



Volunteers clean and prepare the North Shore Little League fields during 'Love Like Lou Day,' honoring the life and legacy of longtime volunteer Louis Erebia. See Story Below & on page 2

NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

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CHANNEL CURRENTS

Seeking Volunteers for Back-to-School Drive

The Galena Park Resource and Training Center is gearing up for its annual Back-to-School Drive and is calling on volunteers to assist in organizing school supplies, selecting the correct uniform shirt sizes for each registered child, and stuffing backpacks.

Volunteer shifts are available on both Wednesday, July 22, and Wednesday, July 29, with the following time slots:
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
The center particularly welcomes volunteers from local industries, whose contributions will be invaluable in preparing backpacks and supplies for the 350 students registered for this year's event.

"Thank you so much for helping us spread the word. We truly appreciate your support and all that the local plants do for our community," said a spokesperson for the center.

For more information, contact Martha Cantu-Perez at mlperezecagg@gmail.com.

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Houston, Tx. 77049

'Love Like Lou' Day Draws Volunteers to NSLL Fields



By David Taylor
Managing Editor

On Saturday morning, nearly 200 family members, friends, church members, former players, coworkers and neighbors gathered at the North Shore Little League fields on Castlegory Road to honor the life and legacy of Louis Erebia, a longtime volunteer who spent decades helping maintain the fields even after his own children had aged out of the league.

Erebia, 56, a father of five and grandfather, was shot and killed last month

after his son's truck was stolen. Authorities have charged London Hogan Sr., 37, with murder in the case. But Saturday's gathering was not about the crime, family members said. It was about the way Erebia lived.

"Words cannot adequately express what Saturday meant to our family," said Amanda Erebia, Louis Erebia's wife. "What started as an idea to honor Louis became something so much bigger than we ever imagined. Nearly 200 people showed up to volunteer, work on the North Shore Little

League fields, or bring donations to support the league he loved so much."

Volunteers leveled fields, hauled dirt, cleaned bleachers, detailed concession stands, reset trash cans in concrete and prepared the park for the next season. Others dropped off bottled water and sports drinks that the league can sell during the season to help pay for umpires, field repairs and other expenses. The fields are not maintained by the county.

Amber Burrough, Louis Erebia's sister-in-law, said the family wanted the day to reflect Erebia's habit of

giving without seeking attention.

"We knew that we didn't want to do any type of fundraising because we respect and we love our community and we know that there's other people hurting too," Burrough said. "The premise of the event was to really get out there and spread the light like Louis did."

Burrough said Erebia had worked on the fields "for decades," including years after his children stopped playing.

"He would be the one that would be out there this time getting ready for

the next season," she said. "So, we continued his legacy."

The effort benefited the entire league, Burrough said, not only one division.

"It was for any kid in the community that utilizes those fields," she said.

North Shore Little League President Eric Kirchner thanked the family after the event and said the day reflected what Erebia meant to the league.

"I can't think of a better way to 'be like Louis' and build a community," Kirchner said.

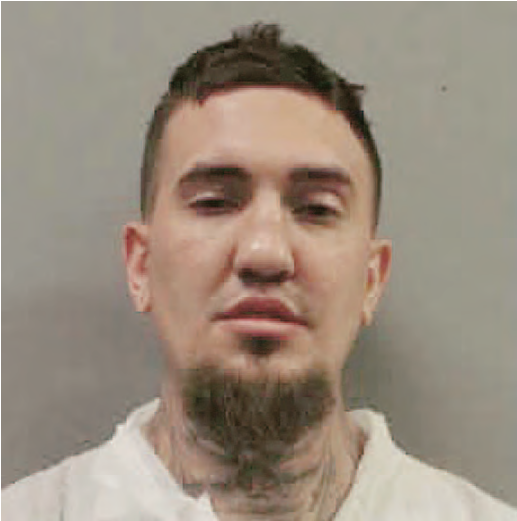
Continued. See COMMUNITY UNITES TO HONOR LOUIS, Page 2

Man Charged with Murder After Fatal Shooting of Girlfriend in Sheldon-area Home

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

NORTHEAST HARRIS - A 29-year-old man has been charged with murder after investigators say he fatally shot his girlfriend during an argument at their home in northeast Harris County.

According to the Harris County Sheriff's Office, deputies responded about 6:30 p.m. Saturday to a residence in the 11100 block of Maritime Drive, near Garrett Road and East Sam Houston Parkway, where they found 41-year-old Tonya Swink suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. She was pronounced dead at the scene.



Suspect Cody Prince, 29 years-old

Authorities identified the suspect as Cody Prince, 29, who remained at the residence and was detained by responding deputies. Following interviews with homicide investigators and consultation with the Harris County District Attorney's Office, Prince was charged with murder.

Investigators said Prince and Swink were in a dating relationship and had been arguing throughout the day. The

couple reportedly lived at the home with Swink's stepfather, who called 911. Detectives allege the argument escalated after Swink told Prince she wanted to end the relationship, at which point Prince allegedly shot her.

Prince was booked into the Harris County Jail on the murder charge. As of Tuesday, no additional charges or court developments had been publicly announced, and the investigation remains ongoing.

Sundance Head to Perform at Chamber's Concert On The Water

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

The Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce is turning its summer concert into a bigger lakeside draw this year, bringing Texas country-soul singer Sundance Head to Lake Houston Brewery for the annual Concert On The Water.

The event is scheduled for 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, July 25, at Lake Houston Brewery in Huffman, with tickets being sold through the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce.

Head, the Porter-born artist who won season 11 of NBC's "The Voice" in 2016 after earlier appearing on "American Idol," will open the evening with an acoustic performance. The Kingwood Dad Bods are also scheduled to perform, adding what organizers describe as an '80s and '90s party feel to the waterfront event.

"We've got an event on



Singer Sundance Head

July 25, and we're so excited to introduce Sundance Head," said Tim Paterson, who is helping organize the concert for the chamber. "He's going to be our headliner, and the Kingwood Dad Bods are going to be backing him up."

For Paterson, the idea is to build a relaxed, date-night atmosphere on the lake while giving the community a chance to hear a Texas artist with national recognition.

"My whole thought was to do a Jimmy Buffett-type style or Kenny Chesney-

type with a local celebrity, which Sundance is," Paterson said. "If it's date night for y'all, come on out, spend time at Lake Houston Brewery. We can't wait for this event."

Sundance Head, whose full name is Jason "Sundance" Head, is known for a blend of country, Southern soul, blues and rock. He is the son of Roy Head, the late Gulf Coast performer remembered for the 1965 hit "Treat Her Right."

After gaining national attention on "American Idol," Sundance Head returned to the spotlight on "The Voice," where he competed on Blake Shelton's team and won the season with his original song "Darlin' Don't Go." Since then, he has continued writing, recording and touring as an independent Texas artist.

The chamber is hoping

Continued. See CONCERT AIMS TO BUILD TRADITION, page 2

One Year Later, Search Continues for Highlands Teen

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

HIGHLANDS — One year after Debra "Dawn" Moore was last seen in Highlands, her family continues to share her story and urge anyone with information to come forward.

Moore was 14 years old when she was reported missing on July 20, 2025. She is now 15 years old.

Authorities describe Moore as approximately **5 feet, 3 inches tall and 160 pounds**, with brown eyes. She was last known to have brown hair with blonde highlights. Investigators believe she may be in the **Houston, Highlands or Baytown areas**.

Since her disappearance, Moore's family has continued efforts to raise awareness through social media, including the **"Help Find Missing Debra Moore 'Dawn'"** Facebook group, where they share updates and information in hopes someone



Photo of Debra Dawn who was reported missing on July 20, 2025. She is now 15 years-old.

recognizes her.

Moore's aunt, Tara Nicole, recently reflected on the difficult year without answers and encouraged the public to continue looking for her niece.

"Dawn is just a kid," Nicole wrote in a recent post. "Not knowing where a child has disappeared to that you love in this big world is one of the worst things you could ever experience."

Nicole also urged parents to continue talking with their children about online safety and being cautious about who they

trust.

She said she hopes keeping Moore's photo and story visible will lead to someone recognizing her and provide investigators with information that could help bring her home.

The **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children** is asking anyone with information about Moore's disappearance or whereabouts to call **1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)**. Information can also be provided to the **Harris County Sheriff's Office at 713-755-5300**.

Community unites to honor Louis Erebia’s legacy at ‘Love Like Lou’ Day,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ner said. “So many people today said we should do this more often.”

Kirchner said one moment stood out to him: watching a volunteer named Jimmy walk directly to Field 3 and begin working.

“It was like going back in time and him and Louis just working on that field,” Kirchner said. “It felt like he was saying, ‘Come on old friend, let’s do this again.’”

Burrough said the turnout included 160 to 200 people throughout the morning, including some who came only long enough to drop off water or sports drinks. The donated drinks, she said, were not for the family or the volunteers, but for the league to sell later.

“It was only for the ball fields to sell so that they can continue to generate ways to help those kids,” she said.

For Amanda Erebia, the day was a way to keep her husband’s name alive by continuing the work that mattered to him.

“Our goal has always been to keep Louis’ name alive, but even more importantly, to keep his legacy alive,” she said. “Louis believed in serving others without expecting anything in return. He gave countless hours to North Shore Little League because he loved those kids, that league, and this community.”

She said her husband should be remembered for more than the way he died.

“We refuse to let evil have the final word,” Amanda said. “We refuse to allow one senseless act to define the life of an extraordinary man. Louis was not just the victim of a horrific crime. He was a devoted husband, an incredible father, a proud grandfather, a loyal friend, a faithful man of God, and a servant to his community. That is how he deserves to be remembered.”

Burrough said that message guided Saturday’s work.

“Although we hate what happened to Louis, we do not want this tragedy to define him,” she said. “What defined him is the character of who he is and who he was with his volunteer work and his light that he shined with everybody. So as much as we demand justice and we want accountability for all, we took Saturday to honor him and his contribution to our community.”

The family called the event Love Like Lou Community Day — a name meant to capture how Erebia lived, his wife said.

“Love Like Lou Community Day was more than cleaning ball fields,” she said. “It was a reminder that love is stronger than hate, that kindness outlives cruelty, and that one life lived with generosity can inspire hundreds of others.”

Concert aims to build tradition,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

CROSBY HUFFMAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CONCERT
on the Water

★ FEATURING ★
SUNDANCE HEAD

★ ALSO PERFORMING ★
DADBOD BAND

★ JULY 25, 2026 ★
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★★★★ SUPPORT LOCAL. ENJOY LOCAL. ★★★★★



the name recognition, combined with the brewery’s waterfront setting, will help the concert build on the success of last year’s inaugural event.

Last year’s Concert On The Water drew more than 150 attendees, with guests arriving by car, boat and from the brewery restaurant. This year, Paterson said organizers would like to see the crowd grow even larger.

“I’ve heard there’ll be about 250 people there,” Paterson said. “That’s my goal.”

The evening will also include a raffle featuring two Adirondack-style chairs with a center table, a queen mattress and a recliner. Presale raffle tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20.

Sponsorships remain available, including platinum tables near the stage, silver tables, banners and smaller dockside and anchor sponsorships intended to give more businesses a way to take part.

“The reason we did that was because if a company that was small wanted to contribute but yet wasn’t able to do the \$600 or the \$400, it gave them the opportunity to be involved in it,” Paterson said.

Trusted Insurance and Visiting Angels have already stepped forward as major sponsors, Paterson said. Businesses can also receive exposure through table tents and banners placed around the venue.

“This is truly a team effort,” Paterson said. “Everything we do at the chamber is a team effort. Last year was our first year for the Concert On The

Water. It was very successful and a lot of fun. So I’m looking forward to this one this year.”

Lake Houston Brewery has become a natural home for the event, offering a casual waterfront setting for music, food, drinks and community connection.

For the chamber, the concert is more than entertainment. Organizers say it is also a way to promote local businesses, strengthen community ties and keep momentum behind one of the chamber’s newer annual traditions.

Tickets and sponsorship information are available through the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce. Questions may be directed to the chamber office at 281-328-6984.

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CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



Back to School

I know that title will have some parents jumping for joy while their children begin to roll their eyes and start whining; but I want YOU to think back to your school days. Are you one of the blessed neighbors who attended school in our area? Did you attend school elsewhere? Who impacted those formative years? Was there a special teacher who made learning fun? Share those stories with your children and grandchildren. Yes, turn off the television and the cell phones and share some great memories with them before school starts. Let them realize that all the tests and challenges will help prepare them for exciting adventures ahead.

I recently spent time with my parents, and my mother was sharing about her move from Chicago to Port Arthur just before she started high school. There were challenges with adjusting yet despite it all, she is a much stronger person today from that.

During the visit, my dad shared that my only niece has accepted a position with a new school district in a new role. She truly loves working with students and whereas fifty years ago, many teachers eventually chose to pursue a position in Administration, she loves the classroom. My dad shared that by now she could have earned her doctorate and moved into a position as an Assistant Principal or Principal. I can understand both thoughts but one thing I learned is that at the end of the day we do not have to understand other people's choices. We just support them, however we can by encouraging them, offering rides, offering babysitting and certainly by praying for them.

This next month will be another college adventure as my firstborn grandchild will leave for college. We already know she will succeed. She has already accomplished much more than statistics would have predicted. Her leaving for college will come on the heels of her parents celebrating their twentieth wedding anniversary, which speaks volumes of overcoming challenges. So many couples who marry at a young age never celebrate a fifth anniversary, much less a twentieth.

Share with the young people in your life about your memories of teachers, friends and joys of school. My own children heard many stories about influential educators such as Coach Walter T. Lilly, Jr as well as Charles and Velma Chesnutt, Bonnie Jenthos, Johnny Cucco and Mary Lou Dillard. My children have been fortunate to hear stories of my friends, but to have spent time with Kristal Kirskey, Tina Valk, Tim Fleming and several others. Talk to your children and grandchildren about what your dreams were as a youth. Share with them the things that made you anxious and how you overcame those thoughts and feelings.

Maybe it is not a school aged student, but maybe a new coworker. Let them know that we all go through growing processes and it is okay to ask questions and even make a mistake or two along the way. Life is not about perfection but instead about relationships.



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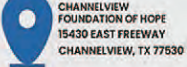
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East Harris County Empowerment Council



ADRIAN GARCIA
COORDINATOR



Community Events

Wednesday, July 22
Constable Jerry Garcia Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway, 10:30 a.m., Jacinto City Town Center
Next Generation Senior Adult Bible Study, 11:30 a.m.
Fellowship of Purpose Mid-Day, Mid—Week Bible Study, 12 p.m.
Rusty Buckets Senior Club Monthly Meeting, 1 p.m., Call for Location (713) 927-1975
North Channel Toastmasters Meeting (Zoom), 6:30 p.m., Text for link 832-896-1633
Thursday, July 23
Register today for NAMI Family and Friends Class, 713-970-4435
Friday, July 24
Free Community Meal, 11 - 1 p.m. Set Free Church

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ASK DIAMOND JIM



Diamond Jim: “Are large natural diamonds still being discovered?”

1,305-Carat Diamond Recovered from Mine in Botswana

Lucara Diamond Corp. announced it has recovered a diamond weighing 1,305.4 carats from its Karowe diamond mine in Botswana.

The stone is categorized as white and is unbroken, the miner said, and measures 79.9 mm x 34.1 mm x 51.9 mm.

Diamond mining company Lucara announced recently that it has recovered this completely intact white diamond

weighing 1,305.4 carats from the Karowe mine in Botswana. (Photo courtesy of Lucara Diamond Corp.)

The huge rough diamond was detected by the Mega Diamond Recovery (MDR) X-ray Transmission (XRT) machines, which Lucara said have been instrumental in preserving and recovering large gem-quality diamonds.

The stone was found while processing a blend of open-pit material and previously mined, unprocessed stockpiled ore.

As a result, Lucara said it cannot conclusively determine whether the diamond originated from the site's open-pit mine or from run-of-mine stockpiled material.

The 1,305-carat stone is the 10th diamond weighing more than 1,000 carats that the miner has recovered since mining began at Karowe in 2012.

It is the only diamond mine in the world to have yielded 10 diamonds exceeding 1,000 carats, according to Lucara.

The recent discovery reinforces Karowe as “the world’s most prolific source of exceptionally large, high-value diamonds,” Lucara said.

Credit to National Jeweler for the content in this article

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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.

Judge Blocks Deportation of Passenger Witness in Fatal ICE Officer Shooting

By Gerardo Hernandez
STAFF WRITER

A South Texas federal judge has issued a temporary reprieve for one of the witnesses in the deadly shooting of a man by ICE officers, ordering federal agents to hold off on deporting him.

U.S. District Judge Keith Ellison ruled this week that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and ICE must not deport or remove Jose Trinidad Rojas Pliego, who was a passenger in the van driven by Lorenzo Salgado Araujo at the time of the incident.



The judge also barred authorities from transferring the man to an immigration detention facility outside the Southern District of Texas, according to court records on file.

The court order stems from a writ of habeas corpus filed by Rojas Pliego's attorney on Monday, which seeks his immediate release from ICE custody. Attorneys

representing the other two passengers who were in the van have since followed suit with comparable legal filings.

According to reports from The Texas Tribune, Rojas Pliego has lived in the United States since 1998 and has no prior criminal record. He is believed to be in a common-law marriage with a U.S. citizen, with whom he shares three children and four stepchildren—deep ties that his legal team points to as evidence of his strong roots in the local community.

Back-to-School Boost: NS Rotary Club Prepares for Annual Backpack Giveaway

By Gerardo Hernandez,
STAFF WRITER

NORTH SHORE - The Rotary Club of North Shore, in partnership with Galena Park Independent School District and the Wendel D. Ley Family YMCA, is gearing up to help local students start the academic year on the right foot with its annual school backpack giveaway.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, August 1st, at North Shore Middle School. Distribution will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. and will continue until the last back-

pack is handed out.

Organizers were quick to extend their heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated volunteers who have supported the drive in previous years. Among the returning groups are Scout Troop 1202 (pictured in last year's coverage), Troop 1954, Troop 512, and the community group Clothes & Coates for Cuties.

Last year's event saw familiar faces from the community. Past Rotary President Minelia Izaguirre, as well as fellow Rotarian and Sheldon ISD Superintendent Dr.



Demetrius McCall and a few fellow Rotarians reminding everyone to stay hydrated..

Residents planning to attend this Saturday should note one critical requirement: a student must be present inside the vehicle at the time of pickup in order to receive a backpack.

For a complete list of guidelines and eligibility requirements, families are encouraged to review the official flyer included in this article. The community is invited to come out and support this important local initiative.

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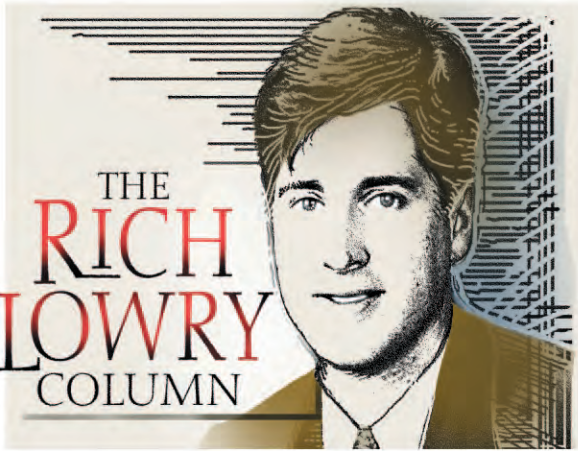
BACK to SCHOOL

Backpack and School Supply Giveaway

SATURDAY
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DRIVE THRU DISTRIBUTION
START @ 9:00AM
MUST HAVE STUDENTS IN CAR
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Rotary Club of North Shore, Wendel D Ley YMCA and Galena Park ISD are teaming up to distribute Mesh backpacks & school supplies to our area school age students. Students MUST be in vehicle to receive supplies.

ALL Students are welcome--any district.



Another Sham Deal with Iran Comes Undone

An early period of World War II was known as “the phony war.” What we may be witnessing now in the U.S.-Iran war is the end of a “phony peace.”

The nearly five-month-long conflict has featured a couple of sham ceasefires, each marked by supposed Iranian pledges to reopen the Strait of Hormuz that came to nothing.

With the Iranians firing on shipping in the Strait again, Trump has declared the so-called memorandum of understanding signed about a month ago to be a dead letter. After lifting sanctions on Iranian oil and ending the U.S. blockade of Iranian ports, Trump has reinstituted both. He maintains that the U.S. will control the strait and, at some point, charge a 20% fee on all shipping for our trouble (a bad idea that Trump appears already to have abandoned).

It was clear a couple of days into the war that the Strait of Hormuz had become the key strategic variable and that President Trump wouldn’t easily be able to walk away from the conflict without reopening the strait again.

The MOU was an illusory means of achieving this goal via diplomacy. The problem is that we thought — or wanted to believe — that the agreement said the Iranians would allow unobstructed passage again, while the Iranians thought — or wanted to believe — that it said they would control the strait. That the MOU was subject to these starkly divergent understandings made it a memorandum of obfuscation.

The Iranians, of course, aren’t operating in good faith, but it is a point in their favor that the MOU didn’t simply say, “There shall be freedom of navigation in the strait.” Instead, it talked of how the Iranians would “make arrangements” for ensuring “the safe passage of commercial vessels, with no charge for 60 days only.” In other words, the Iranians held the whip hand in the strait and could charge a fee for transit after a two-month interval. Furthermore, Iran would conduct dialogue with Oman “to define the future administration and maritime services in the Strait of Hormuz.”

Amazingly enough, then, a war that had started with optimistic talk of toppling the Iranian regime was ending with an agreement allowing the Iranians to figure out how to run a waterway vital to the international economy that they hadn’t controlled at the outset of the conflict.

Is it any wonder that the Iranians, who must have been stunned at the success of their gambit in the strait, have been pressing their luck? It must have emboldened them even more to hear Trump say that he was so eager for the MOU because the economic costs of Iranian disruption of the strait threatened to make him a new Herbert Hoover.

Effectively turning over the control of the strait to the Iranians — coupled with the inconclusive U.S. war against the Houthis to try to eliminate their threat to shipping in the Red Sea — would have been a black mark on the Trump administration’s record regarding a long-standing tenet of American grand strategy.

Freedom of navigation has always been considered essential to U.S. national security and a linchpin of global commerce. Trump is right to want to take back the Strait. The question, though, is whether he will be willing to apply enough force and have the staying power to bring a battle for the strait to a successful conclusion. The domestic politics are difficult, given that the American public is not supportive of the war and has now been repeatedly told that it is about to end with a brilliant diplomatic deal.

While we have an enormous firepower advantage, the Iranians have proven that they can disrupt the Strait with threats and a few projectiles. They aren’t going to give up their strategic windfall easily, as two bogus but highly touted peace deals now demonstrate.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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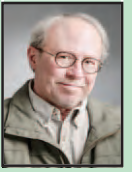
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★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Texas First State to Mandate Bible Reading in School

The State Board of Education gave final approval last week to a new required reading list for every grade level and also passed a rewrite of the state’s social studies requirements for kindergarten to eighth grade, the Austin American-Statesman reported. Both plans include Biblical concepts, essentially making the state the first in the nation to mandate the teaching of Christianity in public school classrooms.

“We are bringing the Bible back into schools this week for the first time in 60 years,” SBOE member Brandon Hall, R-Aledo, said during a prayer session outside the hearing this week.

The new standards will be implemented in phases, starting with elementary schools in the 2030-2031 school year.

Republicans favor the new standards as a win for Judeo-Christian values and say the required lessons on Jesus, Abraham and Moses are intended not to evangelize but help children develop moral compasses. Critics say the board is promoting Christianity at the expense of racial and religious diversity.

“Texas is telling millions of children that one religion deserves the government’s seal of approval, while everyone else is an afterthought,” said Annie Laurie Gaylor, president of the Freedom From Religion Foundation.

CORNYN: CLOSED PRIMARIES COULD BACKFIRE ON TEXAS GOP

Sen. John Cornyn is warning Texas GOP leaders that closing party primaries would be “paving the way to minority party status,” The Texas Tribune reported.

The Texas Republican Party and its top elected leaders are pushing to require voters to register with a party, thereby prohibiting them from crossing over in party primaries. Texas is one of 17 states with open primaries.

Cornyn, who was defeated for reelection in a runoff



by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, commented on an op-ed published in The Dallas Morning News, sharing its title — “Closed primaries are a threat to Texas voters.” He added, “Exactly,” and “Democrats haven’t turned Texas blue; Republican’s [sic] might.”

Paxton has joined the GOP’s pending lawsuit to strike down open primaries in court.

SUPREME COURT RULING COULD AFFECT 147K TPS RECIPIENTS IN TEXAS

The U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling that the Trump administration can revoke Temporary Protected Status for immigrants from Haiti and Syria means more than 147,000 migrants in Texas under the program face imminent risk of arrest and deportation, the Texas Standard reported.

Texas hosts one of the largest concentrations of TPS holders in the nation, and University of Houston constitutional law professor Seth Chandler said the ruling has dramatic consequences for them.

“It basically streamlines the ability of the Trump administration to revoke TPS status, not just for the Haitians and Syrians who were litigating in the case the Supreme Court decided today, but with respect to Hondurans, Nepalis, Afghans, and perhaps critically for Houston, potentially Venezuelans as well,” Chandler said.

The decision could have economic consequences, since many immigrants in the country under TPS work in sectors already ex-

periencing labor shortages.

“If you look at our plights in the Syria case, for example, we have a highly sought-after pediatrician,” said Hussein Elbakri, attorney at the International Refugee Assistance Project.

“We have somebody who is a special needs teacher by day and is training to be a nurse at night. We have construction workers. We have people in the food services industry, and we have many, many people, especially in the Haitian community, who are home health care workers, Elbakri said.

MAJORITY OF TEXANS OPPOSE DATA CENTERS IN THEIR COMMUNITY

A new poll from the University of Texas’ Texas Politics Project indicates that a majority of Texans oppose having data centers in their community, according to the Texas Standard. The state has become the nation’s top destination for data centers, which provide the infrastructure for artificial intelligence and cryptocurrency mining.

The poll found 43% of Republicans oppose data centers, while 42% support their construction. More than 60% of people who identify as Democrats oppose new data centers.

“I think people are objecting for different reasons,” said James Henson, director of the polling center. “On one hand, lots of environmental concerns about water and resource use. But if you’re living next to these data centers or in the region... they have a big impact on people’s lives.”

Both Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick have made regulation of data centers a legislative priority in next year’s session.

TEXAS GOP ELEPHANT LACKED MANDATORY PERMIT

When Paige the elephant made an appearance at the recent GOP state convention in Houston, its owner did not acquire the required city permit to bring wild animals into the city, The Dallas Morning News reported.

Public records acquired by the paper indicate Trunks and Humps, the elephant’s owner, has been cited repeatedly for federal animal welfare violations and failed to apply for a permit before bringing Paige to the June 12 convention.

The elephant arrived as the finale to Abbot’s speech. A video of the event went viral after the elephant urinated on the convention floor.

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

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Partial View



I go to the theater every chance I get.

In an earlier life, I worked in the theater, and unlike some actors and technicians I know who spent years working in the theater and now never want to see another show, I love to go, and I always leave the theater in a wonderful mood.

I especially love Broadway tours, and I can’t tell you why. I never did musicals when I was in theater, and I don’t even know most of them well. But when tickets go on sale, I pounce on the cheap seats in the front row on the end — the ones that are called “partial view.”

I’ve decided they are called that not because I can’t see everything, sitting way off to the side and way in front, but because I see more than I am supposed to. I get a “partial view” of life backstage, and I love it.

I see the actors just before they enter from the other side. I watched the actor attach the puppets to his arms in “Peter Pan.” I see the scenery getting rolled off — usually with the help of stagehands standing just behind the curtain, maneuvering around narrow corners with a grace and speed that astonishes me. I love to see all the things I am not supposed to see off to the side.

And I love all the things I see up close as well.

Being up close and off to the side means that if the musicians are playing in the pit, I can just lean over and see at least some of them. The conductor is always in sight. Before the show and during intermission, I peek down and see how many instruments the percussionist is expected to play and am always impressed. I see how few people are required to make so much music and am amazed.

Up close, I notice how the microphones are attached to the actors’ heads and marvel that they can change costumes and even hats and hairpieces and manage to keep a mic in place. The stage is high, so I am right at shoe level. The shoes in musicals are amazing. Tap shoes and dance shoes and shoes covered in sequins. One show had heels that were actually small disco balls. I cannot imagine that audience members even a few rows back would be able to see the perfect spheres covered in reflective glass, but those heels were mere feet from my face, and it was thrilling.

And sitting up close, I see the faces of the actors in perfect clarity. I never acted on stages as large as the one they are on. I never had that kind of success. I watch them and feel privileged to see people doing something that is so hard, something they love so much.

Touring is grueling. They do many shows in a week and then everything gets packed up and hauled off to another city for the same schedule. They are away from home for long periods of time. Their time off is spent in a strange city. I know that most of these touring actors are fairly young, and most will not do it for long. I know they must get exhausted, and I’m sure there is much about touring life that is not fun. It is such incredibly hard work.

But I go to the theater to spend two hours watching these actors who are so fully and completely alive, and it fills me with joy — even if I only have a partial view.

Till next time,
Carrie

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OBITUARY

Russell Wayne Burkett

A Celebration of Life will be held for Russell Burkett on August 1, 2026, from 11 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the American Legion Post 276, located at 1502 US 77, Giddings, TX 78942.

After a year of struggling and working hard to overcome health issues, Russell Wayne Burkett, 77, of Lincoln, Texas, passed away on Tuesday, July 7, 2026.

Russell was born on June 30, 1949, in Houston, Texas, to Claude and Edrie (Patterson) Burkett. After graduating from Galena Park High School in 1967, he served his country in the United States Army, 9th Infantry Division, during the Vietnam War. Following his military service, he pursued training in several skilled trades. Russell dedicated more than 25 years to Union Pacific Railroad, where he worked as a Signal Maintainer, Gang Foreman, and held a position on the Union Board for many years. He took great pride in his work and enjoyed an early retirement.

True to his nature as a lifelong learner and jack of all trades, Russell taught himself countless other skills throughout his life. To those who knew him, there seemed to be no problem he couldn't solve. He loved sharing his knowledge, teaching family members how to fix, build, and understand



just about anything; HVAC, woodworking, plumbing, electrical work, welding, cars, gardening and countless other crafts. Russell had a heart that was always willing to help anyone, at the drop of a hat, no matter the task, he would be the first to respond.

Above all else, Russell was a devoted father and grandfather. He was blessed with two daughters, Stacey and Randi, and four grandchildren, Zoe, Kaleigh, Paige and Aiden who he adored as much as they adored him! Russell had a passion for motorcycles, classic cars, cattle ranching, guns and road trips.

Perhaps Russell will be remembered most for his remarkable gift of storytelling; he had a way of bringing every tale to life with humor, detail, and perfect timing. If you were fortunate enough to sit and listen to one of Russell's stories, you experienced something truly special.

Russell was preceded

in death by his parents, Claude and Edrie Burkett; his brothers, Kenneth, Edward, and Joe; and his sisters, Carol Burnett and Peggy Scott.

He is survived by his daughters, Stacey Mueller and her partner, Jake Bound, of Hutto, and Randi Jeannette and her partner, Jason Geffs, of Houston; his beloved grandchildren, Zoe Jeannette of Lincoln, Kaleigh Mueller of San Antonio, Paige Mueller of Hutto, and Aiden Mueller of Hutto; his sisters, Bertha Briggs and her husband, Ronnie, of Ledbetter, and Deana Wheeler and her husband, Andy, of Lake Jackson; along with numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, neighbors and lifelong friends who were family to him.

Russell leaves behind a legacy of service, hard work, generosity, endless curiosity, and unconditional love for his family. He could fix almost anything, teach anyone willing to learn, and tell a story that would leave everyone laughing long after it was over. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes memorial donations to your local PBS affiliate in honor of Russell W Burkett, a cause he enjoyed supporting.

Arrangements made by Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home in Giddings.

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Attention Non-Profit Private Schools and Homeschoolers

Non-profit private schools and homeschoolers who legally qualify as non-profit (currently hold a 501-C3 certificate) are invited to meet with a representative from Channelview Independent School District to learn more about federally funded services available for eligible residents of Channelview ISD. Please contact Dee Doyle (dee.doyle@cvisd.org), Director of Innovation, Grants, and Federal Programs, no later than Thursday, July 30, 2026.

Atención: Escuelas privadas sin fines de lucro y familias que educan en casa

Las escuelas privadas sin fines de lucro y las familias que educan en casa que legalmente califican como organizaciones sin fines de lucro y que actualmente cuentan con un certificado 501(c)(3) están invitadas a reunirse con un representante del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Channelview para obtener más información sobre los servicios financiados con fondos federales disponibles para los residentes elegibles de Channelview ISD. Favor de comunicarse con Dee Doyle (dee.doyle@cvisd.org), Directora de Innovación, Subvenciones y Programas Federales, a más tardar el jueves, 30 de julio de 2026.

LEGAL NOTICE

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LEGAL NOTICE

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

City of Jacinto City

Independent Auditing Services

The City of Jacinto City, Texas is requesting Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) from qualified Certified Public Accounting (CPA) firms to provide independent auditing services for the City's annual financial audit. The City is soliciting qualifications in accordance with the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act (Texas Government Code Chapter 2254). Firms will be evaluated and ranked solely on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualifications. **Compensation or fee proposals shall not be submitted with the Statement of Qualifications.** Following the evaluation and ranking process, the city will negotiate a fair and reasonable fee with the highest-ranked firm. The selected firm will be expected to perform the City's annual financial audit in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS), Government Auditing Standards (Yellow Book), Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), applicable Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements, and other applicable federal and state requirements, including Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200) when a Single Audit is required.

Please electronically submit your SOQs in .pdf format via email to: christal.rodriguez@jacintocity-tx.gov OR submit 2 copies of your SOQs in a sealed envelope clearly marked: "RFQ-Independent Auditing Services" to the following address: *Att: Christal Rodriguez, 1301 Mercury Dr. Jacinto City, Texas 77029.* The RFQ will also be available on the City's website at: www.jacintocity-tx.gov/public_notice

SOQs must be received by the City of Jacinto City no later than 5:00 pm on Thursday, August 6, 2026, to be considered. *Qualifications received after the deadline will not be considered.* The City reserves the right to reject any or all Statements of Qualifications, waive informalities and irregularities, request additional information, conduct interviews, negotiate with the highest-ranked qualified firm, or cancel this solicitation when such action is determined to be in the best interest of the City. The City of Jacinto City is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages participation by all qualified firms.

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Anya Taylor-Joy, Left and Drew Starkey stars in "Lucky."

“Lucky.”

“72 Hours” (R) — Co-median/actor Kevin Hart (“Jumanji: Open World”) leads this comedy film releasing on July 24, and he’s got a handful of fellow comedians who round out the rest of the cast, including Marcello Hernandez, Ben Marshall and Kam Patterson (all of whom you might recognize from “Saturday Night Live”). Hart plays Joe, a 40-year-old business executive who’s feeling desperate to cling to his remaining youth. So, when Joe gets added to a group chat for a three-day bachelor party with twenty-somethings, he’s overjoyed that he gets a chance to reconnect with his inner rager. But it doesn’t take long for poor Joe to realize in those mere 72 hours that he’s in way over his head. (Netflix)

“The Sheep Detectives” (PG) — This family-friendly film, out now, isn’t just a fun blend of a

mystery and comedy movie that’s appropriate for all ages; it features a stacked ensemble cast that is full of familiar faces and voices. Taking place in a small English village, a shepherd named George (Hugh Jackman) reads murder-mystery novels to his flock of sheep each night. When George suddenly passes away and is found outside his trailer, the sheep overhear the local police’s hunch that it was a murder. With an extensive background in mystery-novel sleuthing, George’s sheep are convinced that they can track down the murderer themselves. The live-action cast features names like Nicholas Braun (“Succession”), Emma Thompson (“Dead of Winter”), and Hong Chau (“Wuthering Heights”), while the voice cast includes Bryan Craston (“Chili Finger”), Julia Louis-Dreyfus (“Thunderbolts”) and Regi-

na Hall (“The Five-Star Weekend”). (Amazon Prime Video)

“Lucky” (TV-MA) — Under her production company Hello Sunshine, Reese Witherspoon (“You’re Cordially Invited”) serves as an executive producer for this new crime-thriller miniseries, which just premiered the first two episodes out of its seven-episode season. Starring Anya Taylor-Joy (“The Super Mario Galaxy Movie”) as the titular character, this series follows Lucky Armstrong — a con artist who pulls off a multi-million-dollar heist with her husband/partner-in-crime, Carey (Drew Starkey). When Carey goes missing with the money the very next day, Lucky is forced to live on the run from her boss, Priscilla (Annette Bening), who’s also her mother-in-law and was expecting the money. Oh, and the FBI’s hot on her heels as well. Sounds like Ms. Armstrong is not-so-lucky! (Apple TV)

“Marc by Sofia” (PG-13) — Director Sofia Coppola (“Priscilla”) just released her first feature-length nonfiction film! The topic? TITLE: None other than American fashion designer Marc Jacobs. With footage that leads up to his 2024 paper doll runway show, Coppola interviews her close friend about his early life, his creative process, and the details of how he produces a show. Jacob also speaks about his time at Parsons School of Design in New York and working for Perry Ellis. Other faces who appear in the doc include actress Chloe Sevigny (“The Five-Star Weekend”), musician Kim Gordon, filmmaker Spike Jonze (“Her”), and former model/creative director Grace Coddington. Out now! (HBO Max)

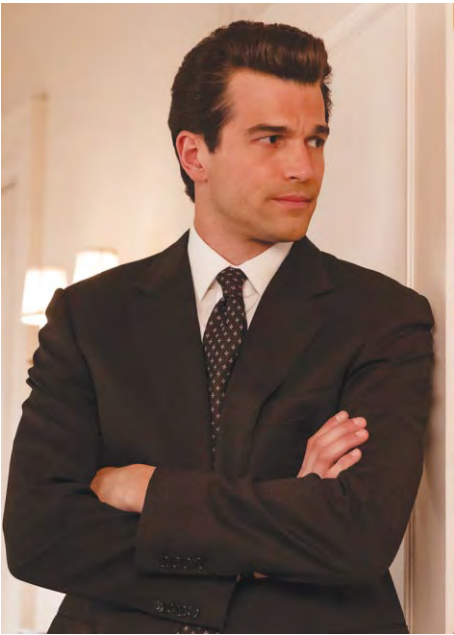
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Q: What’s next for Paul Anthony Kelly after his practically overnight success from playing John F. Kennedy Jr.? — G.C.

A: The careers of both leads of the miniseries “Love Story” have taken off since it became a huge hit on Hulu. While Paul Anthony Kelly didn’t receive an Emmy nomination, his co-star, Sarah Pidgeon, was recognized in the Outstanding Lead Actress in a Limited or Anthology Series category. Kelly, however, is striking while the iron’s hot! He’ll appear in the upcoming 13th season of “American Horror Story,” the news of which was revealed at the Disney Upfront presentation in May. Kelly emerged on stage saying, “I guess every nightmare needs fresh blood ... and 13’s my lucky number.”

Kelly will also co-star with Sydney Sweeney and Amanda Seyfried in “The Housemaid’s Secret,” which is set for release in December 2027.



Paul Anthony Kelly as JFK Jr. in “Love Story”

Q: I read recently that the longtime announcer for the “Jeopardy!” game show just had his 98th birthday, which is incredible! Are there any other announcers or hosts of game shows who started decades ago and are still working today? — J.V.

A: Johnny Gilbert is the oldest game-show announcer who still isn’t retired. The famous voice of “This ... is ... ‘Jeopardy!’” has been with the show since 1984. According to 13News Now, ever since the pandemic, Gilbert has been recording the show’s intro, the descriptions of contestants, and the quiz categories from his home studio in Los Angeles.

Game-show hosts have some impressive genes because many of them have lived well into their 90s. Bob Barker of “The Price Is Right” passed away in 2023 at the impressive age of 99. He retired, however, in 2007, and Drew Carey is now the host. “Hollywood Squares” host Peter Marshall died in 2024 at age 98 but had retired at age 72.

“Tic-Tac-Dough” host Wink Martindale left us at age 91. He continued working in show business in some capacity right up until his passing. When asked when he was going to retire, Martindale famously asked, “Retire from what? From having fun?”

Bob Eubanks of “The Newlywed Game” fame is now 88 years old and has never officially retired. His memorable quote, “If you rest, you rust,” has not only guided him through his decades as a game-show host, but also through covering the Tournament of Roses Parade for 36 years.

Q: Is it true they’re making a sequel to the “Practical Magic” movie? Are Nicole Kidman and Sandra Bullock both in it, or will it be with new stars? — K.E.

A: The answer is “yes” and “yes”! “Practical Magic 2,” starring Nicole Kidman and Sandra Bullock, will premiere in theaters this Sept. 11. Dianne Wiest (“Only Murders in the Building”) and Stockard Channing (“The Good Wife”) will also be returning as the aunts, along with new young witches played by Joey King (“We Were the Lucky Ones”) and Maisie Williams (“Game of Thrones”).

The film is said to be based on “The Book of Magic,” a sequel novel to “Practical Magic,” which was released in 2021 by author Alice Hoffman.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU

3				9				8
1	9	6						
				3			6	1
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6	3	4		1		5	8	7
8	1	7		3	5			

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Foot is moved. 2. Collar is missing. 3. Arm is not shown. 4. Lamp is larger. 5. Window is added to house. 6. Back of chair is smaller.

July 20, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Efron of "Parkland"
- 4 "For — the Bell Tolls"
- 8 Maui's — Highway
- 12 Rock's Brian
- 13 Continental coin
- 14 Petri dish gel
- 15 Scrape (out)
- 16 Shakable paperweight
- 18 Egypt's Anwar
- 20 Quibble
- 21 Composer Bartok
- 24 Informative
- 28 Hall & Oates ballad of 1976
- 32 Scarce
- 33 Galley item
- 34 Must, casually
- 36 Plant seeds
- 37 Radar dot
- 39 "Gems" found on a beach
- 41 "Bye!"
- 43 Poetry contest
- 44 Vat
- 46 Foolish
- 50 Scott Evil actor in the Austin Powers films
- 55 Blue bird
- 56 Saab model
- 57 Nest egg choices
- 58 Broad st.
- 59 Wee songbird
- 60 Lacking slack
- 61 Wine choice
- 8 Summer top
- 9 Previously
- 10 Collar
- 11 Common verb
- 17 Tonic's mixer
- 19 Six-pack muscles
- 22 Novelist Anita
- 23 Poker pot starters
- 25 "That — close one!"
- 26 "No seats" signs
- 27 Evergreens
- 28 Weeps
- 29 Robust
- 30 Buffalo's lake
- 31 List-ending abbr.
- 35 Not for
- 38 Large constrictor
- 40 Run after K
- 42 Summer mo.
- 45 Telly watcher
- 47 Slightly open area
- 48 Cathedral
- 49 Kept tabs on
- 50 Cutting tool
- 51 Chariot trailer
- 52 Three, in Rome
- 53 Notable time
- 54 Vichy water

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. ANATOMY: How many vertebrae are in the human spine?

2. U.S. CITIES: Which city is home to the Gateway Arch, known as the tallest arch in the world?

3. TELEVISION: Which 1970s sitcom introduced a neighbor named Phyllis Lindstrom?

4. HISTORY: When was the first heart transplant performed?

5. GEOGRAPHY: Where are the Cape Verde islands located?

6. MOVIES: Which 1991 film featured a villain named Max Cady?

7. MUSIC: When did Taylor Swift's second studio album ("Fearless") win the Country Music Association's Album of the Year award?

8. SCIENCE: What is nephology?

9. MEASUREMENTS: What instrument is used to measure the depth of oceans?

10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby deer called?

Answers

1. 33; 2. St. Louis, Missouri; 3. "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"; 4. 1967; 5. Off the west coast of Africa; 6. "Cape Fear"; 7. 2009; 8. The scientific study of clouds; 9. An echo sounder or fathometer; 10. A fawn or calf

King Crossword

Solution time: 24 mins.

Answers

1. Efron of "Parkland"; 4. "For — the Bell Tolls"; 8. Maui's — Highway; 12. Rock's Brian; 13. Continental coin; 14. Petri dish gel; 15. Scrape (out); 16. Shakable paperweight; 18. Egypt's Anwar; 20. Quibble; 21. Composer Bartok; 24. Informative; 28. Hall & Oates ballad of 1976; 32. Scarce; 33. Galley item; 34. Must, casually; 36. Plant seeds; 37. Radar dot; 39. "Gems" found on a beach; 41. "Bye!"; 43. Poetry contest; 44. Vat; 46. Foolish; 50. Scott Evil actor in the Austin Powers films; 55. Blue bird; 56. Saab model; 57. Nest egg choices; 58. Broad st.; 59. Wee songbird; 60. Lacking slack; 61. Wine choice; 8. Summer top; 9. Previously; 10. Collar; 11. Common verb; 17. Tonic's mixer; 19. Six-pack muscles; 22. Novelist Anita; 23. Poker pot starters; 25. "That — close one!"; 26. "No seats" signs; 27. Evergreens; 28. Weeps; 29. Robust; 30. Buffalo's lake; 31. List-ending abbr.; 35. Not for; 38. Large constrictor; 40. Run after K; 42. Summer mo.; 45. Telly watcher; 47. Slightly open area; 48. Cathedral; 49. Kept tabs on; 50. Cutting tool; 51. Chariot trailer; 52. Three, in Rome; 53. Notable time; 54. Vichy water

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LyondellBasell Highlights Safety, Operations and Community Commitment at Luncheon

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

LyondellBasell's Channelview Complex is one of the largest and most complex petrochemical operations along the Texas Gulf Coast, but Chris Block told members of the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce last June 18, that its mission is rooted in products people use every day and a commitment to operating safely in the communities around it.

Block, north plant site operations manager at the Channelview Complex, said LyondellBasell is a global company whose products touch nearly every part of daily life, from transportation and food packaging to health care, agriculture and renewable energy.

"We like to say we provide solutions for everyday sustainable living," Block said.

He said the company's products are used in more efficient fuels, lighter-weight vehicle parts, potable water delivery systems, food packaging that extends shelf life, personal protective equipment for medical workers, pharmaceutical packaging, agricultural applications, children's toys, cosmetics, solar panels and wind turbines.

"We affect just about every part of everybody's lives on a daily basis," he said.

Globally, Block said LyondellBasell has about 19,000 employees, sells products in about 100 countries and operates manufacturing facilities in about 20 countries. The company ranks No. 1 or No. 2 in several of its major markets, including oxyfuels, polypropylene, propylene oxide and polyethylene.

The Channelview facility, located nearby, has been operating for 69 years, beginning in 1957. Block said the site covers 4,000 acres, with about 1,100 acres currently developed, leaving room for future growth.

The scale of the operation is significant. According to Block, the complex includes about 17 operating units, 144 reactors and roughly 260 distillation columns. The facility makes about 58 different products and has approximately 1,200 employees and 1,000 contractors on site each day. During major maintenance events, the number of contractors can increase by as many as 3,000.

"Lots and lots of folks come through our door each and every day to help us run the plant safely and efficiently," Block said.

Block also described the company's integrated Gulf Coast footprint, including sites in Channelview, La



Chris Block of LyondellBasell (center) is joined by Chamber leaders Deanna Becker and Debra Roberts on the left, and Susan Scott, communications for LyondellBasell, Chamber Chairman Velma Ellison, and Pct. 3 representative Kent Klingerman.



The monthly meeting of the chamber was held at the Crosby Community Center and membership filled the room for the presentation by LyondellBasell.

Porte, Bayport, Mont Belvieu and Corpus Christi. He said interconnected pipelines and storage areas, including salt dome storage, allow LyondellBasell to move materials between facilities as needed.

A major portion of Block's presentation focused on health, safety and environmental performance, which he described as central to the company's operations.

"We can't do what we do unless we protect our people, protect the environment and protect our communities," he said.

The Channelview facility operates around the clock. Block said operators staff control rooms 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, monitoring and controlling processes through computers and monitors. Outside operators and maintenance personnel also work directly with equipment throughout the site.

The complex also has a communications center staffed 24 hours a day. The center monitors radio communications, answers emergency and non-emergency calls and helps coordinate emergency response and weather-related notifications across the site.

On environmental issues, Block said the facility operates under strict air and water permit requirements. Flares are used to safely burn gases during

startups, shutdowns, process upsets and some routine operations.

He said wastewater from the facility is treated before being discharged into the San Jacinto River, and described the site's treatment process as extensive.

"The water that leaves our facility, what we call our wastewater, is actually cleaner than the water that we pull out of Lake Houston," Block said.

He added that the company self-reports permit deviations to state and local agencies and investigates those events to prevent recurrence.

Block said the Channelview Complex is also proud of its safety performance, which he said routinely ranks in the top 10 percent across industry. He said the site had recorded zero injuries so far this year and reached several million man-hour safety milestones.

"We work hard every day to ensure that everybody that walks in our gates leaves in the same condition or better as they return home to their families," he said.

The site also maintains a 225-member volunteer emergency response team, including fire and hazardous materials responders, fire apparatus operators, rescue responders, emergency medical responders and marine spill responders. Team members re-

ceive extensive training, including fire training at Texas A&M.

Block said the facility has its own ambulances and fire trucks, and that many emergency calls involve personal medical events such as heart issues, asthma or other illnesses. He said responders can often reach a patient within minutes and trans-

port them to a hospital if necessary.

Weather preparedness was another key topic. Block said the facility plans for hurricanes, thunderstorms, lightning, flooding, freezes and heat. He said extreme heat is the most significant weather issue for workers on the Texas Gulf Coast.

To address heat, the facility uses water and ice stations, electrolyte packets, work-rest cycles, hydration logs, cooling vests and air-conditioning units for certain tasks. He said the site also begins preparing for hurricane season and freezing conditions well in advance.

Block said some weather events can lead to shutdowns, most commonly due to loss of power or steam. In those cases, safety systems and emergency procedures are used to bring equipment to a safe state. The company may also proactively shut down ahead of a major hurricane or freeze if expected impacts are severe enough.

Block also addressed questions about flares, which are among the most visible parts of the facility. He said some candlestick flares are between 450 and 500 feet tall and have pilot flames that remain lit so gases can be safely burned if sent to the flare.

"They are an essential safety function," Block said.

He said candlestick flares destroy 98 to 99 percent of the material sent to them, while ground flares are about 99.5 percent efficient. Ground flares, he said, can produce a large orange glow that may alarm residents, but they are safety devices and not

necessarily signs of danger.

Block also said flaring can produce noise, usually a rumbling sound caused by the volume of material sent to the flare and the steam used in the process.

The company is also preparing for a major project known as Flex 2, a second unit that will convert ethylene into propylene. Block said the technology is proprietary and designed to minimize air emissions by recycling process gases and reusing material wherever possible.

Another large piece of equipment, a distillation tower built in South Korea, is currently being shipped to the site and is expected to arrive in the coming months.

Block closed by emphasizing community outreach. He said the Channelview Community Outreach Committee works with communities including Precinct 2, Precinct 3, Channelview, Crosby, Sheldon and Highlands to identify needs and determine how employees can help.

He also described CAPLA, the Community Advisory Panel to Lyondell Equistar, which brings community members to the site each month to learn about operations and share concerns.

Block encouraged residents to use the CAER line, a community awareness and emergency response tool that can notify the public about site activity, including flaring or unit upsets.

"The biggest thing is we feel like we need to be listening to our community's needs and then responding to those," Block said.

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