



Photos Mbu Maquingo/Beaumont Enterprise

Customers pick up orders at Beaumont's Potbelly Sandwich Works Tuesday.

Potbelly Sandwich Works
open for business
Second location in Southeast Texas

By Mbu Maquingo
STAFF WRITER

Potbelly Sandwich Works is open for business in Beaumont, marking the restaurant's second location in Southeast Texas. Owner Tim Rozell was joined by his family and business partners

Tuesday in cutting the ribbon for the Potbelly location at 6456 Phelan Blvd. in Beaumont. The restaurant will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Rozell previously opened a Potbelly location in Lumberton last year. He described Potbelly as an upscale establishment with a "neighborhood

vibe with quality ingredients," and interior aesthetics that set it apart from other restaurants of its kind. "We wanted to bring a whole different brand and culture to Beaumont," Rozell said. "The ingredients are fresh, the bread is incredible, not even to mention the soup. Thank you all for coming out to support us."



Potbelly Sandwich Works owner, family and business partners at a ribbon cutting Tuesday.

ICE arrest of
restaurant
worker spurs
concern

By Mbu Maquingo
STAFF WRITER

The arrest of a longtime employee of a popular Beaumont restaurant has garnered attention from thousands of residents and a diverse set of local politicians calling for answers. Maria De Lourdes Gomez, a 20-year staff member at Katharine & Company at 1495 Calder Ave., was incarcerated Nov. 12 during a customary evaluation she has done multiple times for more than a decade, according to family members contacted by the Enterprise. The arrest was made in the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service Office at 126 Northpoint Dr. in Houston. After signing in and presenting documents that were acknowledged as being in order, Gomez was detained by ICE agents without the presentation of a warrant or a Notice to Appear, according to a Change.org petition created by local residents. She was then taken to the Montgomery Processing Immigration Detention Center in Conroe. The Enterprise confirmed Gomez's status at the detention center as of Wednesday afternoon. The Change.org petition calling for the release of Gomez has received 3,582 signatures at time of reporting. It was shared by over 600 social media accounts, including elected community leaders associated with both the Jefferson County Republican and Democratic parties. "We are trying our best to get my mom out," Gomez's daughter Jenny Sosa told the Enterprise on Monday. "In the meantime, I am waiting to hear back from our attorney." Beaumont Ward 1 Council member Cory Crenshaw, a self-avowed Republican, shared the petition to his 50,000 followers that same day. He subsequently said the next day ICE has been going too far, adding that the system has been broken for decades and people who entered unlaw-

Arrest continues on A4

Terry Rose pleads
guilty to 1999
killing of
Beaumont woman

Had previously rejected plea deal

By Megan Zapalac
STAFF WRITER

Terry Rose has pleaded guilty to the 1999 killing of Kimberly Langwell. On Tuesday morning, Rose pleaded guilty to the killing in Judge Raquel West's court and is set for sentencing Dec. 16. Rose previously rejected a plea deal in mid-August and now faces up to 40 years in prison. Langwell's case remained unsolved for almost 25 years until Beaumont police received a 2024 tip from a "reliable informant" that Rose told them he had buried her body in his front yard, the Enterprise previously reported. Langwell, 34, was last seen at 5:14 p.m. in Beaumont on July 9, 1999, when she left work. She was reported missing by her then 15-year-old daughter Tiffany after she did not return home, according to previous reports. The case received renewed attention in April

Case continues on A4

Trump pardons U.S. Rep.
Henry Cuellar of bribery charges

By Bayliss Wagner
and James Osborne
STAFF WRITER

President Donald Trump pardoned U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar on Wednesday, a stunning move that protects the South Texas Democrat from corruption charges brought by federal prosecutors under the Biden administration. In a Truth Social post, the Republican president cast Cuellar

as a fellow victim of a politicized Department of Justice, saying he was targeted for speaking out against "Open Borders and the Biden Border 'Catastrophe.'" "Sleepy Joe went after the Congressman, and even the Congressman's wonderful wife, Imelda, simply for speaking the TRUTH," Trump wrote on Wednesday. "Henry, I don't know you, but you can sleep well tonight — Your nightmare

is finally over!" A federal grand jury in Houston indicted Cuellar and his wife, Imelda, in May 2024 on charges of bribery, money laundering, working on behalf of a foreign government and conspiracy. They were accused of accepting \$600,000 in bribes between 2014 and 2021 from a Mexican bank and an oil and gas company in Azerbaijan. The case had not yet gone to trial

Pardon continues on A4



Tom Williams/CQ-Roll Call, Inc. via Getty Images

U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar, a moderate Democrat, has served in Congress since 2005 representing the 28th district.

