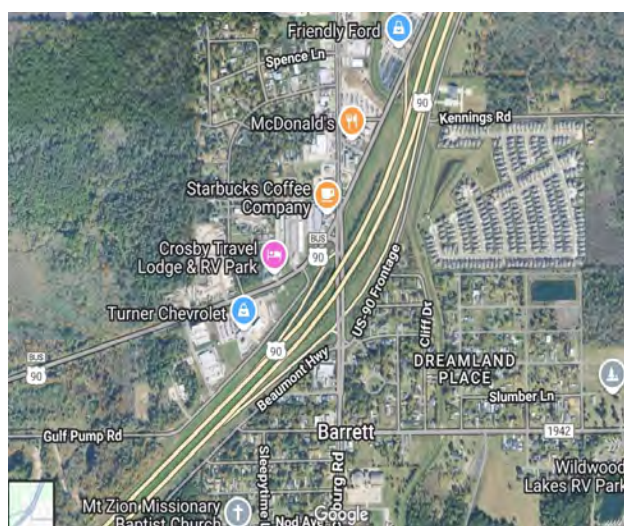


CROSBY, Texas – A construction worker is dead and another is in critical condition after being struck by a vehicle on Crosby Freeway (US 90) early Saturday morning.

Deputies with the Harris County Sheriff's Office said a man in his early 20's was driving eastbound on the freeway when he swerved out of his lane and struck two construction workers.

"At the time, one lane was shut down and other lane was partially blocked, as workers were stripping pavement lane markings," Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said on X.

Deputy Chagoya with the HCSO Vehicular Crimes Division said both workers, ages 32 and 40, were Life Flighted to a downtown hospital. The



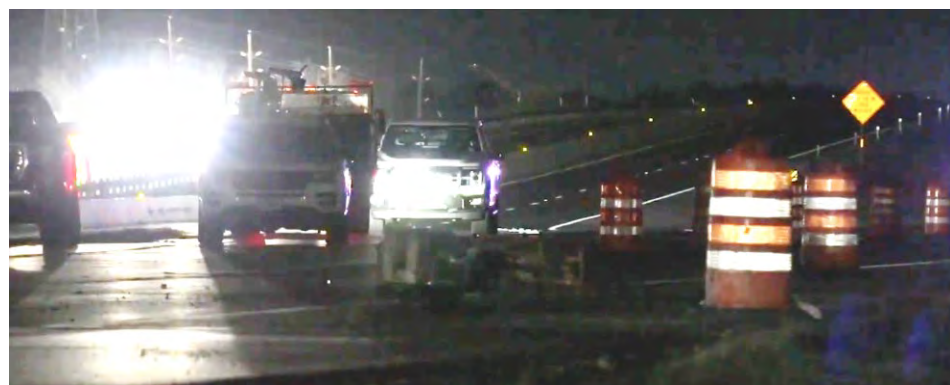
32-year-old worker died from his injuries, and the other remains in critical but stable condition.

According to Deputy Chagoya, the driver showed no signs of intoxication. Deputies said they also performed a standard

field sobriety test which confirmed the driver was not intoxicated.

According to witnesses, the driver stopped a short distance after the crash.

Deputies said there are no charges being filed at this time.



# Goose Creek CISD Celebrates New Sunshade at De Zavala Elementary



De Zavala Elementary Principal Leah Abbate is joined by students, GCCISD staff members, and representatives from MD Anderson, Be Well™ Baytown, and Healthy Community Schools at the ribbon cutting for the school's new sunshade. (Photo by: Carrie Pryor-Newman)

By: Nancy Bonds, GCCISD Director of Communications

Goose Creek CISD recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at De Zavala Elementary to celebrate the installation of a new sunshade structure designed to enhance outdoor learning and play, while promoting a healthier school environment.

The new shade structure provides a safer and more comfortable space for students to engage in outdoor activities. It supports the school's ongoing commitment to sun safety education, which is integrated throughout the academic year through lessons and activities that emphasize the importance of protecting against harmful UV rays.

This project was made possible through the continued collaboration with

Be Well™ Baytown, an initiative of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center sponsored by ExxonMobil. Since 2018, Be Well Baytown has supported Goose Creek CISD in expanding access to sun-safe environments and empowering families with knowledge about sun protection and wellness.

During the event, Amanda Kennington, Healthy Community School Coordinator for GCCISD, highlighted De Zavala's ongoing success in implementing wellness initiatives and promoting healthy habits across the campus.

Principal Leah Abbate expressed gratitude for the support that made the project possible. "I would like to thank Angela Rowland and our staff for putting in the work to earn this shade structure on our campus," said Abbate. "To

MD Anderson, we sincerely appreciate your support of our sun safety efforts and cannot thank you enough for this beautiful sunshade. It's wonderful to know our students will benefit from this addition for years to come."

Currently, 94% of elementary schools in Goose Creek CISD have sunshades in their play areas, making them safer and more accessible. This ongoing expansion of sun-safe environments reflects the district's commitment to student wellness and community collaboration.

The district extends its gratitude to Be Well™ Baytown, MD Anderson, and all partners who contributed to this effort, ensuring students across Goose Creek CISD continue to enjoy healthy, safe, and supportive outdoor spaces.

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

GUYS, THOSE NEW GIRLS ARE COMING THIS WAY AND YOU BOTH ARE COVERED IN MUD!

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING? THAT'S A TERRIBLE FIRST IMPRESSION!

WE FIGURED IF WE SET THEIR EXPECTATIONS LOW, ANYTHING WE DO WILL BE AN IMPROVEMENT.

NEWS FLASH... YOU ARE MALE. THEIR EXPECTATIONS OF YOU ARE ALREADY VERY LOW.

by BUD BLAKE

TIGER

WILL YOU ADJUST THAT PICTURE, TIGER?

LESS WASHED-OUT-STRONGER YELLOW

SHARPER-MORE BLACK

LESS REP-STRONGER TINT

NOW, A LITTLE LESS CONTRAST PERFECT!

I HATE THAT SHOW

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

I PUT ALL OF OUR PLANTS INTO ALPHABETICAL ORDER

WOW, WHERE DID YOU FIND THE TIME??

RIGHT NEXT TO THE SAGE!!

Weekly SUDOKU

9		7	5					4
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦♦ HOO BLOYD

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Arm is longer. 2. Window sill is higher. 3. Bow is different. 4. Paper is longer. 5. Lampshade is different. 6. Sleeve is different.

### January 12, 2026 Posting Date King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
15								16			
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41					42	43			44	45	46
47					48						
49					50				51		

ACROSS

1 Post-WWII alliance

5 Life story

8 Quick kiss

12 Challenger's words

14 Oklahoma tribe

15 Misses an opportunity

16 Without acting

17 Prattle

18 Contacts, e.g.

20 Vowel group

23 " — Misbehavin' "

24 Japanese noodle

25 Anthology

28 Pvt.'s superior

29 To the third power

30 Green shade

32 Cruised in style

34 Furnace fuel

35 Region (Abbr.)

36 Natural talents

37 Nap

40 Extinct bird

41 "Hulk" star

42 Bana

42 Distributes

47 "Smallville" girl

48 Coffee bar order

9 LAX postings

10 Natalie or Nat

11 Piano pieces?

13 Isaac's eldest

19 Author

20 Ger. neighbor

21 Jittery

22 Speck

23 Fossil resin

25 Incensed

26 Atop

27 Bicycle part

29 Guitarist

31 Gore and Pacino

33 MD's diagnostic order

34 Stopped

36 Dutch word for "farmer"

37 Actress Ward

38 401(k) relatives

39 Drei minus zwei

40 Star athletes, briefly

43 Equi-

44 Sugary suffix

45 Mex. neighbor

46 Great weight

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Trivia Test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- HISTORY: What is the Code of Hammurabi?
- GAMES: Which letters in the English version of Scrabble are worth 10 points each?
- MOVIES: What is the name of Dr. Evil's cat in "Austin Powers in Goldmember"?
- MEDICAL TERMS: What is the common name for somnambulating?
- TELEVISION: What is the name of the town where "Veronica Mars" is set?
- THEATER: What is the first play written by an African American woman to be produced on Broadway?
- LANGUAGE: What is the official language of Austria?
- MATH: What is the smallest prime number?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the only U.S. state with a one-syllable name?
- MYTHOLOGY: What is the home of the Norse gods?

Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

1. One of the earliest and most complete written legal codes established by the Babylonian King Hammurabi; 2. Q and Z; 3. Mr. Bigglesworth; 4. Sleepwalking; 5. Neptune, California; 6. "A Raisin in the Sun," by Lorraine Hansberry, 1959; 7. German; 8. 2; 9. Maine; 10. Asgard



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