



NORTH CHANNEL STAR

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CHANNEL CURRENTS

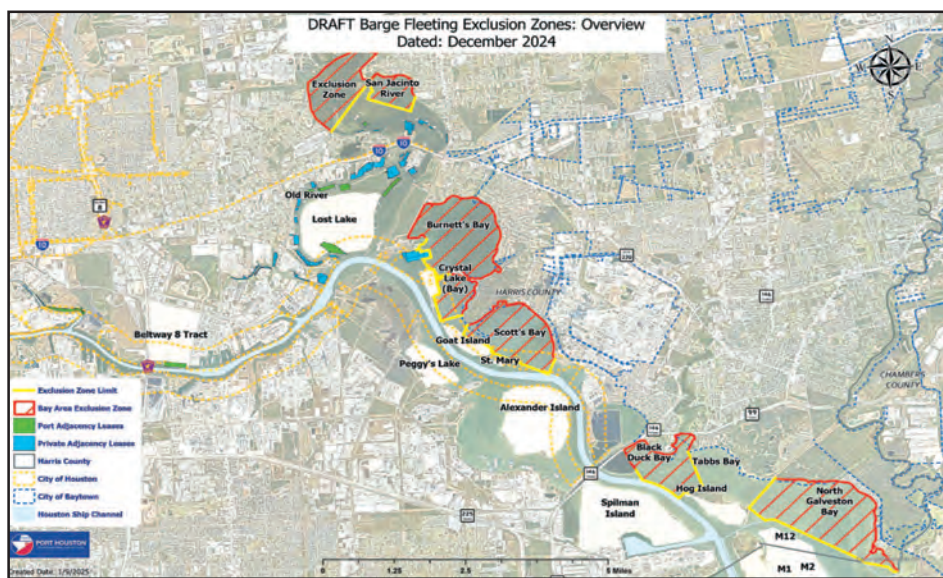
Port of Houston Proposal Aims to Protect Local Waterways from Barge Fleeting

CHIC Sheldon Rd. Cleanup Saturday March 15th

C.H.I.C. will be conducting their monthly cleanup of Sheldon Rd. this SATURDAY, March 15th from 7:30 am - 11:00 am. Saturday they will meet in O'Reilly's parking lot and will clean the medians and roadsides north of I-10 towards Woodforest Blvd. as far as possible. They will also trim the Crepe Myrtles on the 3rd and 4th medians past Avenue C near the railroad tracks. C.H.I.C. will provide Water, Some Tools, Gloves, Trash Bags & Safety Vests if you don't have your own. Saturday's Cleanup Plan:
Date & Time: Saturday, 03/15/25 @ 7:30 AM - 11:00 AM
Meeting Location: O'Reilly's Parking Lot * 602 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, TX 77530
*Please make sure to sign-in before you start cleaning.

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

A public meeting hosted by the Port of Houston Authority in Baytown Tuesday night sounded like good news for area residents on unsightly barge fleeting potentially saving the areas bays. The meeting was important enough it attracted two former Baytown mayors in Stephen DonCarlos, Calvin Mundinger, and current mayor Charles Johnson. Many attending feared the worst—the Port was planning on allowing barge fleeting in the bays and lakes along the Ship Channel. DonCarlos, who has served as a Port Commissioner since 2013, allayed resident's anxiety. "This is not that we are allowing barge fleeting in



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

Burnet's Bay, Crystal Lake Bay, Scott's Bay, or Black Duck Bay," he told attendees. Instead, DonCarlos said the Port was bringing a proposal that would ultimately protect both the safety and view of residents living in those areas. Three years ago, the barge companies were interested in extending their current barge fleeting area

and wanted to secure approximately two-thirds of the way across the mouth of Burnet Bay. "That immediately set off alarm bells to me and I blocked it at that time,"

DonCarlos said. Since then, he said they have been working on the proposal of a barge fleeting policy that would balance the interests of the barging companies that need places to park and the rights of the residents. "My position all along and my reason for insisting on this policy is that we wanted to protect your view and your safety. The issue, obviously, is you did not buy houses along the bay so you could look out at a sea of barges. Secondly, if you are a recreational boater, you don't need to interact with barges with your jet skis or ski boats or anything. I pointed out to the commissioners that we have a lot of recreational activity, and we want to keep barges and our city

Continued. See GOOD NEWS FOR BAYTOWN RESIDENTS, Page 5

CHANCELLOR: HCC's Future Mindset Includes a Name Change

By David Taylor
Managing Editor



Margaret Ford Fisher, Ed.D., Houston Community College Chancellor announced Friday that the college district is considering a name change. The chancellor was the guest speaker for the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon hosted at their Northeast campus on 555 Community College Drive inside the Learning Hub.

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Fisher, the ninth chancellor of HCC, now oversees the seven-college organization that serves more than 88,000 students per year and spans across 700 square miles at 22 locations in the nation's fourth largest city. She has served as the Northeast College president for 20 years and has worked her way to the top as lead educator for the college district. Fisher pointed to the expanded programmatic offerings from associates to bachelor's degrees as a catalyst for the name change. "The process is underway and will include extensive internal and external community input. We anticipate having our findings and recommendations to present to the board of trustees within a month, and in the meantime,

we are conducting an open and transparent process that allows input from our business partners, students, faculty, alumni and the community," she said. Offering baccalaureate degrees has significantly changed the landscape for community colleges across the state in how they operate and expands employment opportunities for graduates. Included in the list of possible names for the college district is Space Cen-

ter Houston College. Fisher said name changes are not new. "Some other traditional institutions such as the College of New Jersey made a name change and is now known around the world. They are now Princeton University," she told the business leaders. "When you expand your programmatic offerings, your endowment expands, and there are other expan-

SYLVESTER TURNER TRIBUTE

US Rep. and former Houston mayor Sylvester Turner Dies at 70

By Allan Jamail



U.S. Rep and former Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner poses in front of the city of Houston's seal at the City Hall. Sylvester Turner - US Rep. - former Houston Mayor Born 9-27-54 - Died 3-5-25

March 12, 2025 ~ U.S. Rep. Sylvester Turner, who rose from a child in Acres Homes to serve as Houston's mayor for eight years and was elected to Congress last year, died Wednesday morning of March 5th. He was 70 years old. The former mayor won election last November to fill late Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee's seat in District 18. He served a total of 61 days in the House, making

him the second earliest death of a house member, and one of the shortest terms in congressional history. A member of the Democratic Party, Turner served as the 62nd mayor of Houston from 2016 to 2024 and in the Texas House of Representatives from 1989 to 2016. According to Turner's family he was taken to the hospital Tuesday night and later. Continued. See HOUSTON MOURNS SYLVESTER TURNER, Page 2

Women's History Month Honoree - (2nd of a series)

Texan Kendra Scott National Entrepreneur of the Year

By Allan Jamail



Texan Kendra Scott, self-made millionaire

March 8, 2025 ~ Kendra Baumgartner Scott (born March 27, 1974) is an American fashion designer. She is the executive chairwoman, designer, and former chief executive officer of Kendra Scott, LLC. In 2017 she was officially named the Ernst & Young's National Entrepreneur of the Year. Scott is celebrating Women's History Month this month and every month by empowering women. She said she's given well over \$50 million to

My wife Linda is a Kendra Scott follower; she has a nice collection of Kendra's jewelry which she's gotten from some of Scott's local shops. And each year at the Houston Rodeo she'll visit the Yellow Rose booth at the exhibit hall. The 51 year old self-made multi-millionaire worth \$460 million, Kendra Baumgartner was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin. At age 16, in 1990 her family moved to Houston, Texas, where she graduated from women and youth causes so that generations to come get to shine bright, and we're just getting started. Continued. See WOMAN'S HISTORY MONTH, Page 6

Darius Provost-Evans elected East Houston Democrats New President

By Allan Jamail



Members & guest attending East Houston's Democrats meeting. L - R: Lloyd Ford, Carolyn Riggs, Jan Crenshaw, Secretary, Charlotte Jackson, Treasurer, Darius Provost-Evans, President, Linda Britten, 1st. Vice-President, Dianna Williams & Tujuana A. Hunter (attending virtually: Tyna Christmas, 2nd Vice-President & Julia Davis, Parliamentarian) (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Houston, Tx. ~ February 20, 2025 the East Houston Democrats held their first meeting of 2025 at the Pine Trails Community improvement Association Clubhouse. New officers were elected at the previous January meeting. Each of the newly elected officers gave their monthly reports. The members discussed raising college scholarship funds, training new precinct chairs

and increasing the club's membership. Darius Provost-Evans

said, "As the newly elected President of East Houston Democrats, my

goal is to increase our visibility and boost our ground operation on the Eastside. The daily news coming out of Washington D.C.

has galvanized the base and we're mobilizing the grassroots. East Houston Democrats are up for the challenge." Former President Linda Britten, and now 1st. Vice-President said, raising funds for graduating students is one of their priorities. She said some students seeking a higher education will need the club's financial support in order to afford college. The club meets at 6:30 pm monthly on the 3rd Thursday (March 20th next meeting) at the Pine Trails Clubhouse; 6003 Wood Bend Dr. - Houston, 77049. To join or for more information contact Charlotte Jackson - 832- 896- 1633.

Kendra Scott: from \$500 startup to billion-dollar fashion empire,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Klein High School. Scott fell in love and “followed a boy” to Texas A&M University, which she attended for one year before dropping out to move to Austin, Texas, at age 19 to help with her ill stepfather.

In 2002, just three months after her first son was born, Kendra launched her own name brand of jewelry line with only \$500. Her vibrant personality and unique eye for design captivated Austin businesses and customers alike, paving the way for a billion-dollar lifestyle brand that's celebrated for its design and material innovation, vibrant use of color, and signature silhouettes. Her company continues to operate out of Austin, Texas, where she resides with her family and many beloved animals.

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

Scott said, “I wanted this house to look and feel like it had beautifully weathered—and would continue to stand—the test of time,” says Scott, whose brood includes children and four large, rambunctious dogs. The manor's red-clay-clad hip roofs

and corbels aplenty are iconic Mediterranean elements, and to some, may seem curiously situated in the Lone Star State.

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

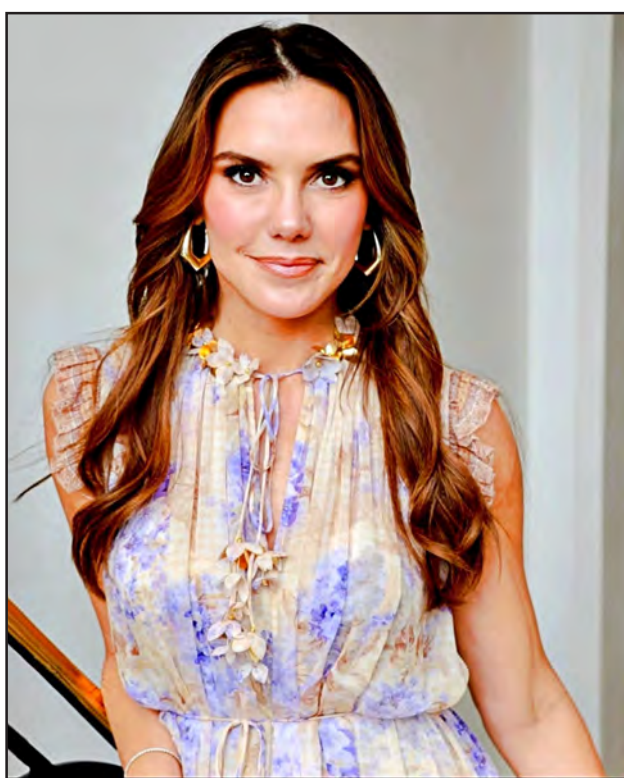
Scott opened her first business, the Hat Box, which specializes in comfortable hats designed for women going through chemotherapy. Scott sold “comfortable but stylish” pieces and donated a portion of the proceeds to cancer research.

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

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

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

In 2011 she opened her second store on Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills. In



2014 Scott opened stores around the South and Midwest while ignoring the fashion elite in New York and Los Angeles. Later, in 2016, she sold a minority stake in her company to the private equity firm Berkshire Partners at a valuation of \$1 billion.

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

At the end of 2019, Scott had 102 retail stores, now she has 138 stores. In addition to an e-commerce business, Scott's merchandise is sold in London's Selfridges, Nordstrom, Neiman Marcus, Von Maur, Bloomingdale's, and over 1,000 specialty bou-

tiques worldwide. 95 percent of her more than 2,000 staff is women. In February 2021, Scott stepped down as CEO, retaining the Executive Chairwoman title, and named Tom Nolan as Kendra Scott's CEO.

She's been married three times, first to John Scott, then Matt Davis and now to Thomas Evans. She's the mother of three sons. She said, “I want my employees to put their family first, and I trust and believe them that they'll do their job, whatever that looks like.”

Scott is a philanthropist with a history of supporting women's and children's causes. In 2015, Scott launched the Kendra Cares Program, which

brings the company's customizable Color Bar jewelry experience to pediatric hospitals across the country. In 2017, Scott's company hosted more than 10,000 Kendra Gives Back across her stores. She gave the money to local causes and also donated more than 75,000 pieces of jewelry.

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

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

Former president of the University of Texas, Gregory L. Fenves said, “We are creating a center where aspiring women leaders can gain knowledge, motivation and experience for their careers and lives after graduation. It is an honor to partner with

Kendra Scott — one of the most creative and dynamic entrepreneurs in the country — to empower and inspire the next generation of women CEOs, founders and innovators.”

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

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

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

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

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

Houston mourns Sylvester Turner:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

released while in Washington, D.C. At 5:45 a.m. Wednesday, he died at home from enduring health complications, the statement read.

He died of apparent natural causes in his D.C. apartment, where he was serving as a freshman congressman. Turner knew he didn't have much time to make his mark in Congress, his mission in D.C. was to defend the Affordable Care Act against Republican attempts to cut it.

Turner posted on X Tuesday night during President Donald Trump's Joint Address to Congress. “Meet Angela Hernandez, my guest tonight at the Joint Address to Congress. She's from the 18th district in Houston, Texas, and came to advocate for Medicaid services that are vital for her two-year-old daughter, Baislee, who has a rare genetic disorder. Medicaid covered the \$23,000 medical bed that the family could not afford,” he wrote.

He had posted to social media later Tuesday night, including a video on X where he said: “My message to the current administration for tonight's State of the Union: ‘Don't mess with Medicaid.’”

Sylvester Turner was born on September 27, 1954, in Houston, Texas, the sixth of nine children of Eddie Turner, a commercial painter, and Ruby Mae Turner. He was raised in the northwest Houston community of Acres Homes. After his father's death when Turner was 13, his mother began working as a maid at the Rice Hotel in downtown Houston. Turner later credited her perseverance and optimism as significant influences on his personal and professional development.

Turner attended Klein High School, which, at the time, was an all-white school until Black students, including Turner, were bussed there as part of desegregation efforts.[1] At Klein, Turner excelled academically, serving as student body president, winning recognition as a debate champion, and graduating as valedictorian.

He went on to study at the University of Houston, where he served as Speaker of the Student Senate and graduated magna cum laude in 1976 with a Bachelor of Arts in political science. He went on to attend Harvard Law School, where he

was a finalist in the Ames Moot Court Competition and graduated with a Juris Doctor in 1980. Turner was a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, initiated into the Alpha Eta Lambda chapter in Houston.

Upon completing law school Turner joined the law firm of Fulbright & Jaworski. In 1983, Turner and Barry M. Barnes, partnered to found the law firm, Barnes & Turner, where Turner specialized in corporate and commercial law. Turner served as an immigration lawyer for many years in Houston.

He served as an adjunct professor at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law, and as a seminar lecturer at the South Texas College of Law and the University of Houston Law School's Continuing Legal Education Programs.

This article about my friend “Sly” (Sylvester Turner's) passing isn't easy for me to do. In 1987 when I was Mayor of Jacinto City and when he was serving in the Texas House of Representatives we worked together on legislation that helped small cities such as mine.

In 1973 while I was on the city council of Jacinto City I and other city elected officials from other small cities went to Austin to lobby for the legislation which created the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District (HGSD). Once created the HGSD was able to prevent further land subsidence. Turner came along afterwards and helped passed amendments to improve the HGSD.

He and I as elected officials worked together as friends improving the lives of each other's constituents. After my retiring from political office we continued our friendship. My USA and union made campaign supply company provided both his mayoral campaign with shirts. He was a proud American and was persistent in honoring American and union workers and insisted on those types of shirts.

As the Political Action Committee Chairman of Pipefitters Local 211, I invited him numerous times to speak to union members. “Sly” was a gifted motivational speaker, he sounded like an old time Gospel preacher, the members would shout as he spoke: PREACH PREACHER PREACH.



Sylvester Turner & Sylvia Garcia



Sylvester Turner & Carol Alvarado



Ana Hernandez, NSHS Coach Kay & Sylvester Turner

When his friends refer to Sylvester as “Sly” it's not showing him disrespect, he wanted his friends to drop all his titles and rather they call him by his nickname “Sly.”

Mayor Turner frequently said, “In Houston, if you can dream it, you can do it.” His life is a testament to that philosophy.”

NORTH CHANNEL ELECTED OFFICIALS MEMORIES:

Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia said: “I am devastated to hear of the passing of my dear friend and colleague, Congressman Sylvester Turner. He was a trailblazer, a dedicated

public servant, and a true champion for the people of Houston.

“He was a native son of Houston, born and raised in Acres Home, in the same year as the Brown vs. Board of Education decision, to a soft-spoken father and a mother who picked cotton. He never forgot where he came from, which fueled his commitment to change the world. I saw this first hand from the moment I met him in the 1980s and supported him throughout his political career.”

For 27 years, my friend was a fixture in the Texas House of Representatives, a man of

strong moral character who always led by example. While serving together in the Texas Legislature, I witnessed how he worked relentlessly to deliver for his constituents. As Mayor of Houston, he channeled fearlessness and grit that allowed him to guide our city through an unprecedented seven federally declared natural disasters, including Hurricane Harvey and the COVID-19 pandemic. He leaves a lasting legacy of uplifting neighborhoods that were often overlooked. We are all better for his work to create a fairer, more equitable Houston.

When he decided to bring his service to Washington, he brought with him the hopes and needs of the historic 18th Congressional District of Texas. He was my partner in good trouble, always ready to fight fiercely for those who needed him the most. My heart is with his family and all who knew and loved him. Houston has lost a giant, but his impact will never fade. If there is one thing he loved more than the City of Houston, it was his daughter Ashley and his grandson Jamison. God has gained a good man in his kingdom, from Acres Home to the Promised Land. Rest in peace, my dear friend.”

State Senator Carol Alvarado said: “Sly was a true Houston original. Throughout his career he worked to keep Houston from becoming a city of haves and have-nots, one of our common causes. During his two and a half decades in the House of Representatives he was a force of nature. He showed his grit as a lawmaker while championing the restoration of the Systems Benefit Fund, lowering electricity bills for hundreds of thousands of low-income Texans. When he stood to speak, heads turned and votes changed. As mayor, he guided our city through some of our toughest times — Hurricane Harvey, the COVID-19 Pandemic and a number of other crises. He touched countless lives and his name is now known nationwide. He did it all without forgetting where he came from.”

State Representative Ana Hernandez said: “I join our community in mourning the passing of my dear friend and former colleague, Congressman Sylvester Turner. Throughout the years, first as colleagues in the Texas Legislature, and later in his role as the Mayor of the City of Houston, we shared not only a professional bond but a true friendship built on mutual respect, shared values, and a commitment to the people of Texas and the City of Houston. Sylvester's leadership and dedication to improving the lives of all Texans will leave a lasting legacy.

His passion for public service, his ability to bring people together, and his unwavering dedication to his constituents and the city he loved will never be forgotten. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, the people of CD-18, and all those who had the privilege of working alongside him. May his memory continue to inspire us all. Rest in peace, my friend.”

Houston Mayor John Whitmire said: “This comes as a shock to everyone, a remarkable public servant who impacted millions of people. He rose from poverty, but never forgot where he came from. It is a terrible loss for the city and a personal loss for me. I ask Houstonians to celebrate his life,” said Houston Mayor John Whitmire, who recently attended church with Turner.

Whitmire opened Wednesday's council meeting, which paused for an hour of reflection, with remarks about Turner's death. Flags at City Hall have been lowered to half-staff.

Tuesday, March 12th Houston Mayor John Whitmire will give brief remarks after the Houston Fire and Police Honor Guards post colors at the bottom of the building's front steps by Hermann Square.

Whitmire will then lead Houston City Council members, dignitaries and guests into the rotunda to bid their goodbyes to Turner. He will lie in state there for city residents and city employees to come pay their respects on Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

To honor State Rep. Turner's 27 years of service, he will lie in Texas Capitol from noon on Thursday, March 13 to noon on Friday, March 14.

Turner's funeral will be held at the Church Without Walls at 5725 Queenston Blvd. in west Houston on Saturday, March 15 from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Let them Know

During the past few weeks, many of us have been impacted by death. Very few conversations I had since last Wednesday did not include some discussion about the life of a true servant leader, Sylvester Turner. For those who have been in the Houston area any length of time, he was familiar to you. For those who have been involved in local campaigns and elections, I understand your loss. Many times, over the years Sylvester and I would be in the same room, and you could always see the concern for other people in his eyes, in his movements and certainly hear it in his words. He will be missed.

Last Monday, as I was speaking to a friend of more than fifty years, I could feel the pride of a son sharing stories about his father's last few months before he passed away. For those of us who knew Terry Proctor or his amazing children, we were always finding out something else about his life and the journeys he took. For those who may not have known him, if you travel along Uvalde Road, you have undoubtedly seen his law office located on the west side of the street. This office has been located there, as long as I can remember. He also owned and operated a museum which too few of us took the time to venture into. In talking to his son David, he shared that many of the items will be donated to various sites around the country. To think we had this in our backyard and did not take advantage of it, makes me sad.

In 2014, God put someone in my life that would grow to become my Best Friend. Talk about two vastly different people. Marc was all about sports, especially football. Anyone who knows me know the only thing athletic about me are my children, both biologically and my "bonus kids." He retired after professional football, due to too many concussions and other injuries on the field. I am the first to admit I attend sporting events to support the teams. Years ago, Brother John Brady shared that men think about the details and women think about the relationships. Those words truly applied to Marc and me. We would be at a sporting event, and he knew every detail of every athlete's statistics, while I wanted to know if they were married or had children. I often wanted to know about their faith and how they made it to the world of professional sports.

Over the years, I got phone calls, and he had been in an accident. First Responders would call me and tell me they could not find his identification but as they looked through his phone, they saw I was among the most frequently called numbers. I would tell them to take him to the nearest hospital and let me meet them there. I would get phone calls from him asking me to do him a favor. Those typically meant some friends had been partying too much and someone needed a ride. Marc was always looking out for someone. He was known for having too big a heart. Many times, his close friend Mike would tell him to learn to say no. He would call me, and I would remind him that giving too much to others caused them to be weak. In the weeks leading to a massive heart attack, he shared things with me that I will remember now forever. I am so grateful that God placed him in my life and on those hard days, I can close my eyes and remember the encouragement I received from him.

With the deaths of all three of these men, I realize how important it is to let people know what they mean to you. And how important it is to let their stories be told. Never forget those who impact your life.

Pantherettes Earn Top Honors at Contest



The Pantherettes of C.E. King High School recently delivered a spectacular performance, earning top honors and showcasing the remarkable talent of both their officers and team members.

Two members of the Pantherettes—Gabby Martinez and Dezerae Williams—competed in the Division 1 solo category, representing their school with poise and skill. The Pantherettes' officers earned high marks for their outstanding routines, securing Sweepstakes & Judges Awards for scores of 90 and above. Among their achievements were second-place finishes in Officer Jazz and Officer Contemporary, as well as a first-place award in Officer Novelty. These awards reflect the officers' exceptional technical skill and creativity. The officers were also honored with a place in the Champions Circle, a distinction for top performers. The Pantherettes' team displayed impressive teamwork and discipline, achieving Sweepstakes &

Judges Awards for scores of 90 and above. Their team routines earned them second place in both Pom and Contemporary categories. Most notably, the Pantherettes claimed first place in Team Novelty, a crowning achievement for their innovative and energetic performance. Their outstanding efforts also earned them a spot in the Champions Circle for teams. Top-Ranked Team: The Pantherettes earned a third-place finish in the highly competitive Top-Ranked Team category, showcasing their strength and unity as a group.

These remarkable achievements underscore the Pantherettes' dedication to excellence in dance. Their performances at the competition are a reflection of their hard work, determination, and commitment to their craft. The Pantherettes and director Brooke Luther continue to represent C.E. King High School with pride and are poised for even more success in the future.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "What are Tommyknockers?"



Have you heard of the Tommyknockers? No? Well, Tommyknockers are mythical creatures who live in mines; not only gold mines, the Tommyknockers inhabit all kinds of mines all around the world. They have different names depending upon where you might find them. In Wales, it might be called the "coblynau"; in Ireland, the "leprechaun"; in Kent the "kloker" and in England and Scotland another name is the "brownie". Stories of the Tommyknocker were taken to the United States by migrant miners and it is perhaps there that their supposed fondness for gold comes from.



Generally, these creatures are said to be about two feet tall (60cms), wear traditional mining clothes, and have long whiskers. Most reports suggest that they are mischievous. They would hide tools, take a bite out of someone's lunch, and even extinguish lights. Some believed they would lead the miners to rich seams of gold or other minerals.

Another idea was that they were the spirits of former miners watching over and protecting those who still worked in the mines. Most stories agree that it could be dangerous to laugh at or ignore the Tommyknocker. This bit of advice is possibly the origin of the old American rhyme quoted by Stephen King in his novel 'The Tommyknocker':

*"Late last night and the night before,
Tommyknockers, Tommyknockers, knocking at the door.*

*I want to go out, don't know if I can,
'Cause I'm so afraid of the Tommyknocker man."*

However, if you want a happier view of these little miners you might want to take a look at Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. These little people certainly fit the bill.

The one thing you can be certain of when visiting Pineforest Jewelry is that you just might hear or even see our very own Tommyknocker. He'll be easy to spot as all of our staff are considerably larger than our little mischievous Tommyknocker

Thank you for reading the "Ask Diamond Jim" column and for supporting the North Channel Star Newspaper!

Diamond Jim is a master jeweler, diamond dealer and precious metals broker. Pineforest Jewelry has been a proud member of the Independent Jewelers Organization (IJO) and the Retail Jewelers Organization (RJO) for many years. See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com.

If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email jmills@pineforestjewelry.com.

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OPINION PAGE

REMEMBERING SYLVESTER TURNER

By JUDGE JOE STEPHENS



Judge Joe Stephens on Sylvester Turner

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

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

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

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

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

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



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Voucher Bill Has Backing of House Majority

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

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

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

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

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

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

FIRST MEASLES FATALITY RECORDED IN WEST TEXAS AS CASES RISE

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

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

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



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

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

SENATE VOTES TO BAN LOTTERY BROKERS

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

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

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

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

WILDFIRE RISK GROWING IN WESTERN HALF OF STATE

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

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

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

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

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

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

'FLOODGATE' OF UNCERTIFIED TEACHERS CAUSING CONCERN

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

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

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

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

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

GROWING NUMBER OF LEAKING OIL WELLS CAUSING CONCERN

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

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

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

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

What Peter Does



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

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

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

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

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

Will the cat return to normal gravity in time? Will we need to keep him on a harness? I'd still be watching Felix floating 3 feet off the nightstand and Peter would already have a plan of action in place—in case we should need to fetch the cat off the ceiling or retrieve him as he started to float out the window.

Peter would know what to do. This is what Peter does. It is not the only reason I love Peter, but it is one of the reasons.

It's called "learned helplessness," when the patient forgets how to make her own coffee (or buy it, for that matter), and everything required for her meal shows up, like magic, in the cupboard.

That would be me. Peter occasionally expresses frustration if we run out of something, because he has a secret inventory system that I am entirely oblivious to.

If I start eating an inordinate amount of tuna or honey or potatoes, we will suddenly run low—and Peter does not allow us to run low on anything.

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

"You've felt this way before," he'll remind me. "It will pass." And he is always right.

Peter does all these things because he cares for me. After 10 years, I know what Peter does and, because he does these things every day without saying a word, I could easily take what he does for granted.

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

Peter often reminds me that we don't know if we will be given another day together or another 30 years. "But either way," he says, "it will be too short." And he is right.

But as long as we are together, I know Peter will be there to help figure out whatever comes our way. And so, no, I was not overly worried about the cat levitating yesterday. It would certainly be unusual, but it would be nothing that Peter could not handle.

Till next time, Carrie

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Sheldon Health Hub Services Available March 10



Sheldon ISD and Harris County Health officials announce the new Sheldon Health Hub, providing free and low-cost health services to support the well-being of the Sheldon community. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on March 5 with tours of the facility. The Sheldon Health Hub is located inside King 9th Grade Campus, 8530 C.E. King Parkway. Once the new 9th and 10th Grade Campus building opens in August 2026, the current 9th Grade Campus building will revert to the Sheldon Education and Community Center with resources available to the community including the Health Hub.

"This Health Hub is more than just a building—it represents the pride we feel in our community," said Superintendent Dr. Demetrius McCall. "We are deeply thankful for Harris County Public Health and the partners who have helped make this a reality, and for the dedicated team who will serve our community. We love where we live, and we are proud to continue strengthening this community for everyone who calls it home."

The Sheldon Health Hub opens March 10 with a wide range of essential services, including:

- Yearly exams to help you stay on top of your health
 - Rotating medical services for a variety of needs
 - Vaccines to keep you and your loved ones protected
 - Nutrition counseling to help you live a healthier life
 - Mental health counseling to support emotional well-being
- The hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling 823-927-7350 or going to the website at hcphctx.org.

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- Mental Health Counseling
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Sheldon ISD Announces Rookie Teachers of the Year



Sheldon ISD Rookie of the Year teachers are recognized for exceptional work as newly certified educators in the classroom. Congratulations to the following individuals:

- Anthony Morris, Null Middle School
 - Iliana Reyes Aguirre, Royalwood Elementary School
 - Briana Hopkins, Sheldon Elementary School
 - Michael Moreno, Sheldon Lake Elementary School
 - Monica Vasquez, Cravens Early Childhood Academy
- These individuals will be honored and celebrated at the district's Sheldon Star Awards on May 1.

Port barge fleeing proposal good news for residents,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

zens apart," the port commissioner said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Both McMahan and DonCarlos equated the



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

barge fleeing issue to the wild, wild west.

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

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

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

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

Former Baytown mayor Calvin Munding lived across the street from Burnet's Bay.

"I spent all my childhood fishing and playing in Burnet Bay," he said. "It's a shallow bay.

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

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



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

mental bringing those barges and tugboats in here," he claimed.

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

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

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

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

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

Houston Community College considers name change to reflect growth,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and there are other expansions. A name change is appropriate," she declared.

With recognized success in their global online college offering, Fisher sees additional investment in the program.

"We have partnerships with businesses partners who have satellite application offerings with off-site satellite locations in various parts of the world. We also have our military men and women who are in various parts of the world on deployment, and we are able to serve them as well," she said.

The college district has been recognized by Newsweek Global for two consecutive years for being one of the world's best online colleges offering 60-plus online programs and 70 that are hybrid.

Flying taxis could be carrying passengers as early as this year and with grants from the business community, HCC will be offering training for maintaining electric vehicles.

The aircraft, known as

electric vertical take-off and landing vehicle (eVTOL), lifts off the ground like a helicopter. The technology is already in use in parts of the world including Germany.

"A few months ago, the HCC Electric Vehicle program received a \$200,000 grant from BP America to equip more than 300 City of Houston and Harris County Fleet Department employees with the knowledge required for repairing and maintaining electric vehicles," she announced.

The college district has also received a \$430,000 grant from the Federal Aviation Administration for the work that they will do with those programs.

Fisher also said she was adding metaverse technology in all their programs.

"This is going to transform the way our students learn and the way we function and will have a significant impact upon businesses with the addition of AR (augmented reality) VR (virtual reality), and XR (extended reality)," she explained.

she explained.

"We are very fortunate to be the only community college that has been selected by Meta to serve on their educational Advisory Committee as they develop the curricula and the programs that will be worldwide."

Many of those programs are already underway or will be offered within the near future.

Fisher said working together closely with business partners is the key.

"I believe that the mission of the chamber and the mission that we have as a community college are intertwined," she said. "We work together, not in silos, but together."

Fisher invited businesses to contact them for specialized training for their employees.

"We can create a customized curriculum for your needs and offer courses at the college or at your workplace. We can upskill or reskill your employees with short term credentials of value," she told leaders.

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PUBLIC NOTICE - CITY OF JACINTO CITY - TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE (GLO), TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT DISASTER RECOVERY (CDBG-DR) PROGRAM- DISASTER RECOVERY REALLOCATION PROGRAM (DRRP)

The City of Jacinto City will submit a Disaster Recovery Reallocation Program (DRRP) application DRRP-193-1205 for \$2,000,000 for wastewater treatment plant improvements in Jacinto City related to the 2015 Floods declared disaster to the General Land Office (GLO). Applications will be available for review from March 13th through March 27th at the City Hall located at 1301 Mercury Dr., Houston, TX 77029 during regular business hours. The City of Jacinto City will submit a Disaster Recovery Reallocation Program (DRRP) application DRRP-193-1206 for \$2,000,000 for wastewater improvements in the south and east sides of the city related to the 2015 Floods declared disaster to the General Land Office (GLO). Applications will be available for review from March 13th through March 27th at the City Hall located at 1301 Mercury Dr., Houston, TX 77029 during regular business hours. The City of Jacinto City will submit a Disaster Recovery Reallocation Program (DRRP) application DRRP-193-1207 for \$2,000,000 for emergency communications systems in Jacinto City related to the 2015 Floods declared disaster to the General Land Office (GLO). Applications will be available for review from March 13th through March 27th at the City Hall located at 1301 Mercury Dr., Houston, TX 77029 during regular business hours.

AVISO PUBLICO - LA CIUDAD DE JACINTO CITY - TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE (GLO), TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT DISASTER RECOVERY (CDBG-DR) PROGRAM- DISASTER RECOVERY REALLOCATION PROGRAM (DRRP)

La ciudad de Jacinto City presentará una solicitud Disaster Recovery Reallocation Program (DRRP) application DRRP-193-1205 para \$2,000,000 para mejoramientos la planta de tratamiento de aguas residuales localizados en Jacinto City relacionada con eventos de las inundaciones de 2015. La solicitud estará disponible para su revisión Marzo 13 hasta el cierre de operaciones Marzo 27 en la Oficina del Alcalde en 1301 Mercury Dr., Houston, TX 77029 durante el horario normal. La ciudad de Jacinto City presentará una solicitud Disaster Recovery Reallocation Program (DRRP) application DRRP-193-1206 para \$2,000,000 para mejoramientos a los sistemas de alcantarillado localizados en la parte sur y este de la ciudad relacionada con eventos de las inundaciones de 2015. La solicitud estará disponible para su revisión Marzo 13 hasta el cierre de operaciones Marzo 27 en la Oficina del Alcalde en 1301 Mercury Dr., Houston, TX 77029 durante el horario normal. La ciudad de Jacinto City presentará una solicitud Disaster Recovery Reallocation Program (DRRP) application DRRP-193-1207 para \$2,000,000 para sistemas de comunicaciones de emergencia localizados en Jacinto City relacionada con eventos de las inundaciones de 2015. La solicitud estará disponible para su revisión Marzo 13 hasta el cierre de operaciones Marzo 27 en la Oficina del Alcalde en 1301 Mercury Dr., Houston, TX 77029 durante el horario normal.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Sheldon Independent School District will conduct a public hearing for the 2023-2024 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) on March 25, 2025, as part of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Sheldon ISD Board of Trustees. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Sheldon ISD Administration Building located at 11411 C.E. King Parkway, Houston, TX. Texas Education Code B39.053 requires each school district's board of trustees to publish annual performance that includes the TAPR report.

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From Left, Milie Bobby Brown, Chris Pratt and Ke Huy Quan star in 'The Electric State.'

'The Electric State'

'The Electric State' (PG-13) — Based on the illustrated novel by Simon Stalenhag, this sci-fi adventure film from the Russo Brothers...

has become a serious dramatic television actress, even earning herself an Emmy for her work in 'The Dropout.' Her latest role in a new limited series based on the book by Liz Moore only adds to her growing repertoire...

'Long Bright River' (TV-MA) — In recent years, Amanda Seyfried ('The Crowded Room')

'Dope Thief' (TV-MA) — Ridley Scott ('Gladiator II') is an executive producer behind this new crime-drama series premiering March 14.

Starring Academy Award nominee Brian Tyree Henry ('Causeway') and Golden Globe nominee Wagner Moura ('Narcos'), this eight-episode series also takes place in Philadelphia and centers around two friends who have a charade of posing as DEA agents...

'Rumours' (R) — This eccentric comedy-horror film led by Cate Blanchett ('Disclaimer') flew completely under the radar after its release in May 2024, with nothing but its campiness to thank for that! The film interweaves two distinct tones, one with the feel of a modern comedy and the other with the vibe of a 1970s thriller...

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Q: How old is Goldie Hawn? She looked wonderful presenting at the Oscars. Is she still acting? — M.E.

A: Beloved movie star and Oscar winner herself for 'Cactus Flower,' Goldie Hawn will turn 80 years old this November! Her last two on-screen roles were as Mrs. Claus in 'The Christmas Chronicles' and its sequel in 2020, with her real-life longtime partner Kurt Russell as Santa.

There was a report of a planned sequel to the movie titled 'Family Jewels.' However, according to an article in People magazine in 2020, Midler had given up on the idea of it ever coming to fruition.

Q: I recently watched 'Buried in Barstow' for the second time. Based on the ending, it feels like there should be continuing episodes. Does Angie Harmon have any plans to reprise this role? I loved watching her in 'Law & Order' and especially in 'Rizzoli & Isles.' — D.S.

A: 'Buried in Barstow' was a Lifetime TV movie from 2022 starring Angie Harmon as a former assassin who tries to escape her past while running a small diner as a single mom. It ended on a cliffhanger, which seemed to indicate that there would surely be a follow-up in the form of another movie or even a TV series.



Goldie Hawn starred in 'The First Wives Club' (1996).

Unfortunately, the Hollywood trade union strikes that took place since 'Buried in Barstow' first aired have likely stalled any progress on a future installment.

Q: Is Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, going to appear on the new 'Suits' spin-off by any chance, or is she done with acting? — K.L.

A: It's very doubtful. Although she lives in the United States now with husband Prince Harry, Meghan retired from acting upon marrying him. She does, however, have a new lifestyle show called 'With Love, Meghan,' where she showcases her love of cooking and gardening with guests like actress/producer Mindy Kaling and chef Alice Waters.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU puzzle grid and instructions. Difficulty: Moderate. Includes a difficulty scale from Moderate to Challenging.

HOCUS-FOCUS puzzle instructions: Find at least six differences in details between panels. Includes a grid of differences.

March 10, 2025 Posting Date King Crossword

King Crossword puzzle grid with ACROSS and DOWN clues. Includes a list of clues and the solution time: 26 mins.

Trivia Test Answers: 1. 'The Dick Van Dyke Show'; 2. Skittles; 3. The Green Lantern; 4. Sweden; 5. Two; 6. 'The Shining'; 7. Epidemics; 8. Warren Harding (1921); 9. 1947; 10. Paddington Bear and the Brown Family.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez. Includes a list of 10 trivia questions and their answers. Solution time: 26 mins.



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