

TERRY DAVIS AWARD TO SARAH DAVIS, Pages 1,6

GC FAMILY WELLNESS FESTIVAL, Pages 5

Bras For A Cause



Magic Joel Sanchez brought tears and cheers as he not only danced for the raucous crowd but shared his story of being diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. See Story below & on page 2.

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star Courier

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

VOL. 73, NO. 7 - \$1.00

© Copyright 2026

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026

HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

Bras For A Cause Raises \$195,000 at 14th Annual Fundraiser, Celebrating Community Spirit and Support for Cancer Patients

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Debbie Holmelin can't stop smiling. The Bras For A Cause board member just smiles and chuckles after watching the craziness and silliness of the male models who perform each year at Crosby's notorious fundraising event and the rowdy, fun response of the audience. She also has a smile on her face days after the final numbers came in revealing the love of the community for solving the cancer puzzle.

"It wasn't the record year, but it was definitely up there," she said after revealing the organization had raised \$195,000 during the 14th Annual Bras For A Cause event. Last

year's reported number was \$172,000 so it's a \$23,000 spike and welcome news.

The event is known for its unique blend of entertainment and philanthropy, featuring male models donning decorated bras and engaging the audience in lively performances. The crowd's enthusiasm translated into nearly \$6,000 in tips—a record for the event—and a live auction of bras that brought in a staggering \$90,000. The silent auction, fueled by donations from local businesses and individuals, set its own record at \$13,425, with items ranging from Astros tickets to vacation packages and wine baskets.

Bras For A Cause operates as a 501(c)(3) nonprof-



Here's the 2026 model crew including Robby Scott, Jason McWhorter, Robert Mitchell, Russell Ming, Stephen Prasek, Jose Fernandez, Gunnar Gates, Gary Newman, Adam Notgrass, Serapio Garza, Mike Stamper, Shannon Talbott, Scott Straubel, Mikey Jarrell, Richey Holst, Daniel Balderrama, Justin Whittridge, Arturo Martinez, Chris Roettgers, Jakie Sims, and Joel Sanchez.

it, opening doors for broader support and tax-deductible contributions. The funds raised are distributed to several key organizations: Houston Methodist

Baytown Hospital's Pink Heals Fund and Breast Center, Candlelighters (supporting children and families facing cancer), and Joseph's Warriors

(providing aid to young cancer patients at Texas Children's and MD Anderson). Additionally, the group reserves funds to assist local individuals directly, offer-

ing gift cards for essentials like groceries and utility bills, and even services such as house cleaning for those in need.

One of those happened to be a scheduled speaker at the event, Chelcie Daniels. She wanted desperately to tell her story and offer her thanks to the charity for their help along her journey. Daniels died a week before the event and her funeral was on the same day as the fundraiser. Instead of Daniels, her best friend stood before a hushed crowd as she told Chelcie's story of resilience and fight. Her family, despite a long day with the funeral and receiving guests,

Continued. See CROSBY RALLIES TO FIGHT CANCER, Page 2

IN THE STARS

Black History Month Honoree Satchel Paige

3rd of a series...

By Allan Jamail

Allan Jamail, photo-journalist covering the 2026 Black History Month for the North Channel Star recognizes Satchel Paige who is arguably the best professional baseball pitchers of all time.

Paige was born Leroy Robert Page to John Page, a gardener, and Lula Page (née Coleman), a domestic worker, in a section of Mobile, Alabama, known as Down the Bay. Lula and her children changed the spelling of their name from Page to Paige in the mid 1920s, just before the start of Satchel's baseball career.

Lula said, "Page looked too much like a page in a book," whereas Paige explained, "My folks started out by spelling their name 'Page' and later stuck in the 'i' to make themselves sound more high-tone."

According to Paige, his nickname "Satchel" originated from his childhood work toting bags at the train station. He said he was not making enough money at a dime a bag, so he used a pole and rope to build a contraption that allowed him to cart up to four bags at once. Another kid supposedly yelled, "You look like a walking satchel tree."

At the age of 10, Paige was playing "top ball", which was what got him into baseball. "Top ball" was a kids' game that used sticks and bottle caps instead

Continued. See BLACK HISTORY MONTH, Page 4

Community Rallies to Save Historic Highlands Library

HIGHLANDS, TX – The Baytown Historical Preservation Association (BHPA) is making a fervent appeal to the community to help preserve the 1937 historic Highlands Library, a cherished branch of the Harris County Public Library, from demolition. Located at 127 San Jacinto Street in Highlands, the library holds significant historical value and is now at risk of being lost forever.

The BHPA has set an ambitious goal of raising \$50,000 to relocate the library to their living history museum at the Republic of Texas Plaza Park, 5117 North Main Street in Baytown. This fund will also cover essential expenses such as running electricity, repairing and replacing broken windows, painting the exterior, installing a new roof and alarm system, adding air conditioning and heat, and other



Historic Highlands Library Today.

necessary repairs. Once restored, the library will house historic books, photos, documents, abstracts, and maps, along with rotating exhibits, offering a rich educational experience for visitors.

The Harris County Public Library system, established in 1921, initially served rural communities and schools. The High-

lands Library's journey began in 1927 as a station in a local store before moving to a brick building provided by the Tyrrell-Garth Company, which also housed the post office. Garth Road is named after the Garth family, who owned the Elena Fruit Company and donated land in the 1930s. As the post office expanded, the



The Highlands Library's journey began in 1927 as a station in a local store before moving to a brick building provided by the Tyrrell-Garth Company

library temporarily relocated to a vacant store.

In 1936, the newly formed Highlands Garden Club initiated fundraising efforts for a permanent library home. The late railroad owner Harry K. Johnson, Sr., donated the land at Magnolia and San Jacinto streets and matched the funds raised by the Garden Club. Citi-

zens of the Tri-Cities—Baytown, Goose Creek, and Pelly—also contributed, making the library a true community achievement.

Designed in an English style by the renowned Houston architect Joseph W. Northrop, Jr., who

Continued. See COMMUNITY RALLY NEEDED TO, Page 6

Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber Celebrates Community Champions, honors Sarah Davis

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

The Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce celebrated its annual Awards Banquet, bringing together business leaders, community members, and local officials to recognize outstanding achievements and contributions across the region. The event, held in at the Monument Inn, featured the installation of the 2026 Chamber Board and a keynote address by Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia.

Garcia praised the Chamber's commitment to "making the Lynchburg area the best place to live and work and raise a family," highlighting the align-



Highlands Volunteer Fire Department Firefighter of the Year (2025) Ben Coward, Pablo Camargo, and Matthew Bennett. Recognized for their heroic actions during a structure fire, rescuing six victims—including children—from a burning building before additional units arrived. Their bravery and quick response saved lives under dangerous conditions.

ment between his office's Revive to Thrive initiative and the Chamber's vision. Garcia highlighted new

programs and work coming to the Highlands-Lynchburg community. "Revive to Thrive is all



Harris County Sheriff Deputy of the Year (2025) Joshua Blair and Lola Ayala. Honored for stopping a wrong-way driver on the East Freeway, risking their own safety to prevent a potentially devastating accident. Both deputies sustained minor injuries during the incident, demonstrating exceptional courage.

regarding the strategic investments that I try hard to make sure that it goes to the right places for the

Continued. See HIGHLANDS-LYNCHBURG CHAMBER, Page 6

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

ESCAPE HIGH RATES DRIVE WITH CRCU!



Community Resource CREDIT UNION

CRCU.ORG/AUTO | 281.422.3611

Precinct 3 in Barrett Station Hosts Vibrant Mardi Gras Celebration, Strengthening Senior Community Spirit

Harris County Precinct 3 hosted its 4th Annual Riley Chambers/Barrett Station Community Center Mardi Gras Celebration, drawing senior citizens from across the area. The event, known for its vibrant atmosphere, featured fellowship, food, music, and fun, fostering a strong sense of community spirit.

Each year, the celebration expands, becoming more elaborate and eagerly anticipated by seniors who often start planning their costumes for the following year. This gathering highlights the joy and active engagement of the senior residents, showcasing their enthusiasm and commitment to maintaining a lively and connected community. The event continues to be a cherished tradition in the precinct.



Community center Barret Station Community staff – Director Karen Thomas, John Auzenne and Stacey Frank (Facility Assistants) Asst. Director Janet Lemond

Crosby rallies to fight cancer in a big way with Bras For A Cause Raising \$195,000 at 14th Annual Fundraiser,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

made their way to the Saturday night fundraiser in her memory.

“This is what Chelcie would have wanted and so we couldn’t miss it,” her husband Marcus said. The crowd drawn to a silence and then reduced to tears as the final dancer, Joel Sanchez, explained his diagnosis as Stage 4 pancreatic cancer.

He offered his thanks to BFAC for their financial support, particularly after his job laid him off following his diagnosis. He turned to BFAC for help and they responded. So did the Crosby community. Following his announcement, the crowd gave him a roaring standing ovation and ‘rained’ down money on the overwhelmed 62-year-old. Despite his prognosis, he insisted on being there, and it was two of his doctors who came to support him and bought his bra.

Growing Reach

While the event began as a local Crosby affair, its reach has expanded, drawing attendees and sponsors from Dayton, Liberty, Houston, Baytown, and beyond. Most tables are purchased by repeat supporters, but new faces join each year, eager to experience the camaraderie and contribute to the cause. The event’s popularity is evident in its consistent sell-out status, with 50 round tables and 14 cocktail tables filled each year.

Looking Ahead

Planning for next year’s event is already underway, with organizers aiming to continue the tradition of generosity and fun. The Bras For A Cause Facebook page keeps the community updated, highlighting models, sponsors, and the impact of their contributions. As Debbie Holmelin puts it, “Whatever we get is a blessing and we’re going to give it out. We just say, thank you for giving.”



This dancer’s bra was filling up with the dollars of adoring fans!



Dancer Mike Stamper of Sterling-White Funeral Home in Highlands is Happy Gilmore. The ladies liked his golf game.



The audience is cheering and she’s making it ‘rain’ for this special dancer at the Bras For A Cause fundraiser.



This fellas propellers was attractive to his ‘fans’ who came out to support him.



Leila Bates from Bates Custom and Collision in Baytown and Channelview was enjoying the view and ready to spread the money around.



Magic Joel Sanchez brought tears and cheers as he not only danced for the raucous crowd but shar ed his story of being diagnosed with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer. He promised to fight his diagnosis and thanked BFAC for assisting him financially after his company laid him off.



Here’s the 2026 model crew including Robby Scott, Jason McWhorter, Robert Mitchell, Russell Ming, Stephen Prasek, Jose Fernandez, Gunnar Gates, Gary Newman, Adam Notgrass, Serapio Garza, Mike Stamper, Shannon Talbott, Scott Straubel, Mikey Jarrell, Richey Holst, Daniel Balderrama, Justin Whittredge, Arturo Martinez, Chris Roettgers, Jakie Sims, and Joel Sanchez.

Barbers Hill Press

Dayton

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

VOL. 31, NO. 6

© Copyright 2026

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

History: When We Became United Way

In February 1979, a defining chapter of our story unfolded. One that still shapes who we are today.

After decades of serving the community through the Community Chest and United Fund traditions, local leaders and volunteers took a bold step toward a clearer identity and a stronger, more connected way to do the work. On February 12, 1979, the community voted on the name "United Way of Baytown." Just a few days later, on February 15, it became official: we were formally renamed United Way of Baytown.

It wasn't just a new name—it was a public commitment to shared responsibility: one community, united around meeting needs, strengthening families, and building a better future together.

United Way for Hygiene Drive



From February 1–March 31, United Way is collecting essential hygiene items to support students in Pre-K through 12th grade across our local school districts. Donations stock our Clothing for Kids Closets with everyday essentials so children can show up to school feeling clean, confident, and ready to learn.

Most-needed items:

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Bar Soap
- Toothpaste
- Lotion
- Chapstick
- Deodorant
- Feminine Products
- Q-Tips

Every item helps provide dignity and stability for students right here in our community. You can drop off items at partners across our area, shop our wish list and have items delivered to our office, or host a drive of your own!

Thank you for being part of a community that shows up for kids—because United is the Way we strengthen every part of our community.

GCCISD Artists Earn Honors in 2026 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Competition

By Nancy Bonds, GCCISD Director of Communications.

Goose Creek CISD (GCCISD) proudly recognized the outstanding accomplishments of its student artists during the 2026 Rodeo Art Reception, celebrating those who earned distinction in the highly regarded Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Competition.

The annual event showcased the creativity, technical skill, and dedication of student artists from across the district. Families, teachers, district staff, and community members gathered to honor the many students whose artwork advanced through campus and district judging to represent GCCISD at one of the nation's largest student art competitions.

Dr. Ray Lavan, Director of Fine Arts, emphasized the impact of visual arts education and the pride felt across the district. "Our Rodeo Art Reception is an opportunity to celebrate the remarkable talent of our students and the educators who inspire them each day. Visual arts programs provide students with powerful avenues for creativity, expression, and personal growth, and we are proud to see their work recognized at such a prestigious level."

The program recognized students across multiple award categories, with blue,



Pictured, from left, Jim Campisi, GCCISD School Board President; Annie Watson, Sterling art teacher; Joe Rodriguez, GCCISD Superintendent; Mattie Dotson, 12th Grade Sterling student and Best of Show winner; and Matt Flood, Assistant Superintendent of Technology. (Photos by: Carrie Pryor-Newman)

red, and white ribbons honoring district-level winners and teal ribbons identifying finalists advancing to the next round of judging at NRG Center. Top distinctions included Gold Medal, Best in Show, and Special Merit awards, with select artwork displayed in the Hayloft Gallery at NRG.

Among those honors, senior Mattie Dotson earned GCCISD's High School Best of Show for her piece, *The Lost Cow*, which was also selected for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo School Art Auction. Her artwork will be auctioned on March 15, 2026, with a portion of the proceeds supporting her education next year. This recognition is one of the highest in the com-

petition and reflects the exceptional talent of GCCISD student artists.

Highlights from the 2026 Rodeo Art Awards:

Director's Choice Award Winners

*High School: Trinitee Fredrick, 11th grade, Sterling (Teacher: Brandie Barriga)

*Junior School: Carissa Gaines, 8th Grade, Horace Mann (Teacher: Josh Crowhurst)

*Elementary: Lunzibeth Ortiz Ibarra, 2nd grade, Alamo (Teacher: Emory Atilano)

Superintendent's Choice Award Winners

*High School: Allysa Gonzalez, 12th Grade, Sterling (Teacher: Annie Watson)

*Junior School: Aaleya Castillo, 8th grade, E.F.



Leslie Castillo, 12th Grade Lee student and Gold Medal winner. (Photos by: Carrie Pryor-Newman)

Green (Teacher: Rachel Deleon)

*Elementary: Victoria Alatorre, 5th grade, Austin Elementary (Teacher: Tristen Brunson)

Gold Medal Winners

*Leslie Castillo, 12th Grade, Lee (Teacher: Canace Ferguson)

*Iyana Johnson, 12th Grade, Sterling (Teacher: Brandie Barriga)

*Junior School: Carla Benavides, 8th Grade, E.F. Green (Teacher: Rachel Deleon)

*Elementary: Kaylee Ramos, 5th Grade, Carver (Teacher: Harry Barber)

Best of Show Winners

*High School: Mattie Dotson, 12th Grade, Sterling (Teacher: Annie Watson)

*Junior School: Jax Husband, 8th Grade, Gentry (Teacher: Jennifer Martin)

*Elementary: Josiah Smith, 2nd Grade, Clark (Teacher: Viridiana Navarro)

Special Merit Winners

*High School: Jackeline Carpio, 11th Grade, Lee (Teacher: Melissa Rangel)

*High School: Suzanne Gonzalez, 10th Grade, GCM (Teacher: Johnna Morris)

*High School: Nayeli Perez, 12th Grade, Sterling (Teacher: Annie Watson)

*High School: Kennedy Williams, 10th Grade, Lee (Teacher: Melissa Rangel)

*Junior School: Aneah Cuevas, 7th Grade, Horace Mann (Teacher: Josh Crowhurst)

Annual WCC Pilot Club Gala Set for March 28



2026 Under the Sea Gala Art Sculpture.

The West Chambers County Pilot Club, Inc. is set to host its annual fundraising Gala on Saturday, March 28, 2026, from 6:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. at Barbers Hill High School in Mont Belvieu, TX. This year's event will feature an "Under the Sea" theme, promising an evening of aquatic elegance and community spirit.

Tickets are priced at \$15.00 each, with proceeds supporting the club's charitable initiatives. For more details or to purchase tickets, interested individuals can contact the club via P.O. Box 1032, Mont Belvieu, TX 77580,

or email wccpilotclub@gmail.com. Alternatively, inquiries can be directed to President Jan Jones at 832-984-8682 or alexisjanjones@gmail.com.



(Picture Bill Van De Berghe) Under the Sea 2026 Gala Sculpture with Bill Van De Berghe, BillyV's Upcycle Bill Van De Berghe, BillyV's Upcycle Art Sculptor, created and donated this sculpture to the live auction at the West Chambers County Pilot Club's Annual Under the Sea Gala fundraiser on March 28 2026. The sculpture is made from antique sewing machine parts. The shark is a 1920s Singer Sewing Machine. The school of Nemo looking fish are vintage wooden thread spool. Each is supported by a bicycle spoke. The turtle is a Westinghouse motor. The sea shells were picked from the Galveston beach. It's all mounted on a native Sweet Gum tree plank. Bill is a multiple award-winning artist. His creation won 2nd place at the Galveston Art League.

Local Firefighters Handle 'Big Grass Fire' in Dayton

DAYTON — A couple of fires kept firefighters busy on last Saturday, one of which was a 466-acre grass fire. Crews fought an uncontrolled burn in Liberty County that grew over a hundred acres to prompt a mutual aid response, the Dayton Volunteer Fire Department said.

The fires were reported off CR 2058 in the Hardin-Moss Hill area and off CR 677 and CR 678 in the Dayton area. Both were initiated by landowners as prescribed burns but were fueled by shifting winds and dry surface conditions.

The fire off CR 2058 was initially believed to have burned approximately 20 acres. However, Firefighter Gage Cannaday with Liberty County ESD #7 (Hardin Fire and Rescue) said the updated estimate now stands at



A massive fire burning in Hardin-Moss Hill that prompted the Dayton Volunteer Fire Department to call for backup.

89 acres. The blaze came within a short distance of a home but did not damage any structures.

Dayton VFD said mutual aid was en route to help contain the fire and advised residents to avoid the area.

Liberty County Fire Marshal Nathan Green reported the fire burned approximately 766 acres and was fully contained by 6 p.m., adding that crews were working to extin-

guish hot spots.

"It makes it easier for them to seed the land and get what they want growing there," Green explained.

What caused the fires to spread so rapidly was a change in wind direction combined with the condition of the grass.

"With the condition of the dead grass on top of the soil, the fires spread quickly," Green said. "Luckily neither

fire caused major damages, and everyone involved was neighborly about it."

Green cautioned that prescribed burns can carry significant liability if they get out of control. If a fire damages another person's property, those responsible for starting it could face criminal charges.

"If someone else's property is burned, you can be charged with a reckless arson charge. That's why I recommend people hire a prescribed fire company," he said.

While prescribed burns do not require a permit in Liberty County, Green strongly recommends that landowners notify the fire marshal's office or the sheriff's dispatch center before burning. Doing so can prevent unnecessary emergency responses when calls are reported.

"If we know about it ahead of time, it keeps firefighters from being immediately dispatched, which can be a waste of time and manpower," he said.

Although conditions appear dry, Green said Liberty County is not currently in a drought and no burn ban is being considered at this time. He noted that a Houston television station has reported for several weeks that the county is in a drought, but according to state standards, that is not accurate.

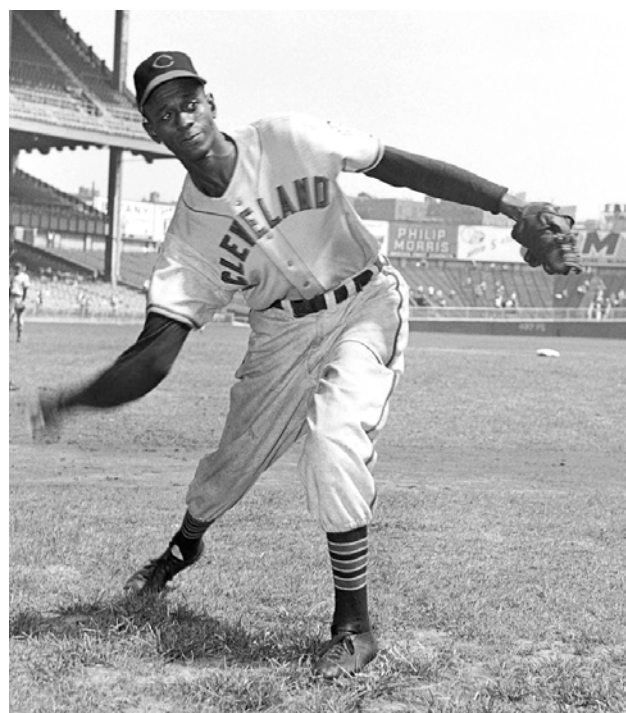
The state uses the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) to determine drought conditions. Green said Liberty County's current county-wide average is 340.

No injuries were reported in either incident, and no homes or buildings were lost.

OPINION PAGE

MLB's first black hall of famer, Satchel Paige,

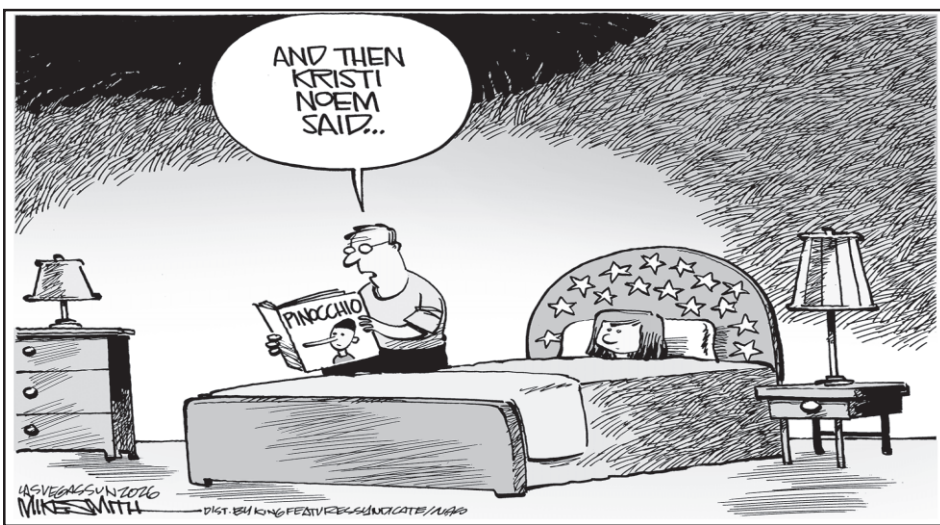
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Major League Baseball Pitcher Satchel Paige throwing his famous "hesitation pitch".

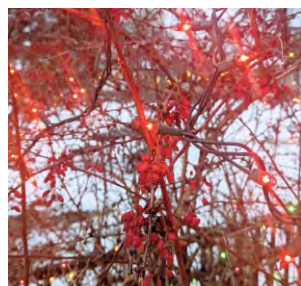
of baseballs and bats to play a variation of the diamond sport. Satchel's mother, Lula, would even comment on how Paige would rather "play baseball than eat. It was always baseball, baseball." On July 24, 1918, just seventeen days after his 12th birthday, Paige was sentenced to six years—or until his 18th birthday, whichever came first—at the Alabama Reform School for Juvenile Negro Law-Breakers in Mount Meigs, Alabama, owing to his truancy in school along with his tendency to steal. The person who taught Paige to pitch while in reform school was the Reverend Moses Davis. It was Davis, who was also a trustee of the school, who devoted the long hours coaching the boys in baseball. Paige was released from the institution in December 1923, seven months short of his 18th birthday. He summed up his years of incarceration: "I traded five years of freedom to learn how to pitch. At least I started my real learning on the Mount. They were not wasted years at all. It made a real man out of me." A right-handed, flexible "beanpole" standing more than 6 feet 3 inches, Paige had considerable pitching speed, but he also developed a comprehensive mastery of slow-breaking pitches and varied deliveries. He is rated as one of the greatest players in the history of baseball. He entered the Negro Leagues playing for the Chattanooga Black Lookouts in 1926. He was a pitcher for various teams in the Negro Southern Association and the Negro National League. Wearing a false red beard, he also played for the House of David team (a team fielded by a communal Christian religious sect that forbade its male members to shave or cut their hair). A true "iron man," he pitched in the Dominican Republic and Mexican leagues during the northern winter. As a barnstormer, he would travel as many as 30,000 miles a year while pitching for any team willing to meet his price. He's reportedly to have pitched a total of 2,500 games during his nearly 30-year career, winning 2,000 of them. Paige's legacy was further burnished in 2024 when the statistics of players in the Negro leagues were finally incorporated into MLB history. Among other feats, those revised stats show that Paige's 1.01 earned run average (ERA), posted in 1944, is the third best of all time. His pitching expertise and skills became legendary during his many years in the Negro leagues; he finally was allowed to enter Major League Baseball (MLB) in 1948 after the written rule against Black players was abolished. The spectacle of watching Paige pitch was made all the more entertaining by the expansive pitching unusual body movements he developed over the years. In

his early years, Paige was known as a pure fastball pitcher. He experimented with releasing pitches from a variety of arm angles something he would build upon later as he added more pitches to the mix. The Bismarck Tribune reported that Paige used "a tricky delayed delivery with great effectiveness," something that would later become known as Paige's famous "hesitation pitch." Paige said, "The idea of the hesitation pitch came to me in a game, when the guy at bat was all tighten up waiting for my fast ball. I knew he'd swing as soon as I just barely moved. So when I stretched, I paused just a little longer with my arms above my head. Then I threw my left foot forward but I didn't come around with my arm right away. I put that foot of mine down, stopping for a second, before the ball left my hand. When my foot hit the ground that boy started swinging, so by the time I came around with the whip he was way off stride and couldn't get anywhere near the ball. I had me a strike-out." He once struck out Rogers Hornsby, probably the greatest right-handed hitter in baseball history, five times in one game. In Hollywood in 1934. In 1934, before a barnstorming match-up, Dizzy Dean, a four time All Star Champion was heard on the radio saying that "Satchel Paige has no clue how to throw a curve." In actuality, Paige had been practicing and perfecting his curveball in secret for many years. When Dean came up to bat, Satchel Paige struck him out with nothing but curveballs—officially adding the pitch to his repertoire. Paige could throw a variety of curveballs at different speeds and arm angles. In 2010, sportswriter Joe Posnanski, writing for Sports Illustrated, named Paige as the hardest thrower in the history of baseball. He based this, in part, on the fact that: Joe DiMaggio, baseball legend would say that Paige was the best he ever faced. Baseball great Bob Feller would say that Paige was the best he ever saw. Hack Wilson would say that the ball looked like a marble when it crossed the plate. Dizzy Dean would say that Paige's fastball made his own look like a changeup." Posnanski further noted that for most of his career, "Satchel Paige threw mostly nothing but fastballs. And he was still unhittable for the better part of 15 years. He was pitching complete games day after day. That had to be some kind of incredible fastball... he was perhaps the most precise pitcher in baseball history—he threw unreasonably and unrecognizably hard. And he also threw hundreds and hundreds of innings," sportswriter Joe Posnanski said. Paige died of a heart attack after a power failure at his home in Kansas City on June 8, 1982. He is buried on Paige Island in the Forest Hill Calvary Cemetery in Kansas City.



THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

The Seasons



I woke up late at night and saw the falling snow. In the middle of the night, the weather had changed. Snow began to fall. Large flakes hovered and floated in front of the streetlights as they fell, and soon the ground was coated. Normally, I would be in Mexico by now. But with my book coming out, we stayed a bit longer. And now I'm glad we did, because two nights ago, my Uncle Andy died. He was 94. Yesterday, I went with my mother and father, my aunt, my sister and four cousins to meet with the funeral director. He was surprised. He had to scout up more chairs. That's when we told him my Uncle Les would also be joining us by phone. This winter was a tough season for Andy. First, he had to move from the family farmhouse, where he spent the last 77 years of his life, to an assisted living apartment. Andy did not want to move. He wanted to stay at the farm. He wanted to die at the farm. He consented to leaving only after his wife, Bea, who will soon turn 94 herself, was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Andy always thought he would die before Bea. But now it was looking as if Bea would go before him—something he never imagined—and they both had to leave the old farmhouse to move into this new, small space. Bea was released from the hospital, and my cousins decorated the new apartment with furniture and pictures from the farmhouse to make them feel at home. Andy complained more or less nonstop about the changes. And he joked. Andy always told jokes, even when he was grumpy. But neither Andy nor Bea spent much time in that little apartment. Bea quickly grew worse. She had some small strokes, and she became confused. She started wandering the hallways, and the folks at the home said she'd need to move downstairs to memory care. This meant Andy would also move into a new apartment just a few doors down from Bea. "I have to move again?" he asked, astonished. He had still not fully settled into the new apartment. My mother explained that he did so he could be close to Bea. "But I like this place!" Andy said. This was news to everyone. Plans were made to move him the next day, but that night, he took a bad fall. He was taken to the hospital. He had broken two vertebrae in his neck. They didn't recommend surgery at 94. In the middle of the night, he died in his sleep. "I don't think he wanted to go through all that," my mom said. "Not without Bea." "He ended up dying first, like he thought he would," I said. So yesterday, we had a mini family reunion in the funeral director's office, then my mother and her sister and a cousin went to tell Bea that her husband had died. My mother said she thought Bea understood—at least for a moment. "How old was he?" Bea asked. Then she asked about the weather. Then she asked again. I was thinking about all of this, watching the snow fall in the middle of the night. Sometimes, when I'm in Mexico, I miss the changing of the seasons. This year, I am here as witness. There's nothing I can do, nothing I can change. But somehow being here to observe the change is good. It makes the changes real. And it reminds me of how very short the days are.

Till next time, Carrie

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders



Early Voting Begins Feb. 17

Early voting in the March 3 primary begins Monday, Feb. 17 and concludes on Friday, Feb. 27. A full slate of contested races will be on the ballots in both Republican and Democratic primaries. The deadline to request a mail ballot is Feb. 20, according to votetexas.gov.

One of the most closely watched statewide races for both parties are the primary races for U.S. Senator. Incumbent GOP Sen. John Cornyn faces two challengers: Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and U.S. Rep. Wesley Hunt, R-Houston. On the Democratic side, U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett, D-Dallas, faces state Rep. James Talarico, D-Round Rock. There are many other contested races on the ballot as well.

Voters can access election information, find out if they are registered to vote, and obtain other pertinent information at votetexas.gov.

MORE THAN 30K VOUCHER APPLICATION ON FIRST DAY

More than 30,000 school voucher applications were submitted last week on the first day of the state's new program to give families taxpayer-funded accounts for private school tuition and homeschooling expenses, the Houston Chronicle reported. The applications will be accepted until March 17 and are not first-come, first-served.

The Legislature provided \$1 billion in funding for the program's first year, which is projected to support up to 100,000 accounts. If it receives more applications than can be funded, an income-and disability-based lottery will be held to determine which families receive vouchers.

"When parents have more options, students have more opportunity — and that's a win for Texas," acting Comptroller Kelly Hancock said in a news release.

Officially called Texas Education Freedom Accounts, the program is being administered by the state comptroller's office and Odyssey, a New York-based tech contractor.

SCHOOL WALKOUTS COULD TRIGGER TEA PROBES

A rash of student walkouts in Texas to protest the ongoing ICE crackdown in Minnesota has prompted the Texas Education Agency to warn school districts they could face investigations and possible loss of funding, The Dallas Morning News reported. In a



letter sent last week to school districts, the agency warned that students must be marked as absent, with schools risking loss of daily attendance funding. It stated that teachers or school systems who "facilitate walkouts" will be subject to investigation and sanction.

After thousands of students from 14 campuses in the Austin ISD left class to protest ICE activity, Greg Abbott called on Education Commissioner Mike Morath to investigate.

"AISD gets taxpayer dollars to teach the subjects required by the state, not to help students skip school to protest," he wrote on X. "Our schools are for educating our children, not political indoctrination."

Besides Austin, several school districts in and around the Dallas-Fort Worth area experienced student walkouts. Organizers pointed out that protests are protected speech, with the harshest consequence being an unexcused absence.

STATE BACK IN COURT SOON OVER NO AC IN PRISONS

Texas will soon return to federal court to defend not providing air conditioning in many of its prisons, according to the Texas Standard. The plaintiffs include advocacy groups and incarcerated individuals, who claim that the heat levels in un-air-conditioned prisons constitute cruel and unusual punishment.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice argues that the prison system needs more funding and resources. Two-thirds of the state's 103 prison facilities lack air conditioning in cell blocks and dorms. Temperatures inside those prisons often rise above 90 degrees, according to readings now required by law.

"There is no mitigation measure other than air conditioning that can protect people from death or sickness due

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

MEASLES CASES REPORTED IN DILLEY IMMIGRANT CENTER, WEST TEXAS

Two detainees at the family immigration center in Dilley, 70 miles south of San Antonio, have "active measles infections," federal and state officials said. The Texas Tribune reported some migrants have been quarantined at the nation's only family detention center. More than 1,400 people are being held at the facility.

A Department of Homeland Security spokesperson said medical officials were monitoring detainees and taking "appropriate and active steps to prevent further infection."

"All detainees are being provided with proper medical care," Tricia McLaughlin said.

The Texas Department of State Health Services is collaborating with DHS to determine the number of vaccine doses needed for the Dilley facility. DSHS has also reported three confirmed measles cases in Reeves and Ward counties among non-Texas residents who spent time there.

Measles is a highly contagious viral disease spread through coughing, sneezing or simply being near an infected person. The MMR vaccine is considered the most effective way to prevent measles.

TEA HIRES INSPECTOR GENERAL TO INVESTIGATE TEACHERS

The Texas Education Agency announced last week that it has hired an inspector general to oversee the agency's growing number of investigations into the conduct of Texas teachers, the Chronicle reported. Levi Fuller, a former chief of staff to state Rep. Andy Hopper, R-Decatur.

"With more than a decade of experience holding bad actors accountable, Levi will help root out the flawed few that sew distrust among families and school communities while helping to restore confidence in the teaching profession," Education Commissioner Mike Morath said.

TEA investigations can result in teachers being placed on the "Do Not Hire" list, dismissal, or suspension of teaching licenses. The most serious cases are vetted by the State Board of Educator Certification.

RRC COMPLETES DIGITIZATION OF 100 MILLION RECORDS

The Texas Railroad Commission recently surpassed digitizing more than 100 million oil and gas records, making nearly a century's worth of documents available online.

"Digitizing 100 million records represents a significant achievement in the Railroad Commission's ability to better serve Texans, streamlining access to our vast library of files and continuing to expand our modernization efforts," said Wei Wang, Executive Director of the RRC.

Digitized records are available on the RRC's website at https://tinyurl.com/yh4e6bf5.

GOOSE CREEK CISD NEWS

GCCISD Family Wellness Festival Celebrates Health, Connection, and Community

Story by: Amanda Kennington, GCCISD Healthy Community School Coordinator

The Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District proudly hosted the GCCISD Family Wellness Festival on January 31, 2026, at Sterling High School, welcoming families for a vibrant morning dedicated to health, wellness, and community connection. The campus was filled with energy, laughter, and learning as families explored resources designed to support the whole child.

The festival drew an impressive 1,309 attendees, including students, families, staff, and community members, representing all GCCISD campuses—a testament to the strong engagement and commitment of the Goose Creek community. Mayor Charles Johnson declared the day Family Wellness Day in Baytown, encouraging citizens to reflect and participate in health-promoting behaviors in and near our city.

“Our volunteers—both adults and students—were the heartbeat of this event,” Lori Rumfield, Healthy Schools Special Projects Specialist, shared. “Their passion and dedication ensured families felt supported the moment they walked through the doors.”

Nutrition and food security were central to the festival’s mission. Aramark Nutrition Services provided 190 Grab & Go meals for youth ages 18 and under. In partnership with Hearts & Hands of Baytown, the festival distributed 13,050 pounds of

food, serving 150 families through the Hearts & Hands Food Distribution. Families had access to 39 resource vendors, offering free health, wellness, educational, and community services.

The event went beyond physical health by supporting families with food literacy and access to resources that help students thrive both in and out of the classroom. Literacy support was also highlighted, with the Curriculum & Instruction ELA Team distributing 400 books and literacy flyers to encourage reading and learning at home.

Educational sessions provided meaningful opportunities for learning and reflection. The Social Emotional & Student Wellness Team hosted “Stressed Out & Puffing It Away: Understanding Student Stressors,” offering families practical strategies for navigating stress and promoting healthy choices.

“It was wonderful to observe parents and children interacting in open, meaningful conversation about current stressors,” said Thresa Caldwell, Behavior & Mental Health Coordinator. “These genuine interactions reflected strong family connections and highlighted the importance of creating supportive spaces where families can openly communicate, listen to one another, and work through challenges together.”

The festival also featured hands-on activities that brought joy and excitement to families of all ages. United Way donated 300 kite kits, and 23



GCCISD campus mascots and Diesel the Fox of the Houston Dynamo come together during the Family Wellness Festival, where mascots also participated in a dance-off. (Photos by: Carrie Pryor-Newman)

entries were submitted for the kite contest, filling the sky with color and creativity. Monimoon Heng, a student at Gentry Junior School, will have her design incorporated into next year’s event t-shirts.

The event was made possible through the support of 10 sponsors and in-kind donors. Nineteen GCCISD campuses hosted interactive booths through their Campus School Health Advisory Committees (C-SHACs) and participated in mascot dance-offs and student performances, including dance, cheer, and student club showcases.

“This festival truly shows what’s possible when a district and its community partners come together with a shared purpose,” said Amanda Kennington, Healthy Community School Coordinator. “Our families left not only with resources, but with a sense of belonging and support—and that’s something worth celebrating.”



GCCISD students and families take part in games, activities, and fun at the Family Wellness Festival. (Photos by: Carrie Pryor-Newman)



The festival distributed 13,050 pounds of food, serving 150 families through the Hearts & Hands Food Distribution. (Photos by: Carrie Pryor-Newman)

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2026 TEXAS PRIMARY ELECTION

JAN 1	First day to apply for a ballot by mail
FEB 2	Last day to register to vote
FEB 17	First day of early voting
FEB 20	Last day for ballot by mail application to be received
FEB 27	Last day of early voting
MAR 3	Election day

Donate Your Car

Imagine the Difference You Can Make

- Every donated vehicle will be properly recycled, reducing waste and harmful emissions.
- Vehicle donations are fully tax-deductible and the proceeds help provide services to help the blind and visually impaired.

When you donate your car, you'll receive:

- ✓ a \$200 restaurant voucher
- ✓ a 2-night, 3-day hotel stay at one of 50 locations

Call 1-866-413-5094

Help Prevent Blindness
Get A Vision Screening Annually
Heritage for the Blind

Cleaner, safer water for healthier living.

LeafHome Water Solutions

Reduce contaminants in your homes water and enjoy the benefits of whole home filtration.

- Softer, cleaner water.
- Removes over 99% of harmful contaminants.
- One-day installation.

Better Water in 3 Simple Steps

1. Schedule an appointment
2. Get a custom water analysis
3. One-day installation

Save up to **25% off** A custom whole-home water system*

Schedule your free in-home water test

1 (844) 991-2369

Promo: 402 - Exp: 12/31/25

**Promotional offer includes 15% off plus an additional 10% off for qualified veterans and/or seniors. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. MSRP: \$2000. ©2025 LeafHome Water Solutions, Inc. All rights reserved. TX, WA, OR, WI, IL, IN, OH, MI, MN, IA, MO, KS, NE, CO, ND, SD, NEB, NE.*

Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber celebrates community champions,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

right purposes, and that it's not just one area of the precinct," he said.

Keep 2 Clean is an initiative to stop illegal dumping in the area.

"We are going to do something more than just responding to it," he said. "It's time for some accountability and so we'll be working with the constable's office and the sheriff's office. We're going to make sure there is a more investigative process and increased patrolling in the chronic site. We'll partner with the DA's office to get accountability."

The other piece of the process is sustainability. "We will have adopt a mile, adopt an espanade, ways that the community can participate," he said.

Garcia also wants to turn on the lights in the Lynchburg subdivision by adding 166 streetlights. The hope is to complete the project by the end of the year.

"There are roads in our community that absolutely need repairs, and so I'm excited about the Precinct 2 Better Streets and Neighborhoods program. We have done 37 miles throughout the Baytown area costing approximately \$16 million," he explained.

The Crosby-Lynchburg Roads Phase 3 includes street and traffic improvements with additional traffic lights. Much of that was completed in 2024 with a \$32 million investment.

The Harvey bond was \$2.5 billion and Garcia said he continues to fight for those dollars in Precinct 2.

"Being on the downstream side of the county means we have greater challenges," he said.

With ditch regrading, they have completed 5 million linear feet of drainage maintenance which translates to over 942 miles, the distance to Miami.

Garcia is also expanding his community monuments program to include Highlands. North Shore and Channelview have already received two each.

The commissioner also said he was working with Houston Mayor John Whitmire to address homelessness.

"I want to make sure that he doesn't push them out to the county and that we don't push them back into the city. Instead, we deal with the individual," he said. "I believe that God has given every human being some value."

The program Empower allows precinct employees to go into the homeless encampments and recruit them, hire them to do work for the precinct. It also gives them an opportunity to plug them into resources that can help them get off the street and back into the community.

The opening of the Channelview Foundation of Hope will bring to bear many of those resources and job possibilities and additional services.

The evening's awards honored both first responders and community leaders:

Highlands Volunteer Fire Department Fire-fighter of the Year (2025):



Terry Davis Award Sarah Davis. Recognized for her tireless volunteer work and advocacy, particularly through the San Jacinto River Coalition and Texas Health Environment Alliance. Davis has been instrumental in environmental efforts and community support, making Highlands a healthier and stronger place.

Ben Coward, Pablo Camargo, and Matthew Bennett recognized for their heroic actions during a structure fire, rescuing six victims—including children—from a burning building before additional units arrived. Their bravery and quick response saved lives under dangerous conditions.

Harris County Sheriff Deputy of the Year (2025):

Joshua Blair and Lola Ayala honored for stopping a wrong-way driver on the East Freeway, risking their own safety to prevent a potentially devastating accident. Both deputies sustained minor injuries during the incident, demonstrating exceptional courage.

Precinct 3 Constable of the Year:

Eric Estupinan awarded for outstanding law enforcement service in the Highlands area, including recovering stolen property, removing drugs and guns

from the streets, and making over 100 arrests. Deputy Estupinan's dedication has made a significant impact on community safety.

Business of the Year:

Kostka Auto Repair (David and Tanya Kostka) selected for their decades-long commitment to Highlands, providing reliable auto services and supporting numerous community initiatives. The family-owned business is known for its generosity, volunteerism, and unwavering support for local causes.

Terry Davis Award:

Sarah Davis recognized for her tireless volunteer work and advocacy, particularly through the San Jacinto River Coalition and Texas Health Environment Alliance. Davis has been instrumental in environmental efforts and community support, making Highlands a healthier and stronger place.

The banquet also celebrated the Chamber's



Precinct 3 Constable of the Year Eric Estupinan. Awarded for outstanding law enforcement service in the Highlands area, including recovering stolen property, removing drugs and guns from the streets, and making over 100 arrests. Deputy Estupinan's dedication has made a significant impact on community safety.



Business of the Year Kostka Auto Repair (David and Tanya Kostka). Selected for their decades-long commitment to Highlands, providing reliable auto services and supporting numerous community initiatives. The family-owned business is known for its generosity, volunteerism, and unwavering support for local causes.

achievements over the past year, including the sale of its previous building, expanded educational programs, and increased community outreach. Incoming President Isabel Dion was sworn in, alongside board members and directors, marking a renewed commitment to

business growth and community development.

As Commissioner Garcia concluded, "I applaud the Chamber's work. I look forward to continue to work with the Chamber, and I congratulate all the honorees that are being celebrated tonight."

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!

Retire with confidence.

Stop wondering if your savings will last. Get a personalized retirement plan designed to help provide consistent income and ongoing guidance from a fiduciary advisor.

Whether you've saved \$50,000 or \$500,000, we'll help you build a strategy to make the most of it.



Spend

Get a paycheck in retirement - no more guessing what you can afford



Personal Advisor

A fiduciary advisor to help you make informed financial decisions



Plan

We'll create a retirement roadmap tailored to your lifestyle.



Invest

Investment strategies for your nest-egg, focused on growth and risk management.

Ready to stop worrying about money?

Call for a free, no-obligation consultation (844) 648-3454



Advisory services offered through Retirable, a Registered Investment Adviser. The free consultation is for informational purposes only and does not constitute investment advice. Investment outcomes are not guaranteed and may vary based on market conditions.

12 HOLIDAY WINES

PLUS BONUS GIFTS ONLY \$79.99

SAVE \$155



Our experts handpicked this highly acclaimed collection to pair perfectly with your favorite dishes from Omaha Steaks. Uncork 12 bottles with bonus gifts for just \$79.99 (plus shipping and tax) as your introduction to the Omaha Steaks Wine Club - saving you \$155.

Then, look forward to 12 new selections every three months and enjoy a \$30 Omaha Steaks E-Reward Card with each future club case. You'll also save 10% on every 12+ bottle purchase and get free delivery every time you order. There's no commitment to continue and every bottle comes with our 100% guarantee.



Order now at GetOSWine.com/Sip456 or call 1.855.581.4275 and mention code AHNE001

Savings off retail price. Offer subject to availability and club enrollment. Omaha Steaks Wine is operated independently from Omaha Steaks, LLC. Full terms and conditions online. Void where prohibited by law.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 538814; Estate of DONALD RAY BELL Deceased; In Probate Court No. 4 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on FEBRUARY 10, 2026 to:

PAULA MARIE BELL

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

c/o Weston Cotten
1500 E. Wallisville Road
Highlands, TX 77562

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 FEBRUARY 16, 2026

Weston Cotten

by WESTON COTTE5N
Attorney for the Estate

SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money

Business Directory

SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money

HENDERSON GARAGE DOORS

281-428-1187
1-800-345-8471
Sales & Repair Service
Baytown, Texas
John Henderson
628 Cedar Bayou Rd.

CENTRAL AUTO INSPECTIONS

FULL SERVICE VEHICLE INSPECTIONS

713-702-3200

JOHNNY GAERKE
OWNER/INSPECTOR

911 S. MAIN
HIGHLANDS TX, 77562

Graphics Unlimited, Inc.

CORPORATE GRAPHICS AT ITS BEST

Signs & Banners

281-462-1200

www.graphicsunlimitedinc.net
213 Kernohan • Crosby, TX 77532

WESTON COTTEN, ATTORNEY

HIGHLANDS

281-421-4050 1500 E. Wallisville Rd.

NOT CERTIFIED BY THE TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

HILL MATERIALS

119 Listi Ln, Highlands
hillmaterials.com

FILL DIRT
BANK SAND
ROADBASE
LIMESTONE

WE DELIVER TO YOU
(281) 843-5000
residential • commercial • industrial

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

IBO CONCRETE WORK

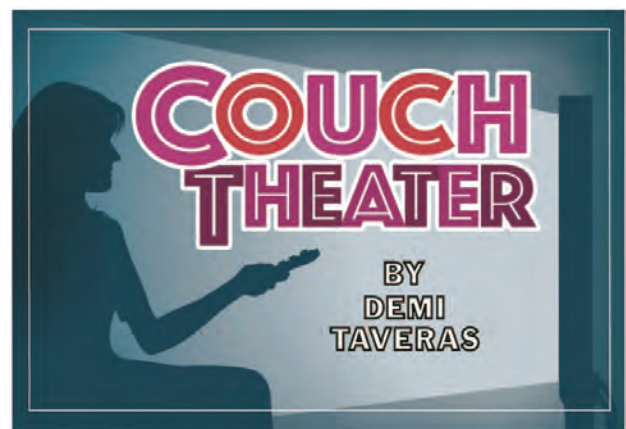
- Driveway Repair
- New Driveway
- Sidewalks
- Patio

Schedule your free quote today!

Victor 832-434-0768

ibconcrete.com IBOCONCRETE.COM

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



Dove Cameron, left and Avan Jogia star in "56 Days."

"56 Days."

"56 Days" (TV-MA) — Between the thrills and the steaminess that this new series brings, binge-watchers might not be able to resist it! An adaptation of Catherine Ryan Howard's 2021 novel of the same name, "56 Days" stars two actors who got their start on Disney and Nickelodeon, respectively — Dove Cameron ("Liv and Maddie") and Avan Jogia ("Victorious"). The steamy duo play couple Oliver and Ciara, who commenced their passionate love affair after a chance meeting at a supermarket. (What a dream!) Fifty-six days after the chance meeting, a body is found in Oliver's apartment, which leads detectives to probe deeper into Oliver's life and his relationship with Ciara. All eight episodes premiere on Feb. 18. (Amazon Prime Video)

MA — You might remember a 1989 film called "The 'Burbs" starring Tom Hanks, Bruce Dern and Carrie Fisher. Well, this new television series is a reimagining of that very film, with Keke Palmer ("Nope") and Jack Whitehall ("Malice") as the main stars. Palmer plays Samira, who takes a chance on moving to a quiet cul-de-sac that used to be her husband Rob's (Whitehall) childhood neighborhood. As the couple settles into suburban life, Samira notices oddities surrounding an old home, which lead her to think that it's haunted. With the help of bored neighbors who have nothing else to do, Samira decides to probe deeper into the old house, but she might not like where the road takes her. All eight episodes are out now to stream. (Peacock)

ris Dickinson ("Babygirl"), who will be playing John Lennon in the 2028 biopic film about the Beatles, decided to make his directorial debut before donning Lennon's signature glasses. This drama film premiered at the most recent Cannes Film Festival and stars Frank Dillane ("Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince") as a homeless young man named Mike. Struggling with addiction and poverty, Mike attempts to get off the streets and find a reliable way to make a living. But with life continuing to put obstacles in the road, the immense pressure that Mike feels is enough to make even an urchin like him lose his mind. Premieres Feb. 17. (Hulu)

"Can You Keep a Secret?" (TV-14) — This sitcom features a handful of movie and television stars from across the pond, including Dawn French ("French and Saunders"), Mark Heap ("Piglets"), and Craig Roberts ("22 Jump Street"). Loosely based on the real-life disappearance of John Darwin, the six-episode series follows retired couple Debbie (French) and William (Heap), who capitalize on an opportunity to claim life insurance after William is mistakenly pronounced dead. Although their son, Harry (Roberts), tries to persuade them to give the money back because this is, indeed, a criminal activity, he somehow gets sucked into the charade as well. The first episode is out now, with subsequent episodes premiering every Thursday. (Paramount+)

Community rally needed in relocate historic 1937 Highlands Library,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

generously volunteered his services, the 15 x 25 library features charming interior walls and a vaulted ceiling finished with knotty pine paneling. These elements have welcomed generations of readers. The Highlands Library was dedicated on March 13, 1937, with W. L. Pendergraft, then editor of The Daily Sun (now The Baytown Sun), serving as master of ceremonies.

From its inception, the Highlands Library served as a vital resource for students in the Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District (GCCISD), providing access to books, study space, and educa-

tional programs. It closed in 1966 when Harris County built the Stratford Branch Library and later housed the Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce until mid-2025.

Preserving the Highlands Library is crucial for future generations to access local history and educational materials. It will also enhance the experience for GCCISD third graders who visit the historical buildings at the Republic of Texas Plaza as part of their social studies curriculum, as well as other schoolchildren.

To contribute to the effort to save this picturesque library, donations

can be sent via check or money order, made payable to the Baytown Historical Preservation Association, to P.O. Box 1244, Baytown, TX 77522-1244. Secure online donations are also accepted through PayPal's Giving Fund at https://www.paypal.com/US/fundraiser/charity/1972386.

Donors contributing \$500 or more will be recognized on a permanent plaque inside the library, in order of contribution amount. All donors will be acknowledged in BHPA publicity and invited to a reception once the library is relocated and safe to enter.

For more information, contact 281-421-2099 or email info@baytownhistory.org. Visit the BHPA's website at www.baytownhistory.org for updates and further details.

Carter-Conley Funeral Home
13701 Corpus Christi St. Houston, TX 77015
(713) 455-5100
*Funerals *Cremations *Pre-Arrangements
Family Owned and Operated Since 1992
www.CarterConleyFH.com

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

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves

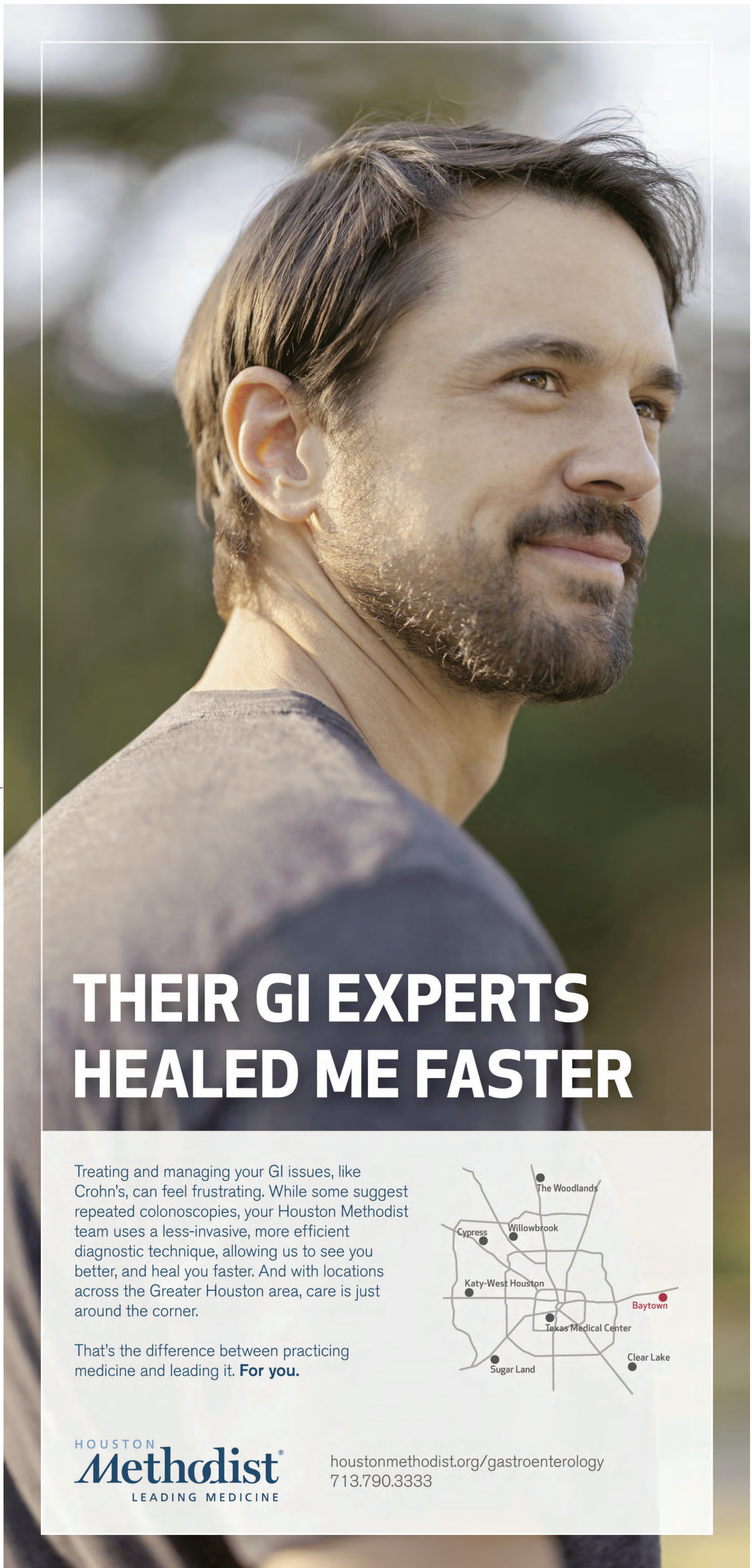


Weekly SUDOKU
5 7 3
8 2 1 4 5 6
1 8 4 2 9 6
9 7 3 1
6 4
6 3 9 7 8
8 2 6 7 3
7 5 6

HOCUS-FOCUS
Find at least six differences in details between panels.

February 16, 2026 Posting Date
King Crossword
ACROSS
1 Lawyers' gp.
4 Radiator sound
7 Explosion
12 Bottom line
13 Ref
14 - Ababa
15 Hindu honorific
16 Obstruction
18 Work unit
19 Incursion
20 Frog's relative
22 - Aviv
23 Chumps
27 Fan's shout
29 Owing money
31 Choir member
34 Like anchovies
35 Hour follower
37 Dog's foot
38 Yuletide tune
39 GPS suggestion
41 Lounge about
45 Toe woes
47 Nev. neighbor
48 "Psycho" director Alfred
52 Chemical suffix
53 Petrify
54 "QB -" (Uris novel)
55 Cacophony
56 "One L" author Scott
57 Right angle
10 Bracketed word
11 Chiding sound
17 Painter
21 Salvador
23 Shoulder wrap
24 "You've got mail" co.
25 Agt.'s cut
26 Cloud setting
28 Rainbow
30 Code-breaking gp.
31 Great weight
32 Green prefix
33 Mets' div.
36 Ray of McDonald's
37 Writing instrument
40 Treasure stash
42 Lab liquids
43 "The Fraud" author - Smith
44 Justice Kagan
45 Enjoy gum
46 Power tool brand
48 FDR follower
49 Post-op area
50 Sailor
51 -Magnon

Trivia Test Answers
1. A hand, and each banana is a finger. 2. Agent Smith. 3. The Four Seasons. 4. Los Angeles. 5. Marine One. 6. Missouri. 7. 1961. 8. A fear of cooking. 9. Jupiter. 10. England.



THEIR GI EXPERTS HEALED ME FASTER

Treating and managing your GI issues, like Crohn's, can feel frustrating. While some suggest repeated colonoscopies, your Houston Methodist team uses a less-invasive, more efficient diagnostic technique, allowing us to see you better, and heal you faster. And with locations across the Greater Houston area, care is just around the corner.

That's the difference between practicing medicine and leading it. **For you.**



HOUSTON
Methodist[®]
LEADING MEDICINE

houstonmethodist.org/gastroenterology
713.790.3333