

MLB's first black hall of famer, Leroy Robert "Satchel" Paige July 7, 1906 - June 8, 1982.

See Story below & on page 5.

# NORTH CHANNEL STAR

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Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
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## IN THE STARS

### Black History Month Honoree Satchel Paige

3<sup>rd</sup> of a series...

By Allan Jamail

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

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

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

According to Paige, his nickname "Satchel" originated from his childhood work toting bags at the train station. He said he was not making enough money at a dime a bag, so he used a pole and rope to build a contraption

Continued. See BLACK HISTORY MONTH, Page 5

## THEA Demanding Actions as EPA Delays Persist on San Jacinto River Superfund Cleanup

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

At the most recent meeting of the Texas Health and Environment Alliance (THEA) last week, community members voiced mounting frustration over continued delays in the cleanup of the San Jacinto River Waste Pit Superfund site. THEA founder and executive director Jackie Medcalf opened the meeting by acknowledging both the "exciting stuff" and "frustrating stuff" on the agenda, emphasizing the group's mission for newcomers. "We work to protect public health and the environment from the

harmful effects of toxic waste. When it comes to toxic waste and contamination, we focus on the old stuff, the stuff that got dumped decades ago that has yet to be dealt with."

Medcalf provided a high-level overview of the Superfund site's history, noting that while the EPA ordered a full cleanup after Hurricane Harvey, "we are still battling for that to take place for the northern site." She criticized the EPA for authorizing "an enormous amount of delays since that 2017 decision," and described the current situation as a "standstill process" with no clear timeline for action. "They said it's illegal right



THEA Founder and Executive Director Jackie Medcalf

now and the project managers cannot disclose any information. For all we know, they can make a decision tomorrow or they can make a decision in five more months. But there is more than enough information for them to make a very well-informed deci-

sion to move this site towards cleanup. But they have to make that decision," Metcalf said.

The meeting also highlighted the community's ongoing efforts to pressure elected officials.

"Where are our politicians representing us? Where's that? I've never seen them come up here. The only thing we have here to move this thing forward is to get the politicians on our side. How do we do that? We can't even get them here," one attendee remarked, capturing the mood of many present. Medcalf responded by promising to send copies of the group's petition to congressional representatives,

underscoring the importance of grassroots advocacy.

"Our voices, our community members matter, all of us and so it's going to take us making them do the right thing."

A new development discussed at the meeting was the ongoing problem of people fishing in contaminated waters near the waste pits. Despite posted advisories, "the fish in the area are highly contaminated, but the fish are plentiful and it is a good fishing spot," Medcalf reported. She urged attendees to report sightings of

Continued. See COMMUNITY VOICES FRUSTRATION, Page 3

## County Razes Nuisance Hotel After 9 Fires

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

A notorious hotel property in Channelview, Texas, was demolished this week after catching fire at least nine times and becoming a hub for crime and public safety concerns. County officials, law enforcement, and community leaders gathered to mark the abatement, which they say is a major step toward improving neighborhood safety.

"This is one of the most important areas of work that we do with the community," said Adrian Garcia, County Commissioner of Precinct 2. "Just last year, there have been seven fires that have taken place at this one location. Regrettably, it has also been a haven for different aspects of public safety concerns, including drug use and regrettably, a haven for some individuals that are unsheltered."

The property, vacant since the first fire in March 2025, drew 78 calls for service in 2024 alone, ranging



Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia is surrounded by other county officials involved with the demolition of the Hampton Inn Hotel in Channelview on the corner of Sheldon Road and I-10.

from assaults to prostitution and vandalism. "It really became a hub for public safety concerns for crime. And no community deserves that," said Ed Gonzalez, Harris County Sheriff. "There are kids that may travel through here. There are restaurants nearby. It's a forward-facing location on a busy corridor. No one should have to live in a crime-ridden section like this, and we could do better."

The abatement was made possible by nearly \$1

million in federal ARPA funds, with Commissioner Garcia pledging an additional \$500,000 from his budget to sustain the effort. "Thanks to Biden-Harris, we were able to invest nearly \$1,000,000, and just in Precinct 2, we have abated 112 [properties] since 2022," Garcia said. "Now with the expiring of the ARPA dollars, I have dedicated \$500,000 out of my budget to continue this important focus."

Local school officials echoed the urgency. "This property in particular has



Demolition began shortly after the political figures left the property which was the site of at least nine fires over the last year.

been a really big nuisance for the community and primarily also for the schools," said Ramiro Granados, Channelview ISD Trustee. "A lot of times when this building has caught fire, we have school, or we have children playing out in the playgrounds outside. We have to do a shelter in place and explain to them what's going on."

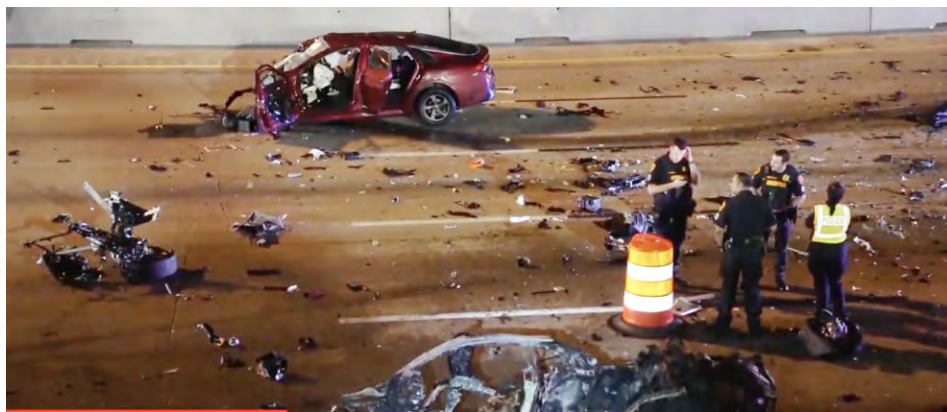
The demolition process, costing about \$60,000, will be charged to the property owner via a lien. "The property owner signed off

on a document allowing us to do this without having to go through the much longer legal process. He knows that he will be paying the lien for whatever this cost is," said Scott Jeansonne, director of Environmental Public Health for Harris County.

Officials say the site will be monitored to prevent future illegal dumping or nuisance activity. "We're going to keep coming by. We're not going to let this

Continued. See FIRE-PLAGUED CHANNELVIEW HOTEL, Page 5

## Deadly Wrong Way Crash Shuts Down East Freeway at Lockwood



HOUSTON – Houston police are investigating a deadly wrong-way crash that shut down part of the East Freeway Tuesday morning near Lockwood Drive.

According to HPD, a Kia sedan was traveling westbound on the East Freeway when it was struck head-on by an Acura sports car that was driving eastbound in the west-

bound lanes at a high rate of speed.

Police said the crash may be connected to an earlier call about a wrong-way driver reported on U.S. 59 near Minute Maid Park. Investigators believe the timing and description of the vehicle match.

A TxDOT road crew working nearby witnessed the crash. Officers and workers told police the

Acura slammed into the Kia, causing the Acura to break apart and catch fire.

The male driver of the Acura became trapped inside the vehicle. When Houston firefighters arrived, the driver was pronounced dead at the scene.

Investigators said the Acura did not have a li

Continued. See DEADLY WRONG WAY CRASH SHUTS DOWN, Page 3

## Houston Prepares for Historic FIFA World Cup

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

Chamber members were excited to hear from Kim Scates, the vice president of commercial partnership at the FIFA World Cup '26 Houston Host Committee and how they might be able to participate with their own businesses. Scates leads sponsorship sales and serves on the leadership team for the host event. "This summer, the biggest sporting event in the world is coming to Houston. Any soccer fans in the crowd? Who are you rooting for this summer?" she asked enthusiastically.

Houston is gearing up for a summer unlike any other as the FIFA Men's World Cup, the world's largest and most prestigious sporting event,



comes to the United States in 2026. For the first time, the tournament will span three countries—Canada, Mexico, and the U.S.—with 16 host cities, including Houston, which will welcome seven matches at the newly branded Houston Stadium, one of the many requirements for the games while FIFA is in town.

The expanded tournament will feature 48 teams and 104 matches, making it the largest World Cup ever. Houston will host five group stage matches and two knockout rounds, with the city's first match scheduled for June 14 and the last on July 4—a date

Continued. See CHAMBER MEMBERS LEARN HOW TO, Page 2

# Excellence Recognized in Sheldon Bilingual Educators



The Houston Area Association for Bilingual Education (HAABE) recognizes outstanding bilingual and ESL educators from Houston and its surrounding areas. The district surprised five individuals who were selected by the multilingual department and voted on by their peers. Congratulations to:

- \*Bilingual Teacher of the Year- Lizeth Montelongo- Cravens ECA
- \*ESL Elementary Teacher of the Year- Laura Austin- Cravens ECA
- \*ESL Secondary Teacher of the Year- Mayra Gonzalez- CE King Middle School
- \*World Languages Teacher of the Year- Viannys Medina-Kim- C.E. King High School
- \*Leadership Champion Award- Richard Peña- CE King Middle School

Their commitment to biliteracy and cultural excellence makes a daily impact on the lives of our Sheldon ISD students and families. Thank you for your leadership and your heart for education!

# Chamber members learn how to tap into 2025 World Cup Opportunities,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

marking the nation's 250th birthday. "Houston is one of two host cities that has a July 4th match. It's going to be a very big day as Houston and Philadelphia both host World Cup matches," Scates explained.

The city expects an influx of 500,000 visitors over the 39-day tournament. Among the teams coming to Houston are three of the world's top ten: Germany, Portugal (with superstar Cristiano Ronaldo), and the Netherlands, whose fans are known for turning cities orange. Houston will also welcome first-time World Cup participants Cabo Verde, Uzbekistan, and Curacao, with two additional teams to be determined in March.

To ensure a memorable experience for all, Houston is launching a 39-day, free-to-the-public FIFA Fan Festival in East Downtown, branded as Football Fiesta. "You can watch every single match, all 104 of them live on the big screens, with the skyline in the background. It's going to be a really amazing experience," she said. The festival will feature local food vendors, youth soccer tournaments, clinics, and a talent search to highlight Houston's culture.

Organizers are recruiting 5,200 volunteers, with roles being assigned in February and training set

to begin before the tournament. "To make the whole thing go, we need 5,200 volunteers," Scates noted.

The economic impact is expected to be substantial. "The economic forecast that we did during the bid phase and that we've updated last year is estimating \$1.5 billion in economic impact to the region. The economic impact of that is about five Super Bowls. It's a very big deal. This event puts Houston on the global stage like we've never seen it before," she emphasized.

With robust transportation plans, medical partnerships, and a focus on community legacy, Houston is poised to shine as a global soccer destination. "We do hope that you'll feel the energy around the city. Getting tickets is pretty tricky...so we are committed to having the FIFA Fan Festival, where everyone can have a World Cup experience." To find out more about opportunities for local organizations or businesses to participate, please contact the chamber office at 713-450-3600.

# SHELDON ISD NEWS

## SHELDON ISD SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE Dr. Demetrius McCall Completes Holdsworth Leadership Program

Sheldon ISD is proud to announce that Superintendent Dr. Demetrius McCall has successfully completed the rigorous 18 month Superintendent Leadership Program at The Holdsworth Center in Austin, Texas.



Sheldon ISD Superintendent Dr. Demetrius McCall

Sheldon ISD earned eight distinctions on the 2025 STAAR administration.

Good Reason Houston recognized Sheldon ISD as the only district in Region IV to demonstrate growth in both reading and math for grades 3-8.

Dr. McCall was named one of NSPRA's "Superintendents to Watch," honoring innovative and effective use of communication and technology.

"Being part of the Holdsworth Leadership Program has been a powerful growth experience," said Superintendent Dr. Demetrius McCall. "I appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with and learn from an incredible network of leaders and mentors. The insights gained have helped clarify our district's priorities and position us to more effectively serve our students, staff, and community."

About The Holdsworth Center  
The Holdsworth Center is a non-profit that builds stronger leaders for Texas public schools through world-class leadership programs. Since its founding in 2017, Holdsworth has served more than 1,900 educators in 88 school districts across Texas.

The Superintendent Leadership Program selects a limited cohort of dynamic superintendents—typically those in their first five years of the role or newly leading larger districts—and provides a best-in-class leadership experience.

Over 18 months, participants engage in immersive learning sessions at Holdsworth's Lake Austin campus, focusing on executive leadership skills such as strategic communication, stakeholder engagement, and navigating complex political and operational landscapes.

"Having exceptional superintendents at the helm of all Texas districts is critical to improving outcomes for students in the face of great headwinds battering public education," said Dr. Lindsay Whorton, president of The Holdsworth Center. "The diverse skills needed to be an effective superintendent are comparable to a Fortune 500 CEO, but the job

doesn't come with the same opportunities to study the tenets of great leadership or work with an experienced coach."

A key feature of this program is the pairing of each superintendent with an executive coach, often a seasoned superintendent-in-residence. This mentorship provides tailored guidance and professional support as participants tackle day-to-day challenges.

Superintendent Dr. McCall was one of only 17 selected statewide for this cohort, joining peers dedicated to district excellence. Through the program, he strengthened leadership capacity by collaborating with experienced educators and leadership experts to reimagine district strategies and refine district priorities.

During Superintendent McCall's tenure—and fortified by insights and networks gained at Holdsworth—Sheldon ISD has realized notable community impact, including:

### TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

The Andersons, Inc., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Air Quality Permit Number 19563, which would authorize continued operation of the Grain Elevator located at 1500 South Main Street, Galena Park, Harris County, Texas 77547. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

## LETTERS To The Editor

I am Oscar Salazar, Jr. I am your Precinct 2 neighbor in the South Belt. I have tossed my hat in the ring to serve you as your next Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2 Place 2. That's the courthouse in Pasadena, where I grew up.

I am the owner of Mornings Kolaches. We have been serving Harris County for over thirty-five years at six locations. Thirty-five years in business is no small feat. It is through a tremendous work ethic and the love and support of our community that we are still in business. When I take the bench on January 1, 2027 that same work ethic goes to the bench with me.

I am a United States Marine. I served proudly and I served honorably and I would do it again, in a heartbeat. I served to protect and defend our great country. Now I will serve to protect and defend your rights.

I will restore public trust to this courthouse in Pasadena, serving you and the community in the way in which you deserve. I will restore judicial efficiency to this courthouse, putting a stop to the waste and abuse of our taxpayer dollars. I will ensure that you always have access to every service you are entitled to and most of all I will make sure you always have fair, impartial and unhindered access to justice.

As things stand now, the sister courthouse in the South Belt is shouldering 78% of all court cases in the precinct. The courthouse in Pasadena is hearing only 22% and is still backlogged. That is NOT acceptable. I will work hand-in-hand with the courthouse in the South Belt to fix this abominable disparity and restore balance to our two JP courts.

I am a lifelong resident of Harris County and I have been here in Precinct 2, in the South Belt the last twenty years. I am a published author. My book, Prodigal, is a Christian novel that can be found on Amazon and, as an audiobook, on Audible.

My wife and I are very proud of having raised our two kids here in Precinct 2, in the South Belt. My wife was a dedicated first grade public school teacher here in Precinct 2, Landolt Elementary. She taught for twenty-six years. Our daughter, following in her mother's footsteps, is a first grade public school teacher. Our son is a law student right here at the University of Houston Law Center. We have deep roots in our community. We love our community and we love our people.

I will always serve you in the manner in which you deserve. It will be my greatest honor to serve you as your next Harris County Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2 Place 2. I vow to bring my thirty-five years of business and leadership experience and my uncompromised work ethic to serve you to my utmost ability.

Sincerely,  
Oscar Salazar, Jr.

**DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY**  
EARLY VOTING: Feb. 17 - Feb. 27  
ELECTION DAY: March 3

**OSCAR SALAZAR, JR.**  
For Justice of the Peace  
DEVOTED TO SERVICE. COMMITTED TO JUSTICE.

## CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



### Not Every Job is for Everyone

I attended a youth sporting event this week. There were dozens of children who were so excited not just to be a part of one of the teams but to be out and enjoying the cool breeze, hearing laughter, and supporting others. Many of the parents had grown up in this community and were sharing their memories of years gone by.

As I watched the young cheerleaders, I smiled listening to the mothers and even one grandmother as they shared about their younger days of cheering on the same field. You could hear laughter, and you could see the pride on their faces. As I watched, I noticed there was one young man who was coaching yet he did not seem to fit in. His attitude was as if he knew the rules and was disappointed in the lack of skills in the youth. I watched as fathers as well as some mothers were upset with the way he talked to the children.

Unfortunately, there came a time when one father could not hold his temper. Words were exchanged and fists started flying. It was a horrible experience for everyone. For safety reasons, I left before things got any more heated.

Later in the week, I was with others and someone posed the question, "What role do you see for you in this group?" to all in attendance. I listened and as everyone shared their answer, I became concerned that some were at the table for the wrong reason. Some people were there to make connections. Some were present to engage their organization or business as a way of becoming known. Some were there as they had a specific cause they were passionate about. Others were there because they have been called to serve. As each person spoke, I listened and began to pray for all in attendance but more importantly for the mission of the group. It is not about adding one more meeting to our calendars or planning one more event; as most of those at the table have calendars full of commitments, with family obligations, health issues, financial concerns and much more.

As the week continued, I had been asked to speak at a funeral for a Senior whom I met through my position at work. Over the past seven years, we had become friends and I truly was honored to be asked to speak. Yet late Friday, there was a family emergency that led to me having to cancel my commitment, not just for the funeral but for other plans for Saturday as well as I needed to leave town to be present for my father who had a health challenge.

On Sunday, as I listened to my Pastor share his message, it was clear to me that we cannot allow fear to guide our lives. We must move with faith to accomplish the purpose God has for us; and to do so, we must remember that not everyone is called for every job. We must know our purpose, and do what we are called to do, not strive to do what we want.

## Community voices frustration over superfund cleanup delays,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

... fishing activity, explaining that these reports are forwarded to the EPA's remedial project manager and included in weekly activity logs.

The meeting also included updates on related issues, such as delays in the San Jacinto River bridge replacement project and the recent release of a cancer assessment by the state health department. Medcalf criticized the state for withholding detailed cancer data, saying, "The data you all have asked for, it exists and we're just being denied this information. So, to me, I was talking with one of my mentors and she had let me know about a campaign a community did and it was that you're insulting our dignity. I'm thinking,

they're denying us data and they're insulting our dignity. You know, I mean, it's just, it's the community's data."

Looking ahead, THEA announced two upcoming town halls focused on air and water pollution and barge-related benzene issues, encouraging community members to attend and stay engaged. Medcalf closed the meeting by reaffirming THEA's commitment following the recent merger.

"I want you all to know that I'm not going anywhere and that THEA is not going anywhere. This is my hometown. This is what started THEA and our hearts, our passion, everything remains. Our commitment remains," she said.

## Deadly wrong way crash shuts down east freeway,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

... rived, the driver was pronounced dead at the scene.

Investigators said the Acura did not have a license plate, and no one on scene was able to identify the driver. The vehicle will be taken to an impound lot so investigators can pull the VIN to determine ownership.

The female driver of the Kia suffered serious injuries and was uncon-

scious at the scene. She was taken to the hospital in critical condition.

Due to the severity of the crash, the Harris County Medical Examiner was called to the scene.

HPD said the freeway is expected to remain closed for several hours.

Drivers are urged to avoid the area and seek alternate routes as the investigation continues.

## ASK DIAMOND JIM



### Diamond Jim: "Can you repair diamond rings?"

Welcome to the "Ask Diamond Jim" series available exclusively from *Diamond Jim's PINEFOREST JEWELRY Experience*. Today, we're diving into a question we often receive in one form or another: "Can you repair diamond rings?" The simple answer is a resounding yes, but let's explore this in more detail.

Common Issues with Diamond Rings and other Fashion Rings

Many of us adore our diamond rings, wearing them daily with pride. However, this constant wear and tear can sometimes lead to issues, like loose diamonds or scratches on the metal of the ring. Over time, prongs and tips tend to wear down and may need to be replaced. This is the reason we recommend that you have your ring inspected every 6 months at no charge. Our highly experienced bench jewelers will inspect every facet (pun intended) of your ring and the stones mounted in your ring. If we find worn prong tips, compromised channels or bezels, or even loose stones, we will provide you with a no-obligation estimate to repair your ring. Our commitment to personalized customer care and expert jewelry repair are just a couple of reasons why *Diamond Jim's PINEFOREST JEWELRY Experience* is rated the number one jewelry store in the entire Houston area.

Can Diamond Rings Be Repaired?

Absolutely, they can! And more importantly, they should be repaired by experienced professionals who understand the intricacies of these precious items. Here at *Diamond Jim's PINEFOREST JEWELRY Experience*, we pride ourselves on offering top-notch repair services for various types of damage. As previously mentioned, our team will carefully assess and inspect your diamond jewelry items, recommend to you what repairs are needed, and decide on the best repair strategy.

The Process of Diamond Ring Repair

The process of repairing a diamond ring requires skill, precision, and expertise. For instance, if your diamond is loose our team can skillfully tighten its setting. Are there scratches on the shank or band? We can polish and clean the entire ring. If the ring is made of white gold, we can rhodium plate your ring making it look as good as the day it was first created.

We can even reshape a deformed ring or replace a lost diamond. Our safety precautions ensure your ring is in the best of hands. We aim to return your ring and jewelry items to you, not just fixed but better than ever!

DIY Diamond Ring Repairs: A Risky Move

While some might be tempted to try DIY (Do It Yourself) repairs, we would advise against this. The risk of causing more harm to your precious jewelry is simply too high. If you have any concerns about your diamond ring, the best course of action is to contact us and let our expert team handle it.

Choosing Pineforest Jewelry for Diamond Ring Repairs

Why trust *Diamond Jim's PINEFOREST JEWELRY Experience* with your diamond ring repairs? Our reputation speaks for itself. We're proud members of the Independent Jewelers Organization, reflecting our commitment to ethical business practices. We promise to deliver a "WOW Experience" at every turn, making sure you're notified immediately once your ring is repaired and ready to be picked up.

Care and Maintenance to Prevent Future Damages

To keep your diamond ring in pristine condition we recommend regular maintenance checks with our team. Good practices like proper storage and cleaning can go a long way in preventing future damage. Remember, a diamond ring is an investment worth protecting.

Conclusion

In conclusion, not only can diamond rings be repaired, but they should also be entrusted to a skilled jeweler. Whether it's for custom design, jewelry repair, or expert consultations, *Diamond Jim's PINEFOREST JEWELRY Experience* is here to serve you. We invite you to explore our stunning collection, experience our personalized service, and create your dream piece with us.

For our first responders and military personnel, we express our gratitude by offering a 10% discount for online and in-store purchases. We look forward to providing you with an unparalleled jewelry experience. For more tips and insights into the world of jewelry, check out our *Ask Diamond Jim* blog series on our website at [www.PineforestJewelry.com](http://www.PineforestJewelry.com).

Let us know what topics you'd like to see covered next. We're always here to answer your questions and make your Pineforest Jewelry experience a "WOW Experience"!

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](http://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](mailto:jmills@pineforestjewelry.com).

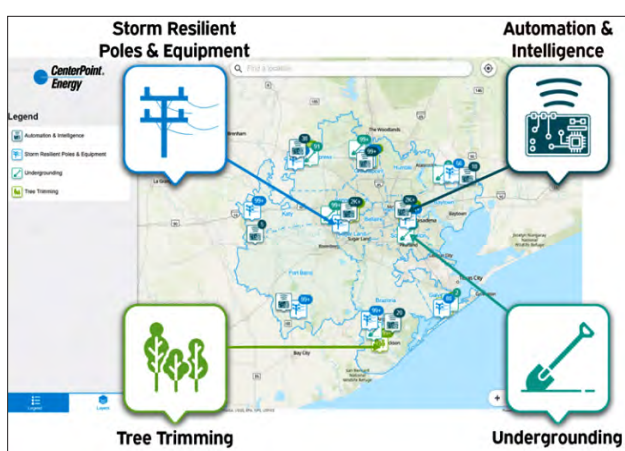
# CenterPoint Energy Launches New Community Progress Tracker Map

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

HOUSTON — As part of its ongoing commitment to transparency and keeping customers informed of the progress to strengthen the electric grid around Greater Houston, today CenterPoint Energy launched its new Community Progress Tracker. This new web-based, customer-focused map provides direct access to the public to track and measure progress on electric infrastructure upgrades on their street, in their neighborhood, or in their ZIP Code. All of the system upgrades that CenterPoint is making are critical to helping the company build and deliver the most resilient coastal grid in the nation.

The new Community Progress Tracker is part of CenterPoint's broader Greater Houston Resiliency Initiative (GHRI) — a multi-year program to strengthen the electric grid and improve both reliability and resiliency in the face of increasingly severe weather events, while also improving customer communications. Through GHRI, CenterPoint is investing in a wide range of grid-hardening measures designed to reduce outage impacts and accelerate customer outage restoration.

"Our new Community Progress Tracker gives our customers a clear window into the work we're doing in their local neighborhoods to improve their service and build a stronger and more resilient electric system," said Tony Gardner, chief customer



officer at CenterPoint. "Whether they access it on their phones, tablets, laptops or desktops, our new tracker details all the different types of work we are doing and the critical upgrades we've made in their communities."

Community Progress Tracker details

The new tool provides location-specific details on work completed to date as part of GHRI. This includes new more storm-resilient poles and equipment, undergrounded power lines, enhanced vegetation management, and advanced grid technologies, including automation devices that reduce the impact of outages. All these different scopes of GHRI upgrades are noted on the new tracker using colorful and easy-to-identify icons.

While today the tracker visualizes all the upgrades and improvements that CenterPoint has delivered over the last 18 months, it will continue to evolve, and future features will soon allow customers to monitor projects underway and upcoming planned resiliency projects in their area. These future improve-

ments will allow customers and the public to follow progress in given areas and better understand how these efforts contribute to a more reliable and resilient energy future.

Accessible via both desktop and mobile devices, the new Community Progress Tracker includes:

- An interactive map of CenterPoint's 12-county Greater Houston service area
- Colorful and easy-to-view icons for locations of new poles, tree-trimming miles, automation devices, undergrounding, and weather stations
- Zoom in and out functions
- Searchability by street address or ZIP Code
- Community and neighborhood-level visualization of work completed since August 1, 2024, including pole and equipment upgrades, tree trimming, undergrounding power lines and the installation of automation devices

GHRI Progress update "Resiliency is at the heart of everything we're doing," added Jesus Soto Jr., Chief Operating Officer

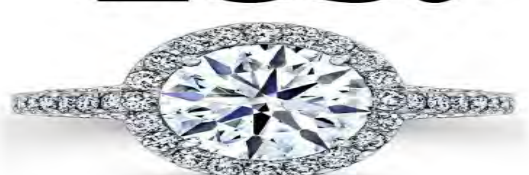
at CenterPoint. "From stronger poles and new automation to undergrounding to tree trimming, we're taking a comprehensive and innovative approach to hardening our infrastructure and delivering Greater Houston's electric system. Our goal is to build the most resilient coastal grid in the nation, and this tool will help our customers follow that journey and see the progress we are making in their communities."

Since August 2024, as part of GHRI, CenterPoint has:


- Installed or replaced more than 56,000 utility poles, including high-strength composite models engineered to better withstand extreme wind conditions;
- Undergrounded more than 430 miles of power lines to reduce exposure to storm-related damage;
- Trimmed or cleared vegetation along more than 8,000 miles of distribution lines in higher-risk areas;
- Installed more than 500 automation and intelligence devices to help reduce outage impacts and improve service restoration times; and
- Deployed 1,500 advanced weather stations since April 2025 to enhance situational awareness and storm preparedness.

How to access To explore the Community Progress Tracker, visit [CenterPointEnergy.com/Progress](http://CenterPointEnergy.com/Progress). A short "how-to" video is also available to help customers navigate the tool.

# "Yes!"




in a flash!



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Houston, Texas 77049  
(713) 451-1321 [PineforestJewelry.com](http://PineforestJewelry.com)

OPINION PAGE

**OPINION**  
By **BILL KING**



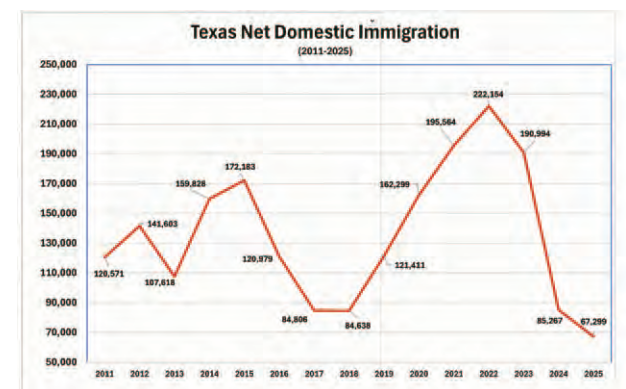
# Census Shows Texas Growth is Slowing

The U.S. Census Bureau released its population estimates for 2025. This is a bit of an odd year because the annual estimates are made as of July 1 each year. So, this estimate straddles the Biden and Trump administrations and their very different immigration policies.

Texas added 391,000 new residents, more than any other state. It added almost double Florida's increase, which ranked second. The percentage growth of only three states (the Carolinas and Idaho) was higher than Texas.

However, the increase in Texas' population last year was down by over 43% from the previous year (599,000/391,000). Unpacking the numbers strongly suggests this downturn is likely to continue.

A little under half of Texas' growth came from international immigration (167,000 or 43%). Natural change (i.e., births minus deaths) was unchanged from last year at 157,000. Domestic immigration into Texas from other states fell to 67,000, the lowest level since 2010, and was down 70% from its 2022 high. We saw a precipitous decline in domestic migration into Texas last year (191,000/85,000). Those in the demographic community have been wondering whether last year's decline was the beginning of a trend or a one-time anomaly. The new data would seem to suggest the former.



Of course, the most important question is what is really going on with international immigration. The Census Bureau estimates that international immigration nationwide fell by more than half last year (2.7 million 1.3 million). With the dramatic change in immigration policy that the new administration has implemented, one would expect that most of the net positive immigration occurred in the last half of 2024. If the Trump administration continues its current immigration policies, it is not unreasonable to speculate that net international immigration next year could be zero or even negative.


We know that natural population growth is on the wane. Before the pandemic, we were having roughly a million more babies born every year in the U.S. than people dying. With the surge of fatalities during the pandemic, the natural increase dropped dramatically. But even now, it is still coming in at only about half the pre-pandemic level. The CBO has projected that 2030 will be the last year the U.S. has a positive natural increase.

The decline in international immigration will further reduce natural growth because immigrant mothers contribute to a significant share of births. Over the last decade, about 40% of births in Harris County were to mothers not born in the U.S.

So, every factor affecting population growth in Texas is slowing, and that deceleration likely to continue. The plain fact is that the halcyon days of never-ending growth in Texas are rapidly coming to an end.

**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.

**Americanisms**



"Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall."  
— Larry Wilde

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**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
By **Gary Borders**



## Early Voting Begins Feb. 17

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

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

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

### MORE THAN 30K VOUCHER APPLICATION ON FIRST DAY

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

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

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

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

### SCHOOL WALKOUTS COULD TRIGGER TEA PROBES

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



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

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

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

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

### STATE BACK IN COURT SOON OVER NO AC IN PRISONS

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

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

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

to the heat," attorney Erica Grossman said. "People living in Texas prisons should not be subjected to conditions we won't even subject animals to."

County jails are required to keep temperatures between 65 and 85 degrees. Animal shelters also have heat rules.

### MEASLES CASES REPORTED IN DILLEY IMMIGRANT CENTER, WEST TEXAS

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

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

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

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

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

### TEA HIRES INSPECTOR GENERAL TO INVESTIGATE TEACHERS

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

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

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

### RRC COMPLETES DIGITIZATION OF 100 MILLION RECORDS

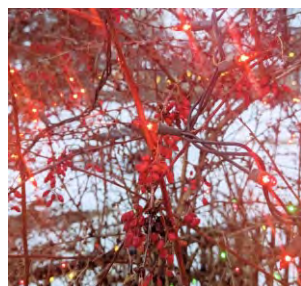
The Texas Railroad Commission recently surpassed digitizing more than 100 million oil and gas records, making nearly a century's worth of documents available online.

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

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

**THE POSTSCRIPT**  
By **Carrie Classon**

## The Seasons



I woke up late at night and saw the falling snow.

In the middle of the night, the weather had changed. Snow began to fall. Large flakes hovered and floated in front of the streetlights as they fell, and soon the ground was coated.

Normally, I would be in Mexico by now. But with my book coming out, we stayed a bit longer. And now I'm glad we did, because two nights ago, my Uncle Andy died. He was 94.

Yesterday, I went with my mother and father, my aunt, my sister and four cousins to meet with the funeral director. He was surprised. He had to scout up more chairs. That's when we told him my Uncle Les would also be joining us by phone.

This winter was a tough season for Andy.

First, he had to move from the family farmhouse, where he spent the last 77 years of his life, to an assisted living apartment. Andy did not want to move. He wanted to stay at the farm. He wanted to die at the farm. He consented to leaving only after his wife, Bea, who will soon turn 94 herself, was diagnosed with terminal cancer.

Andy always thought he would die before Bea. But now it was looking as if Bea would go before him—something he never imagined—and they both had to leave the old farmhouse to move into this new, small space. Bea was released from the hospital, and my cousins decorated the new apartment with furniture and pictures from the farmhouse to make them feel at home. Andy complained more or less nonstop about the changes. And he joked. Andy always told jokes, even when he was grumpy.

But neither Andy nor Bea spent much time in that little apartment.

Bea quickly grew worse. She had some small strokes, and she became confused. She started wandering the hallways, and the folks at the home said she'd need to move downstairs to memory care. This meant Andy would also move into a new apartment just a few doors down from Bea.

"I have to move again?" he asked, astonished. He had still not fully settled into the new apartment.

My mother explained that he did so he could be close to Bea.

"But I like this place!" Andy said. This was news to everyone.

Plans were made to move him the next day, but that night, he took a bad fall. He was taken to the hospital. He had broken two vertebrae in his neck. They didn't recommend surgery at 94. In the middle of the night, he died in his sleep.

"I don't think he wanted to go through all that," my mom said. "Not without Bea."

"He ended up dying first, like he thought he would," I said.

So yesterday, we had a mini family reunion in the funeral director's office, then my mother and her sister and a cousin went to tell Bea that her husband had died. My mother said she thought Bea understood—at least for a moment.

"How old was he?" Bea asked. Then she asked about the weather. Then she asked again.

I was thinking about all of this, watching the snow fall in the middle of the night. Sometimes, when I'm in Mexico, I miss the changing of the seasons. This year, I am here as witness. There's nothing I can do, nothing I can change. But somehow being here to observe the change is good. It makes the changes real. And it reminds me of how very short the days are.

Till next time,  
Carrie

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

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# Fire-plagued Channelview hotel demolished,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



The hotel was mostly razed just minutes after they got started. Work will continue cleaning up the entire property and should be finished by the end of the week.

turn into another dump site,” Jeansonne said.

“The very first large fire was an electrical fire in March of last year and the business was able to re-open for a few months,” said Mitchell Weston, assistant chief with the Harris County Fire Marshal’s Office who heads the Investigation Bureau.

A secondary fire in May basically shuttered the business and three fires followed.

“Those were undetermined and still under investigation. Some of those additional fires mentioned by officials are the fire departments being recalled to put out smoldering fires, things of that nature,” he said.

“We suspect that some of those fires were probably warming fires that got away or unattended.”

In one case, Weston said the structure had a fireplace when it was originally built and an entry area where travelers who checked in could stop, sit, converse and enjoy the fireplace.

“We know that during the third fire, that fireplace was being used, but the chimney had been damaged previously. So that fireplace being used led to hot gases and soot going up into it and coming out on the third floor,” he explained.

One of the fires they were able to confirm was a warming fire according to information obtained from witnesses who did talk to them, but difficult to prove since the interior of the building pancaked on top of itself.

“That kind of thing will



Harris County Fire Marshal Laurie L. Christensen spoke to reporters on the details of the fires at the Hampton Inn in Channelview.

happen when you have a large unlicensed population. It didn’t matter how much security went into it. People are desperate to look for shelter and a large building looks attractive to them, even in extreme disrepair,” he said.

Jeansonne said the owner was having issues with his insurance company and it could take months or years to settle.

“We couldn’t allow this,” he said. “The property owner signed off on a document allowing us to do this without having to go through the much longer legal process. He knows that he will be paying the lien for whatever this cost is,” Jeansonne explained.

While most of the work will be done in a couple of days, Jeansonne said.

“Its going to take some time to take down these giant etal girders and stuff and get clearance for asbestos. Once its done, it will be nothing more than a concrete parking lot. At that point, it’s the property owner’s decision if he wants to build something or sell it,” he told the North Channel Star.

Jeansonne said the owner did the right thing for the community signing off on the documents.

The abatement is part of the “Keep 2 Clean” initiative, which encourages residents to report unsafe structures and illegal dumping.

“Trash isn’t just trash. Trash also brings a lot of public safety issues. A lot of crime breeds where there’s a lot of crime. And if you see that people start dumping, please call us,” said Susana Castillo, project manager for Keep 2 Clean.

As the hotel comes down, county leaders hope the move signals a new era for Channelview. “Precinct 2 is one of the hardest working, most humble areas of Harris County. But that doesn’t mean that it is okay to allow circumstances like this to exist,” Garcia said. “I am committed to continuing to fight for this community to ensure that their children, their families, can all be guaranteed a degree of quality of life that every other part of Harris County can enjoy as well.”

# MLB’s first black hall of famer, Satchel Paige,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that allowed him to cart up to four bags at once. Another kid supposedly yelled, “You look like a walking satchel tree.”

At the age of 10, Paige was playing “top ball”, which was what got him into baseball. “Top ball” was a kids’ game that used sticks and bottle caps instead of baseballs and bats to play a variation of the diamond sport. Satchel’s mother, Lula, would even comment on how Paige would rather “play baseball than eat. It was always baseball, baseball.”

On July 24, 1918, just seventeen days after his 12th birthday, Paige was sentenced to six years—or until his 18th birthday, whichever came first—at the Alabama Reform School for Juvenile Negro Law-Breakers in Mount Meigs, Alabama, owing to his truancy in school along with his tendency to steal.

The person who taught Paige to pitch while in reform school was the Reverend Moses Davis. It was Davis, who was also a trustee of the school, who devoted the long hours coaching the boys in baseball.

Paige was released from the institution in December 1923, seven months short of his 18th birthday. He summed up his years of incarceration: “I traded five years of freedom to learn how to pitch. At least I started my real learning on the Mount. They were not wasted years at all. It made a real man out of me.”

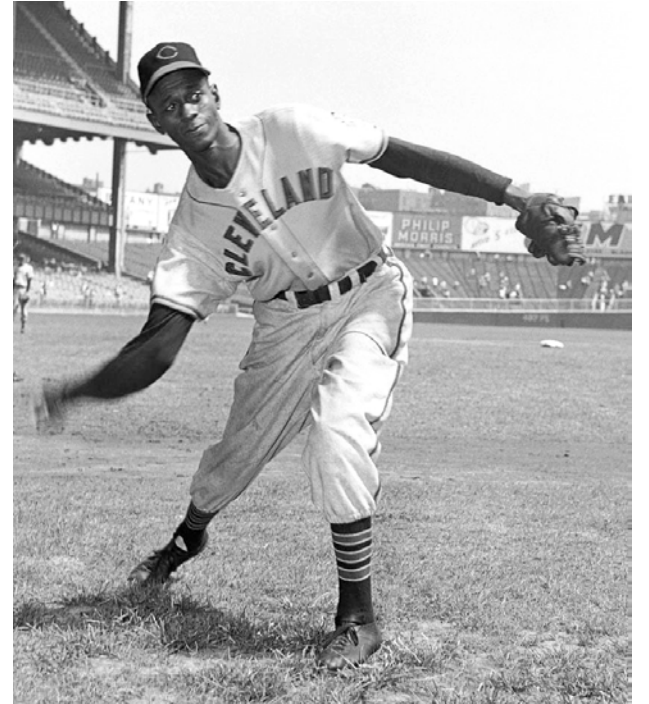
A right-handed, flexible “beanpole” standing more than 6 feet 3 inches, Paige had considerable pitching speed, but he also developed a comprehensive mastery of slow-breaking pitches and varied deliveries. He is rated as one of the greatest players in the history of baseball.

He entered the Negro Leagues playing for the Chattanooga Black Lookouts in 1926. He was a pitcher for various teams in the Negro Southern Association and the Negro National League. Wearing a false red beard, he also played for the House of David team (a team fielded by a communal Christian religious sect that forbade its male members to shave or cut their hair).

A true “iron man,” he pitched in the Dominican Republic and Mexican leagues during the northern winter. As a barnstormer, he would travel as many as 30,000 miles a year while pitching for any team willing to meet his price.

He’s reportedly to have pitched a total of 2,500 games during his nearly 30-year career, winning 2,000 of them.

Paige’s legacy was



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

further burnished in 2024 when the statistics of players in the Negro leagues were finally incorporated into MLB history. Among other feats, those revised stats show that Paige’s 1.01 earned run average (ERA), posted in 1944, is the third best of all time.

His pitching expertise and skills became legendary during his many years in the Negro leagues; he finally was allowed to enter Major League Baseball (MLB) in 1948 after the unwritten rule against Black players was abolished.

The spectacle of watching Paige pitch was made all the more entertaining by the expansive pitching unusual body movements he developed over the years. In his early years, Paige was known as a pure fastball pitcher. He experimented with releasing pitches from a variety of arm angles something he would build upon later as he added more pitches to the mix.

The Bismarck Tribune reported that Paige used “a tricky delayed delivery with great effectiveness,” something that would later become known as Paige’s famous “hesitation pitch”.

Page said, “The idea of the hesitation pitch came to me in a game, when the guy at bat was all tighten up waiting for my fast ball. I knew he’d swing as soon as I just barely moved. So when I stretched, I paused just a little longer with my arms above my head. Then I threw my left foot forward but I didn’t come around with my arm right away. I put that foot of mine down, stopping for a second, before the ball left my hand. When my foot hit the ground that boy started swinging, so by the time I came around with the whip he was way off stride and couldn’t get anywhere near the ball. I had me a strikeout.”

He once struck out

Rogers Hornsby, probably the greatest right-handed hitter in baseball history, five times in one game. In Hollywood in 1934

In 1934, before a barnstorming match-up, Dizzy Dean, a four time All Star Champion was heard on the radio saying that “Satchel Paige has no clue how to throw a curve.” In actuality, Paige had been practicing and perfecting his curveball in secret for many years.

When Dean came up to bat, Satchel Paige struck him out with nothing but curveballs—officially adding the pitch to his repertoire. Paige could throw a variety of curveballs at different speeds and arm angles.

In 2010, sportswriter Joe Posnanski, writing for Sports Illustrated, named Paige as the hardest thrower in the history of baseball. He based this, in part, on the fact that: Joe DiMaggio, baseball legend would say that Paige was the best he ever faced. Baseball great Bob Feller would say that Paige was the best he ever saw. Hack Wilson would say that the ball looked like a marble when it crossed the plate. Dizzy Dean would say that Paige’s fastball made his own look like a changeup.” Posnanski further noted that for most of his career,

“Satchel Paige threw mostly nothing but fastballs. And he was still unhittable for the better part of 15 years. He was pitching complete games day after day. That had to be some kind of incredible fastball... he was perhaps the most precise pitcher in baseball history—he threw unreasonably and unrecognizably hard. And he also threw hundreds and hundreds of innings,” sportswriter Joe Posnanski said.

Paige died of a heart attack after a power failure at his home in Kansas City on June 8, 1982. He is buried on Paige Island in the Forest Hill Calvary Cemetery in Kansas City.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### FOR THE 2026 TEXAS PRIMARY ELECTION

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

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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, on Bid Forms provided, addressed to the President and Board of Directors of Harris County F.W.S.D. No. 6, Channelview, Texas, Harris County, will be received at Harris County F.W.S.D. No. 6, 15902 Market Street, Channelview, Texas 77530 until **2:00 P.M., Thursday, March 12, 2026**, and then publicly opened and read for construction of the "District Wide Sanitary Sewer Television Inspection Survey & Study."

Scope of Work: This project includes television inspection and documentation of approximately 8 miles of sanitary sewer lines, including associated manholes. This project is just for inspection purposes and not for the repair of any leaks or inflow and infiltration documented during the inspection process.

Accompany Bids with acceptable Cashier's or Certified Check in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total amount bid, payable without recourse to the **District**, or a Bid Bond of like amount from an approved surety company, as a guarantee that bidder will enter into a contract.

Plans, specifications and bidding documents for the project are available at <https://bids.lja.com>. For each set issued a non-refundable charge of \$50.00 for an electronic copy / \$100.00 for a hard copy. The hard copy may be obtained at LJA Engineering, Inc., East Houston Office, 11821 East Freeway, Suite 360, Houston TX 77029.

Examine documents at the East Houston office of LJA Engineering, Inc, Amtek Plan Room, Dodge Data & Analytics, AGC of Texas, Construct Connect and the **District**.

**A Non Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 2:00 P.M.** at the Harris County F.W.S.D. No. 6, Conference Room, 15902 Market Street, Channelview, Texas 77530.

Harris County F.W.S.D. No. 6

Gary O'Brian  
President

07-21

**TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**



**NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN AIR PERMIT (NORI) RENEWAL**

PERMIT NUMBER 19563

**APPLICATION.** The Andersons, Inc., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for Renewal of Air Quality Permit Number 19563, which would authorize continued operation of the Grain Elevator located at 1500 South Main Street, Galena Park, Harris County, Texas 77547. **AVISO DE IDIOMA ALTERNATIVO.** El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/newsocereview/airpermits-pendingpermit-apps>. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=95.240555.29.722777&level=13>. The existing facility and/or related facilities are authorized to emit the following air contaminants: particulate matter including particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less.

This application was submitted to TCEQ on January 27, 2026. The application will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ Central Office, TCEQ Houston Regional Office, and the Galena Park Branch Library, 1500 Keene Street, Galena, Harris County, Texas 77547, beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review in the Houston Regional Office of the TCEQ. The application, including any updates, is available electronically at the following webpage: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/airpermit-applications-notice>

The executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. The reasons for any changes or incorporations, to the extent they are included in the renewed permit, may include the enhancement of operational control at the plant or enforceability of the permit. **The TCEQ may act on this application without seeking further public comment or providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT.** You may submit public comments to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application and the executive director will prepare a response to those comments. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the TCEQ's jurisdiction to address in the permit process.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING.** You may request a contested case hearing if you are a person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the following: (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, daytime phone number; (2) applicant's name and permit number; (3) the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing;" (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility; and (7) a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period. If the request is made by a group or association, one or more members who have standing to request a hearing must be identified by name and physical address. The interests the group or association seeks to protect must also be identified. You may also submit your proposed adjustments to the application/permit which would satisfy your concerns.

The deadline to submit a request for a contested case hearing is 15 days after newspaper notice is published. If a request is timely filed, the deadline for requesting a contested case hearing will be extended to 30 days after mailing of the response to comments.

If any requests for a contested case hearing are timely filed, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for a contested case hearing to the Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. Unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing, the executive director will mail the response to comments along with notification of Commission meeting to everyone who submitted comments or is on the mailing list for this application. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material air quality concerns submitted during the comment period.** Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to address in this proceeding.

**MAILING LIST.** In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list for this application by sending a request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. Those on the mailing list will receive copies of future public notices (if any) mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk for this application.

**AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION.** All public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at [www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/leComment/](http://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/leComment/), or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep). Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040. You can also view our website for public participation opportunities at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/participation](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/participation).

Further information may also be obtained from The Andersons, Inc., 1947 Briarfield Boulevard, Maumee, Ohio 43537-9803, or by calling Mrs. Rebecca Robinson, Environmental Compliance Manager, PPM Consultants, Inc., at (225) 293-7270.

Notice Issuance Date: January 30, 2026

**BID NOTICE**

**BID NOTICE**

**BID NOTICE**

Channelview I.S.D. will accept Request for Proposals for the following:

**E-Rate Category 1 DIA and Category Two Network Equipment - Technology**

Bids will be received until **3:00 PM, Wednesday, March 25, 2026** at the Channelview I.S.D. Educational Support Center, 828 Sheldon Road, Channelview, TX 77530 Attn: Michael Sanchez. All necessary information may be obtained by calling the Business Office at (281) 452-8003, or the district website [www.cvisd.org](http://www.cvisd.org), under Departments → Business Office → Purchasing. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

07-2T

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

"56 Days."

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

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

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

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

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Cary Clay G. P. running back 2000+ yard season

By Allan Jamail

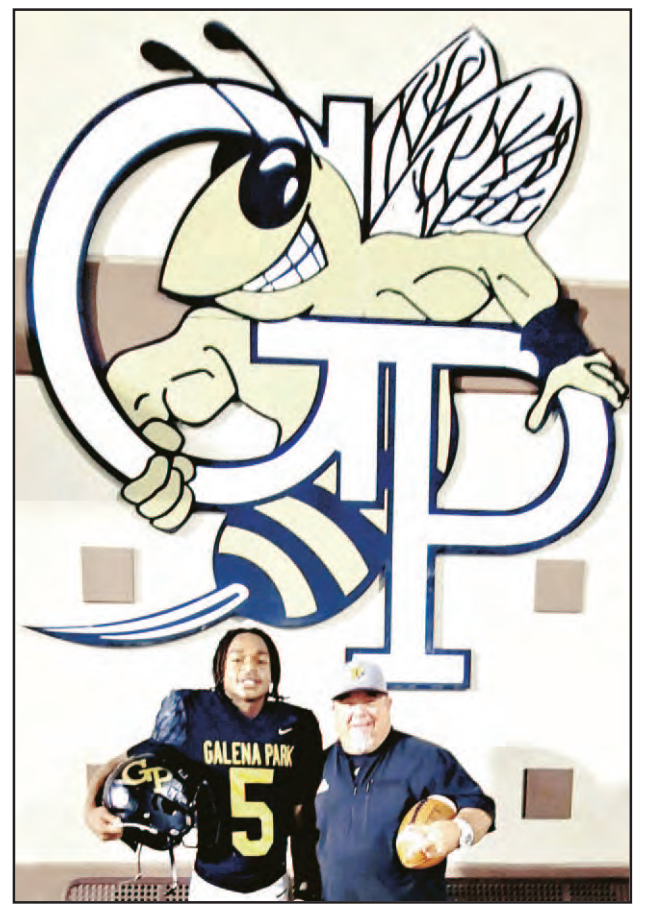
Galena Park, TX. — February 17, 2026 ~ The 2025/2026 football season is over but it's never too late to do the right thing. In this case the right thing to do is give credit to senior Cary Clay a running back for the Galena Park Yellow Jackets for his extra-unordinary 2,552 yard, 30 touchdown season.

Very seldom in high school, college or pro football if ever can a running back gain 2,000 plus yards in a single season.

GP Spiro Amarantos, Head Football/Athletic Coordinator gave praise to his senior running back Clay, saying he was on-fire this season. He also pointed out that in just one game Clay led the team's 301 yards rushing performance by making 229 by himself and two touchdowns.

Amarantos stated Clay's stats for his last season are: 2552 all purpose yards, with 30 TD's, pass receiving yds 153, with 10 catches and a TD, 278 yds for kickoff returns, 109 yds for punt returns.

Clay said, "The factors that led to me having a 2000-yard season was coming to practice and giving my best every day. And being named a captain meant that I had to set the example because I knew our team was looking up to me to produce. I did not want to let them down. Also, a big thank you to my coaches for believing in me."



#5 Cary Clay G.P. Yellow Jacket star running back & Spiro Amarantos Head Football Coach

Coach Amarantos always says, "When our best players are leading by example... that is when you have something special," Clay said.

Cary gives credit for his 2,000 plus yard season to his offensive line.

He said, "I am very proud of myself, and I am very proud of our team...especially our offensive line this year. I set a goal for myself of being an 1800-yard rusher... but to go above that total with 3

sophomore offensive line-men was very satisfying."

Cary said his football career as of now has been playing at Jacinto City Elementary, Galena Park Middle School and Galena Park High School, he didn't play in a youth football league.

Clay also was on the GP track team and he said at the age of 14 as a GP freshman that's when he became inspired to play football.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU puzzle grid and instructions

HOCUS-FOCUS puzzle by Henry Boltinoff with two panels to compare

February 16, 2026 Posting Date King Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down

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

King Crossword Answers and Trivia Test section



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