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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

TxDOT reveals plans for I-10 Bridge & Highway replacement

EAST HARRIS COUN-TY - TxDOT, the Texas Department of Transportation, held a virtual and an in-person meeting last week, to inform the publlic of their plans to build a replacement bridge over the San Jacinto River, and to build new highway lanes to expand the capacity of Interstate Highway I-10 as it passes through the area.

The in-person meeting was held last Thursday evening at the Flukinger Community Center in Channelview, from 5pm to 7pm. About 50 persons attended the meeting, as well as a contingent from TxDOT and Harris County. On view were drawings of the proposed roadway and bridge, and other factual material and the history of the project.

The Project is about 4.5 miles long, spanning the San Jacinto River at a height 30 feet above the present roadway. The cost

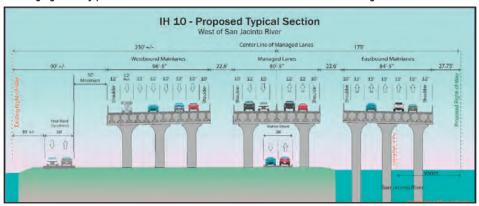
Continued. See I-10 BRIDGE, Page 2



New Highway and Bridge construction stretches for 4.5 miles, from Magnolia Street to Thompson Road. New ramps will connect Spur 330 to I-10. In this schematic, Orange denotes steel bridges, Red concrete, and Yellow on-grade construction. All work is within the existing right-of-way plus 5.4 acres additional. These red lanes will be 30' above existing roadbed.



The new roadway will be 30' higher than existing. The navigational opening for boats is increased in height and width to reduce impacts to the bridge structure and bumpers.



Three new bridge structures will be built spanning the San Jacinto River. In phases the old highway will be removed. When finished, there will be 5 westbound and 5 eastbound travel lanes, with shoulders on each side. There will also be 4 managed lanes in-between for HOV or bi-directional overflow traffic.

Crosby's productive Fridays; Skydivers at Homecoming Oct. 13

Hello EastHarris County and Crosby ISD fami-

Welcome to October! We are two months into the 2023-2024 School Year, and I wanted to share with you what a non-instructional Friday looks like in Crosby ISD.

September 22 was our first Student Holiday and Staff Development Day. It included learning for many students and staff members. First, dozens of students enrolled in our 21st Century Grant and YMCA childcare programs went on their first student enrichment field trip of the

NASA's Johnson Space Center in Clear Lake.

Their Paula Patterson day was Crosby Superintendent filled

with space exploration activities. They took a tour of the restored Saturn V rocket, which is the tallest, heaviest, and most powerful rocket ever flown. Students learned how the 30-story tall rocket was launched 13 times, carrying 27 Apollo astronauts

into space, including nine from transportation, to and underwent missions to capture a space telescope in zero gravity. Hands-on learning doesn't get better than that! It's due to the generosity of two Crosby businesses that we are able to provide these student enrichment field trips. We sincerely thank Friendly Ford of Crosby and The Crawfish Shack for significant donations that will fund exciting field trips once a month on noninstructional Fridays.

Meanwhile, back here in Crosby ISD, every staff member received training,

missions to the moon. They child nutrition, and even piloted rocket simulators campus leaders. Training happened at each campus and in each department during the first half of the Staff Development Day. Bus drivers had a chance to see our new routing system. Nutrition services workers received refreshers on cash register poli-

> Continued. See Crosby Superintendent, Page 2

PHOTO AT RIGHT: Rocket seats. Students attend student enrichment field trip at the Johnson Space Center. The field trips on noninstructional Fridays are sponsored by Friendly Ford of Crosby and The Crawfish Shack.



Crosby FD earns ISO3 rating

Crosby Volunteer Fire Department announces a significant improvement in our ISO class rating! Starting from October 1, 2023, our rating will be upgraded from an ISO Class 4 to an ISO Class 3. As a result of this enhanced rating, your fire insurance rates may be affected positively. However, it's essential to take action to ensure you benefit from this change.

Here's what you need to **Contact your insur-

ance providers:** Reach



out to your insurance company or agent as soon as possible. Inform them about the improved ISO class rating of Crosby Volunteer Fire Department and the effective date, October 1, 2023.

Update your insurance policy: Your insurance provider will guide you through any necessary updates to your policy, taking into account the improved rating. This process may lead to a positive change in your fire insurance rates on your next renewal.

At Crosby Volunteer Fire Department, our dedicated team works tirelessly to protect our community and provide the highest level of fire

Continued. See CROSBY ISO3 RATING, Page 5

EPA stops negotiations on Waste Pits North site

By Jackie Medcalf **THEA Director**

HIGHLANDS - The EPA has announced it is not going to wait for the companies responsible for the San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund Site any longer. The agency wrote in a letter to the companies that it will no longer negotiate with the responsible parties for an independent review of the remediation plan.

Here's THEA's Analysis Of The Decision

The EPA announcement involves the remediation plan for the Northern Pit. For nearly a year, there has been no progress on the project. The EPA wanted the companies responsible for the contamination, International Paper and McGinnes Industrial Maintenance Corporation/ Waste Management to hire a third party to review the

plan. However, after months of delay, the agency and the companies still hadn't agreed on the requirements for the independent contractor, including how to make sure there were no conflict of interest problems between the third party and the responsible companies. So, the EPA called off the

Continued. See EPA STOPS **NEGOTIATIONS WITH RP, Page 5**

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CRCU.org/levelup



Crosby Superintendent's Message,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cies, and they even made muffins and salads for our staff to enjoy at lunch. The afternoon was the staff's opportunity to take care of their needs, from grading papers to working on lesson plans, to making parent phone calls. We call these Fridays "Red Box Fridays," because they are listed as a "red box" on our academic calendar, designating monthly professional development day on the four-day calendar.

For the first time, Crosby ISD also offered optional wellness activities on each campus. We've partnered with community groups and organizations that will visit each campus and provide fun activities for our staff members to enjoy for one hour. At one campus, an alumni-owned business delivered swag bags and smoothies as a treat. A local fitness instructor and a choreographer visited other campuses for exercise classes and dance lessons. At another campus, teachers learned the basics of pencil drawing and caricatures. We saw teachers taking care of their minds and bodies and laughing

along the way. We also empowered our district and campus leaders to use technology better than ever before, thanks to Apple in Education training. We believe that taking care of the people who take care of students benefits everyone.

I wanted to close with two reminders. We continue to host informational meetings regarding November's bond election. The meetings are open to the public on the following dates and locations:

Thursday, October 5 Community Town Hall (Crosby)

6pm Crosby Community

409 Hare Rd, Crosby, TX 77532

Thursday, October 19 Community Town Hall (Barrett Station)

6pm Riley Chambers Com-

808 Magnola Ave, Crosby, TX, 77532

munity Center

You can review the presentations and examine frequently asked questions regarding the bond anyat www.crosbyisd.org/ BOND2023. Election Day is November 7, and early voting begins October 23.

Finally, we're inviting the Crosby and Barrett Station communities to attend a giant homecoming tailgate party. On Friday, October 13, our campuses will host games and giveaways outside Crosby High School. The tailgating will start at 5pm. At 6, we'll host a community Spirit Walk from CHS to Cougar Stadium ahead of the football game against Baytown Sterling. The tailgate party is open to students of all ages and their families. The event is absolutely free. Just before kickoff, we're bringing back the beloved tradition of skydivers landing at the 50-yard line at Cougar Stadium. Thank you to The Balderrama Team at RE/ MAX ONE for sponsoring the skydivers. We hope to see you there as we celebrate what it means to be a Crosby Cougar and welcome home our alumni.

We are Moving Forward! Go Coogs!



5th grade teachers at Crosby Elementary School study STAAR scores in small group work session.



Educator Wellness events for Crosby ISD Teachers.



Newport Cougarettes participate in the Crosby Bicentennial Celebration.

New I-10 Bridge Project,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

is estimated at \$555 million dollars, with funding from both the Federal and State governments. Construction is scheduled to start in 2027, and continue for 5 years until completed.

Project limits are I-10 from Magnolia Street to Thompson Road, and Spur 330 from I-10 to Thompson

Most of the new construction will take place within existing rights-ofway, with only one commercial building and the City of Baytown monument at Four Corners to be acquired and relocated.

The Following information was provided by Tx-DOT in regard to this project:

Welcome to the **Public Meeting**

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) welcomes you to the public meeting. This public meeting

is being conducted both virtually and in-person. Both options provide an opportunity to view a prerecorded presentation in English

and Spanish and provide your feedback on the proposed project. The purpose of the public

meeting is to engage with the community and gather feedback on this pro-

project. Your input is important in the project development process. Details on how to comment are on the following page.

Why is this project proposed?

The purpose of this project is to increase

capacity and limit potential waterborne strikes of the bridge structures,

which would improve safety, access, and navigation for the mariner community and safety

for the traveling public.

Project Description

TxDOT, Houston District, is proposing improvements along I-10 from Magnolia Street to Thompson Road

and Spur 330 from I-10 to Thompson Road in Harris County, Texas. The proposed project would replace

and widen the existing bridges over the San Jacinto River to reduce barge collisions with the bridge

structures and provide increased vehicular capacity within the project limits. The proposed project

replace the existing I-10 mainlane bridges over the San Jacinto River. Due to repeated barge traffic

collisions with the bridge structures on the San Jacinto River, the proposed I-10 mainlane bridges would

consist of a wider navigational opening and tentatively consist of steel girder bridges with a 52-

vertical clearance and a 386-foot horizontal navigational clearance.

The proposed project would also add vehicular capacity to I-10 within the

project limits. The existing highway in this location consists of three lanes in each direction. The pro-

posed project would add general purpose lane, acceleration/deceleration lanes and entrance and

exit ramps, and two man-

lanes in each direction. Managed lanes are highway lanes where operational strategies, such as, but not

limited to HOV lanes or emergencies services, are proactively implemented and managed in response

changing conditions. Proposed improvements along Spur 330 include widening to add one managed lane

in each direction and connecting to the proposed I-10 managed lanes. Currently Spur 330 consists of

12-foot mainlanes and two 12-foot frontage lanes in each direction.

Project History

The existing I-10 structure over the San Jacinto River has had multiple barge strikes. Past flooding has

caused several barges to impact the existing bridge protection system, causing substantial damage. The

flooding also caused significant scour to the existing bridge footings.

A bridge type selection study was performed to determine best solution

for replacement. Currently there is a retrofit project under

construction to repair the damaged protection and fender systems.

For more information,

https://www.txdot.gov/ projects /hearings

meetings.html

How to Get Involved You are invited to participate in the development of this project



Meeting attendees included (R-L) area Residents Carolyn Stone, Greg Moss, and THEA's Rachel Jordan.



roadway and bridge that will tower 30' over their current restaurant location. The engineer is pointing to their business location.

Director of Project De-

Houston, Texas 77251-

• Send your comment

PIOwebmail@txdot.gov

velopment

via email to:

P.O. Box 1386

by reviewing the materials and providing com-

You may submit comments in any language in the following

wavs: • Place the comment

card in the Comment Box at the in-person

TxDOT Houston Dis-

All comments must be • Send your comment received or postmarked by via U.S. Mail postmarked October 6,

2023, to be considered in by Friday, October 6, 2023: the official public meeting

summary report.

Documentation of this public meeting will be available online at

the project webpage when completed. This report will contain

responses to all comments received by the deadline.

Please reference the project number shown on the first page in all communication.



Barbers Hill

Serving Mont Belvieu, Dayton, Baytown and surrounding communities since 1995

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

MB Resident Charged with Orchestrating Investment Fraud Scheme

HOUSTON - A 38-yearold Mont Belvieu resident has been taken into federal custody on charges he diverted victims' monies for his personal use, announced U.S. Attorney Alamdar S. Hamdani.

A federal grand jury returned the indictment Sept. 27 against Carl Spence.

Spence allegedly ran an investment business called AEI Financial from residence. According to the charges, Spence lured victims by

promising he would invest their funds and obtain 20-30% returns on investment.He also allegedly falsely represented to investors that he was registered with the SEC.

Spence would divert victims' money and use it to pay for his own personal expenses or to pay previous investors, according to the charges. In addition, although the victims' money had been significantly (or nearly completely) depleted, Spence would allegedly produce fraudulent account statements showing that the victims' accounts had grown. Spence faces one count of wire fraud which carries a penalty of up to 20 years imprisonment and a possible \$250,000 maximum fine, upon conviction.

The FBI conducted the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attornevs Thomas Carter and Brad Grav are prosecuting the case.

Eagle Pointe Announces Fun Fall **Programming**

Tumbling with Stacey Svegliato

Next session is Sept.

5th - Nov. 30

Experience the magic of gymnastics with the expertise of local tumbling expert, Stacey Svegliato, who brings over 30 years of coaching mastery to Eagle Pointe. From beginners taking their first steps to elite students aiming for the stars, Stacey's classes cater to a wide range of skill levels. Through her carefully crafted programs, your child will not only develop agility, motor skills, and flexibility but also discover the joy of movement in a supportive and

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Ages 3-6 years old \$85 per tumbler per month

environment. Join us for

an unforgettable summer

encouraging

of growth and

achievement!

Lee College Celebrates Another Year of Record Enrollment

BAYTOWN, TX, Sept. 27, 2023 - For the second consecutive year, Lee College is celebrating its highest enrollment in the institution's 89-year history. This fall, the student headcount increased to 8,619 – a 2.2% jump compared to the same time last

"Our upward trajectory in enrollment is driven by our continued commitment to the longterm strategies we put into practice during the pandemic around the core value that Lee CARES," said Dr. Lynda Villanueva, Lee College

We were just celebrat-

ing the new year yester-

day, right? It certainly

feels that way at least.

The year as a whole has

gone too fast and now, as

we move into the month

of October, we're actual-

ly seeing the end of the

year approach with in-

sane speed. With the end

of the year come some

very important holidays,

and with those holidays

come concerns that most

of us don't think much

about, but that all of us

might want to bear in

I personally know too

many people for whom

this year has been a year

of loss, people for whom

this holiday season is go-

ing to be particularly

hard. Losing a loved one

isn't just a one-and-done

thing. Every single

mind.



president. "I can say with confidence that few colleges are seeing these outcomes."

One of the approaches that Dr. Villanueva referred to is a focus on personal, one-on-one recruitment efforts in partnership with area high schools to help graduating students feel like they belong at Lee and walk them through the registration process before they even leave commencement with their high school diplomas.

"Our Student Services team has put a lot of effort into making personal connections with prospective students and helping them make plans and take action

high school," explained Scott Bennett, associate vice president of student services. "Rather than getting students to sign up in July and August, which are the busiest months, we held registration events in April, May and June this year. We were able to get more students enrolled earlier and spend time getting to know those students before they started college."

Other plans put in place to ensure student success include First Time Free at Lee, which offers new students tuwhile they are still in ition, fees and e-books at no cost. The college's enhanced course delivery options allow students who work during the day or care for families a choice on how they want to learn. They include Mytime, LeeStream, My-Flex Hybrid and Face-to-Face

"Breaking down the barriers to a student's education is one of our top priorities," said Villanueva. "There is no reason anyone, a recent high school graduate, new parent, or someone looking to switch careers, should be excluded from a college education."

THOUGHTS FROM HILLSIDE CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice



As We Approach The Holidays

tion. If you are in this group, I want to encourage you. You are not

Yes, I mean that in the literal sense; there are people all around you who are in that same club - the one no one wants to join. But, more importantly - and literally - I'm saying that God is with you. You may be questioning God, may

in a way that only One who intentionally sent his Son to die for a world of sinners can. He loves you with an everlasting love that understands your grief, anguish, and anger. Even if you turn your back on Him for a time, He will not turn His back on you, and He wants to help you in this journey.

Losing my dad was a

"first" you hit is poten- even be angry with God, life-changing event. I tially devastating, and but He is still there. He know the pain, and I holidays are no excep- understands your pain know what it means to turn to God and have Him offer me the comfort only He can give. I also know what it is to accept comfort from others, even those who aren't sure how to reach out, how to help. The fact that they're honestly trying is a blessing in itself. I encourage you, during the coming weeks and months, to fight the urge to withdraw and instead

seek out first God, but also those in your family and community who are standing ready to support you.

And for the rest of us? As we approach the holidays, I pray we will all be sensitive to those who are facing the holidays with grief in their hearts. We should understand that the loss of a loved one isn't something that you just "get over," but is rather something you work through. I pray we have compassion and listen carefully to the Holy Spirit, responding instantly as He prompts us to be His hands and feet to our grieving friends and neighbors.

www.myhillsidefamily.com @myhillsidefamily

Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown

HMB Hospital Recognized by Vizient as 2023 Birnbaum Quality Leadership Top Performer

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital has once again earned prestigious recognition as a top performer in the 2023 Bernard A. Birnbaum, MD, Quality Leadership Ranking, presented by Vizient, Inc. The hospital has been recognized as a top performer for three consecutive years. For the second year in a row, Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital has secured the No. 2 position out of 181 members in the Complex Care Medical Centers cohort. This accolade is a testament to the hospital's unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional healthcare services, aligning with the Vizient Quality and Accountability Ranking criteria.

David Bernard, CEO of Houston Methodist Baytown and senior vice president of Houston Methodist, expressed his pride in the achievement, "This prestigious ranking for three years in a row



commitment of our physicians, nurses, and staff to achieving our vision of providing our patients with unparalleled safety, quality, service, and innovation. We put the patient at the center of everything we do. Our improvements in patient safety and quality have been built around this principle. I could not be prouder of what our amazing team has achieved," said Bernard.

In this year's assessment, a total of 784 participating hospitals were categorized into four cohorts for evaluation under the Vizient Quality and Accountability Ranking. This ranking evaluates each hospital's performance in six crucial domains: safety, mortality, effectiveness, efficiency, patient-centeredness, and equity. The evaluation incorporated data from the Vizient Clinical Data Base, alongside performance metrics from the HCAHPS survey and the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Net-

The Vizient Quality and Accountability Ranking is a valuable tool for participating hospitals and healthcare systems, enabling them to gauge their performance relative to their peers. It also identifies the organizational structures and processes associated with achieving high levels of

quality and safety across a wide spectrum of patient care activities. The recognition period for this achievement spans from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

David Levine, Group Senior Vice President of Advanced Analytics and Data Science for Vizient, commended Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital's unwavering commitment to continuous improvement in the dynamic healthcare landscape. He noted, "Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital has demonstrated a high level of commitment to the continuous improvement that is necessary to succeed in today's evolving healthcare environment. The annual ranking leverages a unique, comprehensive, and timely metrics-based methodology to recognize hospitals that achieve results on key measures that define quality patient care and delivery."

OPINION PAGE * *



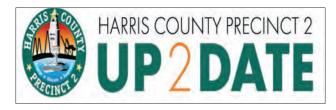
Day of Forgiveness

orgiveness is not a word that we hear very often on social media. The Forgive ness Project on Twitter has 8,700 followers, while all manner of hate groups garner followers in the millions. According to Google's Ngram tracker, the word "revenge" was used ten times as frequently in books in 2019 as "forgive-

Every great faith tradition teaches that forgiveness is central to our humanity. Jesus, in his pattern prayer, reminds us that we will be forgiven as we forgive others (Matthew 6:12). The Quran teaches that "The retribution for an evil act is an evil one like it, but whoever pardons and makes reconciliation - his reward is from Allah" (Quran 42:40) and forgiveness is one of the six cardinal virtues in the Hindu Darma. The Jewish faith sets aside today as a special day to seek and grant forgiveness. It is called Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

Forgiveness is not just a moral virtue that benefits the person forgiven, it heals the forgiver. During his eulogy at George Bush's funeral, former U.S. Senator Alan Simpson said, "Hate corrodes the container in which it is carried."

And we should never forget that sometimes we also need to forgive ourselves. I have always been a big fan of Tim McGraw. About ten years ago, he recorded a song about forgiving ourselves entitled One of These Days . I hope that you will take a few minutes today to enjoy his song and consider joining our Jewish brothers and sisters $% \left\{ 1\right\} =\left\{ 1\right\} =\left$ in forgiving those who have wronged you and forgiving yourself for the times you have fallen short of what you expected for yourself. I think you might be surprised at the peace you will feel from doing so.



Revive2Thrive: Infrastructure project updates

Community planning begins with you

On Wednesday, September 27, Precinct 2 held a community meeting with residents from the North and South Castlewood communities. The purpose of this meeting is to provide the residents an opportunity to voice their needs

and concerns as to the future of the Castlewood community with Commissioner Garcia and the Precinct 2 team.

Some of the concerns addressed include curb streets and gutters, new



Pct. 2 Nelson Espitia with Castlewood's Connie and Alex Esparza.

water pipes, more street lights, and street repairs.

Mark your calendars for these community meetings happening in October:

- Reimagine Market Street: Market Street Corridor Study --Friday, October 13 from 3pm to 7pm (Open house) --Flukinger Community Center: 16003 Lorenzo St.,
- Channelview, TX 77530 • Bay Area Ped/Bike Safety Plan
- --Wednesday, October 18 at 6:30 pm
- Bay Area Community Center: 5002 E. NASA Pkwy, Seabrook, TX 77586

This month in Commissioners Court, the following Precinct 2 infrastructure projects were approved:

Denver Harbor Park

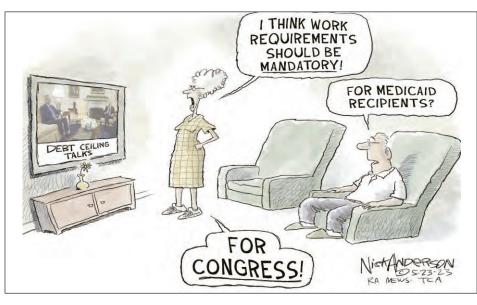
 Approval to execute an interlocal agreement with the City of Houston to design and construct improvements at Selena Quintanilla Perez-Denver Harbor Park. The \$2,253,800 improvements will make Denver Harbor Park more vibrant, safer, and accessible for all.

Highlands Reservoir

• Approval of the Highlands Reservoir Improvements Study. This is a partnership project with the San Jacinto River Authority to identify and prioritize improvements to make Highlands Reservoir an even more cherished amenity that improves the quality of life for residents. Some of the potential enhancements include dedicated parallel parking areas at the pier, renovated fishing piers, and an accessible loop trail.

Reimagine Jensen Corridor

 Approval of interlocal agreements for Corridor Studies with Greater Northside Management District and Hardy/Near Northside Redevelopment Authority. Both of these partnerships involve corridor studies that seek to fully reconstruct and reimagine major streets. One is with the Greater Northside Management District for "Reimagine Jensen," and the other is with the Near Northside for "Reimagine Hogan-Lorraine." Reimagine Jensen extends from Kelly St. to IH-69, and Reimagine Hogan-Lorraine extends from IH-45 to IH-69.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS **By Gary Borders**

Special Session to Begin on Oct. 9

Gov. Greg Abbott issued a letter to legislative leaders indicating a special session will begin on Oct. 9 dealing with what he has called "school choice" but is more widely known as vouchers.

The Austin American-Statesman reported Abbott has threatened another special session if lawmakers can't come to an agreement this month, and then will take the issue to voters by finding candidates to run against those opposing vouch-

During the regular session, a coalition of Democrats and many rural House Republicans blocked legislation concerning vouchers that had easily passed the Senate. Abbott has spent much of this year traveling the state encouraging parents and pastors to advocate for school

"I will keep fighting every step of the way until we have school choice in the state of Texas," Abbott said.

Opponents of vouchers say they would divert taxpayer money from public schools. Many public school district leaders say they already struggle to balance their budgets and retain teachers.

DELAYED FARM BILL PASSAGE WORRIES AG PRODUCERS

One of the key bills delayed by the wrangling in Congress is the massive farm bill, which is renewed every five years. The Texas Tribune reports a temporary extension of the current bill is expected to pass, however. The farm bill is key to a host of programs, from crop insurance to food access for low-income families through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

"In a perfect world, we get a farm bill this year. If we don't, though, let's extend it. And let's not pass a farm bill just to say we passed a farm bill," Laramie Adams, national legislative director for the Texas Farm Bureau, said. "We want to make sure that the farm bill is meaningful."

Since the last farm bill was passed in 2018, farmers have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's invasion of Ukraine cutting world grain shipments, and rising costs for

HIGHLANDS

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Website Editor.



equipment and fuel. Meanwhile, market prices for most agricultural products remain

"As you look at that and inflation and adjusting for inflation, from our perspective, we need to look at strengthening crop insurance," Adams said. "And that is not an easy task."

SUPREME COURT TO DECIDE ON **PAXTON'S BACK PAY**

After being acquitted in his impeachment trial, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is seeking around \$50,000 in back pay. However, the state comptroller's office says the best course of action is to let the Texas Supreme Court decide, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

The comptroller's office is responsible for authorizing payments, and Paxton's pay was withheld when he was impeached and suspended from office in late May by the Texas House. Paxton was acquitted by

the Senate in September. "Because we disagree with your interpretation of the Texas Constitution on this very important issue, we encourage you to file a writ of mandamus with the Texas Supreme Court for a definitive ruling," read the letter signed by Victoria North, the comptroller's general counsel on fiscal and agency affairs.

Meanwhile, four ex-employees of Paxton have asked the Texas Supreme Court for permission to move forward with a wrongful termination suit against their ex-boss since they still haven't received their settlement money, kut.org reported. The four had reached a \$3.3 million settlement with Paxton in February, but the Texas Leg-

CROSBY

.Gilbert Hoffman

.Kristan Hoffman

Willie Glasgow

islature never approved the settlement. They are now seeking to move forward with the lawsuit in Travis County. "After seven months and af-

ter the positions taken at the impeachment trial, there is no reason to believe a final settlement agreement is achievable at this point," Monday's filing with the court reads.

ANTI-DRAG LAW RULED UNCONSTITUTIONAL

A federal judge last week ruled a law restricting drag performances in Texas violates free speech and is unconstitutional, the Texas Standard reported. Senate Bill 12 banned sexually oriented performances in the presence of minors.

U.S. District Judge David Hittner, appointed to the bench by then-President Ronald Reagan, said the law was overly broad.

"Based on evidence and testimony presented at the hearing, the court finds there is substantial likelihood that SB 12 as drafted violated the First Amendment of the United States Constitution under one or more of the legal theories put forward by the plaintiffs," Hittner wrote in the temporary restraining order.

The state is expected to ap-

NEARLY 900,000 TEXANS LOSE MEDICAID BENEFITS

After federal regulations enacted during the pandemic banned states from removing people from Medicaid were lifted in April, nearly 900,000 Texans have lost those benefits, with many also having their SNAP benefits delayed, the Texas Tribune reported. The state has been rechecking the eligibility of every person in the program, and the logjam has resulted in hundreds of thousands losing their healthcare coverage, largely due to procedural errors.

Those most affected are children, women who recently gave birth, and disabled adults.

"Every parent worries about their child getting hurt or seriously ill," Michelle Castillo, deputy director for the nonprofit Children's Defense Fund, said at a news conference. "That fear is magnified when your child's Medicaid case is in limbo."

Eligibility for SNAP benefits have also been slowed, with the waiting period now 100 days in Texas. The federal standard is 30 days.

TEXAS LEADS NATION IN OIL-INDUSTRY DEATHS

Texas is well known as the nation's largest oil producer. It also leads the nation in deaths related to oil and gas extraction, according to a report in the Texas Standard. Between 2014 through 2019, there were 460 deaths in the industry nationwide, and 219 of the fatalities occurred in Texas - nearly half. That's according to a recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-

"Our goal is to have zero safety incidents, and we work toward that every day, but work in our industry is challenging and can be dangerous if proper safety protocols are not followed," said Stephen Robertson of the Permian Basin Petroleum



September Sunshine

He was sitting outside his home on a tiny patio, wearing a fedora and smoking a cigar.

He had a portable music player sitting beside him, and he looked as if he was enjoying the September sunshine about as much as anyone

"Good afternoon!" I said as I passed.

"Good afternoon!" he

I don't smoke, but I like the smell of cigars. My grandpa smoked a cigar occasionally, and the smell of cigar smoke reminds me of my childhood. In fact, all of September reminds me of childhood.

I see yellow buses carrying kids to school and wonder how it is possible that school buses look so much the same, after all these years. I feel the same need for a new pair of shiny shoes. Autumn says that we should be putting on our new, shiny shoes and getting out our freshly sharpened pencils (remember that smell?) and heading off on ad-

I actually bought new boots this fall. I've never had Dr. Martens and so I got myself a pair. I love them. My husband, Peter, says I look like Frankenstein—but I know he means that in the nicest possible way. With my new Dr. Martens all laced up, I feel as if I should be racing off to catch a yellow bus, or sharpening some pencils, or at least picking out some fancy new notebooks.

But there is no bus to catch, no new class starting. My life—as pleasant as it is remains very much the same, while all around me, the season is signaling that big changes are coming.

I've often envied birds, who have a much busier social calendar than I have ever had. They arrive from who knows where in the spring, scope out the neighborhood build a house, raise a family, leave the neighborhood, and are back on the road by fall, headed off to parts unknown. By comparison—even with the occasional trip to Mexico-my life seems very dull.

Then there are butterflies-who aren't even butterflies until they decide that's what comes next. They build themselves a cocoon and show up, looking like another creature entirely in a few weeks' time. It doesn't seem quite fair, buying a new pair of boots and trying to compete with that kind of transforma-

But although any transformation I attempt will pale beside the butterfly's, I think there might be something hard-wired within me that says in the fall, "Now is the time to get ready!"

"For what?" I can't help but ask. And when I don't come up with a ready answer, I feel frustrated. Surely, I should be busy growing wings or, at the very least, storing up a winter's worth of acorns. Instead, I walk around in my shiny new boots, and I wonder if I shouldn't be doing something different-even if it's less ambitious than learning to fly or stockpiling enough food to live on for six months.

And then I think about that fellow with the cigar and wonder if he isn't on to somethinG.

Because it is going to get colder and certainly less pleasant than it is today. This is as true of autumn as it is of life. Any reasons I might have had for delaying doing things that sound like fun sound pretty foolish in the autumn.

I'm glad I bought those shiny new boots. I don't think I'll take up cigar smoking, but I'm going to try very hard to do something new in the September sunshine, something fun, before it's too latE.

Till next time,

email: grafikstar@aol.com **Member Texas Press Association**

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FOOTBALL SCORES & SCHEDULES

LAST WEEK'S SCORES

THURSDAY Aldine MacArthur 14, Aldine 6 Galena Park 21, Willowridge 14 New Caney Porter 35, Baytown Sterlina 7 Spring 49, Aldine Davis 42

FRIDAY Barbers Hill 70, Goose Creek Memorial 0 Baytown Lee, bye Huffman Hargrave, bye Nederland 34, Dayton 30 Nimitz 20, Eisenhower 0 North Shore 42, C. E. King 6 Port Arthur Memorial 63, Crosby

SATURDAY Channelview 72, Pasadena Sam Rayburn 0

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5 Aldine at Spring, 7 p.m., Planet Ford Stadium in Spring Dekaney at Davis, 7 p.m., Leonard George Stadium in Spring Summer Creek at North Shore, 7 p.m., Galena Park ISD Stadium in

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6 Baytown Lee at Barbers Hill, 7 p.m., Eagle Stadium in Mont Belvieu Baytown Sterling, bye Crosby at Porter, 7 p.m., Randall Reed Stadium in New Caney Dayton at Galena Park, 7 p.m., Galena Park ISD Stadium in Houston Huffman Hargrave at Livingston, 7:30 p.m., Lion Stadium in Livingston Kingwood Park at Goose Creek Memorial, 7 p.m., Stallworth Stadium in Baytown MacArthur at Eisenhower, 7 p.m., Leonard George Stadium in Nimitz at Westfield, 7 p.m., Planet Ford Stadium in Spring South Houston at Channelview, 7 p.m., Ray Maddry Memorial

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7 C. E. King at Kingwood, 7 p.m., Turner Stadium in Humble

Stadium in Channelview

EPA stops talks with RP,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

negotiations and said it is considering conducting its own engineering review without asking the companies for any input.

In a letter to the companies, the EPA says it won't wait any longer and is taking charge. The agency says it will decide what to do next on the cleanup without consulting the companies.

Why is this important? The companies responsible for Superfund Sites are required to pay for the site cleanup and the government tries to let the companies manage the remediation process under the EPA's watchful eye. However, under the law, if the EPA decides that the companies responsible for a Superfund Site are not cooperating, it has the power to take over the cleanup process and force the companies to pay any expenses. It is a power that the EPA only uses rarely and only after making every effort to allow the companies to do the right thing. By taking the lead in this step of the process, the EPA is moving in the right direction.

Background Last year, the EPA told the responsible parties to finalize a plan to fully remove the contaminated material, including dioxin, from the Northern Pit. International Paper and McGinnes said that wasn't

feasible. The companies want to cap a portion of the material and leave it in the river. The EPA called for what is called an "Independent Design Review" (IDR), meaning an unbiased outside engineering firm would evaluate technical design challenges.

In its letter, the EPA said, "Nine months later, however, the IDR has not started, and the parties have not even agreed on a protocol on how to conduct it." The letter says that International Paper and McGinnes' approach appears to make it "difficult, potentially impossible...to develop and conduct a mutually acceptable" review.

The letter ends by saying that, instead of allowing the companies' approach to delay the process anymore, "The EPA will determine its next steps for the RD and inform Respondents accordingly."

Bottom Line

This is an important and much needed step in protecting the health of the communities along the San Jacinto River and the health of the San Jacinto River and Galveston Bay Estuary. THEA applauds the EPA for sending the message, International Paper and McGinnes/ Management...Enough Is Enough!

Crosby FD ISO3 Rating,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

safety. The improved ISO class rating is a testament to our commitment and the hard work of our organiza-

Remember, a safer community begins with proactive measures. Spread the word to your neighbors and friends, and let's celebrate this fantastic achievement together!

Stay safe, Crosby!

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 50 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2023 on October 26, 2023 at 6:00 PM at 12900 Crosby Lynchburg Road, Crosby, Texas. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

Andrew Sonnier Alice Dangerfield For the proposal: Daryl G. Johnson Cassandra Clark

Against the proposal:

Present and not voting:

Absent: Martin Lemond

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

Last Year This Year \$0.926000/\$100 \$0.926000/\$100 Total tax rate (per \$100 of value) Adopted \$0.000000 Difference in rates per \$100 of value Percentage increase/decrease in 0.00% rates(+/-) Average residence homestead \$203,013 \$192,195 appraised value \$0 General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or person's exemptions) Average residence homestead taxable \$192,195 \$1,779.73 Tax on average residence homestead \$1,879.90 Annual increase/decrease in taxes if \$-100.17 proposed tax rate is adopted(+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-) -5.33%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

If you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact the tax office at 281-426-8156.

IN THE STARS

MILESTONES

RIRTHDAYS

Oct 5-Willie Drew Oct 6-Ann Dunks Marie Estrada Kristina Curtis Marley McKethan

Oct 7–Alicia Engle

Anna Lois Mattingly Oct 8-Benjamin Abbott Patricia Meiss Jim Van Schuyver

Thomas R. Stanley Oct 9-Terrie Bauer Ashley Clamon

Oct 10-Stachia Thurmond Oct 11-Wendy Nelson Dale Smith William O'Neal

Oct 12-Mike Palmer Melissa Denson Michelle McDaniel Darlis Otto Jessica Curtis

Oct 13-Jeannie Kelley Oct 14-Jerry Taylor Brendon Lee Oct 15-Melody Drew

Eric Johnson Rusty Ressler Oct 16-Maggie McArdle K.D. Strickland Jacob Stuart

ANNIVERSARIES

Oct 5-J.C. & Olga Aylor Oct 6-Fred & Helen **Dunks** Randy & Tammy Veach

Oct 8-Robert H. & Patricia E. Sparks Oct 16-Edgar & Evelyn

Wotipka Oct 18-Karen & Derek Elkins

Oct 19-Alton Bubba & Sandra Williams Oct 20-Vernon & Lois Searcy

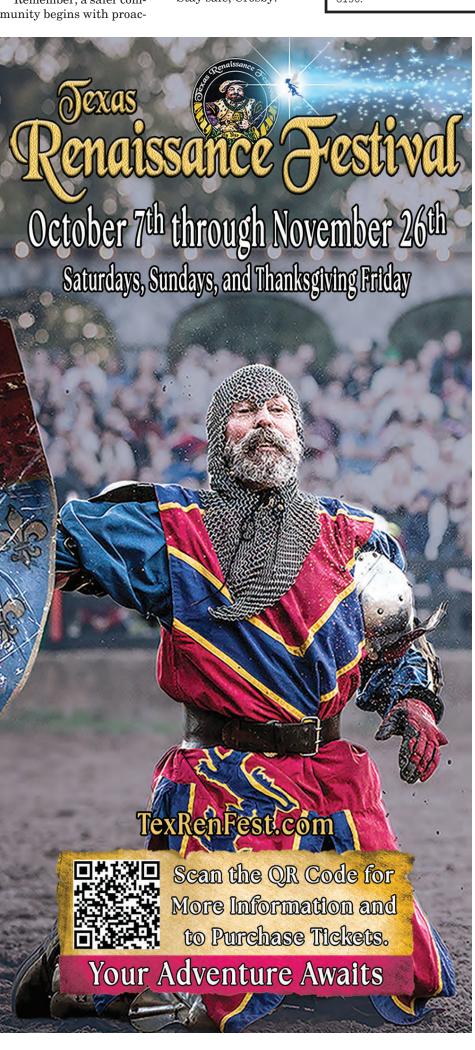
Oct 20—David and Leon Oct 23-Johnnie & Melissa

Milev Oct 26–Rick & Marie

Bobalik Oct 30-Michael & Kim

Sullivan Nov 10-Patrick & Becky

Williams Nov 13-Gene & Becky Muldrow



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SPORTS PAGE \bigstar

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 6

Texas, OU meet in Cotton Bowl for last time as Big 12 foes: Texans look for another road win; Dallas has tough SF

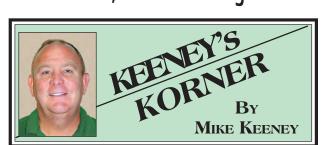
The start of October brings with it the annual meeting between Texas and Oklahoma in the Cotton Bowl, but this year's game will have historical significance as it will be the last time these two programs meet at Big 12 rivals.

As many of you know, this is the last year for Texas and Oklahoma to play in the Big 12 as both will head to the SEC in 2024. Both teams won their first four games of the season and the winner of Saturday's game could be in the driver's seat to make it back to the Metroplex in early December to play in the Big 12 title game at AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

Last year, UT ran roughshod over the Sooners, 49-0, as quarterback Quinn Ewers torched the Sooners for four TD passes. I'm sure OU head coach Brent Venables will remind his charges of that long afternoon in Dallas a year ago heading into this year's

While the 'Horns and Sooners do battle in Dallas, Texas A&M hosts No. 12-ranked Alabama on Saturday at Kyle Field. Two weeks ago, the Aggies opened SEC play with a dominating 27-10 win over Auburn in a game where starting QB Conner Weigman left right before halftime with a knee injury. Backup Max Johnson filled in admirably passing for 123 yards and 2 TDs. Nick Saban's team may have saved its season with a 24-10 home win over previously undefeated Mississippi. Jimbo Fisher may have the team to contend for the SEC West title this year, and win over the Crimson Tide would be huge for those

In the NFL, the Texans hit the road looking for their second straight victory away from home when they visit the Atlanta Falcons. Two weeks ago, DeMeco Ryans picked up his first win as an NFL head coach as his team dominated at Jacksonville and left with a convincing 37-17 victory.



Oklahoma vs. Texas: The

Longhorns and Sooners meet for

the final time as Big 12 foes and

will be the drop back when these

two bitter rivals meet in the Cotton

Bowl on Saturday. Texas head

coach Steve Sarkisian has his

while OU head coach Brent

team ranked No. 5 in the nation,

Venables has the Sooners sitting

OU finished 6-7 and many Sooner

fans believed this was a make or

break year for Venables. So far, so

good in year No. 2. OU won its first

four games heading into last

Saturday's game against a

1 TD) and Nic Anderson (8

struggling Iowa State team. The

from Dillon Gabriel (1.227 vards.

Sooners have gotten solid QB play

12 TDs) and wide receivers Andrel

Anthony (21 receptions, 371 yards,

receptions, 223 yards, 4 TDs). The

UT secondary will have to play well

to slow down that trio. But UT has

Quinn Ewers (1.033 vards, 9 TDs/

some weapons of its own in QB

0 interceptions), running back

Jonathan Brooks (379 yards, 3

TDs), tight end Ja'Tavion Sanders

(12 receptions, 268 yards, 1 TD)

and wide receiver Xavier Worthy

(19 receptions, 252 yards, 3 TDs)

Look for the UT defense to be the

difference maker in this one as the

Alabama at Texas A&M: This

is a big one for Nick Saban and his

No. 12-ranked Crimson Tide. Two

Kyle Field 41-38, but Saban rallied

his team to a spot in the CFP title

years ago, 'Bama was upset at

'Horns continue to roll. My pick,

Texas 34, Oklahoma 20

at No. 14 in the land. Last year,

once again, the State Fair of Texas

The Texans scored a rushing touchdown, two passing touchdowns and a special teams score when fullback Andrew Beck returned a kickoff for an 85-yard score. The win over the Jags could do a lot for this young team's confidence.

Other key matchups have Baltimore traveling to Pittsburgh in a key early-season AFC North battle, while Jacksonville (losers of two of their first three games) has a tough matchup with the Bills in Buffalo.

Sunday Night Football will feature the Cowboys visiting their nemesis, the 49ers. Two weeks ago, Dallas was upset and shocked by the then winless Arizona Cardinals as Dallas QB Dak Prescott once again struggled in the Red Zone. The vaunted Dallas defense didn't fare much better as the Cards slashed the Pokes run defense for 222 yards. Things won't get any easier on Sunday night when Dallas has to face a healthy Christian McCaffrey. In the last two years, SF has eliminated Dallas in the playoffs. Perhaps that will be enough motivation for the Cowboys to show up this Sunday.

Week 5 concludes with the surprising Packers visiting Las Vegas.

Before we take a look at this weekend's games, let's review last week's record. A 6-6 week brought the season record to 20-18 (53%). Now, onto this weekend's games.

NCAA

game, where it lost to Georgia. This year's team is up and down, but did pick up a big win two weeks ago when it defeated Mississippi 24-10. Alabama has struggled at QB and in the offensive line. Two weeks ago, Saban went back to Jalen Milroe (674 yards, 6 TDs) at QB and he played better in the Ole Miss win. Running back Jase McClellan (263 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receiver Jermaine Burton (8 receptions, 185 yards, 2 TDs) need to have big games against a pretty solid A&M defense. The Aggies will hope to have starting QB Conner Weigman (979 yards, 8 TDs) back for this game after he sustained an ankle injury two weeks ago in the win over Auburn. Backup Max Johnson stepped up in a big way with 123 yards and 2 TDs, so head coach Jimbo Fisher has a capable backup should Weigman be out. A&M will also look for big days from running back Amari Daniels (234 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receivers Evan Stewart (22 receptions, 307 vards, 3 TDs) and Ainias Smith (18 receptions, 272 yards. This could be Fisher's deepest team in his six years in Aggieland. Look for the Ags to pick up a huge win in the SEC West on Saturday. My pick, Texas A&M 26, Alabama 24

LSU at Missouri: Brian Kelly takes his No. 13 ranked Tigers to Columbia to take on the surprising No. 23-ranked Missouri Tigers on Saturday. Mizzu won its first four games behind QB Brady Cook (1,073 yards, 7 TDs), running back Cody Schradel (403 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receiver Luther Burden III (32 receptions, 504 yards, 3 TDs). LSU has one of the best dual-threat QBs in Jayden Daniels (1,297 passing yards, 12 TDs/193 rushing yards, 2 TDs). He also has a big-play wide receiver in Malik Nabors (32 receptions, 523 yards, 5 TDs) and a capable running back in Logan Diggs (253 yards, 1 TD). Look for the Tigers to win this one thanks to its defense and big-play linebacker Harold Perkins (3.5 sacks). My pick, LSU 32, Missouri

NFI

Jacksonville at Buffalo: After playing in London the week before, the Jaguars visit Buffalo on Sunday. Two weeks ago, the Jags were upset at home by the Texans, 37-17, while the Bills rolled at Washington, 37-3. The Jags were expected to contend for the AFC title this year, but a 1-2 start has many Jaguars fans scratching their heads and wondering what's gone wrong. QB Trevor Lawrence (736 yards, 3 TDs/2 interceptions) has struggled and must play better if the Jags are going to turn things around. He'll need big days from running back Travis Etienne (205 yards, 1 TDs) and wide receiver Calvin Ridley (12 receptions, 173 yards, 1 TD). The Jags will have their hands full with the Bills defense, which forced four turnovers and recorded six sacks in the route of the Commanders. Jacksonville's defense will have its hands full with Buffalo QB Josh Allen (728 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receiver Stefon Diggs (25 receptions, 279 yards, 1 TD). It looks like it will be another long day for the Jags come Sunday. My pick, Buffalo 34, Jacksonville 16

Baltimore at Pittsburgh: A big one in the AFC North pits the Ravens against the improved Steelers. Two weeks ago, Baltimore lost in OT at home to Indianapolis, while the Steelers gritted out a 23-18 win at Las Vegas. Once again, the Ravens rely way too much on quarterback Lamar Jackson (608 passing yards, 2 TDs/193 rushing yards, 2 TDs). Head coach John Harbaugh needs to get him some other weapons. This week, Jackson will face an improved Pittsburgh defense that likes to bring the heat. On offense, the Steelers have gotten steady play from second-year QB Kenny Pickett (689 yards, 4 TDs) and secondyear wide receiver George Pickens (13 receptions, 238 yards, 1 TD). Pittsburgh needs to get its running game going as running back Naji Harris has been inconsistent thus far. This should be a defensive battle, with the Steelers 'D' making one or two more plays than the Ravens. My pick, Pittsburgh 16, Baltimore 13

Houston at Atlanta: The young Texans look for their second straight road win when they visit

Atlanta on Sunday. Like Jacksonville, Atlanta will be coming off a trip to London, so fatigue could be a factor for the Falcons. Two weeks ago, in their win at Jacksonville, rookie QB C.J. Stroud (906 yards, 4 TDs/0 interceptions) had another solid game. Rookie WR Tank Dell (15 receptions, 251 yards, 2 TDs) had a big day with five receptions for 145 yards and a TD. Atlanta loves to run the football with rookie RB Bijan Robinson ((213 rushing yards/14 receptions, 103 yards, 1 TD). If the Houston defense can slow down Robinson and force a turnover or two from second-year QB Desmond Ritter (553 yards, 2 TDs), the Texans just might pull off another road win. My pick, Houston 23, Atlanta 21

Dallas at San Francisco: The

Cowboys heads to San Francisco to take on the 49ers on Sunday Night Football and if their run defense plays like it did against the Cardinals two weeks ago, it could be a long Sunday night for Mike McCarthy's team. In the inexplicable loss to a winless Arizona team, the Dallas run defense allowed 222 rushing yards. If things don't improve by Sunday night, SF running back Christian McCaffrey (353 yards 3 TDs) could have a field day against the Pokes. The Dallas secondary lost its top corner when Traveon Diggs was lost for the season when he suffered an ACL injury at practice two weeks ago. That unit also played poorly in the Arizona loss. If they don't improve, SF QB Brock Purdy (736 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receiver Deebo Samuel (17 receptions, 247 yards, 1 TD) could have big nights. The Dallas offense must produce better in the Red Zone and that falls on QB Dak Prescott (647 yards, 3 TDs). Look for running back Tony Pollard (264 yards, 2 TDs) and CeeDee Lamb (19 receptions, 273 yards) to pick up their games in front of a national TV audience, but it won't matter as the SF defense will have the final say in this game. My pick, San Francisco 24, Dallas

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 516042; Estate of MARY MARGARET (VEYRE) GOLDEN. Deceased; In Probate Court No. 1 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on SEPTEMBER 22, 2023.

CAROLE E. GOLDEN

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

> c/o Weston Cotten 1500 E. Wallisville Road Highlands, TX 77562

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

by WESTON COTTEN Attorney for the Estate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 518285; Estate of WILLIAM W. (WILBURN) PARRISH, II Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on SEPTEMBER 22, 2023.

JIM DUNCAN PARSONS

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

> c/o Weston Cotten 1500 E. Wallisville Road Highlands, TX 77562

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

by WESTON COTTEN Attorney for the Estate

LEGAL NOTICE

SEPTEMBER 22, 2023.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 518307; Estate of RALPH WILLIAM BRADFORD, JR., Deceased; In Probate Court No. 1 of

Harris County, Texas, were issued on

MELANIE W. JIMMERSON-BRADFORD

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

> c/o Weston Cotten 1500 E. Wallisville Road Highlands, TX 77562

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this OCTOBER 2, 2023

by WESTON COTTEN Attorney for the Estate

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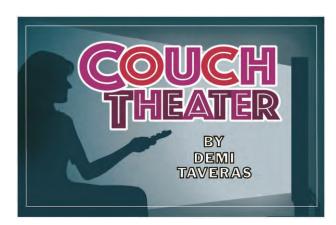
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From left, Alden Ehrenreich and Phoebe Dynevor star in "Fair Play."

"Fair Play"

"Fair Play" (R) — "Bridgerton's" Phoebe Dynevor and "Oppenheimer's" Alden Ehrenreich lead this sexy thriller that premieres on Oct. 6. Dynevor and Ehrenreich respectively play Emily and Luke, a newly engaged couple who also work at the same hedge fund firm together. The two decide to keep their relationship under wraps from the office, but when a better position at the firm unexpectedly opens up, their passionate relationship gets put to the test. With both feeling qualified, but only one receiving the promotion, Emily and Luke's relationship enters a new power dynamic that just might cause them to unravel.

(Netflix) ***

"Haunted Mansion" (PG-13) — Even a cast filled with stars new and old couldn't save this film from bombing at the box office (\$109.7 million gross after a \$150 million budget). Based on the Disney Parks attraction, Rosario Dawson ("Clerks 3") plays widowed mother Gabbie, who moves into Gracey Manor with her son, Travis. They soon learn the mansion is haunted and are forced to stay inside until their curse is lifted. Through the help of Father Kent (Owen Wilson) and his convenient connections, they're able to assemble a dream team so they can escape Gracey Manor. Tiffany Haddish, Danny DeVito and Jamie Lee Curtis star in this spooky comedy, and Winona Ry-

"The Boogevman" (PG-13) — Hulu begins its annual Huluween

der even makes an un-

credited appearance. Out

on Oct. 4. (Disney+)

event with plain ol' jump-out-of-your-skin horror. And who does that kind of horror better than Stephen King? Based on King's short story written in 1973, this film follows two grieving sisters, Sadie and Sawyer, after the sudden death of their mother. After a disturbed man is killed inside their home, Sawyer starts seeing glimpses of a demonic entity. Feeding off fear, this entity continues to grow in strength, and it's up to Sadie, Sawyer and their father to ward the creature off. Premieres Oct. 5. (Hulu)

"Make Me Scream" (NR) — In this TV special premiering Oct. 3, Tempestt Bledsoe ("The Cosby Show") and Darrvl M. Bell ("A Different World") host a competition that is utterly terrifying — for the contestants, that is, not the viewers. Three celebrity teams compete against each other by entering into a few scare zones. The object of the game is simple: Don't scream. The more you scream, the higher your score is. The team with the lowest score at the end of the competition takes home the Medal of Mayhem. Jaleel White ("Family Matters"), Shoniqua Shandai ("Harlem") and rapper Lil Xan all lead their own celebrity team. Grab some popcorn, put your feet up and get ready for some serious laughs. (Amazon Prime Video)

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by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Taylor Swift keeps breaking records. Not only has she become the first performer to gross more than \$1 billion in ticket sales in her recent tour, her movie "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour" opens in theaters on Oct. 13. Tickets are priced at \$19.89 for adults and \$13.13 for children. The previous first-day record holder for ticket sales was \$16.9 million, and with AMC's highly aggressive measures, her film will no doubt break records even before it hits theaters. After earning \$92 million in 2022, a fraction of what Swift will make for 2023, it'll push her \$740 million net worth over the top. No doubt she's a "Taylor made" billionaire!

"Priscilla's revenge" is the new nickname for Sofia Coppola's biopic of Priscilla Presley, as it is somewhat of a rebuttal to Baz Lurhmann's "Elvis" (\$288.7 million gross and eight Oscar nominations, including one for its Elvis, Austin Butler). The Venice Film Festival audience afforded a tremendous ovation for "Priscilla." In a Venice news conference, Priscilla even took the mic to say, "It's very difficult to sit and watch a film about you and about your life and about your love. I think Sofia did an amazing job."

She also expanded on how "Priscilla" tells her side of the story. "It was very difficult for my parents to understand that Elvis would be so interested in me and why. And I really do think [it was] because I was more of a listener," she explained. "Elvis would pour his heart out to me in every way in Germany: his fears, his hopes, the loss of his mother, which he never got over. That was really our connection. People think, 'Oh, it was sex.' Not at all. I never had sex with him [then]. He was very kind, very soft, very loving, but he also respected the fact I was only 14 years old. We were more in mind, in thought, and that was our relationship."

In addition, the Venice Film Festi-

ACROSS Sketch 5 Shock part-Verdi heroine 12 Ms. McEntire 13 Scale note 14 Mosque VIP 15 Shakespeare title starter

16 Centennial



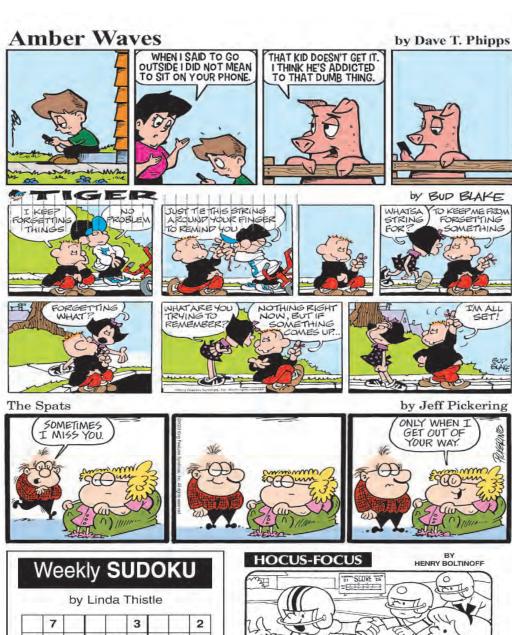
Taylor Swift

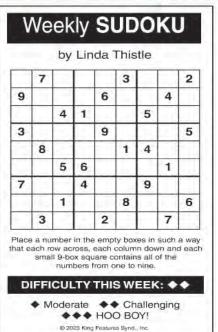
val gave rave reviews to Cailee Spaeny as Priscilla and "Euphoria" star Jacob Elordi as Elvis. This has elevated Elordi to the status of a sex symbol, as mobs of girls went wild outside the festival screaming "Jacob, Jacob, Jacob" desperately. Judge "Priscilla" for yourself when it opens in theaters on Nov. 3.

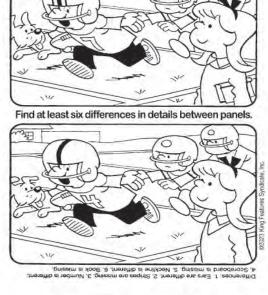
Woody Allen's newest and, perhaps, last film, "Coup de Chance," received a 5-minute ovation at the Venice Film Festival. Filmed in the French language, and also in France, it opens there on Sept. 27, but they haven't yet set a date in the United States. Protesters stood outside shouting "no rape culture," and "A rapist is not a sick man; he is the healthy son of patriarchy." The day before, banners read "Island of rapists" and "No Golden Lion for predators," referring to Allen and Roman Polanski, whose movie "The Palace" was up for a top prize. Sad that such giant creative talents have been marred by controver-

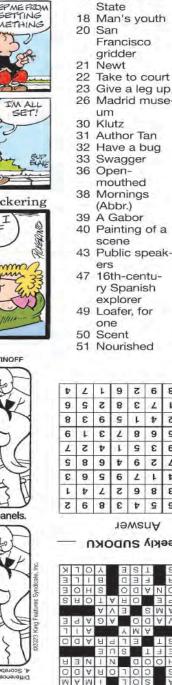
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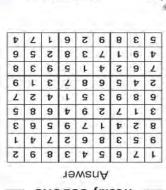
ENTERTAINMENT











Weekly SUDOKU



Solution time: 23 mins. SIÐMSUY - King Crossword

October 2, 2023	Posting D	ate
a Crossword	11	

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wear Fireplace fuel Right angle

28 Quick swim More ventilat- 29 Flamenco ed

cheer Billboards One-named supermodel 34 Mists © 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

rather than the eagle?

35 Prayer ender 36 "Selma" director

DuVernay Fitzgerald title character

39 Wear down 40 Garbage barge 41 Morse

42 Yankee nickname

26 Comic Philips 43 Praiseful piec-

44 Wheeling's

river

45 Bakery buy 46 Hunt for

48 Sternward

23 Short 'do

24 Galley item

25 Son-gun link

27 Small battery

1. TELEVISION: How many noble houses are mentioned in "Game of Thrones". 2. MOVIES: What is the name of the high

school in the musical film "Grease"? 3. GEOGRAPHY: Which southeast Asian country's monetary unit is the ringgit?

4. MUSIC: The song "Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin" is from which musical? 5. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first presi-

dent to be impeached? 6. ANATOMY: What is considered the "master

gland" of the human body? 7. PHYSICS: What does a newton measure? 8. HISTORY: Which founding father wanted the turkey to be the national symbol of America

9. SCIENCE: What is studied in mycology? 10. U.S. STATES: What is Alaska's state animal?

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At Houston Methodist Neal Cancer Center, we treat every aspect of your cancer. Leading oncologists work with our specialists across disciplines to minimize cancer's effects on major organs. One comprehensive team — dedicated to your individual care — uses the latest research, treatments and technology to stop your cancer. From infusion and clinical trials to surgery and reconstruction, our innovative care is available in Baytown.

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