

# Around the State: HPU to build \$6 million tennis center

December 2, 2025

Howard Payne University will soon begin construction on a new \$6 million tennis center. The new facility will replace the current clubhouse located at 301 Second St. by the McCulloch Athletic Center. The facility will include a 3,300-square-foot clubhouse with locker rooms, a team room, a coaches' office and a study room. Eight tennis courts are included, along with additional stands for visitors and expanded parking areas.

Faculty from Houston Christian University's School of Christian Thought and Houston Theological Seminary provided leadership at a recent International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature and the Evangelical Theological Society in Boston. **Paul Sloan** received the Paul J. Achtemeier Award for New Testament Scholarship for his paper, "Lawful Lawlessness: The Torah and Paul's Authorized Mission in 1 Corinthians 9." An international book launch was held for *Five Views of the Gospel*, co-edited by **Jason Maston** of HCU and Michael Bird.

Baylor University's Office of Engaged Learning in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Program for the Future Church at Baylor's Truett Theological Seminary have collaborated to launch the Future Church Leadership Certificate Program. Enrollment for the Future Church Leadership Certificate is open now and welcomes Christian leaders from around the world including pastors, church elders and deacons, Sunday school leaders, nonprofit and mental health professionals, social workers and church lay leaders.

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor will honor its 169th graduating class during a commencement ceremony at 1 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 5, in Crusader

Stadium on the UMHB campus. An estimated 448 students will be awarded degrees for the fall 2025 ceremony, including 318 baccalaureate degrees, 94 master's degrees and 36 doctoral degrees.

## **Anniversary**

City Church Del Rio celebrates 10 years as a congregation. **Larry Floyd**, director of missions for El Paso Baptist Association, started the church in his living room in 2015.