

NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR Your News, Your Newspaper



Ugly Christmas Contest
Winners
(Photo by
Allan Jamail)
See Story on
page 5.

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
VOLUME 14, NO. 4 (#600) THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026 www.northchannelstar.com

NS Mustangs hold State Championship Parade

By Allan Jamail

Houston, Texas ~ On Thursday, January 22, 2026 the North Shore Mustangs and their entire supporting groups (band, dance team, cheerleaders, rounder's) assembled to march in a well deserved Celebration Parade through the neighborhoods near the stadium and their high school campus.

Head Coach Willie Gaston, the Mustangs football assembled his entire coaching staff and the on-field-supporting-staff which together won the 6A -Div. 1 championship game.

Gaston said he was glad to see the North Channel Star put the picture of his deserving football staff and team in the newspaper which reclaimed and brought back home the 6A

Continued. See NS MUSTANGS CHAMPIONSHIP PARADE, Page 2



Mustangs Championship parade participants; coaches and supporting staff of the championship team. See names in article. (Photo by Allan Jamail)



Parade ready, the North Shore Mustangs (Eastside Boys) Championship Team. (Photo by Linda Jamail)

IN THE STARS

THEA Meeting Tuesday Feb. 3

Save The Date For The Next San Jacinto Community Meeting.

Our next meeting is just one week away and we hope you will join us.

This meeting centers on a critical question:

Where is the action from the EPA — and what does it mean for our community?

During the meeting, we will also:

- Share updates on the site
- Discuss ongoing fishing concerns and what actions may be

Continued. See THEA MEETING FEB. 3, Page 6

City of Galena Park breaks ground on New Sidewalks to Improve Safety, Accessibility

GALENA PARK CITY - Mayor Esmeralda Moya announced the start of construction on new sidewalks along Woolfe Street and 12th Street, as well as on 14th Street between Holland Avenue and Keene Street.

Moya said the project is aimed at improving safety and accessibility for residents, particularly families who currently must walk in the street to reach schools, workplaces, and other daily destinations. She noted that several neighborhoods have long lacked adequate pedestrian infrastructure, creating risks for those traveling on foot.

According to the mayor, the sidewalk expansion is designed to close those gaps by strategically extending the city's pedestrian network and improving mobility throughout the community.

Moya thanked residents for their continued support as the city invests in projects intended to enhance public safety, accessibility, and overall quality of life.



Mayor Esmeralda Moya

North Channel Chamber Prepping for Star-Studded Night

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

The 49th Annual Awards and Installation Gala for the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce are planned for January 30 at the elegant Hyatt Regency in Baytown and promises to be a memorable night. The festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. with a social hour and dinner at 7 p.m.

Styled around a Hollywood theme, "An Evening With The Stars," chamber president and CEO Margie Buentello says there will be plenty of star sightings that evening. Who? Well, first the details.

The keynote speaker for the evening is Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia.

Following the commis-

sioner will be the presentation of the Great Seals awards given to retiring board members.

Then the chamber will turn its attention to the young people in the crowd who will be recognized with the William C. Palko Scholarship and two additional scholarships.

Awards for milestone anniversaries, Business of the Year, Organization of the Year, Ambassador of the Year, Board member of the Year, Committee member of the Year, and the Dr. Ed Lehr Chairman's Award will be handed out.

It's not too late to get a ticket but those are still available as well as sponsorships.

"We need silent auction items, sponsors, and ticket buyers," Buentello said.

"I know folks are just getting over the holidays and we're waiting for you to join us for a fun evening."

A DJ will be spinning music for members to dance the night away.

Many of the stars will be announced at the gala and recognized.

And they are...drum roll...YOU!

"We're celebrating the stars of our businesses and the people in our community who work every day and night to make this community one of the best to live, work, and play in," she said.

Call the chamber office to get tickets, sign up for sponsorships or auction items, and buy a table for your business to come and celebrate you.

Buentello can be reached at 713-450-3600.

Commissioner Garcia Announces "Keep2Clean"



Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia announces KEEP2CLEAN Initiative, with staff in background.

'Keep2Clean' aims to curb illegal dumping through education, enforcement and surveillance.

CLOVERLEAF, Texas — Illegal dumping continues to plague neighbor-

hoods across Harris County, but a new initiative spearheaded by Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia's office hopes to better address it.

Garcia unveiled "Keep2Clean," which he said is aimed at curbing illegal dumping through education, enforcement and

surveillance. Garcia called the dumping of trash a "chronic problem" in several hotspots in Precinct 2, including the Aldine and Cloverleaf areas.

"It is one of the most disrespectful things people

Continued. See KEEP2CLEAN, Page 3

SHELDON ISD NEWS

Elementary Brainpower on Display at UIL Competition

We are so proud of the 400+ elementary students who competed in our Sheldon Elementary UIL event this past week! From storytelling to complex mathematics, our young students showed off their incredible talents across 11 different categories. Categories included:

Oral Reading, Story Telling, Listening Maps, Charts, & Graphs, Art Smart, Creative Writing, Ready Writing, Number Sense, Music Memory, Spelling

Congratulations to our campus Grand Champion Elementary with 148 points! Our Runner-Up campus was Carroll Elementary with 102 points.

A huge thank you to all the coaches, teachers, and parents who helped these students prepare. The future is looking bright at Sheldon ISD!



KMS Student Leader Spends Fall Break Delivering Joy to Hospitalized Children

While many students used fall break to rest, Hailey, a co-president of her school's Student Council at King Middle School, dedicated her time to serving children at Texas Children's Hospital.

For the past year, Hailey has led a donation drive to support the hospital's "Fun Cart," a program that provides toys and comfort items to young patients. She says the project was inspired by her own childhood experience at Memorial Hermann Hospital. "I remember when kind nurses came around to give me gifts when I was a child," she said. "I wanted to be a blessing to others who may be going through something similar."

The effort took a full year to complete, demonstrating what Tylisha Jones, her former teacher



and Student Council advisor, described as Hailey's "perseverance, compassion, and leadership." School leaders say her work has set a powerful example for fellow students and highlighted how guidance and support can

help young people turn compassion into meaningful action.

Hailey's former advisor says she is proud to see the lasting impact the young leader is making in her community.

STEM Project-Based Learning Showcases Dazzles Campuses in the District

Sheldon ISD hosted three dynamic STEM Showcase events over the past two weeks at Michael Null Middle School, C.E. King Middle School, and C.E. King High School, putting student innovation on full display.

The public events welcomed families and community members to view impressive project-based learning (PBL) displays created by students. The showcases highlighted student achievement across science, technology, engineering, and math disciplines, demonstrating real-world problem-solving skills and creativity.

"The STEM Academy teachers from KMS, Null and KHS have worked hard this semester to make learning both fun and engaging while challenging our students to be creative and innovative," said Mrs. Zalesnik, Executive Director of Innovative Programs.

"The problem-solving skills that our STEM students are developing through project-based learning will benefit them greatly as they enter the future workforce. It's not about the project—it's about the learning."

These events were a massive success, allowing

the community to witness firsthand the deep, critical thinking happening in our STEM classrooms every day. The quality of the project-based learning displays proves that our students are well-prepared to tackle complex challenges and excel in future STEM fields. "We are so proud of the learning and skills our STEM students are demonstrating, and it is all because of the effort and hard work of our dedicated STEM teachers at each campus," declared Mrs. Maxie, Coordinator of Innovative Programs at Sheldon ISD.

C.E. King HS Football Coach Laxen Named Coach of the Year by Touchdown Club of Houston



Huge congratulations are in order! We are incredibly proud to announce that our very own Coach Laxen has been named the Touchdown Club of Houston's Coach of the Year! Coach Laxen is in his first year of head coach with C.E. King High School. This presti-

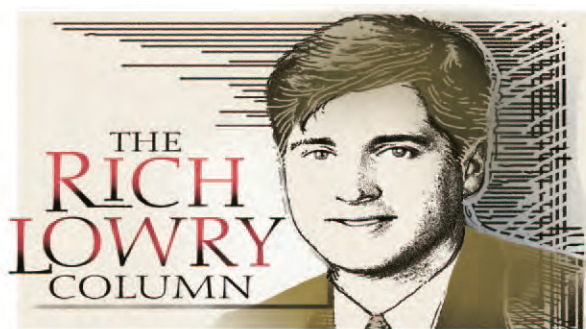
gious award is a testament to his exceptional leadership, dedication, and the incredible success he has brought to our high school football program. This weekend the team heads into the State Semi-Finals playoff game.

We also want to celebrate an outstanding student athlete, Dionne Sims, who was a well-deserved finalist for the Offensive Player of the Year award! We celebrate his hard work, talent, and commitment on the field.



In North Shore, nearly everyone reads the NORTH CHANNEL STAR. Your Hometown Newspaper.

OPINION PAGE



Yes, we need a \$1.5 trillion defense budget

Finally, the United States will follow through on its NATO commitments.

That'd be the cheeky interpretation of President Donald Trump's announcement, via Truth Social, that he wants the U.S. defense budget to be \$1.5 trillion. This would represent a stunning 50% increase over the current budget and put the U.S. right around 5% of GDP, the target level that NATO countries recently adopted at Trump's insistence.

The details and follow-through will matter, but on its own terms, the Trump declaration is of epic significance.

Such a historic buildup would meet the moment — it's never made sense that the U.S. would enter a period of heightened risk of great power conflict at a time when it has difficulty replenishing its missile stocks.

It would match the predilections of a president who enjoys throwing his weight around. If Trump wants to speak loudly and carry a big stick, it requires the resources to build and maintain the stick.

And it would match his vision of a world-class military. You can't have a Golden Dome — Trump's project for an enhanced missile defense — or a Golden Fleet — his notion of a next-generation navy — without a Golden Defense Budget.

The scale of spending contemplated here is truly astounding. A \$500 billion increase would roughly match the total annual spending of all non-U.S. NATO countries. The percentage increase would be the highest since the Korean War and double the biggest annual increases of the Reagan years.

"We still talk about the Reagan buildup," Secretary of War Pete Hegseth said in a speech last month, "and my kids and yours will someday talk about the Trump buildup."

The Trump proposal would not just be a down payment on that promise, but a big step toward fulfilling it.

If our military is highly proficient —as demonstrated in the Venezuela raid — it also doesn't have the materiel to wage a protracted major war.

Defense analyst Mackenzie Eaglin of the American Enterprise Institute has long been ringing the alarm. She recently noted that during the short Israel-Iran war, we fired 150, or one-quarter, of our THAAD missiles, exceeding our annual purchase rate by three times. In the Red Sea, the Navy fired more Tomahawks in January 2024 than it bought in all of 2023.

These shortfalls, as Eaglin points out, are especially disturbing when compared to the building capacity of our adversaries. Whereas the Russians make more than 300,000 artillery shells a month, we make only 40,000 155mm shells. "Beijing builds six naval combatant ships," she writes, "for every 1.8 ships the U.S. builds."

Even The New York Times — not known for beating the drums for more defense spending — devoted a splashy editorial last month to the sorry state of our military-industrial base.

In his new book, "War and Power," scholar Phillips Payson O'Brien relates how wars between great powers are usually not won by brilliant battle plans, or by the commitment or proficiency of the troops. Rather, it is productive capacity — and the ability to degrade that of the enemy while maintaining or increasing your own — that makes the difference.

The Nazis weren't going to win the Battle of Britain when the Brits were producing twice as many aircraft as Hitler.

On top of this, a nation needs to make shrewd choices about what it is building (the Nazis also had the wrong planes for the Battle of Britain — bombers with payloads that were too small and fighters with limited range).

The U.S. needs to make sure that it is not overinvesting in the weapons systems of the past, although a defense budget on the scale that Trump is discussing would relieve some pressure from these choices. We could very well have our traditional subs and jet fighters, and our cutting-edge drones, too.

Trump's taste for gilding everything can be over the top. It'd be a national service, though, if he manages to make the U.S. defense budget golden.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Deadline to Register for March Primary Nears

The last day to register to vote for the March 3 primary is Feb. 2, according to the Texas secretary of state's office. Early voting runs from Feb. 17 through Feb. 27, with Feb. 20 being the deadline for applying for a mail ballot.

Prospective voters can visit the votetexas.gov website to find out if they are registered, discern their polling places, learn what is on the ballot and find other information.

More than 18 statewide elected officials are up for election, with the governor's race and a U.S. Senate race topping the ballot. All Texas members of the U.S. House of Representatives are up for election, along with state lawmakers, district judges and local elected officials.

Some Texans will have to vote in new congressional districts after the Legislature redrew the map last summer.

NEW POLL HAS TALARICO LEADING, CORNYN TIED WITH PAXTON

A new poll of the state's U.S. Senate primaries shows state Rep. James Talarico, D-Round Rock, leading U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett, D-Dallas by 9 percentage points, 47% to 38%, among likely Democratic voters, The Texas Tribune reported. The Emerson College poll indicates a significant shift since a Texas Southern University poll in December showed Crockett with a similar-sized lead.

In both polls, Talarico leads among white and Latino voters, while Crockett has a commanding lead among Black voters.

On the GOP side, the latest polls show U.S. Sen. John Cornyn and Attorney General Ken Paxton deadlocked, with Paxton at 27% and Cornyn at 26%. U.S. Rep. Wesley Hunt, R-Houston, trailed with 16%. If those margins hold, that race would head to a runoff.

The survey also found Gov. Greg Abbott with a sizable lead over his main Democratic challenger, state Rep. Gina Hinojosa, 50% to 42%.

SOLAR POWER SURPASSES COAL IN FEEDING ERCOT GRID

For the first time, solar power supplied more electricity in 2025 to the state's main power grid than coal-fired power plants, the Houston Chronicle reported.

Solar farms provided 67,800 gigawatt-hours of elec-



tricity last year, according to the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which is the power grid operator for most of the state. Power plants burning coal supplied 63,000 gigawatt-hours of power to ERCOT last year.

The Chronicle report notes that in 2019 solar supplied so little power to the ERCOT grid that it wasn't even included as a separate category in its annual pie chart of where the grid's power comes from. It is now the third-largest supplier to ERCOT, behind second-place wind and first-place natural gas. Coal has dropped to number four.

"It's a remarkable milestone," said Daniel Cohan, a Rice University professor who studies the state's energy transition. "I don't think anyone 10 years ago would have thought that solar would have surpassed coal this quickly."

TEXAS SET TO BAN SMOKEABLE CANNABIS THIS MONTH

Smokable cannabis products currently sold legally in Texas could disappear by Jan. 25 under new rules proposed by the Texas Department of State Health Services. According to the Texas Standard, DSHS has drafted new regulations for the hemp industry, "including child-resistant packaging, stronger warning labels, expanded testing, recall procedures and fee increases of roughly 10,000% for manufacturers and retailers."

Annual fees for hemp manufacturers would rise from \$250 to \$25,000 per facility, while retailers would see their registration fees jump from \$150 to \$20,000.

The proposed regulations would effectively outlaw most smokable hemp products.

DSHS last week heard from dozens of small hemp

business owners and cannabis users, many of whom said they support stricter packaging rules and age limits but oppose the ban on smokable products and the steep hike in licensing and registration fees.

"These proposed fees don't regulate small businesses, they eliminate them," Estella Castro, owner of Austinite Cannabis Co., told commissioners. "This proposal would force me to close, despite doing everything right."

Some speakers spoke in support of the proposed regulations, including a mother who said her son developed psychosis from using cannabis and required medial treatment.

DSHS EXPANDING ANTI-RABIES PROGRAM TO EL PASO AREA

DSHS is expanding its 32nd annual Oral Rabies Vaccination Program to the El Paso area while continuing its aerial bait distribution along the Texas-Mexico border. The rabies vaccine baits will be distributed by hand in targeted areas around El Paso.

"Our mission is to vaccinate wildlife along the borders of Texas to maintain herd immunity against rabies and keep new or previously eliminated rabies variants from becoming established in any part of Texas," said Kathy Parker, ORVP Director. "However, we continue to monitor all the counties of Texas for outbreaks and/or potential areas of rabies interest."

The baits do not pose threats to livestock, wildlife or pets. The project costs \$2 million annually and is funded by both state and federal agencies. Since the program began, no human cases of rabies attributable to the rabies variants found along the border have been confirmed in Texas.

The program covers 19 Texas counties: El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio, Brewster, Pecos, Terrell, Val Verde, Kinney, Maverick, Zavala, Dimmit, Webb, Zapata, Starr, Hidalgo, Cameron and Willacy.

TEXAS MOST POPULAR STATE TO MOVE TO

Texas is back on top of U-Haul's list of "growth states," according to the Austin American-Statesman. The company determines each state's net gain or loss by recording how many customers used one-way equipment in 2025.

This is the fourth time the state has topped U-Haul's rankings in five years. In 2024, South Carolina topped the list but fell to No. 5 last year. In second place is Florida, followed by North Carolina and Tennessee.

Coming in dead last in U-Haul's ranking was California.

Correction: An item in the Jan. 4 Capital Highlights reported the Texas business inventory tax exemption has been raised to \$125,000. That exemption applies to all business personal property accounts, not just inventory.

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

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Tech Savvy



For the most part, I congratulate myself on being relatively competent at managing technology. I don't have an overwhelming fear of learning new apps or platforms and have even caught myself feeling a little smug when others profess terror at the prospect of updating their website or mastering a new program.

All smugness disappeared this week.

I got caught in a technology black hole over a \$20 bill. I owed a company \$20 for forwarding my email to me. This is something that should have taken less than a minute to resolve. Three days later, I was still battling.

The company was based in India. I won't bore you with the details of why it was based in India or how this company was chosen (I had plenty of opportunity to question the choice over the last three days), but it has provided excellent service, and I had had no reason to believe it wasn't a good choice. Until this week.

I couldn't log in to my account. That was the only problem. They did not have my phone number on record, and the only other means of verifying my account involved changing information in the directory of my website, and I knew—before I even tried—I was in over my head.

(I realize there are tech-savvy folks reading this right now and saying, "How hard could that be?" and I'm sure they are right; it was probably much easier than I imagined, but that does not mean it was not far more difficult than I could manage.)

So I wrote an email. The response I received provided an entirely new set of instructions for how to verify the account. I wrote back asking for clarification. A different tech person replied with an answer that appeared to bear no relation to the question I had asked.

I wrote back with more questions; they dutifully provided replies. Every email was signed by a different employee of this very large tech company in India. Every letter was exceedingly polite—and made not one bit of sense.

I parsed the letters carefully. I read them aloud. I looked for similar phrases as if I were looking for clues to find a buried treasure—although in this case, my treasure was the privilege of paying them \$20 and not having my email shut off.

Twenty emails later (this is not an exaggeration), I began to despair. I realized I had accomplished almost nothing in the last two days other than write emails to India. I had visions of an endless line of Indian technicians—stretching as far as the eye could see—ready to write pleasant replies to a witless woman in the U.S. As I exhausted the patience of one technician, another would step into his place, producing an infinite supply of unflinching polite and utterly incomprehensible technical jargon.

I caved. I hired someone on Fiverr from Bangladesh to serve as an intermediary. With my permission, he took over my computer, figured out how to get into my account, arranged a Zoom call with the company and—after a scheduled Zoom call and yet one more phone conversation—I was able to pay the \$20.

"I don't suppose I could pay for more than a year?" I asked at the end of the final phone call.

"No, but this will take you all the way to the end of 2026!" the exceedingly cheerful company spokesman told me.

I have many wonderful expectations for 2026, but I am already working up a little dread for the year's end.

Till next time, Carrie

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. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.

Advertisement for Star Courier newspaper, including contact information for the Barbers Hill and Dayton Press locations, and a list of staff members.

JC Heritage Hall Names Ugly Christmas Contest Winners



JC Heritage Hall Ugly Christmas Contest Winners, L-R: Director Elizabeth Flores, Mary Garcia, 1st. pl. Janie Cortez, 2nd pl. Connie Esqueda, 3rd pl. Maria Denton, Debi Philips & Program Assistant Naomi Navarro. (Photo By Allan Jamail)

Former Student Arrested After Online Threats target North Shore Senior High

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

GALENA PARK, Texas – An 18-year-old former student of Galena Park ISD, James Manuel Tamez, was arrested Friday morning after allegedly making violent threats online to attack North Shore Senior High School, according to Harris County court records.

Authorities say the threats were posted on January 14 via Roblox, an online gaming platform, where Tamez allegedly wrote messages threatening a mass shooting at the school, referencing nail bombs and expressing intent to harm students. The alarming posts were reported by a concerned citizen who contacted school administrators, prompting an immediate investigation.

Screenshots of the messages, which included explicit threats and disturbing language, were shared with law enforcement.

Two particular screenshots of the threats were captured and presented to North Shore Senior High School Deputy Principal Dayne Robins.

Tamez allegedly wrote, "I will shoot up the school (NSHS) on 1-18-2026. I am dangerous someone stop me. There are nail bombs in the rotunda. I will pop the kids."

"I will kill minors and

rape dead bodies LOL," he is alleged to have written in a second screen shot.

The Texas Department of Public Safety's Fusion Center traced the origin of the messages to an IP address linked to Tamez's residence. When confronted by investigators who knocked on his door, his father answered and investigators told him why they were there. When Tamez was summoned to the door, they asked Tamez if he had been playing Roblox the previous night with the reporter and he answered he had.

Investigators then wanted to know if he had made the threat regarding shooting up the school. According to court documents, James denied making the threat and said that he did not know who authored it.

Even after James was shown screenshots of the online conversation between himself and a reporter, he continued to deny authoring the threatening message.

One of the investigators told him that the Fusion Center had identified his residence as the source IP address for the threatening message. Court records show that James responded in a cocky manner and requested to see the IP address for comparison. The agent declined and reiterated that the threat had been traced to James's residence.

James continued to deny responsibility and stated that if he admitted to the offense, he would be arrested.

Deputies presented the case to the Harris County District Attorney's Office who accepted the charges and a warrant was issued.

Tamez was arrested the next morning.

A judge set bond at \$25,000 and imposed strict conditions, including no contact with North Shore Senior High School students or staff, and a prohibition on accessing online messaging platforms. Tamez is required to comply with supervision by Harris County Pretrial Services and must appear in court as scheduled.

The case remains under investigation, and authorities emphasize that all threats against schools are taken seriously and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Galena Park ISD sent out a letter notifying parents of the threat.

"Our top priorities are the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and community. We understand this is unsettling news, but please rest assured that school administrators and law enforcement officials are addressing the situation with the level of seriousness it deserves. Please

know we take all reports regarding safety and security seriously."

Channelview Music Teacher Fired for Inappropriate Conduct

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

A Channelview middle school band teacher was fired last week after allegations of inappropriate conduct with students on the popular Instagram app.

A letter was sent to parents of students at Alice Johnson Junior High last week informing them of the allegation of inappropriate conduct involving a classroom teacher.

"Authorities were notified immediately, and an investigation is currently underway," the letter from Superintendent Dr. Tory C. Hill read.

He also stated that the employee had been removed from duties and is no longer employed by Channelview ISD.

The teacher was in their second year at the school and had previously served at Splendora and Crosby school districts.



"Because this is an ongoing investigation, we are unable to provide additional details at this time," the letter continued.

There were screenshots of alleged conversations floating around on Facebook and Instagram exposing the name of the accused, but the North Channel Star will not name the teacher unless

charges have been filed. As of press time, no charges have been filed with the District Attorney's office and no response from the Texas Education Agency if they have begun any kind of investigation.

The Star did reach out to the teacher for their side of the story, but the teacher reserved comment.

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IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2026 TEXAS PRIMARY ELECTION

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

Harris County Commissioners Court Appoints Jonathan Fombonne as Next County Attorney

HOUSTON, – The Harris County Attorney's Office announced today that the Harris County Commissioners Court has unanimously voted to appoint Jonathan Fombonne as the next Harris County Attorney.

Jonathan Fombonne has been serving as Deputy Harris County Attorney and First Assistant County Attorney under former County Attorney Christian Menefee. In that role, Fombonne was Menefee's chief deputy, led legal strategy for many of the office's high-profile matters, advised elected officials and department heads directly, and served as trial and appellate counsel in all high profile litigation in the office from significant public law challenges to complex corporate and environmental cases. As County Attorney, he will serve as legal counsel to all elected offices in Harris County, including Commissioners Court. The Harris County Attorney serves as the chief civil legal counsel to Harris County and its elected officials, including the members of the Harris County Commissioners Court.



Jonathan Fombonne, Next Harris County Attorney

"It has been a privilege to serve Harris County over the past five years, and I am honored to be appointed as the next Harris County Attorney," said Fombonne. "This office plays a vital role in the county's day-to-day operations while also serving as legal counsel protecting the County's legal interests in litigation. I look forward to continuing that work and ensuring our office remains a force for fairness, accountability, and progress. I have complete confidence in our talented staff and look forward to the great work ahead."

Fombonne's appointment reflects his longstanding commitment to public service, the mission of the

County Attorney's Office, and his ability to guide the office through this period of transition while building a strong foundation for the future.

"Since my first day in office, Jon has been a steady and capable leader, handling some of the office's most complex and important cases," said Christian Menefee. "He is easily one of the best lawyers I know and has been absolutely instrumental in building this office into what it is today. His deep knowledge of the office and proven leadership make him the ideal person to guide our team through this transition. I am confident the office will continue to thrive and be a shining example of what good government looks like."

The Harris County Attorney's Office represents Texas's largest county in all civil legal matters, including serving as legal counsel to county officials and employees. The office includes eleven legal practice divisions, as well as the Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library.

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THEA Meeting Feb. 3,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

available to protect community health.

- Talk about the future of THEA, including our plans to expand support to communities nationwide

ensure that community concerns remain visible and that agencies are held accountable. These conversations are essential as we push for transparency, action, and long-term solutions.

Tuesday, February 3 at 6:00pm
604 Highland Woods Dr.
Highlands, TX 77562

Your participation helps

[Meeting Details](#)

We hope you will join us and be a part of this important discussion.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Sheldon Independent School District will conduct a public hearing for the 2024-2025 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) on February 17, 2026, 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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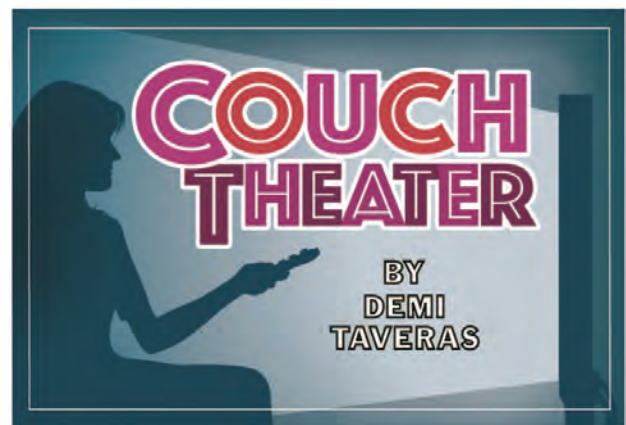
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Dave Bautista, Left, and Jason Momoa star in 'The Wrecking Crew.'

"The Wrecking Crew"

"Die, My Love" (R) — Whether you're a fan of twisty psychological films or not, this film is just a treat for millennials and Gen-Zers who grew up watching Robert Pattinson in the "Twilight" films and Jennifer Lawrence in "The Hunger Games" films. Playing love interests opposite each other, Pattinson and Lawrence respectively portray young couple Jackson and Grace right after they move to Montana from New York. The audience soon learns that Grace is pregnant with their first child, but after Grace gives birth, the film is told from Grace's fragmented and distorted point of view as she slowly descends into madness due to the stress of becoming a mother. It is chock-full of tough-to-watch, unforgettable emotional moments that remind us why Lawrence is one of the greatest of her genera-

tion. Out now. (MUBI) "His & Hers" (TV-MA) — Netflix has got the formula down on how to crank out series after series that still leave viewers on the edge of their seats. This new mystery-thriller series starring Jon Bernthal ("The Amateur") and Tessa Thompson ("Hedda") is only six episodes long, but with its two talented leads and a small-town setting, it's already become popular on the streaming service. Thompson plays reporter Anna Andrews, who returns to her old hometown of Dahlonega, Georgia, to investigate a murder. While there, she bumps into her estranged husband, Detective Jack Harper (Bernthal), who has been assigned to the case himself. (What a coincidence!) No doubt that the spouses' suspicions of each other will escalate the tension to another lev-

el! Out now. (Netflix) "The Wrecking Crew" (R) — Any movie that is led by both Jason Momoa ("A Minecraft Movie") and Dave Bautista ("Trap House") is sure to be a testosterone-filled action flick with goofy moments in between to keep audiences shouting at their screens for more. Momoa and Bautista play two half-brothers: Jonny (Momoa), a "loose cannon cop," and James (Bautista), a "disciplined Navy SEAL." After their father is murdered in a suspicious hit-and-run in Hawaii, the brothers team up to figure out the root of the murder and keep the rest of their family from also being threatened. "The Wrecking Crew" premieres on Jan. 28. (Amazon Prime Video)

In Case You Missed It "Chestnut" (NR) — This drama film features Natalia Dyer in a much different tone than how we are used to seeing her as Nancy Wheeler in "Stranger Things." She plays Annie, a shy aspiring writer who is stuck in Philadelphia after graduating from college; however, at the end of the summer, a move to Los Angeles awaits her. In the weeks up until then, Annie meets a pair of best friends — wild child Tyler (Rachel Keller) and the mysteriously sweet Danny (Danny Ramirez) — and begins spending all her nights with the charming duo. When she suddenly finds herself with confusing feelings for both Tyler and Danny, Annie wonders whether she's subtly being told by the universe to stay in Philly or to run as fast as she can to L.A. Out now. (Plex) (c) 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.



Q:When is "Outlander" returning with new episodes? Will it be the final season, or will there hopefully be more? — J.S.

A:The eighth and final season of "Outlander" will premiere on Starz on March 6, with 10 episodes airing in subsequent weeks. It is based on the novels by Diana Galbaldon and is the longest-running series in Starz's history. Sam Heughan and Caitriona Balfe return as Jamie and Claire, respectively, with their story set a year after last season's events concluded.

You may already know this, but "Outlander" has a prequel series that airs on Starz as well. Set in Scotland and England during the World War I era, "Outlander: Blood of My Blood" stars Harriet Slater, Jamie Roy, Hermione Corfield and Jeremy Irvine as the parents of "Outlander's" Jamie and Claire. It has already wrapped production on its second season.

According to TVLine, Heughan has already landed a new gig. He'll star alongside Anna Kendrick ("Pitch Perfect") and J.K. Simmons ("Whiplash") in a six-episode geopolitical thriller titled "Embassy." Meanwhile, Balfe's upcoming film is a remake of Jane Austen's "Sense and Sensibility" with Daisy Edgar-Jones ("Twisters"), and it is due out in September 2026.

Q:So many people, including myself, were disappointed with the finale of "And Just Like That ..." Do you think they'll do a movie or something to wrap it up better? — A.T.

A: According to Kristin Davis, who played Charlotte in "Sex and the City" and its sequel series "And Just Like That ...," she agrees with fans who feel that they were left hanging by the ending. On her podcast "Are You a Charlotte?" the actress speculated that "we're going to do something else," although nothing official has been announced. Mario Cantone, who played Anthony on both shows, followed up Davis' statement with: "I don't care what anybody says. That was not a series finale. It was a season finale, but that wasn't a series finale."

Davis didn't want to give viewers false hope, however. She said that she doesn't



Caitriona Balfe and Sam Heughan in "Outlander"

know who "owns [them] right now" and that she has run into showrunner Michael Patrick King, who has not said anything about revisiting the show in the form of a series, a movie, or even a special episode.

Q:I keep seeing ads for a movie version of the classic novel "Wuthering Heights," but when is it coming out? Will it be on streaming or just in theaters at first? — R.R.

A:"Wuthering Heights" has been adapted many times for the big screen, but the upcoming version is being directed by arguably the book's biggest fan. The film's director Emerald Fennell recently said at a press event that she first read the novel by Emily Bronte when she was just 14 years old, and she likes to revisit it each year.

First published in 1847, "Wuthering Heights" was adapted for the silver screen in 1939 and starred Laurence Olivier and Merle Oberon. The latest version will be released on Feb. 13, with Margot Robbie ("Barbie") and Jacob Elordi ("Frankenstein") as star-crossed lovers Cathy and Heathcliff.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com. (c) 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

ENTERTAINMENT

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Weekly SUDOKU grid and difficulty instructions. Difficulty: Moderate. Challenge: HOO BOY!

HOCUS-FOCUS puzzle with two panels and instructions to find at least six differences in details.

King Crossword puzzle grid and word list. Includes across and down clues.

Trivia Test Answers: 1. 1916; 2. New Delhi; 3. Tennis elbow; 4. 2015; 5. Red; 6. 50; 7. A rat; 8. Toyota; 9. Advertising executive; 10. Hypothalamus

