



**Hiram Rhodes Revels, History's first African American in Congress, first Black U. S. Senator**  
(Story by Allan Jamail)  
**See Story below & on page 7**

# NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR Your News, Your Newspaper

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## IN THE STARS

### Black History Month Honoree Hiram Rhodes

4<sup>th</sup> of a series...  
By Allan Jamail

February 24, 2026 ~ Black History Month, a month long commemoration of African American history and achievement that takes place from February 1, 2026 – March 1, 2026

This week NC Star writer Allan Jamail selected Hiram Rhodes Revels History's first African American in Congress, first Black U. S. Senator. Once arrested and imprisoned for preaching to the Gospel to the black community in 1854.

Born on September 27, 1827, in North Carolina, Revels was raised in a deeply religious household. His father served as a Baptist minister, instilling in him strong moral values, faith, and discipline. From a young age, Revels demonstrated a passion for learning and service. Despite facing widespread racial barriers, he pursued education and ministry, becoming one of the few African Americans of his time to receive formal college-level instruction.

Throughout the 1850s, Revels traveled extensively across Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, and Tennessee, preaching and teaching in Black communities. In 1854, while serving as a pastor in Missouri, he was arrested and imprisoned for preaching to enslaved and free Black people.

Continued. See BLACK HISTORY MONTH, Page 7

## Channelview ISD Opens New District Museum Celebrating Nearly a Century of Education

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

Channelview ISD marked a significant milestone with the ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new school district museum at the Joe Frank Campbell Learning Center on February 20, 2026. The event brought together past Channelview alumni, families, district leaders, and community members, all eager to honor the district's rich legacy and ongoing commitment to education.

Superintendent Dr. Tory C. Hill expressed the museum's importance to the community.

"We are happy to open a space where the community can think back to a time when they were students. This museum represents the traditional



District personnel and community members gathered for the official ribbon cutting for the new Channelview ISD Museum last Friday at the Joe Frank Campbell Learning Center on February 20, 2026.

Channelview and how public education still continues to play a significant role in the lives of residents today," he said.

The celebration featured remarks from district leaders, a

ribbon-cutting ceremony, and a unique opportunity for guests to make their own history by signing the ribbon used in the grand opening. Attendees toured exhibits showcasing artifacts from Channelview

ISD's past, including signage from Viola Cobb Elementary, Channelview High School yearbooks dating back to 1958, and a statue of "Freddy Falcon," the namesake of the district's mascot.

According to the district, the Channelview ISD Museum is designed to serve as both an educational and community resource. It offers a spacious venue for district events such as the annual State of the District Address and professional learning sessions. The museum also functions as a historical gallery, displaying artifacts deemed significant for public viewing.

Channelview ISD, established in 1937-1938, has grown from a small district employing just eight teachers to a rapidly expanding 6A district with over 9,000 students and 12 campuses. The district's history includes early years with separate facilities for Black and White

Continued. See NEW DISTRICT MUSEUM, Page 5

## NS Lady Mustangs Basketball Playoff Season Ends

By Allan Jamail

Friendswood, Tx. ~ February 20, 2026 at the neutral site of the Clear Brook High School gymnasium the North Shore Lady Mustangs winning season came to close. In a close and fierce battle the Lady Mustangs lost to the Pearl and Lady Dawson Eagles 49 ~ 40.

Head Coach Curtis Bason's well coached Lady Mustangs with the score tied near the close of the game and having fought to the bitter end, but came up short. Linda Jamail statistician.

GPISD Athletic Director Vivian Dancy, Kae Walker, Deputy Director of Athletics.



Lady Mustangs Head Coach Curtis Bason (seated photo center), players: Brelione Anderson, Chamere Bailey, Tieuanna Bass, Caidyn Brown, Ketra Burrough, Janiya Coleman, Khrystin Davis, Aziah Jackson, Gabbyelle Jackson, Kionti Johnson, Kobe Johnson, Taylor Pellerin, Kynlee Semien, Aija Torres & Brooklyn Walker. Assistant Coaches: Gisele Price, Francesca Fisher & Tykejah Hall. Managers: Kevyn Cole & Nyla Jackson. Student Trainer: Za'Niya Joe. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

## Channelview ISD Superintendent Dr. Tory Hill Named TABSE 2026 Superintendent of the Year



Dr. Tory Hill (At Center) recognized at the TABSE Convention last weekend.

February 20, 2026— The Channelview Independent School District is proud to announce that Superintendent Dr. Tory Hill has been selected as the 2026 Superintendent of the Year by the Texas Alliance of Black School Educators (TABSE).

Dr. Hill was nominated by fellow superintendents across the state and chosen

through a peer-driven process that evaluates leadership impact, student achievement, community engagement, and professional contributions. The honor reflects his dedication to advancing educational excellence and equity for all students.

"This recognition is a testament to Dr. Hill's unwavering commitment to

our students, staff, and community," said Board President Alex Ybarra. "His leadership continues to strengthen our district and ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed."

Dr. Hill expressed gratitude for the honor and

Continued. See CHANNELVIEW ISD SUPERINTENDENT, Page 6

## NS Boys Hold On for Dramatic 62-60 Bi-district Playoff Win

By Allan Jamail

February 23, 2026 at the neutral site of the Sam Rayburn Hi gymnasium in front of both teams bleacher-filled fans the East Side varsity boys basketball team under Head Coach Stephen Woods won their bi-district game in a nail bitter by barely defeating League City's Clear Springs Chargers 62 ~ 60.

The Clear Creek ISD Chargers took a season ending tough 2 point playoff loss after a gallant 4<sup>th</sup> quarter comeback try.

The first 2 quarters it appeared the Mustangs were going to easily gallop away with a playoff victory. The Mustangs had a 32 - 15 (17 points) halftime lead.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> quarter the Chargers woke up realizing what was a stake and that they were about to end their season. They came roaring back on both offense and defense to nearly snatch a win.

The Chargers made 32 fourth quarter points to



#32 Christian Gibson Mustang's leading scorer with 28 points slaps on a 2 point play. (Photo By Allan Jamail)

the Mustangs 19 points which caused fans from both teams to get on their feet and shout their team on. SEE BOX SCORE

Coach Wood's and his coaching staff noticed the peril his team was facing with the momentum swinging to the Chargers. He called several timeouts to try to fire-up the Mustangs defense to stop or slow the Chargers offense to no avail.

As time was running out the suspense grew as to whether or not the Mustangs could hold on and win. Nshore's 17 point halftime lead dwindled to 2 points, as the final seconds ran out on the Chargers the Mustangs held on to a cliff-hanging 2 point win.

Nshore had 3 players in double-digits scoring with eight 3 point baskets. The Mustangs have 10 players over six-foot tall on their 14 player roster and only 4 seniors.

Continued. See NS BOYS BASKETBALL DEFEATS, Page 2

# Sheldon ISD Honors Burquez and Gonzalez as District's Top Principals of the Year



Sheldon ISD announces Ms. Jacqueline Burquez as the Elementary Principal of the Year and Mr. Roberto Gonzalez as the Secondary Principal of the Year. Mrs. Burquez has led Sheldon Lake Elementary as principal since January 2022. Since then her work has centered on academic growth, collaboration, and a strong sense of school pride. During the 2024-2025 school

year, Sheldon Lake Elementary demonstrated the most student growth in reading and math across the district, improving 16 points! In addition, the campus is also the reigning champion of the PVA vs. PVA Battle. Mr. Gonzalez has been the principal of Michael R. Null Middle School since 2020. He first joined Sheldon ISD in 2016 as the Academy Principal of Curriculum and Instruc-

tion at C.E. King High School. Under his leadership, Michael R. Null Middle School earned a designation in 2024 as an AVID National Demonstration school, reflecting a deep commitment to college readiness and instructional excellence. Both Ms. Burquez and Mr. Gonzalez will represent Sheldon ISD in the Region 4 Principal of the Year competition.

# SISD School Calendar Approved for the 2026-27 School Year



It's official! The 2026-2027 Sheldon ISD District Calendar has been approved by our Board of Trustees. Start planning for the next school year by viewing and downloading the full calendar on our website! The 2026-27 calendar has been approved by the Sheldon ISD Board of Trustees. Highlights of the upcoming school year include the following start date, student holidays, and last day of school:  
-First Day of School - Tuesday, August 12  
-Fall Break - Monday, October 12 - Friday, October 16  
-Thanksgiving Break - Monday, November 23 - Friday, November 27  
-Winter Break - Monday, December 21 - Tuesday, January 5  
-Spring Break - Monday, March 8 - Friday, March 12  
-Last day of school - Thursday, May 27  
The calendar can be found at [www.sheldonisd.com/calendar](http://www.sheldonisd.com/calendar).

# NS boys basketball defeats Chargers 62-60,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



NS Head Coach Stephen Woods (seated) with the coaching staff, managers and players looking on as he gives the team's strategy in their bi-district wining playoff game. (Photo By Linda Jamail)

SCORER'S POINTS: Christian Gibson 28, Dillon Colbert 19, Da'Marcus Sloan 10, Jeremiah Thomas 2, Samuel Walker 2 & Joshua Richardson 1. Linda Jamail statistician.

Nshore will face the winner of the (2-24-26) Pearland Oilers and Fort Bend Travis Tigers. The date, time and location to be determined after the game.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Final
Mustangs	17	15	4	19	62
Chargers	11	4	13	32	60



#32 Christian Gibson Mustang's leading scorer with 28 points slam-dunks on a 2 point play. (Photo By Allan Jamail)



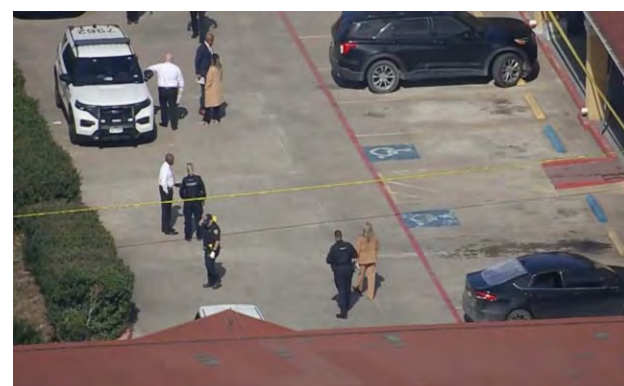
Mustang #2 Da'Marcus Sloan evades a Charger defender for a layup 2 point score. (Photo By Allan Jamail)

# Man's Body 'Accidentally' Found During an Arrest Warrant at East Harris County Motel



HOUSTON – An investigation is underway at a east Harris County motel after a man's body was discovered Wednesday by Pct. 3 deputies. The discovery was made at Deluxe Inn & Suites, located in the 15800 block of the East Freeway. Pct. 3 deputies were preparing to do an arrest warrant at a motel room but noticed bullet holes in another motel room window. Once they got permission to enter, "they stumbled" on the man's body "by accident," according to Harris County Sheriff's Office. The man was found in the back bathroom, suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. It is unknown

when the man checked into the room. Detectives said a possible fight happened between at least three people outside of the victim's room while he was inside Tuesday night. The victim has been identified as 33-year-old Jorge Gonzalez. The motel has been known for being a hotspot for drug trafficking, according to HCSO. The person wanted in the arrest warrant was taken into custody on an out-of-state case, according to Harris County Constable Pct. 3 Office. As of right now, detectives said there are no indications there's a connection between the victim and the wanted suspect.

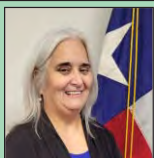


**DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY**  
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## CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



### Enjoy Your Community

This past week was filled with laughter, love, community service and unfortunately another senseless death. Each activity was filled with people who live, work, worship, or volunteer in our area. In each situation, not only did I get some hugs from people I know, but I also had the opportunity to meet some new individuals and learn something new.

Many of the people I spoke with had already taken advantage of Early Voting. Others joined me at a political forum featuring four of the Democratic candidates seeking the position on the November ballot for Congressional District 9. As I listened to the questions being asked of each candidate, one question stayed in my mind. The question "Before you decided to enter this race, how much time did you spend in the district learning about the people, the needs and the potential?" While some had spent some time in the area, sadly, just as with the Republican candidates, there was only one candidate who lives in the district. The candidates may have impressive qualifications, but I want to know they have a heart for the people. When I went to volunteer at the polling location the following day, I was shocked as to how many voters had no idea that Congressional Representatives did not have to live within the area they represent. This seems like an issue which should concern many.

Thursday morning brought about an amazing opportunity for community members to network at the Coffee with A Cop hosted at the Hampton Inn in partnership with Commissioner Adrian Garcia. If you scroll through social media, you will find many pictures. There are additional dates planned for 2026, so mark your calendar for April 23 at 9 a.m. and join us.

Friday afternoon, I had the honor of seeing my oldest granddaughter cast her first vote in the Harris County Election. As we left the polling location and I returned home, I was delayed by yet another senseless death. Again, this time, it was too close to home. One of my neighbors had been struck first by a passenger vehicle and then his body was hit again by a Metro bus. Traffic on Woodforest Blvd. was at a standstill for hours. Thankfully with evidence from cameras, as well as eyewitnesses, investigators from Harris County Sheriff were able to make an arrest on Sunday, just shortly before community members and family held a balloon release honoring the victim.

On Saturday, there were several community events and again, there were neighbors and guests alike present and making a difference. Everything from the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Life 4 Veterans Walk, hosted to raise awareness of mental health challenges of Veterans, First Responders, and their families. Next stop was the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Arbor Day Tree Planting held this year at Greenwood Park, hosted by Houston Parks and Recreation as well as City Councilmember Fred Flickinger. After this event, I stopped in at God's Love Tabernacle for their monthly free grocery giveaway. There were several county agencies present as well as Beyond the Light, which serves survivors of domestic abuse. Know your community. Get involved and invite others to explore East Harris County as well.

## GALENA PARK LIBRARY EVENTS

### TEENS AND ADULTS

Trivia Night - last Monday of each month at 6pm.

Choosing a College Major - February 4 at 5pm: the FutureU advisor will share a presentation on selecting a major.

### TEENS

Teen Gaming - 4pm every Monday after school: students can play video games with their friends.

Teen Art Day - February 5 at 3pm: consists of making stuffed felt hearts with no sewing involved.

Money Jeopardy - February 11 at 3pm: Frost Bank presents a Jeopardy game for teens that teaches them about financial literacy.

### Children & Families

Tommy Terrific - February 2 at 3:30pm: a Black History Month magic show inspired by the story of Satchel Paige.

Stories & Cuentos - every Wednesday at 11:30am: bilingual story time for babies and toddlers.

Creativity Corner - every Tuesday at 3:30pm: a variety of activities for elementary aged children.

\*Book Buddies - Starts February 19th at 4:30 pm: a 10-week literacy program for children in grades K-3, in which each child is

paired with a high school student who reads aloud to them.

You can also view our monthly events on the HCPL website.

Lastly, we are still accepting donations for our after-school homework help program and our Care Corner. For the after-school program, we're accepting

donations of healthy snacks, preferably shelf-stable items that do not need to be refrigerated. Additionally, our Care Corner needs donations of deodorant, soap, shampoo, conditioner, and hair ties. These programs have been incredibly successful, and we couldn't have done it without the support of the community and our partners, like you.

Thank you so much for your time and for helping the community!

Sisi Medina, MLIS  
Branch Manager  
Galena Park Branch Library  
1500 Keene Street  
Galena Park, TX 77547

## 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).

## Channelview ISD Educators & Board Member to be Honored at HAABSE

### Campus Honorees:

Channelview High School  
Alice Johnson Junior High  
Anthony Aguirre Junior High  
McGhee Elementary  
Harvey Brown Elementary  
Hamblen Elementary  
DeZavala Elementary

Jabari Lockett  
Capria Davis  
Charity Morgan  
Benito Mares  
Nora Reyna  
Tyrone Stewart  
Sandra Guillen / Jocelyn Vasquez

New Horizons Fine Arts Magnet Claudia Martinez

Channelview Independent School District is proud to announce that several outstanding educators and a dedicated board member will be recognized at the 39th Annual Houston Area Alliance of Black School Educators (HAABSE) Outstanding Teacher Awards & Recognition Ceremony.

This year, multiple Channelview ISD teachers will receive well-deserved recognition for their commitment to student success. In addition, Board Member Ms. Shumona Collins will be honored as Board Member of the Year, highlighting her outstanding leadership and service to the district.

"Ms. Shumona Collins is a true champion for students, families, and educators in Channelview ISD," said Superintendent Dr. Tory C. Hill. "Her leadership, advocacy, and unwavering commitment have strengthened our district and expanded opportunities for our students. This recognition reflects her tireless dedication and the positive impact she continues to make in our community."

The HAABSE Outstanding Teacher Awards & Recognition Ceremony provides an opportunity to highlight the vital role educators and school leaders play in shaping the future of students. Through this annual celebration, HAABSE recognizes individuals who demonstrate exceptional dedication, professionalism, and a commitment to equity and excellence in education.

Ms. Collins and campus honorees will be honored during the event which will take place on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at the George R. Brown Convention Center. The ceremony celebrates excellence in education and honors educators and leaders who have made a lasting impact on students and communities across the region.

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★ OPINION PAGE ★

★  
**STATE OF THE CITY**  
By MAYOR JOHN WHITMIRE

# The State of the City is Strong

HOUSTON - Mayor John Whitmire delivered his annual State of the City address before a sold-out audience of business and civic leaders, sharing a message focused on no new taxes, honest government that works, and a city that is strong.

**“Houston has challenges just like every major city. But we face them head on. Houston is strong, and we’re getting stronger every day. Stronger because we work together, in collaboration,”** said the mayor.

This year’s program began with a celebration of the city’s cultural diversity. Mariachi Imperial performed, featuring Houston Police Officer Alvaro Olivera. The mayor also selected a special performance of “You’ll Never Walk Alone” by Rev. Michael Gott and vocalist Kenneth Gayle from Unity of Houston.

Mayor Whitmire recognized Unite Here Local 23 as his invited guests. The labor organization went on strike against the Hilton Hotel last year for higher wages. In support of organized labor members and their families, the mayor postponed his original State of the City address last September.

**“Thank you for what you do to help make this a great city, and to your co-workers providing the service today. These workers knew they would never walk alone. I was down at City Hall working, but I had their backs covered, and they knew it,”** said Mayor Whitmire.

On the issues, Mayor Whitmire said during the State of the City that he is keeping his campaign commitment to fix Houston by:

- Removing conflicts of interest, eliminating waste, duplication, and corruption
- Balancing the budget without a tax increase
- Adding more Houston Police and Fire Department recruits
- Purchasing 54 new trucks and providing more resources for garbage pickup
- Investing in neighborhood and pocket parks, including a planned transformation of Tranquillity Park with Downtown Houston+
- Holding discussions about a possible METRO light rail connection to Bush Airport and future water taxi service on Buffalo Bayou.

On Infrastructure

- Replacing at least 200 miles of water pipes per year
- Paving 1,000 lane miles in 2026
- Investing \$500 million in drainage and road improvements
- Coordinating with other agencies to improve Houston’s infrastructure
- Preparing Houston to be a premier city for residents and visitors ahead of the World Cup

**“We are increasing public safety and transportation and offering shuttles between downtown and the airports. We’re doing many things right in preparation for the World Cup. But, ladies and gentlemen, we have to treat Houstonians like they’re our World Cup visitors as well,”** said Mayor Whitmire. **“We’re making progress. That’s what I want to leave you with. I’m prepared to give six years, the remaining best years of my life to Houston, working 18-hour days with a team that is the best in America.”**

The Greater Partnership and Houston First Corporation sponsored the State of the City.

**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.



★  
**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
By Gary Borders



## Paxton, Crockett leading in primary poll

Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton and Democratic U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett are leading their respective primary campaigns for U.S. Senate, according to a poll released last week by the University of Houston’s Hobby School of Public Affairs, the Austin American-Statesman reported. Early voting began Feb. 17 and runs through Feb. 27.

Among Republicans, Paxton led incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn 38% to 31%. U.S. Rep. Wesley Hunt polled at 17%, making it likely that race will go to a runoff in May if these margins hold. Among Democrats, Crockett led with 47% while state Rep. James Talarico was favored by 39% of respondents.

The margin of error for both parties was plus or minus 4 percentage points. The election is on March 3.

**ROY LEADING IN POLLS IN ATTORNEY GENERAL’S RACE**

In the race to succeed Paxton as attorney general, U.S. Rep. Chip Roy, with 33% in the latest poll leads a crowded GOP field by 10 percentage points, with state Sen. Mayes Middleton in second at 23%. The Texas Tribune reported state Sen. Joan Huffman polled at 13%, and Aaron Reitz, a former federal assistant attorney general, trailed at 6%.

However, 25% of those polled remain undecided in that race.

On the Democratic side, state Sen. Nathan Johnson led with 25% of the 550 people polled, followed by former Galveston mayor Joe Jaworski at 22%. Attorney and former FBI agent Tony Box held 13%. A majority of those polled said they didn’t know enough about any of the candidates to express a preference.

That poll was also conducted by the Hobby School of Public Affairs.

**FED PREDICTS JOB GROWTH IN TEXAS IN 2026**

A new employment forecast by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas predicts the state will add jobs in 2026, after a flat 2025, The Dallas Morning News reported. The bank’s forecast predicts Texas employment will grow by 1.1%, or about 155,000 jobs. That is about half of job growth the



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS  
By Gary Borders

state has experienced in recent years.

“We’ve run our models. We’re going with the 1.1% growth, so that is a significant increase from zero, certainly,” said Pia Orrenius, a senior economist at the Dallas Fed.

The slower-than-normal employment growth is partly attributable to the Trump administration’s restrictive immigration policies and enforcement operations, according to some economists. In a report published by the Fed in October, the authors said the immigration policies were negatively affecting one in five Texas businesses.

“The stepped-up visibility and intensity of enforcement have produced a chilling effect,” the authors wrote. “As fear spreads in immigrant communities, foreign-born individuals are more likely to miss work or school and less likely to venture out to shops and restaurants.”

**STATE, FEDS PREPARE TO FIGHT SCREWORM INVASION**

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins and Gov. Greg Abbott presided last week over the opening of new facility in Edinburg to produce sterile flies in order to combat a potential invasion of New World screwworms from Mexico that could threaten the nation’s leader in cattle production, The Tribune reported.

Cases of the screwworm, which lays eggs in open wounds on cattle, have been detected in Mexico as close as 70 miles from the border.

“I don’t want to underplay it because it is a big threat to our country, but I believe we’re as prepared as we could possibly be, if that happens, to deal with it, to move toward eradication,”

Rollins said. Sterile flies were released last week in Northern Mexico and in Texas within 50 miles of the border as a precautionary measure.

Abbott has issued a disaster declaration to enable a newly formed response team to have adequate resources. The USDA plans to open its own production facility in Edinburg by the end of 2027. For now, the facility is using larvae produced in Panama and flown to Texas.

**ABBOTT BREAKS WITH TRUMP OVER NATIONALIZING ELECTIONS**

The governor has broken with Trump over the president’s call to nationalize elections in some parts of the country, kut.org reported. He was asked about Trump’s suggestion at a recent campaign event.

“Listen, my understanding of the United States Constitution, and that is elections for state positions are to be conducted by states, and I don’t think we should deviate from that,” Abbott said.

Legal experts and some Trump allies highlight that the Constitution grants states the primary authority over elections, making any effort to nationalize the process both legally complicated and logistically challenging.

**HIGH STAKES FOR ABBOTT IN COMPTROLLER’S RACE**

As the Houston Chronicle reported, while Abbott is widely expected to win his primary reelection bid, the governor has a lot on the line in the Texas comptroller’s race. Acting comptroller Kelly Hancock, appointed when Glenn Hegar left to become chancellor of the Texas A&M University System, faces a serious challenge from one of the governor’s biggest political foes, former state Sen. Don Huffines — who ran and lost to Abbott in 2022. Also on the GOP primary ballot is Railroad Commissioner Christi Craddick.

The winner of that race will oversee the state’s new voucher program.

“Succession in Texas politics is on the ballot,” said Brandon Rottinghaus, a political scientist at the University of Houston. “There’s a lot of jockeying for position for the future of the Republican Party in Texas.”

Huffines spent heavily in 2022 in his unsuccessful bid to oust Abbott, calling him a “weak leader” and a “coward.” Hancock has vowed to work closely with Abbott.

**GALVESTON’S ELISSA SAILING TO NEW YORK FOR 250TH CELEBRATION**

The 1877 “tall ship” Elissa, docked in Galveston Bay, will sail to New York City for the Fourth of July, the Texas Standard reported. The Galveston Historical Foundation purchased the ship in 1979, and it normally serves as a museum. Will Wright, creative director of the foundation, said the ship is one of only two of its kind in the world that can still actively sail.

“Elissa is still traditionally sailed,” Wright said. “We benefit from a lot of the technological advances, but at the end of the day, the ship is a sailing ship.”

★  
**THE POSTSCRIPT**  
By Carrie Classon

## My Plants love me



They say that some plants “thrive on neglect,” and I never really believed it until now.

I have tried for years—decades really—to get things to grow, indoors and out, and I have pretty much failed at everything. Gardens languish without producing whatever they were supposed to produce. Houseplants die as they enter the house. The only plants I have success with are floral bouquets. (I am very good with cut flowers, but I acknowledge this does not count as gardening.)

So imagine my surprise when I discovered that there is a plant that appears to love me and my style of plant husbandry—that is to say, no care whatsoever.

I work miracles with the jade plant.

Now, I hear someone snickering because growing a jade plant requires no skill at all and, of course, they would be right. But the same has been said about the Christmas cactus. My mother still has a Christmas cactus she smuggled home in her suitcase from a trip to Sweden in the 1970s—I have killed off every one I have ever had. I have killed philodendrons—plants known to flourish wrapped around the un-insulated windows of college apartments and neglected for semesters at a time. To assume that even the hardiest plant is safe from my ministrations would be to underestimate my total inability.

But my jade plants survive. In fact, my jade plants might be trying to take over my home.

Like a deeply dysfunctional relationship, my jade plants reward me for forgetting about them, neglecting them and treating them badly. A near total lack of care and the lowest possible emotional involvement are disproportionately rewarded with growth. The guiltier I feel, the larger they grow.

It was my husband, Peter, who suggested I put them outside in the summer. I started with one, and it did well, so I ended up with eight. I put them in little pots on the balcony. The wind was harsh. The sun was strong. Pigeons sat on them. I forgot to water them. And those jade plants flourished.

I cut them back. I brought them into the living room before there was a hard freeze. When we went to Mexico, I asked someone to water them while we were away.

“How often?” he asked.

Since I had completely neglected them all summer, I didn’t want to frighten them with too much attention. “Every three weeks should be fine.”

“How much water?”

“I don’t think it matters.”

When I got back from Mexico, I swear those plants had doubled in size. They were too big to be in the living room over Christmas, so I moved them to the bedroom and stuffed them into a dark corner. I completely forgot to water them over the holidays. They expanded until the plants in all eight pots had combined into one giant organism. I had trouble reaching the window shade.

“Well, this won’t do!” I thought.

I took a bread knife and cut off branches until they could stand on their own. Within a day (I am not exaggerating) those plants filled in where the missing branches had been.

I see no point in ever growing any other kind of plant.

I will have jade plants in the house and jade plants on the balcony. My specialty has been made clear. I grow jade plants. I don’t try to grow anything else. My jade plants love me.

But I leave for Mexico next week and, I admit, I’m a little afraid of what they will do while I’m away.

Till next time,  
Carrie

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# Channelview ISD museum opens celebrating nearly a century of education,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

students, such as the historic McGhee School for Black students.

One school is named De Zavala Elementary School after Lorenzo de Zavala, a founding father of the Republic of Texas who was once a resident of the area. The previous school building's cornerstone was dated 1967 before its demolition.

Most of the southern part of the district, below Market Street, was once a part of the San Jacinto Ordnance Depot.

The Depot was a World War II facility built on an almost 5,000 acre site located on the Houston Ship Channel, approximately 15 miles southeast of downtown Houston, Texas in Channelview. The job of the depot was to support the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy by storing and inspecting ammunition received from manufacturers that was being shipped through the Port of Houston docks, and storing and inspecting ammunition received from domestic U.S. military bases and areas of overseas operations. One of the last bunkers was destroyed last year (2025) to make room for development.

Most of the schools have been named for long-time workers or heroes including Aguirre Middle School, named after one of the former ROTC students



Dr. Tory C. Hill, superintendent at Channelview ISD spoke at the grand opening of the new CVISD Museum last at the Joe Frank Campbell Learning Center on February 20, 2026.

who was killed in action in Iraq. LCPL Anthony Aguirre was killed on February 26, 2007, serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. His funeral drew thousands of supporters from the district and community, all lined along Sheldon Road as the funeral cortege processed to St. Andrew's Catholic Church for services. One year after graduation, he joined the United States Marine Corps and was assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. He was 20 years old at his death.

Over time, Channelview ISD has modernized its structure and facilities, including major bond projects in 2019 for new

schools and career centers.

The district's mission is to foster intellectual, social, emotional, and physical growth in students, encouraging them to become creative, responsible, and patriotic members of society. Channelview ISD offers a variety of special programs, including accelerated learning, special education, bilingual education, vocational training, gifted and talented education, and advanced placement courses.

As Channelview ISD continues to grow and evolve, the new museum stands as a testament to its enduring impact on the community and its dedication to preserving and sharing its history with future generations.



Visitors to the new museum were able to tour the exhibits. For the many alumnus at the ceremony, it brought back many memories.



The new exhibits encompass various types of historical artifacts including signs, a statue of Freddy Falcon, the district's mascot, and yearbooks that date back to the '50s.



1. Wuthering Heights (R) Margot Robbie, Jacob Elordi
  2. GOAT (PG) Caleb McLaughlin, Gabrielle Union
  3. Crime 101 (R) Chris Hemsworth, Mark Ruffalo
  4. Send Help (R) Rachel McAdams, Dylan O'Brien
  5. Solo Mio (PG) Kevin James, Jonathan Roumie
  6. Zootopia 2 (PG) Ginnifer Goodwin, Jason Bateman
  7. Good Luck, Have Fun, Don't Die (R) Sam Rockwell, Juno Temple
  8. Avatar: Fire and Ash (PG-13) Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana
  9. Iron Lung (R) Mark Fischbach, Caroline Kaplan
  10. Dracula (R) Caleb Landry Jones, Christoph Waltz
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## East Aldine and BAA celebrate Presidents' Day at the JFK Statue

Bonding Against Adversity hosted a patriotic celebration of Presidents' Day, last Monday February 16 at the JFK Memorial. In the photo below, East Aldine Board chairman Carlos Silva addresses the crowd with remarks about the District, and the importance of the JFK Memorial and JFK Boulevard in the District.

One observer, Ruben Salazar, said: "It is really special to be here with residents who are in the process of becoming citizens or who just recently took the oath. Moments like this remind us what this country is all about."



East Aldine Board chair Carlos Silva, at right, addresses the crowd.



East Aldine District and Bonding Against Adversity members gather at the JFK statue to observe President's Day.

## 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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LEGAL NOTICE

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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

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, under Departments -> Business Office -> Purchasing. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

07-21

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

Legal Notice

To All Interested persons, The City of Jacinto City has received two Variance Hearing Applications for the following addresses.

1615 Holland Ave. - Jason Zeinali is requesting permission to use this location to run a business specializing in automotive parts and installation services. Auto performance work and upgrades will be done; additionally, automobile repair and programming modules will be available.

10824 Invierno St. - Jesus Garcia is requesting permission to extend a new room addition, 18 inches into the 25-foot set back line, in order to align the new addition with the existing building.

The Board will hear the petitions on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, Starting at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall Annex, 10301 Market St. Any Interested person may attend.

Channelview ISD Superintendent Dr. Hill named 2026 TABSE Superintendent of the Year,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Dr. Hill, center, poses with his colleagues after being announced as the Superintendent of the Year by the Texas Alliance of Black School Educators.

ship impact, student achievement, community engagement, and professional contributions. The honor reflects his dedication to advancing educational excellence and equity for all students.

"This recognition is a testament to Dr. Hill's unwavering commitment to our students, staff, and community," said Board President Alex Ybarra. "His leadership continues to strengthen our district and ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed."

Dr. Hill expressed gratitude for the honor and emphasized the collaborative efforts behind the achievement.

"I am deeply humbled and grateful to be recog-



Superintendent Dr. Tory Hill

nized by my peers," said Superintendent Dr. Tory C. Hill. "This honor belongs to our entire Channelview ISD family. It reflects the dedication of our Board of Trustees, teachers, staff, students, and parents who work together every day to create

learning environments where students feel supported, inspired, and empowered to thrive. I am proud of what we have accomplished together and excited about what lies ahead."

This prestigious recognition highlights the strong partnership among district leadership, educators, students, and the Channelview community in advancing educational excellence.

The award was presented during the TABSE Awards Dinner and Gala on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., at the Omni Las Colinas Hotel in Irving, Texas, in conjunction with the 2026 TABSE Conference.

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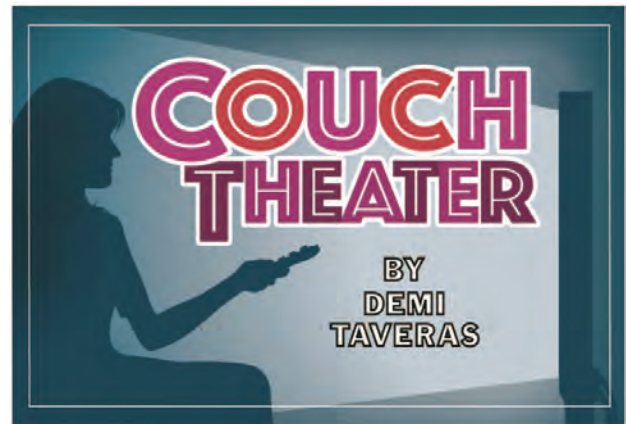
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Priyanka Chopra Jonas star in 'The Bluff.'

'The Bluff.'

'Song Sung Blue' (PG-13) — This biographical musical-drama is based on the documentary film of the same name and stars Hugh Jackman ('Deadpool & Wolverine') and Kate Hudson ('Shell'). Jackman and Hudson respectively play Mike and Claire Sardina, who are performers in a Neil Diamond tribute band called Lightning & Thunder. You wouldn't imagine that there's much story to tell about a tribute band, but this one is different. The Sardinas had a tumultuous journey in life, not just with their band; heart attacks, psychotic episodes, and addiction are just some of what the couple and musical duo experienced. (Not to mention, a bad gig or two!) Hudson has re-

ceived glowing reviews for her performance in the film, and she also received Oscar and Golden Globe noms for Best Actress. It is out now to stream. (Peacock) 'Kiss of the Spider Woman' (R) — Hollywood producers must have thought that fans were desperate enough to fill seats for a new J.Lo movie, and boy, were they wrong! This musical drama film cost \$30 million to make, while only earning a mere \$2 million in theaters. It's a shame that it has an interesting premise! It is based on the 1992 stage musical of the same name, and besides Jennifer Lopez, it also stars Diego Luna ('Andor') and Tonatiuh ('Promised Land'). Set against a background of an Argentinian prison

at the end of the Dirty War, the film tells the story of a gay window dresser named Luis (Tonatiuh), who shares the same cell as a political prisoner named Valentin (Luna). When daily life in prison becomes difficult, Valentin encourages Luis to tell him the plot of his favorite movie — 'The Kiss of the Spider Woman,' starring Ingrid Luna (Lopez). Viewers get to see the movie themselves, right alongside Valentin, as Luis recounts the musical. Premieres Feb. 27. (Hulu) 'The Bluff' (R) — If you see Priyanka Chopra Jonas' name in the billing of a movie, expect an action-packed, direct-to-streaming film with splashes of comedic lines that we've definitely heard before. (Until she decides to surprise us, of course!) In this film, she portrays a former Caribbean pirate during the 19th century. When buccaners invade her island and look to apprehend her, she must revert to her former ways in order to save her family — and herself — from certain death. Karl Urban ('The Boys') plays the vicious Captain Connor, who doesn't mind losing all of his men if it means getting revenge, along with Temuera Morrison ('Moana') as his second-in-command. All jokes aside, Chopra Jonas' action choreography in this film is nuts! Check it out on Feb. 25. (Amazon Prime Video) (c) 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Hiram Rhodes Revels History's first black Senator,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

After his release, he continued his religious mission, carefully navigating laws designed to restrict the movement and activities of African Americans. He later attended Knox College in Illinois, deepening his academic foundation and strengthening his leadership abilities.

When the Civil War began in 1861, Revels actively supported the Union cause. He helped recruit Black regiments from Maryland and served as a chaplain, providing spiritual leadership and encouragement to soldiers. He participated in military campaigns in Mississippi, offering comfort to troops and ministering to the wounded. Following the war, Revels returned to the South, where he established freedmen's schools and worked to provide education and opportunity to formerly enslaved people during the difficult years of Reconstruction.

Revels settled in Natchez, Mississippi, in 1866, where his work in education and ministry naturally led him into public service. In 1868, he was elected as a Natchez alderman, becoming one of the first African Americans to hold public office in the state. His moderate political views, commitment to justice, and respectful approach earned him the trust of both Black and White citizens. In 1869, he won election to the Mississippi State Senate, where he quickly gained recognition for his eloquence and moral authority.

In 1870, the Mississippi Legislature elected Revels to fill a vacant seat in the U.S. Senate, previously held by a lawmaker who had resigned during the Civil War. His election made national headlines and marked a transformative moment in American political history. During his Senate term, Revels advocated strongly for civil rights, educational opportunity, and racial reconciliation. He supported the integration of public institutions, challenged discriminatory practices, and



Hiram Rhodes Revels History's first African American in Congress, first Black U. S. Senator. Once arrested and imprisoned for preaching to the Gospel to the black community in 1854.

promoted policies designed to ensure equality under the law. His calm, thoughtful leadership stood in sharp contrast to the bitterness that characterized much of postwar politics.

After completing his Senate term in 1871, Revels declined further political appointments and returned to Mississippi to focus on education. He became the first president of Alcorn University, the nation's first land-grant college for African American students. Under his leadership, the university expanded academic offerings and emphasized moral development alongside intellectual growth. Revels viewed education as the cornerstone of progress and believed that knowledge empowered individuals and strengthened communities.

In later years, Revels resumed his ministry, teaching theology, editing a religious newspaper, and serving as a senior leader within the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He remained a respected voice in religious and educational circles, continuing to inspire younger generations through preaching, teaching, and mentorship.

Revels died on January 16, 1901, in Aberdeen, Mississippi, at the age of 73 while attending a religious conference. He was laid to rest in Hillcrest Cemetery in Holly Springs, Mississippi.

Today, Hiram Rhodes

Revels is remembered as a pioneering statesman, educator, and spiritual leader whose life embodied perseverance, service, and hope. His historic accomplishments helped open doors for future generations of African American leaders, and his unwavering dedication to justice and equality continues to inspire. His story stands as a powerful reminder of the enduring struggle for civil rights and the profound impact of courage, faith, and education.

A few Hiram Rhodes Revels quotes:

'I was imprisoned in Missouri in 1854 for preaching the gospel to Negroes.'

'I am true to my own race.'

'I wish to see all done that can be done for their encouragement, to assist them in acquiring property, in becoming intelligent, enlightened, useful, valuable citizens.'

'Have the colored people done anything to justify the prejudice against them that does exist in the hearts of so many white persons and, generally, of one great political party in this country? Have they done anything to justify it? No, sir.'

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves

Comic strip 'Amber Waves' by Dave T. Phipps. Panels show characters discussing foreign languages and a grandpa speaking French.

Comic strip 'Tiger' by Bud Blake. Panels show a character named Tiger and others talking about ping-pong.

Comic strip 'The Spats' by Jeff Pickering. Panels show characters talking about rain and ducks.

Comic strip 'Hocus-Focus' by Henry Boltinoff. Panels show a character with a camera and a rowboat.

Weekly SUDOKU puzzle with difficulty level 'Moderate' and 'HOO BOY!'

Trivia Test Answers for King Crossword, including '1. Setze the night', '2. Ronald Reagan', etc.

February 23, 2026 Posting Date King Crossword

King Crossword puzzle grid with across and down clues. Includes a list of 49 clues and a grid with numbers 1-53.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez with 10 questions on language, U.S. presidents, movies, geography, literature, music, television, history, U.S. states, and anatomy.



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