

IN THE
STARS

JULY 27, MONDAY.

CHCC to Host
New Educator
Luncheon

The Crosby Huffman Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce its upcoming "New Educators Luncheon," a special event dedicated to welcoming the newest teachers and staff joining the Crosby and Huffman Independent School Districts for the 2026-2027 school year.

Set for Monday, July 27, at 12:00 PM, the luncheon will take place in the Crosby High School Cafeteria. This annual gathering serves as a bridge between the community and its schools, offering new educators the chance to connect with local business leaders, community advocates, and essential resources while officially welcoming them to the area.

"The luncheon is a chance to show our educators just how much this community values them," said a Chamber representative. "We want to ensure their first impression is a positive and memorable one."

Community Support
Requested

To make the event a success, the Chamber is actively seeking support from local businesses and residents in two key areas:

Sponsors Needed:

Businesses are encouraged to sponsor the event to showcase their support for educators while gaining valuable visibility within the district.

Giveaway Items: The Chamber is asking for donations of door prizes, gift cards, school supplies, and promotional items. To ensure every educator receives a meaningful welcome gift, the organization requests that all giveaway donations have a minimum value of \$50.

For sponsorship opportunities or to donate items, please contact the Crosby Huffman Chamber of Commerce directly. The event reflects the Chamber's ongoing mission to "Connect, Support, and Welcome," embodying their motto: Investing in Educators. Investing in Our Future.

From Mission Field to Community Service, Holloway Takes Helm at CUIC

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

CROSBY — Jeff Holloway D.D. has spent much of his life serving others, from the churches and classrooms of Crosby to remote mountain villages in Honduras. Now, the longtime minister and missionary has returned home to lead Churches United in Caring, the Crosby-area nonprofit known for helping families facing poverty, hunger and other needs.

Holloway, a Crosby native who moved to the community when he was 7 years old, has been named executive director of Churches United in Caring, commonly known as CUIC. For Holloway, the role is both new and familiar. He remembers when the ministry began in the early 1980s after local churches responded to needs in the community, including families living in "tent cities" near the San Jacinto River.

"I was around when we first



Jeff and Michelle Holloway will be working together at Churches United in Caring alongside LeeAnn Lockwood as the ministry expands to serve the community. Jeff joins as the new executive director.

started it," Holloway said. "I remember when it started and how it started. We helped out all those years with our church, and there were a lot of people from our church serving here."

Holloway said he has long admired CUIC's mission of meeting immediate needs for struggling families.

"There's a great ministry here," he said. "I love their mission — to help the impoverished and help meet those needs in their life."

His return to Crosby follows five years of mission work in Honduras, where he and his wife, Michelle, served among the Lenca people in mountain villages near the borders of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Holloway said the Lenca were considered an unreached people group, with fewer than 2% identifying as Christian.

"My heart is with going to where we're needed," Holloway said. "We were able to help the ministry develop those areas, especially education, discipleship and helping pastors learn how to share the gospel and make disciples."

The work went beyond church ministry. Holloway said he helped support villages through evangelism, discipleship, biblical financial training and practical assistance aimed at helping local churches become stronger and more self-sustaining.

"We wanted the indigenous churches to not rely on foreign help to grow," he said. "They need to be on their own."

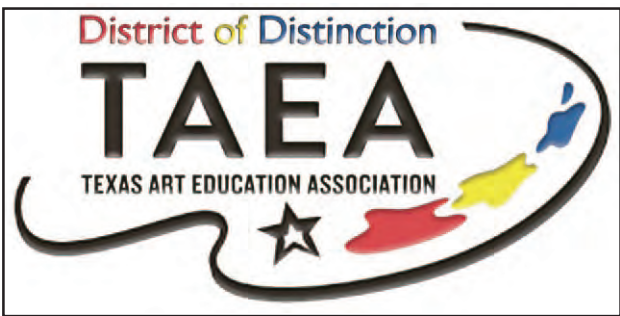
That same concern for long-term stability is part of what Holloway hopes to bring to CUIC. While he said his first task is to learn the organization, support volunteers and understand the scope of ongoing services, he also sees opportunities for the community to think more broadly about poverty, homelessness and financial stability.

"The immediate future is me just growing and learning how to help best here so that I can facilitate our volunteers to do what they're doing," Holloway said. "There's a lot of work to be done."

Continued. See NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HOPES, Page 6

GCCISD Fine Arts Continues Historic Momentum with First-Ever TAEA District of Distinction

Story by: Nancy Bonds
GCCISD Director of Communications



Goose Creek CISD (GCCISD) has been named a 2025–2026 Texas Art Education Association (TAEA) District of Distinction, marking the first time in the district's history that it has received this prestigious statewide honor.

Presented by the Texas Art Education Association's Visual Art Administrators of Texas (VAAT), the District of Distinction designation recognizes school districts that demonstrate exceptional leadership, commitment, and

achievement in visual arts education. More than 1,200 Texas school districts were eligible to apply this year, with only 109 districts earning the distinction.

The recognition adds to a growing list of recent Fine Arts accomplishments for GCCISD. Earlier

this year, the district was also named one of the Best Communities for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation, highlighting the district's continued commitment to providing exceptional Fine Arts opportunities for all students.

Districts receiving the

District of Distinction recognition must meet or exceed a rigorous 14-point rubric evaluating excellence in visual arts programming, including student opportunities, educator involvement in professional organizations, exhibitions, competitions, community engagement, field experiences, service learning, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

"This recognition is a testament to the incredible work of our visual arts educators and the strong support of our district, campuses, students, parents, and community," said Dr. Ray Lavan, Director of Fine Arts for Goose Creek

CISD. "Being named a TAEA District of Distinction for the first time in our district's history reflects years of dedication to providing students with meaningful artistic experiences that foster creativity, critical thinking, and lifelong learning."

The recognition highlights the strength of Goose Creek CISD's comprehensive visual arts program, which serves students from elementary through high school by providing high-quality instruction and opportunities to showcase their

Continued. See GOOSE CREEK CISD FINE ARTS EARNS, page 2

Highlands Rotary Club Begins New Rotary Year with First Meeting



By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

HIGHLANDS — The Highlands Rotary Club held its first meeting of the new Rotary year under the leadership of President Connie Russell at Carla's Snak Shak.

During the meeting, members voted to hold the club's first meeting of each month in the evening at a local restaurant as part of an effort to provide additional opportunities for fellowship and community engagement.

Club officials said more information about upcoming meeting dates, locations and community service projects will be announced in the coming weeks.

Source: Highlands Rotary Club Facebook page.

Crosby-Huffman Chamber Welcomes Music Academy



David Taylor, center, cuts the ribbon at the ceremony with the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce last Friday at Crosby Brethren Church/Church of the Resurrection in Crosby. Taylor was joined by family, friends, parents, and students of the music academy. They currently offer private lessons in piano, guitar, voice, and have plans to hire additional instrumental teachers this fall.

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GOOSE CREEK CISD NEWS

POINT Alternative Center Selected as Texas Association of Alternative Education Showcase School



Pictured, from left, Bill Kimbel, former POINT Alternative Center Principal, and Faith Smith-Chew, POINT Alternative Center Assistant Principal. Photo by Nancy Bonds.

Story By: Nancy Bonds
GCCISD Director Of Communications

BAYTOWN - POINT Alternative Center has been named one of only two Texas Association of Alternative Education (TAAE) Showcase Schools for 2026, in recognition of the campus's innovative approach to student success and alternative education.

POINT was chosen to present at the 36th Annual TAAE Conference, Alternative by Design: Different Paths, Same Promise, held June 30 in Bryan, Texas. Former Principal Bill Kimbel and Assistant Principal Faith Smith-Chew presented the campus's successful practices to educators from across the state.

The Showcase School designation recognizes alternative education programs that demonstrate innovation, measurable student outcomes, and practices that can serve as models for other schools.

"This recognition reflects the incredible commitment of our entire staff to ensuring every student has the opportunity to succeed," said Kimbel. "Becoming a Showcase School has been a goal of ours for the past three years. Every decision we've made has centered on creating opportunities for students to be successful while building a culture where they feel valued and capable of achieving more. To be recognized as one of only two Showcase Schools in Texas is an honor for our campus and our district."

Over the past several years, POINT has implemented a number of initiatives focused on improving student outcomes. Among its most significant accomplishments is reducing the campus recidivism rate from 13 percent to 8 percent by increasing student accountability and providing meaningful behavioral supports.

One key initiative requires students enrolled in Edgenuity for extended placements to successfully complete at least one course before returning to their home campus. The campus has also expanded opportunities for students through partnerships with local businesses and organizations, providing career exploration, guest speakers, and an annual career fair featuring representatives from public safety agencies, local employers, and community organizations.

The campus also developed the POINT Card system, a positive behavior program created collaboratively by staff. Students earn points for demonstrating positive behaviors and participating in campus activities. Those points can be used to earn incentives, including reductions in placement time. Kimbel also meets personally with every student's parent or guardian to review progress and encourage family involvement.

POINT's recent move into a new facility has further enhanced the campus' ability to serve students by providing additional classrooms and increased space to support specialized instruction, including special education services. The campus continues to explore opportunities to expand course offerings to meet the diverse needs of its students.

In addition to its work on campus, POINT has built a culture of continuous improvement among staff. Teachers regularly collaborate through professional learning communities and visit other disciplinary alternative education programs to share best practices and strengthen instructional strategies. The campus has also maintained exceptionally low teacher turnover, creating consistency for students and families.

The campus culture is guided by the phrase "Be Curious, Not Judgmental," which encourages staff to approach every student with empathy and a commitment to helping them overcome challenges.

By being selected as a Showcase School, POINT Alternative Center joins an elite group of alternative education programs recognized for transforming student outcomes and advancing excellence in alternative education across Texas.

Goose Creek CISD Fine Arts earns first ever TAEA,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

creativity through exhibitions, competitions, community partnerships, and collaborative learning experiences.

"This achievement belongs to every visual arts educator in Goose Creek CISD," Dr. Lavan added. "Their passion for teaching, commitment to student success, and dedication to excellence continue to elevate the arts throughout our district.

Together with our recent Best Communities for Music Education recognition, this distinction reflects our commitment to providing a comprehensive Fine Arts education where every student has the opportunity to discover and develop their creative potential."

The TAEA District of Distinction award recognizes districts that provide students with a well-

rounded education enriched by outstanding visual arts opportunities and a demonstrated commitment to artistic excellence.

GCCISD will be formally recognized and presented with the District of Distinction award on November 13, 2026, during the Texas Art Education Association Fall Conference at Moody Gardens in Galveston, Texas.

Power Restored Along SH 146 After Overnight Crash

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

BAYTOWN — Power has been restored to businesses along a section of SH 146 following an overnight crash that damaged a utility pole and caused a temporary outage Saturday morning.

According to officials, the outage affected commercial businesses along the west side of SH 146 between South Loop 207 and Interstate 10 after a one-vehicle crash impacted the utility infrastructure.

CenterPoint Energy crews responded to the scene and worked to complete repairs. An update issued at 11:15 a.m. Saturday con-



firmed that power had been fully restored. Motorists were urged to use caution while traveling through the area as crews worked near the roadway. Officials reminded drivers to remain alert and watch for emergency and utility personnel in active work zones.

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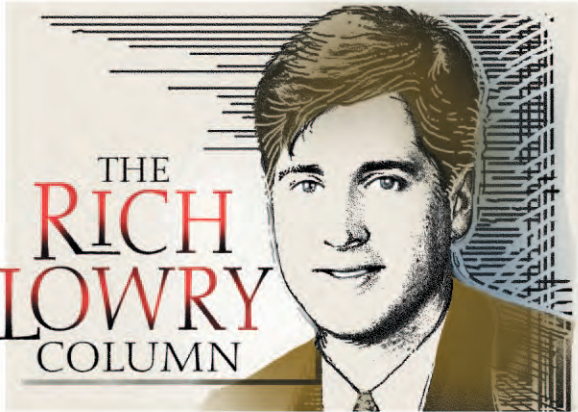
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Zohran Mandani’s bogus opposition

Zohran Mamdani’s bogus explanation for opposing Israel

It’s a shame, really. New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani is such a strong supporter of pluralism that he has to single out the state of Israel for unique opprobrium. Asked by Jonathan Karl of ABC News in an interview for “This Week” whether he supports Israel’s status as a Jewish state, Mamdani said he doesn’t — he’d only support Israel “as a state with equal rights.”

“I believe that any state that privileges one religion over another is one that I can’t tell you I support,” he continued, “whether it be Israel or Saudi Arabia or anywhere else.”

Mamdani makes it sound as though Israel is a theocracy, and so he has to withhold his support until such time as it meets his exacting standards for state neutrality in religious matters and freedom of conscience.

The same is true, sadly, of Saudi Arabia. When was the last time, though, that you heard Mamdani or his movement, the Democratic Socialists of America, inveighing with great moral passion against Saudi Arabia?

This Mamdani line of argument is built on a falsehood about Israel and is transparently an exercise in bad faith and double standards.

Israel doesn’t have an official religion — repeat, it has no state religion. Instead, it is the homeland for Jews. Its Basic Law says that Israel is “the nation-state of the Jewish people, in which it realizes its natural, cultural, religious and historical right to self-determination.” In other words, Israel is for the Jews in much the same way, say, that Poland is for the Poles or Japan for the Japanese.

That these countries have distinct national identities defined by the peoples who live in them doesn’t mean they aren’t free societies. The Israeli Declaration of Independence says the Jewish state “will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture.”

And, indeed, there is freedom of religion in Israel. Christian, Muslim, Druze and Baha’i communities maintain their own religious institutions and are free to worship as they please. The wrinkle is that — in an inheritance from the Ottoman Empire — Israel recognizes various religions and gives their courts authority over matters such as marriage and divorce.

To liken any of this to Saudi Arabia is perverse. The desert kingdom is an absolute monarchy with no political rights and a state-enforced official religion; the Quran is its constitution.

If Mamdani were sincere in saying he cannot support any state that privileges one religion over another, he’d have to set himself against most Muslim countries in the world, which make Islam their official religion and often discriminate against religious minorities. He’d have to look askance at Nordic countries, where there are established churches. He’d hate England for the official status of the Anglican Church, and utterly disdain Greece for its special recognition of the Eastern Orthodox Church.

Mamdani, by the way, recently skipped New York City’s Israel Day parade but attended the Pakistan Day parade, despite the fact that Islam is Pakistan’s state religion and religious minorities face legal and informal discrimination in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

More consequentially, if the mayor took his pluralism seriously, he would oppose a Palestinian state on grounds that Palestinian society needs to further evolve to embrace Western norms — lest we risk creating a new Islamic state that represses its people and rests on a foundation of Islamic law.

Of course, Mamdani will never do this. His purported universalism is a pretext, a way to dress up his irrational animus toward Israel.

Mamdani told Jonathan Karl that his view on Israel “comes back to a fundamental belief that we should all be considered equal.” Such is the mayor’s commitment to equality that he singles out one people and one state for particular obloquy and asks us to believe that pluralism demands that the Jews cannot have a homeland.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Texas Home Insurers See Record Profits

Preliminary data indicates Texas home insurers earned a 22% profit on premiums collected last year, according to the Houston Chronicle. It was the best year insurers have had in two decades and follows several years of double-digit rate increases and flat or slightly negative returns for insurers due to increased natural disasters.

Insurance rates increased statewide by an average of 4.3% last year, according to the Texas Department of Insurance, which was significantly lower than the rate increases of preceding years. Homeowners were still paying about 80% more for home insurance in 2025 than they paid in 2020.

Texas Department of Insurance Commissioner Amanda Crawford said given the profits Texas insurers reaped last year, they should “strongly consider whether or not a rate decrease might be in order.” However, insurers can change their rates without getting state approval.

Rates in Texas are among the highest in the country.

TALARICO FAR OUTPACES OPPONENT IN FUNDRAISING

State Rep. James Talarico continues to dominate fundraising in the U.S. Senate race, raising \$30 million in the second quarter, according to The Dallas Morning News. Meanwhile, Paxton reported his strongest fundraising quarter so far, with his campaign saying most donations came after the attorney general ousted Sen. John Cornyn in a late-May runoff.

“We are uniting Texans onto one team to change this broken, corrupt political system and bring down costs for working families,” Talarico said in a statement.

The Paxton campaign said its increased fundraising success reflects donor enthusiasm to “send a proven conservative fighter” to the U.S. Senate.

APPEALS COURT REJECTS BID TO REVIVE TEXAS DREAM ACT

In a 2-1 decision, the 5th U.S. Circuit of Appeals rejected an appeal of a 2025 ruling that struck down the de-



CADES-OLD Texas Dream Act, which allowed Texas students without legal status to pay in-state college tuition, the Texas Standard reported.

Until the Texas Dream Act was overturned last summer, students without legal status qualified for in-state tuition if they lived in Texas for at least three years and graduated from a Texas high school or earned a GED. About 57,000 students without legal status were enrolled in Texas colleges in 2022.

The appeals court decision means affected students will continue to pay out-of-state tuition rates at Texas public colleges and universities.

STATE LAUNCHES TEXAS CLASSROOM COMMISSION

A new teacher-led initiative, aimed at “putting Texas educators at the center of shaping the future of public education,” was launched last week. The Texas Classroom Commission will be led by Courtney Boswell MacDonald of Kerrville, a former teacher and current chair of the State Board for Educator Certification.

“The Texas Classroom Commission will bring together exemplary public-school educators to identify innovative solutions that help students succeed, improve the learning environment in classrooms, and strengthen our schools,” Gov. Greg Abbott said.

The commission will consist of current and retired public school classroom teachers. It will deliver recommendations to the Texas Legislature before the start of the 90th legislative session in

January.

HISTORICALLY STRONG EL NIÑO LIKELY COMING THIS FALL

El Niño, one of the planet’s most powerful climate patterns, is quickly gaining strength and has an 81% chance of reaching historic strength this fall, the Austin American-Statesman reported. That could mean cooler, wetter weather in Texas, according to meteorologist Mary Wasson.

During the last super El Niño event, in 2015-2016, Central Texas, in particular, experienced two of its largest floods. However, a strengthening El Niño typically reduces the threat of tropical storms and hurricanes impacting the Texas Gulf Coast.

Above-normal rainfall is favored in West Texas this fall, with wetter conditions expanding statewide by December, Wasson wrote.

TEXAS’ ACA ENROLLMENT SHRINKS BY 4% AFTER TAX CREDIT EXPIRES

The number of Texans who paid for their first month of Affordable Care Act coverage dropped 4%, The Tribune reported. It was the state’s first year-over-year decline since 2019. The decrease comes after a pandemic-era subsidy of ACA premiums expired at the end of last year.

The enrollment decline was less steep in Texas than most other states, according to data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The state’s ACA population fell from 3.42 million in 2025 to 3.28 million in 2026 after the tax credit expire and premiums rose.

“We saw record growth in ACA enrollment when there was an enhanced premium tax credit,” said Justin Lo, a senior researcher for national health policy group KFF. “This is the first time we’ve seen a decrease in enrollment.”

RESEARCHERS TO LAUNCH TEXAS WINE GRAPES INTO SPACE

Researchers at Texas A&M AgriLife are getting ready to launch Texas wine grape seeds into space, the Texas Standard reported. The plants will be placed on TAMU-SPIRIT-1, an orbital research platform that will be flown above the International Space Station.

The grape seeds will orbit the Earth for six months before returning to be planted and examined.

Adrej Svyantek, an assistant professor and viticulture specialist at AgriLife, said the experiment could reveal what happens to the seeds when they are exposed to cosmic radiation. That could help guide which crops are grown aboard space platforms when long-term human occupation in space increases.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park.

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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Raspberry Time



As far as I know, most of my people were farmers. On both my parents’ sides, my Scandinavian ancestors came across the ocean looking for better topsoil. I know immigrants came for many reasons—to start businesses and escape oppression and to avoid starvation. But, as far as I know, my ancestors were in search of better dirt. And they found it. A full foot of topsoil was a treasure beyond measure to these farmers who had tried to make a living on rocky soil.

Perhaps it is why I am not a gardener. I suspect I have a lot of my ancestors still in me. Perhaps I am rebelling against the work that was in my family’s life blood. But however I might feel about planting and weeding, I think there is something within me that recognizes the cycles of the seasons, the coming of summer and the pause that comes in the middle of the summer.

Every year, I try to celebrate the summer solstice. I start a new journal. I read my journal from the last six months. I take a long walk late in the evening. I try to make note of the fact that this is the longest day of the year to be more mindful of the passage of time. And since I grew up in a northern state, I always felt I should take advantage of the short, warm months.

It only occurred to me this year that the summer might be a good time to rest.

The seeds are in the ground. The harvest is months away. While a farmer never had the luxury of idleness, it is too late to do any more planting, this time of year. There comes a point when we have done all we can do, and we must wait for the harvest.

“Will you pick my raspberries?” my sister asked.

“Can I eat some of them?” “Of course!”

“Then yes, I certainly will.”

My sister is going to Argentina with her husband and her son to meet her daughter, Isabelle, who has been working there for the past year. They will have a terrific time, with Isabelle as a tour guide. They will see a lot and do a lot and make amazing memories.

My sister is a teacher. She grabs the summer with a gusto that astonishes me every year. She flies out the door on the first day that school is out with more plans and activities than I would attempt in many months. She is a flurry of camping and gardening and traveling and home improvement, and she can never believe how soon September rolls around.

Meanwhile, I have no plans to go anywhere except “up north” to visit my parents all summer long. And I am not at all unhappy about it.

Because I finally realized that, for me, the summer is not about getting busier. The spring was busy. The fall will be busier. This time—right as the serious heat sets in and the first of the berries are ripe—this time is a good time to pause.

It’s not a long rest. We all know the harvest is coming.

But I am taking a moment to enjoy the summer’s heat. I feel the days are already growing shorter and the season will change before I know it, and it will be hard to remember what it felt like when I walked in the late evening and the air was still warm and heavy.

I’ll pick my sister’s raspberries, and I’ll eat more than a few.

Till next time,
Carrie

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Channelview Spill Draws OSHA Fines

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

CHANNELVIEW - The U.S. Department of Labor is proposing more than \$3.5 million in fines against three companies for alleged worker safety violations related to a sulfuric acid spill late last year in Channelview, with the bulk of that fine total levied against a subcontractor.

OSHA has issued citations against the company it said was responsible for the December spill and is also proposing fines against a contractor and subcontractor that were hired to provide cleanup.

The department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) found that BWC Terminals employees mixed fresh and contaminated sulfuric acid, which created "tank overpressure" and caused a supply line to rupture, according to an OSHA news release late last week.

The resulting spill released 1 million gallons of sulfuric acid, some of which went into the Houston Ship Channel, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo said in the aftermath of the December spill. Two people were taken to the hospital and another 44 individuals were treated for injuries at the scene.

The three companies facing fines have 15 business days from time of citation to comply, ask for an "informal" conference with the local OSHA director or contest the agency's findings.

OSHA is proposing a fine of \$82,750 against BWC Terminals. The company is facing six citations for allegedly failing to provide hazardous materials training, "exposing workers to chemical burns,"



Judge Lina Hidalgo

and "deficiencies" in respirator usage.

BWC said in a statement it is contesting OSHA's findings.

"BWC Terminals (BWC) acknowledges, but respectfully disagrees with several of OSHA's findings as they relate to BWC and intends to appeal the citations through the appropriate legal and regulatory processes within the requested timeframe," the company said. "BWC does not agree that it bypassed OSHA requirements or took actions that put workers at risk, and we believe the record will reflect that. We are committed to transparency and will provide updates as additional information becomes available. The safety of our employees, the surrounding community, and the environment is our highest priority. We remain focused on continuous improvement and on maintaining safe, responsible, and environmentally sound operations across our facilities."

BWC contracted with Coastal Environmental Solutions Inc. to clean up the spill. Coastal Environmental then hired One Way Environmental Services LLC as a subcontractor to provide workers during the cleanup process.

Those two companies



are also facing proposed fines for OSHA violations. They did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Coastal Environmental Solutions Inc. could face a fine of \$392,501 for "two willful and five serious violations," that include alleged failures to properly train employees and create an emergency response plan for hazardous waste as well as a lack of respirator use.

One Way Environmental Services LLC is facing \$3,045,452 in fines for "18 willful egregious and five serious violations." OSHA alleges the company sent employees to clean up the spill without proper training, safety measures and tests for respirator fits.

"Despite having full knowledge of the severe hazards involved in the spill and cleanup response, these three employers chose to bypass OSHA requirements and

put their workers at serious risk," Assistant Secretary for Occupational Health and Safety David Keeling said in a news release. "Their joint failure to protect workers was not an oversight, it was a choice that resulted in preventable employee injuries and environmental impacts. We will not hesi-

tate to hold employers accountable when they ignore federal laws that are in place to protect workers' safety and health."

Hidalgo praised the federal government and local employees for their investigation into the chemical spill.

"This decision represents an important state-

ment about the importance of worker safety, particularly in our country's most important industry," she said in a statement. "All companies must be held to the same standards and I believe it is only fair to demand accountability when a company doesn't meet them."

Missing Dog Rescued From Anahuac Marsh, Reunited With Owner After More Than a Week

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

ANAHUAC — A six-year-old dog named Tito is back home with his owner after a challenging rescue operation through the marshes of Anahuac involving the Chambers County Sheriff's Office Animal Services Division and the department's Marine Unit.

According to the Chambers County Sheriff's Office, crews responded July 6 to a report of a dog stranded deep in the marsh behind the 100 block of Light Street in Anahuac. The rescue team faced difficult conditions as they navigated thick marsh terrain and pushed through dense cane nearly 10 feet tall to reach the stranded animal.

After a careful search, crews located and safely rescued Tito, who had been missing since June 28.



Officials said the successful rescue was made possible through teamwork between Animal Services and the Marine Unit,

allowing Tito to be safely returned to his owner.

"Welcome home, Tito," the Sheriff's Office said in celebrating the reunion.

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Audien Hearing

New executive director hopes to expand CUIC’s mission beyond emergency assistance,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Holloway said CUIC’s volunteers are one of the nonprofit’s greatest strengths.

“You don’t realize how much is going on here until you get in here,” he said. “There are so many people. We have such great volunteers.”

He also praised Leanne Lockwood for her work with fundraising, volunteers and daily operations.

“She’s been holding down the fort for a lot of things,” Holloway said. “She’s an amazing lady.”

Looking ahead, Holloway said he would like to see the community explore ways not only to meet emergency needs but also to help people move toward self-sufficiency. He pointed to his experience in Honduras, where biblical finance training and other practical efforts were used to help families work toward stability.

“I’d like to see us begin to see people lifted out of poverty and help them,” he said. “That’s sort of what I did in Honduras as well.”

Holloway said homelessness is becoming more visible in Crosby as the area continues to grow and shift from a smaller bedroom community toward a more urban setting. He said local churches and community partners may have an opportunity to respond before the problem grows larger.

“We see the homeless

situation growing in Crosby,” Holloway said. “I think if we get ahead of the game instead of wait until we get inundated, it’d be important for us.”

He said he is interested in models that help people rebuild community, relationships and faith while also addressing practical needs such as jobs, financial training and housing stability. He emphasized that some of those ideas are personal hopes and not yet formal CUIC initiatives.

“I can’t say that’s a CUIC thing, but it is a me thing,” Holloway said. “I’d like to see more training to help people with their finances.”

Holloway’s roots in Crosby run deep. He attended Crosby schools, played college football at Ranger Junior College and later earned a scholarship to Howard Payne University. After college, he returned to First Baptist Church of Crosby in 1987 and served there for decades before moving to Honduras in November 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic and between two hurricanes.

“It was a journey,” Holloway said.

His wife, Michelle, is also from Crosby and serves with him at CUIC. The couple has three children: Matthew, who is pursuing a Ph.D. in nuclear physics at Texas A&M

University; Samuel, a mechanical engineering student at Lamar University; and Caroline, a high school student planning to pursue veterinary medicine.

Holloway also serves at New Direction Baptist Church, a small congregation on Crosby’s east side, where he said growth in nearby neighborhoods is creating new opportunities for ministry.

For Holloway, the work at CUIC is rooted in faith and service.

“Scripture just tells us clearly to love and care for people,” he said. “When I was hungry, you fed me. When I was naked, you clothed me.”

CUIC also has several upcoming efforts planned, including school supply registration for established clients from 10 to 11:30 a.m. July 14, 16 and 18, and a thrift store sale Aug. 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

As he settles into the executive director role, Holloway said the focus remains on serving people where they are while looking for ways to help them move forward.

“The vision is to see us grow to be able to help people where they are in the need that they’re in,” Holloway said. “But also, I’d like to see us find better ways to see them come out of that.”

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Molly Shannon, left, and Will Ferrell stars in "The Hawk."

“The Hawk.”

“The Hawk” (TV-MA) — This absurd comedy series was co-created by and stars a comedic actor who’s well-versed in absurdity, the fabulous Will Ferrell (“You’re Cordially Invited”). Starring alongside another “Saturday Night Live” alum, Molly Shannon, Ferrell plays professional golfer Lonnie “The Hawk” Hawkins, aka 2004’s top golfer. Determined that he has what it takes to get back to the top, Lonnie signs on for a PGA tour with his son, Lance (Jimmy Tatro). With his can-do attitude, good humor, and awful fashion sense, nothing can stop Lonnie from redeeming his golf legacy. All 10 episodes premiere on July 16. (Netflix)

“Tron: Ares” (PG-13) — The sequel to “Tron: Legacy” (2010) didn’t quite make up its \$220 million budget in the-

aters, with only \$142.2 million recouped at the box office. It also failed to receive glowing reviews from critics, which is surprising considering its lead actor, Jared Leto (“Masters of the Universe”). Rounding out the rest of the cast are “The Morning Show’s” Greta Lee, “Dahmer’s” Evan Peters, and “The Abandons” Gillian Anderson. Taking place in 2025, the film follows two companies that are locked in a race to bring digital programs into the real world. One company, led by Julian Dillinger (Peters), introduces the “perfect expendable soldier” in his program Ares, but what Julian never expected is that Ares’ self-awareness might overpower his expendability. Out now to stream! (Disney+)

“Reminders of Him” (PG-13) — Romance and

young adult novelist Colleen Hoover keeps cranking out books, and major studios keep adapting it into films for fans to enjoy! This latest adaptation out now is based on Hoover’s 2022 novel and stars Maika Monroe (“Longlegs”) as Kenna Rowan. After spending six years in prison for vehicular manslaughter that resulted in her boyfriend Scotty’s (Rudy Pankow) death, Kenna plans to start anew in her hometown and meet the daughter she had while she was serving time. Coincidentally, she meets Ledger (Tyriq Withers), who just happens to be Scotty’s lifelong best friend. The two have an instant connection, leaving them both with a choice to remain stuck in the horrors of the past or brave a different future together. (Peacock)

“Dancing with the Stars: The Next Pro” (TV-PG) — This new spinoff of the longtime competition reality show “Dancing with the Stars” is set to premiere on July 14. As the title teases, the spinoff will focus on finding the next dancer who’ll join the “DWTS” cast as a pro. Hosted by reigning mirror ball champ Robert Irwin, the series features 12 contestants who will live and train together in a “grueling audition process” for the length of the eight-episode show. Additionally, the charming mom-and-son duo Shirley and Mark Ballas serve as judges for these 12 contestants, which is a treat for anyone who’s seen them (or dad Corky!) as pros on the original show. Contestants hail from all over the United States, as well as Ukraine, England and Canada. (Hulu)

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Q:Where can I watch reruns of the medical show “House,” and what ever happened to actress Jennifer Morrison? I haven’t seen her in anything in a while. — M.E.

A: Jennifer Morrison, who played Dr. Allison Cameron on the Fox series “House,” departed the show after six seasons. She went on to star in the fairytale drama series “Once Upon a Time” on ABC, and most recently, she played the First Lady of the United States on Netflix’s “The Night Agent.” She’s also developed quite a career as a director of episodic television shows like “Euphoria,” “Dr. Death,” and “The Five-Star Weekend.”

If you have a subscription to Amazon Prime Video or Hulu, you can watch “House” on these platforms.



Jennifer Morrison as Dr. Allison Cameron on “House”

Q: When’s the new movie about Facebook coming out, and why isn’t Jesse Eisenberg playing Mark Zuckerberg in it? — E.P.

A:It’s hard to believe that it’s been over 15 years since Aaron Sorkin’s “The Social Network” came out — the film that he wrote and directed about the early rise of Mark Zuckerberg’s life as a student at Harvard and how Zuckerberg launched Facebook. Jesse Eisenberg could have easily reprised his Oscar-nominated role of the future billionaire in its upcoming sequel, “The Social Reckoning,” but he declined.

Sorkin told Vanity Fair that he spent three days trying to change the actor’s mind, but Eisenberg stated that he “simply did not want to be conflated with Mark Zuckerberg anymore” and that he has his problems with Zuckerberg.

In the sequel, which will hit theaters on Oct. 9, 2026, another Oscar-nominated actor, Jeremy Strong (“The Apprentice” and HBO’s “Succession”), assumes the role of the billionaire. Why a sequel? After the trailer for the movie premiered recently at CinemaCon, Sorkin stated, “There isn’t a life that Facebook’s algorithm hasn’t touched, and that influence has shaped everything. So, it’s time to say more.”

The film also stars Jeremy Allen White (“The Bear”) as Wall Street Journal reporter Jeff Horwitz and Oscar winner Mikey Madison (“Anora”) as Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen.

Q: Was that really John Oliver I saw with jet-black hair on “General Hospital” recently? How did this happen? — M.C.

A:Yes, even though he’s best known as the hilarious Emmy-winning host of HBO’s “Last Week Tonight,” he recently made his daytime soap debut on “General Hospital.” Back in March, he had expressed a strong desire to appear on a soap during one of his “Last Week Tonight” segments. Not only did ABC’s “GH” respond with a resounding “yes,” but so did Peacock’s “Days of Our Lives.”

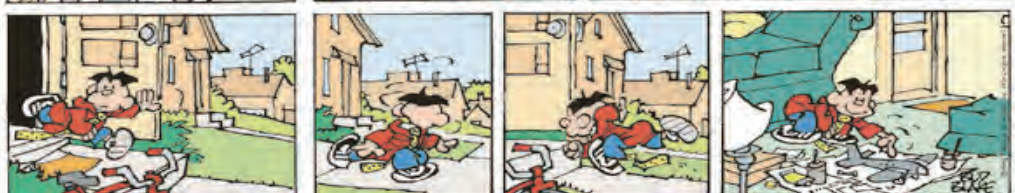
He will appear in three episodes of “GH” in July as the head of the WSB (World Security Bureau) and has a mystery role on “Days” for another three episodes, which will air on Aug. 11, 12 and 14.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Cabinet is wider; 2. Apron is different; 3. Hair is different; 4. Arm is moved; 5. Curtain is missing; 6. Broom is different.

1. "Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery"; 2. Signed on Aug. 2, 1776. Adopted by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776; 3. Africa; 4. "The Wonder Years"; 5. Bloomington, Minnesota; 6. Gluteus maximus; 7. About 97%; 8. 6 ounces; 9. A gosling; 10. 2006

Trivia Test Answers

1. "Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery"; 2. Signed on Aug. 2, 1776. Adopted by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776; 3. Africa; 4. "The Wonder Years"; 5. Bloomington, Minnesota; 6. Gluteus maximus; 7. About 97%; 8. 6 ounces; 9. A gosling; 10. 2006

July 13, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Valley
 - 5 Unruly crowds
 - 9 Dean's list stat
 - 12 Pinnacle
 - 13 Each
 - 14 Science room
 - 15 Show loyalty to
 - 17 Mentalist Geller
 - 18 Green land
 - 19 Critic Roger
 - 21 Finished
 - 24 Love god
 - 25 Parliamentarian
 - 26 Raised children, say
 - 30 Lucy of "Kill Bill"
 - 31 Desert haven
 - 32 Call — day
 - 33 Native of Yerevan
 - 35 Read quickly
 - 36 Mast
 - 37 Bracelet site
 - 38 Pocket breads
 - 40 Japanese soup
 - 42 Hindu honorific
 - 43 Street game for short
 - 48 Pouch
 - 49 Actress Fisher
- DOWN
- 1 German article
 - 2 Suitable
 - 3 Floral garland
 - 4 Surpass
 - 5 Bryn —
 - 6 Mayberry boy
 - 7 Automaton, for short
 - 8 Orbs
 - 9 Crafter's adhesive
 - 10 Henry VIII's Catherine
 - 11 Slightly
 - 16 Josh
 - 20 "— voyage!"
 - 21 First lady of scat
 - 22 Dark film genre
 - 23 Chicken choice
 - 24 Actress Moran
 - 26 Twosome
 - 27 Botanist Gray
 - 28 List-ending abbr.
 - 29 "Great" dog
 - 31 Jackie's Ari
 - 34 Ecol. watch-dog
 - 35 Stuck-up
 - 37 Request
 - 38 "Hey!"
 - 39 Nest egg choices
 - 40 "— 18" (Uris novel)
 - 41 Optimist's credo
 - 44 Mao — -tung
 - 45 Celestial altar
 - 46 Like Abner
 - 47 Country music's Greenwood



Weekly SUDOKU

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

Answers

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

Solution time: 23 mins.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. MOVIES: Which 1997 film features a villain named Dr. Evil?
- 2. HISTORY: When was the Declaration of Independence officially signed?
- 3. GEOGRAPHY: The country of Eritrea is located on which continent?
- 4. TELEVISION: Which 1980s-90s sitcom includes a neighbor named Winnie Cooper?
- 5. U.S. CITIES: Which city is home to the Mall of America, the largest mall in the United States?
- 6. ANATOMY: What is the largest muscle in the human body?
- 7. SCIENCE: How much of Earth's water is saltwater?
- 8. MEASUREMENTS: How many ounces is 3/4 of a cup?
- 9. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby goose called?
- 10. MUSIC: When was Taylor Swift's first album released?

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