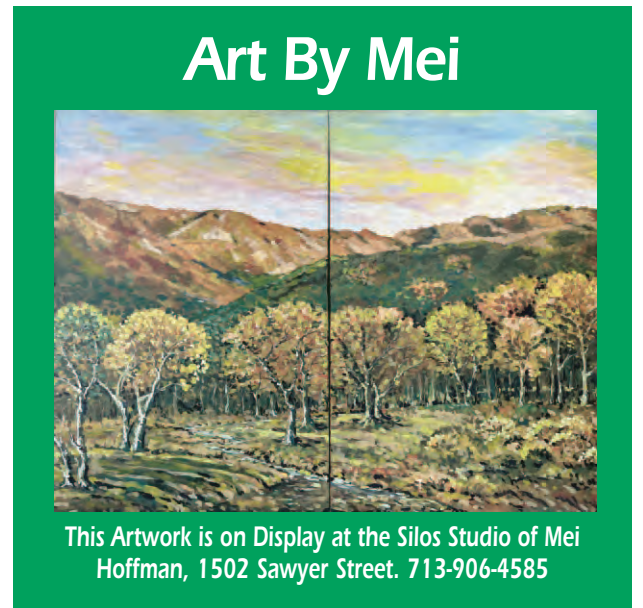


NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR Your News, Your Newspaper



Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
VOLUME 13, NO. 28 (#576) THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2025 www.northchannelstar.com

Abbott calls Legislature for Special Session

Agenda Priorities include Flood Warning, Eliminate STAAR Test, THC Ban, Redistricting

Governor Abbott Announces Special Session Agenda
AUSTIN — Governor Greg Abbott today issued a proclamation identifying 18 agenda items for the upcoming Special Session that begins at 12:00 PM on Monday, July 21.

“We delivered on historic legislation in the 89th Regular Legislative Session that will benefit Texans for generations to come,” said Governor Abbott. “There is more work to be done, particularly in the aftermath of the devastating floods in the Texas Hill Country. We must ensure better preparation for such events in the future.”

The Special Session agenda items include:

FLOOD WARNING SYSTEMS: Legislation to improve early warning systems and other preparedness infrastructure in flood-prone areas throughout Texas.

FLOOD EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS: Legislation to strengthen emergency communications and other response infrastructure in flood-prone areas throughout Texas.

RELIEF FUNDING FOR HILL COUNTRY FLOODS: Legislation to provide relief funding for response to and recovery from the storms which began in early July 2025, including local match funding for jurisdictions eligible for FEMA public assistance.



NATURAL DISASTER PREPARATION & RECOVERY: Legislation to evaluate and streamline rules and regulations to speed preparedness for and recovery from natural disasters.

ELIMINATE STAAR TEST: Legislation to eliminate the STAAR test and replace it with effective tools to assess student progress and ensure school district accountability.

CUT PROPERTY TAXES: Legislation reducing the property tax burden on Texans and legislation imposing spending limits on entities authorized to impose property taxes.

PROTECT CHILDREN FROM THC: Legislation making it a crime to provide hemp-derived products to children under 21 years of age.

REGULATE HEMP-DERIVED PRODUCTS : Legislation to comprehensively regulate hemp-derived products, including limiting potency, restricting synthetically modified compounds, and establishing enforcement mechanisms, all without banning a lawful agricultural commodity.

PROTECT UNBORN CHILDREN: Legislation further protecting unborn children and their mothers from the harm of abortion.

BAN TAXPAYER-FUNDED LOBBYING: Legislation prohibiting taxpayer-funded lobbying, including the use of tax dollars to hire lobbyists and payment of tax dollars to associations that lobby the Legislature.

PROTECT HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS: Legislation, similar to Senate Bill No. 1278 from the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, that protects victims of human trafficking from criminal liability for non-violent acts closely tied to their own victimization.

Continued. See ABBOTT CALLS SPECIAL SESSION, Page 3

CHANNEL CURRENTS

Harris County Tackles Eviction Crisis with Award-Winning Legal Aid Program

By Allan Jamail

Harris County, Texas ~ Harris County has taken steps to address an eviction crisis with an innovative program aimed at preventing avoidable evictions and providing critical support to the vulnerable tenants. The new Eviction Diversion Initiative (EDI) under the leadership of Justice of the Peace Dolores Lozano and Steve Duble, seeks to meet the county's urgent need for action.

More than 81,750 eviction cases were filed in Harris County in 2023; only 2.1% of the tenants had legal representation. Funded by an 11.5 million grant from the Nation Center for State Courts, the EDI offers mediation services, legal aid and re-



Accepting the Best Practice Award for Harris County's Eviction Diversion Initiative are, from left, Tom Ramsey, Commissioner; Lesley Briones, Commissioner; Lillian Lozano; Dolores Lozano, Justice of the Peace; Rhita Koches, TAC County Relations Officer, presenting the award; Gregory Saez, Eviction Diversion Coordinator; and Adrian Garcia, Commissioner.

sources like rental assistance and job training. The program helped more than 10,000 residents in its first year, resolving 84% of cases through dismissals or settlements. More than

half of those tenants who mediated their cases stayed in their homes.

And the ripple effects didn't stop there. Court appearance rates doubled, and the EDI boosted access

to legal counsel.

Judge Lozano is providing free virtual legal services to Harris County residents by using a standalone computer station (Kiosk) at the John Phelps

Courthouse in Pasadena. The kiosk is a free, secure, and private resource available to all members of the public, particularly those facing financial barriers to legal assistance; they'll now have greater access to various legal resources.

She said, “Making free legal services emphasizes that this initiative aligns with my vision of making justice more accessible, equitable, and efficient for all residents. The courthouse is committed to being a place where resources meet the needs of the community.”

Judge Lozano highlighted the program's human impact when she accepted the Texas Association of

Continued. See HARRIS COUNTY RECEIVES BEST PRACTICE, Page 3

NCAC Chamber Coffee Networking Thursday July 24
Join Chamber members and guests at a morning Coffee Networking, Thursday July 24 from 9:00am to 10:30am at the LaQuinta Inn Beltway 8, 5520 East Sam Houston Pkwy North, Houston 7015.
Everyone welcome. RSVP to Yesenia@NCACChamber.com.

NCAC Chamber August Luncheon Friday August 1.
The North Channel Chamber will hold its monthly luncheon Friday August 1 at the Jacinto City Town Center, 1025 Oates Road, Jacinto City. 11:30 to 1:00 pm. Program: A Guide to Smarter Cooking with Chef Shonah Jefferson.
Everyone Welcome. Call 713-450-3600 for tickets, \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

SPARK Parks Executive Director Kathleen Ownby Retires, Leaving Legacy in Channelview and County

June 18, 2025 — After 37 years of service, SPARK School Park Program Executive Director Kathleen Ownby announces her retirement, leaving a legacy of art-rich community parks and continuing partnerships, including Channelview ISD.

Ownby, daughter of the late Council Member Eleanor Tinsley, began working with SPARK in 1988 when she volunteered in her mother's office. Passionate about art and the growth of green spaces, Ownby established herself as a leader and was appointed Executive Director in 1991.

SPARK is a nonprofit organization that turns school playgrounds into community parks in a cost-effective and land-efficient



way. It has constructed over 200 parks in 18 school districts throughout Houston, and Channelview is one of those fortunate districts.

Channelview has three

SPARK Parks in three elementary schools: Hamblen, Crenshaw, and Harvey Brown. The three

Continued. See SPARK EXECUTIVE, Page 5

San Jacinto Girl Scout Troop Completes Community Project at Highlands Stratford Library

HIGHLANDS — The Stratford library had the pleasure of partnering with the San Jacinto Girl Scout Troop for a community project. The Brownies have taken action by partnering with their local libraries, Crosby and Highlands Stratford to help those in need. Their goal? To provide at least 30 hygiene kits, twice before the end of the year — a total of 200 toiletry items!

They decided to use water bottles as a creative container- making it easy to carry essentials and stay hydrated, especially in this summer heat. After selecting the smallest items possible to fit in their

Continued. See SJ SCOUT GIRLS, Page 5



CHANNELVIEW ISD NEWS

Channelview ISD Celebrates CHS DECA Students Advancing to State Competition



Congratulations to Our CHS DECA Winners!

Last week, our CHS DECA students competed in the District competition in Fort Bend, and we're thrilled to announce that the following students are advancing to State in March in Dallas, Texas!

Automotive Service Marketing Series

Joaquin Mondez
Jeremy Hernandez

Project Management Sales Project

Samiya Webber

Professional Selling Event

Kyle Martin

Travel and Tourism Team Decision Making

Joyce Hernandez

Lyrna Moreau

Way to go, Falcons! Best of luck at State!

Channelview ISD School Board Appreciation Month



We are incredibly grateful for the unwavering commitment and leadership of our Channelview ISD Board of Trustees.

Your dedication to our students, staff, and community ensures that we continue to inspire excellence and achieve success together. From making critical decisions to supporting innovative programs, you are the foundation of our district's growth and success.



BACK TO SCHOOL NEW & RETURNING STUDENT FORMS

Need help with your child's annual update or new student enrollment?
We've got you covered!

Receive in-person support for new student registration & back to school forms.

Technology access is available.

DATES & TIMES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025 from 1-6 p.m.

Thursday, July 24, 2025 from 1-6 p.m.

LOCATION

Bill Neal Center
828 Sheldon Rd, Channelview, TX 77530

BACK-2-SCHOOL FORM
(RETURNING STUDENTS)



NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT



FOR INFO ON DOCUMENTS
NEEDED, SCAN THESE CODES



Free

SUMMER BASEBALL CAMP

JULY 28-31 2025
9:00 - 11:30am

OPEN FOR Grades 2 - 9

CHS Baseball Field | 828 Sheldon Rd.
Channelview, TX 77530

FOR MORE INFO: *Train and HAVE FUN*
JOHN.MOORE@CVISD.ORG

ABOUT OUR CAMP:

- Fundamentals
- Fun
- Pitch, Hit, & Run Competition

Golly Stock

**Kerr County Flood Victims
Channelview FFA
Card Donation Drive**

If you would like to donate to the Kerr County Families Channelview FFA is collecting:

- Walmart
- H-E-B
- Lowe's
- Home Depot
- Visa or Mastercard Prepaid Cards

Contact one of the AG Teacher at:
meagan.nash@cvisd.org
ashley.warren@cvisd.org
wesley.hutchins@cvisd.org

Drop-off: Channelview High School

When: July 8 - 10th, & July 14th - 17th
Time: 8AM - 2PM

SHELDON ISD NEWS

KHS Girls Soccer Team Unveils New Look and Social Media Presence



The KHS girls soccer team has a new look and new social media handles! Keep up with summer updates and training by following them on X:@CEKing_Soccer and Instagram: @CEKing_GirlsSoccer!!

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



One Commonality

No matter how much we want to deny it, we all have one commonality. Whether you are a multimillionaire or someone who is sleeping on the hot concrete under the bridge on Wallisville, you have one thing in common. If you were educated at one of the best schools in America or have no formal education, there is one thing in common.

Your views tend to be very conservative. You have been labeled as an extreme liberal. You may have battled health issues for years. You may never have visited a doctor except for routine checkups. The neighbor may have a lighter skin tone than you. Or the neighbor has gone bald. Annually you contribute to many charities whereas your church member may be receiving from the school supply drive or need utility assistance.

You may have a parent who is incarcerated, or your parent is a professional golfer. For years, a family member has attended support meetings to live with depression, or you may need deliverance from alcohol or drugs. You may be a parent who has chosen to homeschool your children. Or you have no biological children but have taught in public schools for more than forty years. You married your best friend, who happens to be of the same sex as you. Some parents "disown" their children, yet others welcome the new family member with open arms.

You may have been born after years of fertility treatments for parents who have married for years. The neighbor had four children, to four different men. Or the other neighbor may be celebrating their thirtieth wedding anniversary yet has never acknowledged their five children born to women outside the marriage.

You may have lost your mother to cancer. Your father was arrested shortly thereafter for aggravated sexual assault. Your uncle was arrested on charges relating to child pornography. You pride yourself that your parents celebrated fifty years of marriage before your father passed away. Your mother was left financially well off. You cannot understand how someone chooses to raise a mentally challenged great-nephew instead of putting him into custody of the state. Yet you donate your limited funds to help abandoned animals.

You point your finger at those who came to America seeking to hide your previous abortion from your husband. You lead the choir at church yet go home to criticize your wife for being ten pounds too heavy.

When does the craziness end? If you were sitting in the same church service I was in today, you heard an amazing your pastor delivering a message loud and clear. His message was part two of a series on the subject of "Church Hurt" but today his message resonated with many. The hurt they have experienced was not from the pastor, other ministers or even the association that the church may align with. The bottom line is the enemy still comes to steal, kill and destroy lives.

Where is the answer? How do we love unconditionally, especially if we have been hurt? We stop looking at the differences and look for the one commonality we all share. God created each of us.

Abbott Calls Special Session,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

POLICE PERSONNEL RECORDS: Legislation that protects law enforcement officers from public disclosure of unsubstantiated complaints in personnel files.

PROTECT WOMEN'S SPACES: Legislation protecting women's privacy in sex-segregated spaces.

ATTORNEY GENERAL ELECTION POWERS: Legislation proposing a constitutional amendment allowing the Attorney General to prosecute state election crimes.

REDISTRICTING: Legislation that provides a revised congressional redistricting plan in light of constitutional concerns raised by the U.S. Department of Justice.

TITLE THEFT & DEED FRAUD: Legislation, similar to Senate Bill No. 648 from the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, that provides strengthened protections against title theft and deed fraud.

WATER PROJECT INCENTIVES: Legislation, similar to Senate Bill No. 1253 from the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, that authorizes political subdivisions to reduce impact fees for builders who include water conservation and efficiency measures.

STATE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT: Legislation, similar to Senate Bill No. 2878 from the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, relating to the operation and administration of the Judicial Department of state government.

Harris County receives best practice award: "eviction program recognized,"

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Counties (TAC) Best Practice Award. Judge Lozano said, "When we serve those facing their darkest moments, we are doing the highest form of public service."

Nationwide recognition also arrived in the form of a Nation Association of Counties 2024 Achievement Award. The EDI is being hailed by its proponents as an experiment in

justice, one that not only potentially marks the start of a larger, countywide program but is also changing lives.

Look for another article in the near future when Harris County's EDI will receive a national award by the National Association of Counties at National Counties National Conference.

ASK DIAMOND JIM



Diamond Jim: "How did the Tennis Bracelet get its name"

Tennis season is behind us. Wimbledon and the women's U.S. Open are finished for the year. So, it's a perfect time to look at the tennis bracelet – a great piece of jewelry that comes with a great story.



At the 1987 U.S. Open, tennis star Chris Evert was playing in a hotly contested game. She suddenly stopped mid-match and asked the officials for a time out. The reason: The clasp on her diamond bracelet had broken and the bracelet had fallen off her wrist, and she wanted to find it before playing the next point. When asked about it in an interview, she called the missing piece of jewelry her "tennis bracelet," and so the iconic name was born.

The bracelet Evert was wearing during the match was a line bracelet set with diamonds made by noted jewelry designer George Bedewi. Traditionally featuring diamonds, this style of bracelet can also be set with colored stones or a combination of diamonds and colored stones. Thanks to Evert's incident that brought it into the national spotlight, sales of the bracelet exploded and became forever known as the tennis bracelet.

Considering Evert's famous mishap, you might be wondering if wearing a tennis bracelet during a match is a good idea. GIA experts offer a few suggestions so you can wear your bracelet without fear:

1. In addition to the clasp, add a safety catch on the side of the bracelet for added protection.
2. Have the tennis bracelet routinely checked by a jeweler to make sure the clasp, safety catch, and mountings are secure.
3. Keep the diamonds sparkling with periodic cleaning.

Nearly 40 years have passed since Evert's unforgettable on-court incident, and the tennis bracelet is still a fashion accessory for the sophisticated set. The tennis bracelet remains popular because it's an elegant piece of jewelry that comes with a fun story. Now you have some ideas to decorate your wrist.

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.

A Help Button Should Go Where You Go!

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

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

No landline? No problem! While traditional alert systems require a landline, with the MobileHelp system, a landline is not necessary. Whether you are home or away from home, a simple press of your help button activates your system, providing the central station with your information and location. Our trained emergency operators will know who you are and where you are located.

If you're one of the millions of people that have waited for an alert service because it didn't fit your lifestyle, or settled for a traditional system even though it only worked in the home, then we welcome you to try MobileHelp. Experience peace of mind in the home or on the go.

OUR BEST OFFER EVER!
From **\$19.95*** /month

GET OUR SPECIAL OFFER NOW:

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

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

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

MobileHelp Features:

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

MobileHelp
1-844-495-5111

*See limited time - promotions available for select systems and subscription plans. Please call for specific details. Offers are valid for new customers and for the first year of service and cannot be combined with any other offers. \$19.95 is the monthly subscription price for a MobileHelp Classic (not home only) system. There is a one-time \$49.95 processing fee to subscribe to this plan. Equipment shown in the Marketing 2002 (not home and on-the-go) system available at a higher monthly cost. Most equipment is included at no cost while delivery and setup are subject to your location. Free one month of service offer valid with purchase of Annual plan and includes month 13 at no additional charge. Refer to terms and conditions for specific details. Depending on the promotion chosen, you may receive an additional savings of \$5.50 off the \$11 retail price of Fall Detect service. After first year. Fall Detect pricing reverts to discounted price of \$8.25/month when combined with MobileHelp Connect Premium. Fall Detect does not detect 100% of falls. If able, users should push their help button when they need assistance. Fall detection is not intended to replace a caregiver. MobileHelp is a registered trademark, patented technology. Current GPS location may not always be available in every situation on the cellular network of all times. Expedited shipping offer for Annual plans made prior to 3 PM EST Mon-Fri. Expedited shipping is available 2-3 day - no difference in Saturday/Sunday or in Hawaii or Alaska. Shipping delays may occur due to situations beyond our control. PF-SPR02050311458

AMERICA'S ORIGINAL BUTCHER

OMAHA STEAKS

SINCE 1917

Summer Like You Mean It With

WORLD-FAMOUS PERFECTION

- ✓ The world's most tender, flavorful steaks, extra-aged to perfection.
- ✓ The juiciest air-chilled chicken, tastiest pork, and so much more.
- ✓ Every bite is a 100% guaranteed gourmet experience you'll crave.

All-Time Grilling Faves **SAVE 58%**

- 4 Butcher's Cut Top Sirloins (5 oz.)
- 4 Air-Chilled Boneless Chicken Breasts (4 oz.)
- 4 Boneless Pork Chops (5 oz.)
- 4 Gourmet Jumbo Franks (3 oz.)
- 4 Potatoes au Gratin (2.8 oz.)
- 4 Caramel Apple Tartlets (4 oz.)
- 1 Omaha Steaks Seasoning (3 oz.)
- 8 FREE Omaha Steaks Burgers (4 oz.)**

75432VGS separately \$249.99 **\$99.99**
SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE

8 FREE BURGERS (\$22 value)

ORDER NOW! » 1.888.465.4026 Ask for 75432VGS
OmahaSteaks.com/GrillFaves1772

Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. 8 free 4 oz. burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes SKU 75432. Limit 2 on select items at these exclusive prices. While supplies last, items may be substituted due to inventory limitations. Standard shipping rates will be applied and are subject to change. Minimum purchase and other restrictions may apply. Some products may not be available for sale in your area. Sales are subject to OmahaSteaks.com/terms-of-use. Expires 06/30/25. 25AM070 | Omaha Steaks, LLC

'Engaged'

has a ring to it.

Diamond Jim's Pineforest Jewelry Experience

1141 Uvalde Road • Houston, Texas 77015
(713) 451-1321

Dealing with the loss of a loved one is never easy, but maybe these guys can help!

We're the only funeral home in the Houston area providing full-time, certified therapy dogs for the comfort of our families and guests

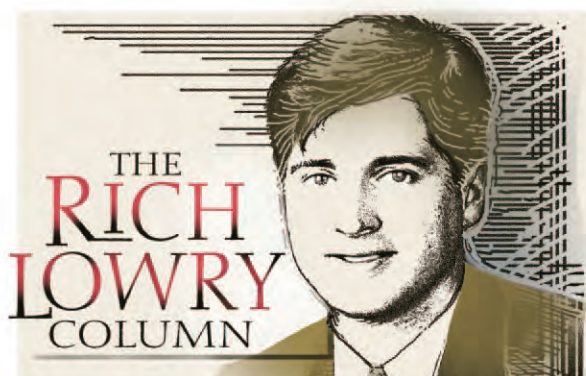
Axi and Izzy are both certified grief therapy dogs. You can follow them on Facebook and Instagram @GriefTherapyDood

CARTER • CONLEY FUNERAL HOME

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED FOR OVER 30 YEARS

13701 Corpus Christi St. Houston, TX 77015 • (713) 455-5100
www.carterconleyfn.com

OPINION PAGE



Blow Up Washington DC's brutalist buildings, and the sooner, the better

There's a reason God created dynamite. The brutalist federal buildings that have blighted Washington, D.C., for decades deserve the same fate as Carthage after the Third Punic War...

The Department of Housing and Urban and Development just announced that it is leaving its god-awful headquarters in Washington for a less hideous space in Northern Virginia.



Meanwhile, the FBI is also departing its HQ, designated by the U.K. building materials retailer Buildworld as the ugliest building in the United States and the second ugliest in the world.

The moves are in keeping with the spirit of President Trump's executive order stipulating that federal buildings should "respect regional, traditional and classical architectural heritage in order to uplift and beautify public spaces and ennoble the United States and our system of self-government."

That EO should be considered common sense, but has several trigger words for defenders of the architectural status quo, including "traditional," "classical" and, perhaps foremost of all, "beautify."

According to The Nation magazine, Trump's initiative is part of an agenda to "make historical architecture on the whole inextricable from Eurocentric white supremacy."

Brutalism, with its blocky, minimalist structures made of poured concrete, was a creation of a post-war Europe that wanted to embrace the fresh and new and to economize on rebuilding.

To be sure, concrete is extremely important to modern life, but no one has ever said, "Oh, it's so elegant and uplifting." The brutalist buildings in Washington were largely built between the late 1960s and mid-1970s...

The seedbed of the trend was a Kennedy administration commission that advocated contemporary designs and said — laughably, in retrospect — that federal architecture should "reflect the dignity, enterprise, vigor and stability of the American national government."

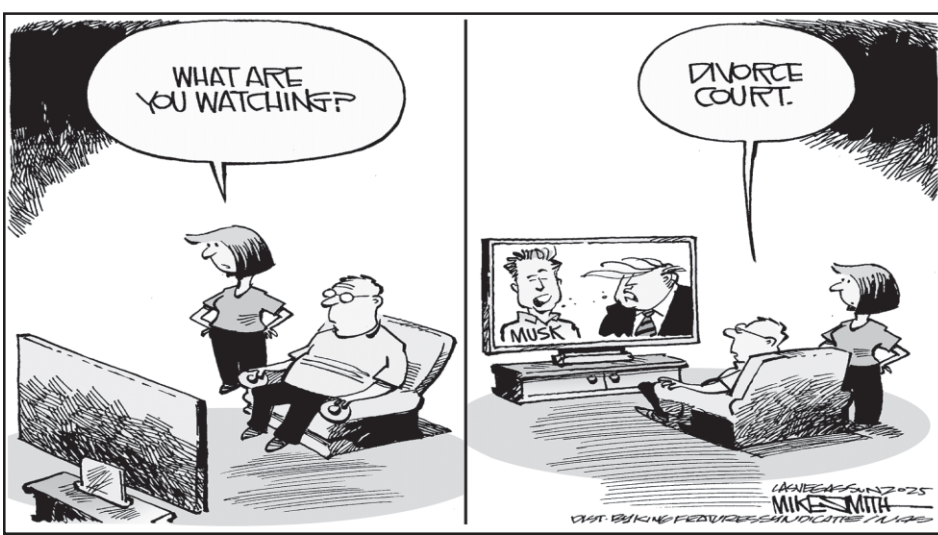
Instead, the brutalist buildings speak of a lumbering bureaucracy with no regard for the sensibilities or priorities of ordinary people. They are about what you'd expect if a DMV were headquartered in a maximum-security prison or in a massive pillbox.

The buildings could easily be used as stage sets for docudramas about East Germany. They are a tribute to soulless monumentality and a gut punch to the human spirit.

The original justifications of brutalism no longer apply. The buildings aren't new anymore, and aren't cheap. They haven't aged well in any sense, not aesthetically or functionally.

Defenders of the brutalist buildings say that they are now part of our heritage and should be preserved as such. That's not fair, though, to the people who have to work in them, or who walk or drive by them every day.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5906 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Death toll climbs in Hill Country flooding: Legislators will investigate response to crisis

Gov. Greg Abbott said Sunday he's likely to instruct the Texas Legislature to investigate early warning systems and other governmental responses to July 4 flash flooding that killed at least 82 people in the Hill Country.

Lawmakers are set to convene in Austin on July 21. Meanwhile, as of late Sunday an additional 41 people were still missing. In addition to local first responders, more than 1,300 state personnel were dispatched to the scene.

Abbott has issued a disaster declaration covering 21 Hill Country counties, where rain continued to fall through the weekend.

"We will be relentless in going after and ensuring that we locate every single person who's been a victim of this flooding event," Abbott said. "We're not going to stop today or tomorrow."

APPEALS COURT: IMMIGRATION LAW UNCONSTITUTIONAL

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals has blocked a 2023 Texas immigration law that would have permitted local police to arrest people believed to have illegally crossed the Texas-Mexico border.

"For nearly 150 years, the Supreme Court has recognized that the power to control immigration — the entry, admission, and removal of aliens — is exclusively a federal power," the ruling says.

The Trump administration earlier this year dropped the federal government's opposition to a suit filed by two immigrant rights groups and El Paso County challenging the constitutionality of the Texas state law.

It was not immediately known whether the state will appeal the Fifth Circuit ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

INTERFAITH PARENTS SUE TO BLOCK TEN COMMANDMENTS LAW

Two separate lawsuits are challenging a law passed dur-



ing the last legislative session requiring posters of the Ten Commandments be hung in all public-school classrooms.

"Permanently posting the Ten Commandments in every Texas public-school classroom — rendering them unavoidable — is plainly unconstitutional," one of the suits states.

The plaintiffs are parents from Jewish, Christian, Unitarian Universalist and Hindu faiths, plus some who are nonreligious. They are represented by the American Civil Liberties Union and Americans United for Church and Faith.

The new law, which would take effect in September if a court doesn't halt it, would require all publicly funded schools to hang a 16-by-20-inch framed poster of the Ten Commandment in a "conspicuous place" in every classroom.

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS SQUEEZED BY FEDERAL FUNDING FREEZE

A federal hold on funding for adult education programs is affecting Texans enrolled in such programs as GED classes, workforce training, and instruction in English.

Sharon Bonney, CEO of the national Coalition on Adult Basic Education, said people enrolled in adult education programs could have their studies interrupted in the next few weeks.

"Closures will start im-

mediately," Bonney said. "We've already heard from a number of local programs. This is going to be across-the-board mass closures and layoffs."

The funding usually goes to states from the Department of Education as part of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act, passed in 2014.

NORTHEAST TEXAS FARMER PLANS RUN AGAINST ABBOTT

A former firefighter and farmer from Wood County plans to run next year as a Democrat against Abbott, the Houston Chronicle reported.

"Republicans have spent 30 years in office, and working men and women have been having to pay the cost," Cole, 55, said. "It has to stop."

Cole retired as a firefighter in Texarkana and later Plano. He maintains a family farm in Quitman where they raise 300 head of cattle and also chickens.

Abbott has been governor since 2014 and has already announced plans to run for reelection.

FUNDING BOOST FOR SCHOOLS COMES WITH STRINGS ATTACHED

Texas lawmakers are providing public schools with \$8.5 billion in new funding, but some school administrators say the money comes with provisions that limit their independence to a greater degree than previously.

The largest portion of the new money goes for teacher raises, with districts having little discretion on who gets raises. Lawmakers did not significantly raise the base amount school districts receive, leaving some districts struggling to pay for non-teacher items, such as rising operational costs and compensation for support staff.

Some educators say that while they are grateful for the teacher pay raises, they are disappointed in a lack of flexibility in how money is spent.

"I think that that's really, really dangerous when you don't trust leaders in public education to do the best they can for kids," said Megan Simoneau, an educator of 21 years who teaches high school math in the Leander school district.

SUMMER ANTI-DRUNK DRIVING CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

More than 1,000 deaths were recorded in Texas last year from alcohol-related crashes, and the Texas Department of Transportation is again launching a public awareness campaign to cut down on those fatalities.

The agency's "Drive Sober. No Regrets" campaign is underway, along with increased law enforcement continuing through mid-July.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Another Time



"I'm going to take the pontoon out tonight, and you're invited to join me," my parents' neighbor Rod told them.

It was a nice night—not too warm, with very little wind. It was a perfect night for a pontoon ride around the lake.

My parents co-own a pontoon boat with their next-door neighbors, Char and Rod. Even with two families owning it, it doesn't get a lot of use.

"We own the boat, and we might as well use it," he said. "I'm not getting any younger! You should use it, too!"

Rod went on to say that he was making an effort to do things he put off because he always thought he'd have time later. Rod is approaching 90 and has come to the realization that doing things now might be a good idea.

We didn't take a pontoon ride.

My mother was feeling a bit under the weather. We were planning to go to a restaurant that we feared might fill up if we got there too late. Rod nodded, but I could tell he thought we ought to get on that pontoon boat anyway.

"Another time," he said. And I thought how often I assume there will be another time.

The year is half over, and when I think of the things I want most to do, I find that I spend very little time actually doing those things.

I love to read, but I go for days without picking up a book. I love to write, but I will resist starting a new writing project until I have completely finished the previous thing.

I was a somewhat sulky teenager. I don't think, on the sulkiness scale, I was over the top, but I was a teenager, after all. My dad wanted me to go to a talk given by a naturalist. I was not excited.

I had a wonderful time. And I remember—as clear as if it were yesterday—walking back into the house after the talk and realizing how wrong I had been. I still try to remember that feeling.

Tonight, I am invited to a picnic. I won't know a single person there. It's a gathering of writers I have never met. It's being held in a park I've never been to, so I'm not sure how to get there.

And I'm going. Because I think Rod is right. I am never going to regret the rides I take. While I don't need to fill every waking moment with activity, trying something new is how I can make this day memorable, different from the day that came before and after.

The pontoon boat is there, waiting for me, and another time to take this ride simply may not come. It's time for a ride.

Till next time, Carrie

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

Kathleen Ownby retires as SPARK executive director,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



locations are open to the public after school hours, which means they can be enjoyed year-round with family and friends in the afternoons, during the weekends and on holidays.

"They are your parks! Your playground, your outdoor lab, they are your greenspace," said

Channelview ISD Superintendent Dr. Tory Hill. "They are recreational areas where everyone can gather and enjoy, boosting the spirit and appearance of the Channelview community."

This statement perfectly reflects Ownby's and the SPARK organization's mission to create vibrant greenspaces for all to enjoy. The parks offer unique playground designs, shaded areas with trees, walking trails, and distinctive community-inspired artwork, so grab your families and visit one of Channel-



view's three SPARK Parks. school events SUMMER - Dawn to dusk

Park Hours:
SCHOOL DAYS - 3:40 p.m. to dusk

WEEKENDS - Dawn to dusk, unless closed for

With permission from the schools, SPARK Parks can also be used for birthday parties and other events.

SJ Girl Scout Troop completes community project at Stratford Library,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

water bottles, they used their hard-earned cookie money to order items and rallied the troop to assemble the kits.

These photos are from their visit to the Highlands Stratford Library where the girls delivered more than 50 kits to stock up our Little Hygiene Houses. They even got a chance to hand out their first kit to a community member in need.



East Houston Democrats Thank Community for Support, Announce Upcoming Events and Scholarship Fundraiser

East Houston Democrats would like to thank community members who supported both our Scholarship Fish Fry as well as our First Annual Book and Game Drive for several community programs.

If you missed the Fish Fry Fundraiser and would like to contribute to the Tujuana Hunter Memorial Scholarship fund, please contact Darius Provst-Evans at 281-783-4079. Funds will be used to sponsor scholarships for Class of 2026 Graduates from Channelview ISD, Galena Park ISD and Sheldon ISD.

You are invited to attend our next monthly Membership Meeting on Thursday, July 17 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held virtually to hear from State Representative Harold Dutton of District 142. He will be discussing issues that happened in the last session as well as what is happening in the Special Session. Please contact Club President Darius Provst-Evans at 281-783-4079 for the link for meeting.

Also, mark Thursday, August 21 on your calendar for our next meeting with guest speaker Staci Childs. And make plans now to attend our 10th Anniversary Celebration on Thursday, September 18 at 6:30 p.m. Details to be announced on our Facebook page shortly.

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



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

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



America's #1 Awning!

STORM TIGHT WINDOWS PROTECT YOUR HOME!

The New #1 Hurricane Impact Windows

DON'T WAIT!
CALL 855-212-9533

NO INTEREST
NO MONEY DOWN
NO PAYMENTS FOR 12 MONTHS

+ 10% OFF
For Seniors & Veterans

Good Afternoon, We were installing in your area and would like to offer you an exclusive deal!

*Offer valid on purchase and installation of qualifying project. Timing of work, available options, and products will vary by dealer and project. Offer not available everywhere or combinable with other offers. Offers subject to change. Financing offer available through lenders under terms of applicable loan program. No interest or payment for 12 months if paid in full within 12 months. Interest will be charged to you from purchase date if purchase balance is not paid in full within 12 months. Subject to credit approval-not all buyers will qualify. Terms and conditions apply. Offer must be presented at time of demonstration. FL.CBCT265245. Offer Expires 9/30/25

WSJ WINE
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

TOP 12

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

SAVE \$150



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

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

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

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

Approval Of Federal Disaster Assistance For Five Additional Counties Following Texas Flooding

AUSTIN – Governor Greg Abbott today announced that the federal government has updated President Donald J. Trump's Major Disaster Declaration following recent catastrophic flooding across Texas to include Burnet, Llano, Mason, McCulloch, and Tom Green counties for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance program.

"President Trump's approval of my request to add more counties to his disaster declaration is another critical step to get Texans the support they need to recover," said Governor Abbott. "Burnet, Llano, Mason, McCulloch, and Tom Green counties are now eligible for crucial public assistance to rebuild. I thank President Trump for swiftly approving my request to approve these additional counties. Texas continues to work around-the-clock to help every impacted community heal and rebuild."

With the addition of Burnet, Llano, Mason, McCulloch, and Tom Green counties, the following counties are now approved for FEMA Public Assistance program: Burnet, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Llano, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, San Saba, and Tom Green counties. FEMA's Public Assistance

program includes assistance for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities. Additional counties may be requested as updated information becomes available.

Qualifying Texans in the following counties remain eligible for FEMA's Individual Assistance program: Burnet, Kerr, San Saba, Tom Green, Travis, and Williamson. Texans can apply for FEMA disaster assistance online at disasterassistance.gov or by calling 800-621-3362. Additional counties may be added as additional damage assessments are completed in impacted communities.

Governor Abbott continues to take action to provide all necessary resources to local officials as they respond to flooding, including:

- Requesting the addition of five counties to the Presidential Disaster Declaration
- Visiting with impacted Texans alongside President Trump in Kerrville
- Launching the new Texas Flooding Emotional Support Line
- Obtaining approval for federal disaster assistance for additional impacted communities
- Launching the new Texas Flooding Emotional Support Line



- Requesting additional counties for President Trump's Major Disaster Declaration
- Directing the state's ongoing flood response and recovery efforts
- Announcing disaster unemployment assistance for flood impacts
- Surveying the flood damage of the affected areas and updating Texans on response efforts
- Providing an update on the state's ongoing flood response in impacted communities
- Obtaining approval from President Trump for federal disaster assistance as part of a Major Disaster Declaration
- Amending the state's

- disaster declaration to include additional impacted counties and providing an update on the state's emergency response in affected areas
- Providing an update on the state's response to severe flooding in Kerr County and surrounding communities
- Increasing the readiness level of the State Operations Center and activating additional state emergency response resources as portions of West and Central Texas prepared for heavy rainfall and flash flooding threats
- Deploying state emergency response resources ahead of the rain and flooding threat

CLASSIFIED ADS

Call 713-266-3444

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

Donate Your Vehicle

Call (855) 833-2924 to donate your car, truck, boat, RV, and more today!

How it Works:

- 1. Contact Us**
Call (855) 833-2924
- 2. Schedule Pickup**
We'll pick up your vehicle for FREE - at a time and place convenient for you.
- 3. Receive Top Tax Deduction**
You may qualify for a tax deduction.

- Support Veteran Nonprofits.
- Free Pickup & Towing.
- Top Tax Deduction.

Donate Your Vehicle Today
855-833-2924
www.veterancardonations.org/dnt33

While we appreciate every donation, in some cases, we find that we are unable to accept certain vehicles, watercraft, and/or recreational vehicles due to the prohibitive costs of acquisition. If you have any questions, please give us a call at (855) 833-2924.

Olshan 90

Since 1933 Foundation Solutions Celebrating 90 Years Of Service

Your Trusted Foundation Repair Expert Since 1933

Our Services:

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

Payment Plans as Low as \$125/mo
FREE Home Evaluations
Industry-Leading Warranty Options
Patented Technology

Limited Time Offer
Up to **\$250 off** Foundation Repair

Schedule Your Free Evaluation!
(855) 587-2176

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

Business Directory

SHOP LOCALLY -- Save Time & Money

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

CENTRAL AUTO INSPECTIONS
FULL SERVICE VEHICLE INSPECTIONS
713-702-3200
JOHNNY GAENE
OWNER-INSPECTOR
911 S. MAIN
HIGHLANDS TX, 77562

Graphics Unlimited, Inc.
CORPORATE GRAPHICS AT ITS BEST
Signs & Banners
281-462-1200
www.graphicsunlimitedinc.net
213 Kernohan • Crosby, TX 77532

WESTON COTTEN, ATTORNEY
HIGHLANDS
281-421-4050 1500 E. Wallisville Rd.
NOT CERTIFIED BY THE TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

HILL MATERIALS
119 Listi Ln, Highlands
FILL DIRT
BANK SAND
ROADBASE
LIMESTONE
hillmaterials.com
WE DELIVER TO YOU
(281) 843-5000
residential • commercial • industrial

SMALL ADS BRING **BIG** RESULTS
Ask about our Business Directory Package
13 Weeks + Story + Display for \$260
Ask about our Ribbon Cutting Package
Photo + Story + Web for \$260
713-266-3444

NORTH CHANNEL STAR
Your News, Your Newspaper
Your Hometown Newspaper
News tips and Ad Inquiries:
713-266-3444

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



From left, Ayo Edebiri, Juliette Lewis and Murray Bartlett stars in "Opus."

"Opus"

"How to Train Your Dragon" (PG) — The live-action remake of DreamWorks' animated film from 2010 will be available to rent starting July 15! With a budget of \$150 million, the fantasy film pulled in \$519 million at the box office worldwide — an incredible feat for a film with a cast that only includes one big Hollywood name (Gerard Butler). Mason Thames ("The Black Phone") took on the role of the main character, Hiccup, who mysteriously wanders upon a Night Fury dragon and ends up building a precious bond with the creature. The catch is: His father (Butler), the chieftain of Berk, spearheads a no-mercy pursuit of all the dragons that attack his village and will need some serious convincing to stop his fight against them. (Apple TV+)

"Opus" (R) — This thriller film starring "The

Bear's" Ayo Edebiri only grossed \$2.2 million at the box office with a \$10 million budget. (Yikes!) However, amid its meager grosses and mixed reviews, there might still be something worth watching in "Opus." In the film, 1990s pop star Alfred Moretti comes out of retirement and announces a new album, inviting six guests who work in media to a listening party at his Utah compound. One of them is journalist Ariel (Edebiri), who is immediately creeped out by the compound and its occupants. This odd feeling causes her to start investigating Moretti's compound, which is built on a very sinister foundation indeed. If you're a fan of celebrity/celebrity cults, this one is definitely for you! (Max)

"The Phoenician Scheme" (PG-13) — Director Wes Anderson's "Asteroid City" 13th fea-

ture film is out now to rent! If you know Anderson's movies, you know that a huge cast is signed on for the picture, and this time around, it includes Benicio del Toro, Michael Cera, Riz Ahmed, Tom Hanks, Bryan Cranston, Scarlett Johansson, Benedict Cumberbatch, Jeffrey Wright and more. Del Toro leads the film as Zsa-Zsa Korda, an unethical businessman whose close brushes with death drive him to change his ways. Watching in the background is his daughter Sister Liesl (Mia Threapleton), a practicing nun whose only desire is that her father owns up to his mistakes. However, an opportunity to scheme in Phoenixia appears for Korda, which will undoubtedly force him to either retire his old life or have his work end his life. (Amazon Prime Video)

"The Amateur" (PG-13) — Premiering on July 17, this action-thriller film puts Rami Malek ("Oppenheimer") back into a dramatic leading role. He plays CIA cryptographer Charlie, opposite Rachel Brosnahan, who plays his wife, Sarah. After Sarah leaves for a business trip in London, he's devastated to learn through his CIA director that Sarah fell victim to a terrorist attack and was killed. Left with nothing but a powerful motive, Charlie decides to give up his behind-the-scenes desk job to avenge his wife in the field. So, he's sent to train under Colonel Robert Henderson (Laurence Fishburne) and learn the ways of a cold-blooded killer. But will this amateur succeed with his first mission? You'll have to watch to find out! (Hulu)

(c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.



Q: Why did Kelly Clarkson cancel her Las Vegas concert? I would be very upset if I had bought tickets and traveled there. — D.D.

A: Kelly Clarkson had to cancel the first two shows of her new Las Vegas residency due to issues with her voice. She stated that she needed to protect her voice from further damage after rehearsals had taken their toll. Caesars Palace, the venue where her concerts will be held, has given ticket buyers a choice of a full refund or waiting for the rescheduled dates.

There have also been rumors that she wants to leave her daytime talk show, but this hasn't been confirmed. She took a leave of absence this past spring to be with her children while her ex-husband was being treated for an undisclosed illness. ***

Q: Is "Murder in a Small Town" coming back for another season? There have been so many cancellations lately; I'm worried this is one of them. — K.I.

A: Fortunately the Fox drama "Murder in a Small Town" has avoided getting the ax after its freshman season and will live to tell the tale of more mysteries this fall. The show is based on a series of novels by L.R. Wright and stars Rossif Sutherland ("The Handmaid's Tale") as Detective Karl Alberg, who relocates to a picturesque town after growing weary of big-city life.

The series earned its renewal by becoming "Fox's fifth most-watched non-sports program of the fall," according to TVLine. While this might not appear very impressive, it performed strongly enough against so much competition (not only on network and cable television but also streaming) to survive and hopefully build a bigger audience its second time around.

Four-time Emmy nominee Marcia Gay Harden ("So Help Me Todd") joins the series this fall as Mayor Christie Holman. The show will air on Fox on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. ET. ***

Q: What ever happened to the actor who starred opposite Julian McMahon in the series "Nip/Tuck"? I haven't seen him in anything for quite a while. I was very



Singer-songwriter/TV personality Kelly Clarkson

sad to learn of McMahon's recent passing. — G.H.

A: Dylan Walsh starred as plastic surgeon Dr. Sean McNamara in creator Ryan Murphy's ("American Horror Story") first hit series, which ran from 2003-2010 on FX. It also made stars out of Walsh and Julian McMahon.

Walsh is still very much actively employed as an actor. His most recent recurring role was playing Mayor Peter Chase on the CBS hit series "Blue Bloods," and before this, it was General Sam Lane on "Superman & Lois."

He has several upcoming projects, including two films that are deemed thrillers — "The Man Across the Street" with Teri Polo ("Meet the Parents") and Jamie-Lynn Sigler ("The Sopranos"), as well as "The Highest Stakes" with Seth Green ("Family Guy") and Charlie Weber ("How to Get Away with Murder").

Sadly, we recently lost McMahon after his private battle with cancer. He left the CBS hit series "FBI: Most Wanted" back in 2022 and was replaced with Dylan McDermott. McMahon most recently appeared in six episodes of "The Residence" on Netflix.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

(c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU grid and difficulty information

HOCUS-FOCUS puzzle by Henry Boltinoff

July 14, 2025 Posting Date King Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid and clues

Answers for King Crossword

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

Answers for Trivia test



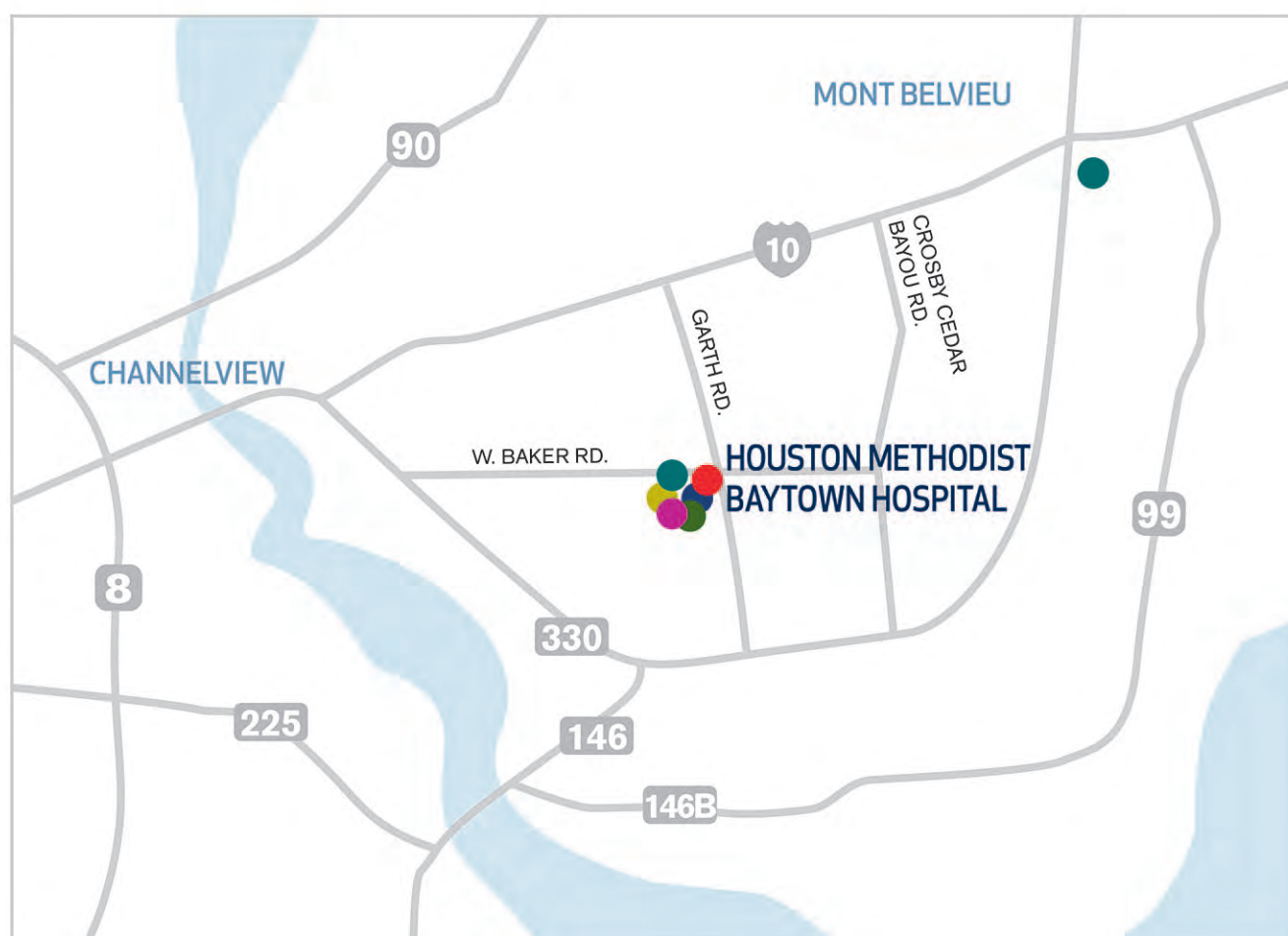
HOUSTON METHODIST LEADING CARE where you need us



Convenient, easy-to-access locations for primary, specialty and emergency care in Baytown

We offer a full spectrum of care, including:

- Primary care physicians for you and your family, providing personal care and service
- Specialists with innovative treatments and customized programs for all conditions
- Collaborative teams of experts using the newest technologies and latest research



- Baytown Hospital
- Primary Care
- Orthopedics & Sports Medicine
- Emergency Care
- Breast Care
- Specialty Care



To find care near you, visit houstonmethodist.org/care-baytown or call **713.790.3333**.