



HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star Courier

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

Highlands/Lynchburg Chamber Luncheon Nov. 9

You're invited to the Highlands/Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce November Luncheon. This is an important meeting to further the efforts to revitalize the Chamber.

Jim Wadzinski will be the guest speaker. RSVP for \$15 luncheon, or \$20 at the door.

The Chamber will be conducting its annual food drive in November, and asks for non-perishable foods to be donated at the Community Center.

Also, membership payment are now due for 2023. Mail payments to the office, 127 San Jacinto Street, Highlands, TX 77562. Questions, email to highlandlynchburgchamber@outlook.com.

Holiday Dinner San Jacinto River Coalition Nov. 14

San Jacinto River Coalition will hold a Holiday Dinner on November 14 at 6:00pm at the Highlands Community Center, 604 Highland Woods Drive, Highlands.

Complimentary dinner, hosted by THEA, Texas Health & Environment Alliance. Updates on Superfund Site and recent accomplishments.

For more information see ad on Page 2 or call 281-315-5242. RSVP to info@txhea.org.

4 Bond Issues on Ballot address growth in area

Crosby ISD, Huffman ISD, Crosby MUD, Goose Creek CISD seek voter approval

By David Taylor
Editor

For years, the Crosby and Huffman communities were the secret of quiet country living with cherished hometown values and the simple life.

Much of that has vanished with the widening of FM 2100 through Crosby and the onslaught of dozens of developers eager to develop open farmland. Both Crosby and Huffman are feeling the growing pains of new communities popping up across their

districts and both seek bonds to help address the crowding their schools are beginning to see. That growth is also affecting entities such as the Crosby Municipal Utility District who also seek voter approval for their bond.

Goose Creek CISD is seeking a huge bond, most of it devoted to the replacement of an aging Sterling High School.

Here's a quick view of each bond as voters prepare to go to the polls.

ENTITY: Huffman ISD



Huffman ISD's Bond Proposal will include funds for a new CTE facility.

BOND AMOUNT: Proposition A requests \$92 million

BOND PROPOSAL: The bond addresses a new Career and Technical Center (\$33,560,000), district-wide replacements and

upgrades (\$22,804,062), student growth (\$12,860,000), safety and security \$10,172,475), new HISD Operations Center (\$8,070,000), expand district-wide technology (\$3,629,500), and add new

buses (\$738,000). Prop A also includes additional space in the Ag Pavilion for classroom lab activities, proper management of projects during Ag Show, and more capacity to increase student involvement. The CTE Center will increase space for nursing, floral design, audio/visual, culinary arts, and robotics classes currently capped because of a lack of space.

Technology updates include access control, alarm monitoring, video surveillance, network fiber for security systems, intrusion detection, automated license plate readers, and social media monitoring.

Continued. See BOND PROPOSALS, Page 7

CROSBY SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE:

Crosby's Gratitude; Secret Agents; Veterans Day

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families,

November is National Gratitude Month. This month, I wanted to share a few of the things for which I'm grateful. I cherish our student-volunteers. I'll give you just one example. Each Thursday, Crosby High School students work together to check in families, bag perishable and non-perishable food, and distribute free groceries to families in need in our area. Our student-run food distribution helps about 100 families weekly on average.

Let's also give kudos to the community members who spark creativity and



Paula Patterson
Crosby Superintendent

to take a drawing class or start researching their family tree. These classes are free and optional, but it's great to see so many of our educators taking advantage of what our community businesses and organizations have to offer. Our teachers have the chance to recharge and reflect on our staff development Fridays, before engaging in another productive week with our students.

coordinate wellness, nutrition, and exercise classes for our teachers on their monthly staff development Fridays. Our teachers can do yoga, dancing, and stretching. They also have the opportunity



"Secret agents!" Crosby ISD third-grade students are competing in a year-long reading competition known as "Mission: Possible." -Third graders celebrated their monthly mission by cracking open a safe at Drew Elementary School.

I am also grateful for the wonderful food served up by our Culinary Arts students at Crosby High School. Chef Espinosa and her students run a full-service restaurant inside Crosby High School known as the Cougar Bistro. Each week,

staff members and community members are invited to place to-go orders or

Continued. See CROSBY SUPERINTENDENT, Page 2

Record Turnout seen in Early Voting

Joint General & Special Elections

(Houston, TX) – Harris County Clerk Teneshia Hudspeth reports that voters have cast more than 54.4K in-person ballots during the first four days of Early Voting for the November 7 Joint General & Special Elections. More people are choosing to vote early compared to the most similar election in 2015, when only 36.3K voted in person during the same time.

"We are looking at an increase of about 50%. We have been working hard to ensure Voting Centers are up and running on time, and voters are getting in and out easily," said Clerk



Voters within the City of Houston will be able to vote for Mayor and City Council. ABOVE, Mayoral candidates include Sheila Jackson Lee, John Whitmire, Lee Kaplan, Gilbert Garcia, and Jack Christie among a field of 18 candidates.

Hudspeth. "Voters are showing interest in this election and are eager to make their choices ahead of November 7."

There are 42 political entities on the November 7 ballot. However, voters will only see the contests

that are connected to the address where they are registered to vote. Some may see a minimum of 15, while others a maximum of about 35 contests on their

CONTINUED. See EARLY VOTING, Page 5

Lake Houston Methodist holds Pumpkin Patch event



The Lake Houston Methodist Church on FM2100 in Huffman continued its annual tradition of displaying and selling the largest, best pumpkins in the Crosby/Huffman area. Scary, Family fun that everyone appreciates.

RACHEL'S DINER
Southern Cooking Buffet -- **NOW OPEN**
14280 FM 2100 (Across from Walmart)
281-462-7349

AUTO & HOME INSURANCE
Jeremy Rosenkranz
State Farm Agent
440 S. Main Street, Highlands, TX 77562
281-426-3512
jtr@jeremyrosenkranz.com

WESTON G. COTTEN
Attorney at Law
O. 281/421-4050
F. 281/533-6032
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3K FOR THE HOLIDAYS
Get a \$3,000 loan for as low as \$146 Per Month*

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*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Monthly payment would be \$146.36 on \$3,000 borrowed for 24 months at 11.24% APR, including all applicable discounts. All loans subject to credit approval and some restrictions may apply. Payment also includes monthly premium for Payment Protection which includes Credit Life and Disability Insurance. Credit Life and Disability Insurance is not required. Membership required. Offer subject to change or cancellation without notice.

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Crosby Superintendent's Message,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dine in. We share the menus each week in our "Cougar News Now" newsletter and on our social media platforms.

Our third-grade students are well underway in the competition for our District-wide reading contest "Mission: Possible." It's styled as a secret agent competition with missions each month. Each elementary campus has created team mascots: The Drew Secret Super Readers; The Newport Decoders; The Barrett Covert Coogs; and The Crosby Covert Chapter Chasers.

So far, our students have read an average of

271.25 minutes collectively each month. I am thankful to Elementary Librarian, Mrs. Henderson, for spearheading another annual competition to encourage reading at the third-grade level. It's a critical time to make reading fun as students transition from learning to read to reading to learn.

Save this next date to your phone or calendar. The annual Crosby ISD Veterans Day program will happen on Wednesday, November 8 at 7pm at Cougar Stadium. All veterans and their families are invited. Our students work each year on their song

and dance routines, and they love sharing their patriotism with those who have served and sacrificed for our country. I am personally grateful to my father, a disabled veteran, who demonstrates time and again what it means to serve with quiet heroism. I hope to see all our Crosby and Barrett Station veterans at our celebration later this month.

May your November be memorable and full of quality family time and may your gratitude list continue to grow this month.

We are Moving Forward! Go Coogs!



Crosby High School's dance team, the Cougar Stars, volunteer at Thursday grocery distribution at Cougar Stadium.



Crosby ISD student volunteers at Thursday grocery distribution at Cougar Stadium.



Crosby ISD educators take free class on researching family trees during afternoons on Staff Development Friday.



Crosby ISD educators take free exercise class during afternoons on Staff Development Fridays.



5313 FM 2100 Crosby, TX 77532
(In the Log Cabins)
281-426-3670

Thanksgiving is Thursday 11/23

Family Meal Special #1: \$185.00 (Feeds 8-10) Glazed Spiral Ham or Baked Turkey, Chicken & Dressing (Full Pan), Green Bean Casserole (Full Pan), 24 Deviled Eggs, Gravy, 24 Rolls, 12 Pumpkin Whoopie Pies & 1 Gallon of Unsweet Tea

Family Meal Special #2: \$125.00 (Feeds 4-6) Slices of Glazed Spiral Ham or Baked Turkey, 1/3 Pan of Chicken & Dressing, 1/3 Pan of Green Bean Casserole, 12 Deviled Eggs, 12 Rolls, 6 Pumpkin Whoopie Pies & 1 Gallon of Sweet or Unsweet Tea

Individual Meal: \$24.50 3 Pieces of Spiral Glazed Ham or Baked Turkey, Chicken & Dressing, Green Bean Casserole, 2 Deviled Eggs, 1 side of Gravy, 2 Rolls & 1 Pumpkin Whoopie Pie

ALA Carte Items Feeds 8-10
Green Bean Casserole: \$27.00
Macaroni & Cheese: \$27.00
Broccoli & Rice Casserole: \$27.00 (Made with our Homemade Broccoli Cheese Soup Recipe)
Skillet Corn: \$23.00
Green Beans w/Bacon & Potato: \$23.00
Candied Yams: \$28.00
Chicken & Dressing: \$35.00
1 qt of Gravy: \$12.00
2 Dozen Deviled Eggs: \$32.00
1 Dozen Rolls: \$16.00
1 Gallon or Raspberry or Peach Tea: \$7.00
1 Gallon of Sweet or Unsweet Tea: \$5.00

Party Trays Feed 10-12
Sandwich Tray on Croissant: (36 Pieces) \$48.00
Choose Chicken Salad, Tuna Salad, Pimento Cheese, Turkey & Swiss or Ham & American (2 choices)
Assorted Party Tray: \$65.00 A Mixture of Fresh Fruit, Chicken Salad on Croissant, Pimento Cheese Wonton Cups & Stuffed Cherry Tomatoes
Cookie Tray: \$48.00 (36 Cookies) Cowboy, Monster & Sugar

Desserts Feed 6-8 (Ask us about Custom Cake Pops, Pies or Desserts)
Chocolate, Lemon, Pumpkin, Coconut- Cream or Meringue Pie: \$22.00
Chocolate Pecan Pie: \$25.00
Banana Pudding: 1/3 Pan \$18.00
Pumpkin or Chocolate Whoopie Pies \$29.00 (1 dozen)
Large Loaves of Sweet Bread: \$10.00 (Banana Nut, Chocolate, Strawberry, Lemon Pecan, Lemon Poppy & Pumpkin) Get them Beautifully gift wrapped for \$14.95
Mandarin Orange Cake: \$28.00
Chocolate, Lemon, Coconut, Blueberry or Strawberry 4 Layer: \$36.00

Dips Feed 6-8 \$24.00 (served in Plastic Serving Bowl)
Baked Potato Dip with 1 Bag of Ruffles
Texas Caviar Dip with 1 Bag of Fritos
French Onion Dip with 1 Bag of Ruffles
Corn Dip with 1 Bag of Fritos
Spinach Artichoke Dip in Bread Bowl (if available) with 1 Bag of Tostitos \$28.00
Straight to the Hip Dip with Graham Crackers
Butterfinger Dip with Vanilla Wafers
Strawberry or Chocolate Cheesecake Dip served with Graham Crackers

All Thanksgiving orders must be placed by Thursday 11/16/2023 @ 2:00PM & Paid for in Advance. We will offer pickup on Wednesday 11/22

You will love our decorative packaging for our Desserts & Trays!

Valid Thanksgiving Week 2023 only



San Jacinto River Coalition Holiday Dinner

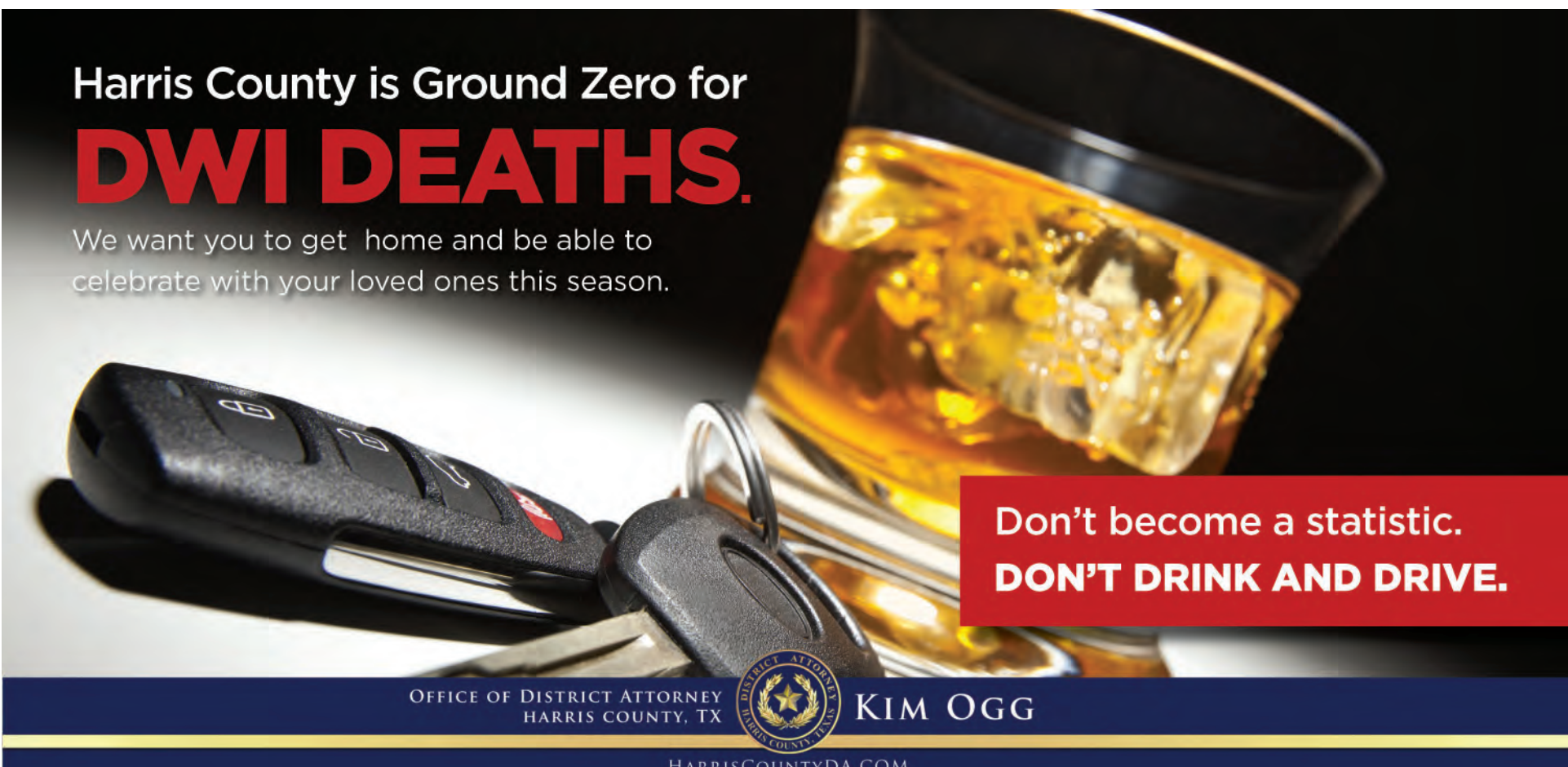
November 14th at 6:00 PM
Highlands Community Center
604 Highland Woods Dr,
Highlands, TX 77562

Texas Health & Environment Alliance will host a community gathering to present the updates on the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site and celebrate recent accomplishments. Join us to hear the latest and to enjoy a complimentary holiday dinner.

Please RSVP: info@txhea.org


Harris County is Ground Zero for **DWI DEATHS.**

We want you to get home and be able to celebrate with your loved ones this season.



**Don't become a statistic.
DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE.**

OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY
HARRIS COUNTY, TX



KIM OGG

HARRISCOUNTYDA.COM

Barbers Hill Dayton **Press**

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

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Babin Supports Mike Johnson for House Speaker

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Congressman Brian Babin (TX-36) issued the following statement following his vote for Congressman Mike Johnson (LA-04) for Speaker of the House.

"Democracy can certainly be messy, but I never doubted for a second that we would come together as a conference to elect a true conservative as Speaker. Today, I was incredibly proud to have supported my good friend and Louisiana neighbor, Congressman Mike Johnson, for Speaker of the House," said Babin. "He's a humble, conservative, Christian family man, and I look forward to his leadership as we advance our America-first agenda."

"Now, it's time House Republicans bring some sanity to Washington and get back to work restoring the rule of law, securing our borders, protecting our communities, reining in spending, supporting Israel, strengthening our military, defeating inflation, and halting destructive Democrat policies. Let's get back to the people's business!"

Christmas on The Hill Parade

Holiday traditions run deep in the south, and the Christmas on the Hill Parade is one of our most cherished Mont Belvieu traditions. This special event gives the community the opportunity to support our locals and 100% of the parade entry fees brought in from this parade are given directly to the West Chambers County Food Pantry right here in Mont Belvieu. 'Tis the season, so let's give back in one of the most meaningful ways we know how.

Parade info

The Christmas on the Hill parade will be at 6:00 p.m. on December 3, 2023.

2023 Entry Fees

Entry fees are \$50 per entry and an additional \$50 per vehicle included in your parade set up. (Truck + float is 1 entry - limit one float per entry)

IMPACT Early College High School and Lee College Students Shine as Debate Champs

BAYTOWN - Students currently enrolled in dual credit programs at IMPACT Early College High School and Lee College made a strong impression during their debut at their tournament appearance of the season.

The Mendoza Debate Society at Lee College has kicked off its 2023-24 season with two championships. They argued their way to dual wins for team and individual at the 2023 Joseph J. Cardot Invitational at Abilene Christian University on Oct. 19 - 22.

The ACU tournament featured a slate of top regional programs including the host university, Texas Tech University, Southern Methodist University and Texas Christian University, among others.

In the first tournament trip of the season for its full squad, Lee College debaters were named Overall Sweepstakes Community College Champions and finished in fourth place overall. Second-year debater Emma Jaramillo was named Junior Varsity Debate Champion. Lee College debaters excelled in every competitive division also winning team awards by finishing in second place Individual Debate



FRONT ROW (L-R): Elias Perry, Carlos Reyes, Nathan Mustapha, Emma Jaramillo, Caris Gray, Riyanna Kennedy, Priscilla Guerra **BACK ROW (L-R):** Diego Moreno, Jovani Arellano, Rachel Currie, Madison Hall, Ruben Castillo, Adrian Alvarado, Kimberly Truong, Jerry McCauley, Rebecca Currie

Sweepstakes and third place in Team Debate Sweepstakes.

Lee College's JV division debaters advanced four of its five students to the elimination round competition. Caris Gray finished as a JV semifinalist while Jovani Arellano and Carlos Reyes finished as JV octofinalists. Novice Debater Ruben Capetillo, in his first debate

ever, advanced to medal rounds and finished as a novice debate octofinalist. Nathan Mustapha finished in second place in the Professional Division while team co-captain Rebecca Currie finished as a varsity debate semifinalist.

Co-Captain Priscilla Guerra took home second place in Varsity Debate Speaking, joined by Gray as the second-place junior varsity debate

speaker and Mustapha as the third-place professional debate speaker. Arellano won his first-ever Junior Varsity Debate Speaking Award with a fourth-place finish. They were joined in competition by Adrian Alvarado, Rachel Currie, Madison Hall, Riyanna Kennedy, Jerry McCauley, Co-Captain Diego Moreno, Elias Perry and Kimberly Truong.



Emma Jaramillo, 2023 ACU Cardot Invitational Junior Varsity Division Debate Champion

Lee College Debaters will return to competition on November 3-5 for the International Public Debate Association's "Red River Swing" at Louisiana State University at Shreveport. The Mendoza Debate Society is coached by Joe Ganakos, director of forensics and Assistant Coaches Rigo Ruiz and Ethan Arbuckle. For more details about the Debate Team, please contact Joe Ganakos at jganakos@lee.edu or (281) 425-6502.

Photo by Joe Ganakos. Article by Norma Martinez and Sara Tubbs.

Mont Belvieu Methodist Church Pumpkin Patch

MONT BELVIEU, TX. - The Methodist Church at Mont Belvieu held an annual pumpkin patch sale. As the autumn season approached, the church worked tirelessly to transform the church's front yard into a lively pumpkin patch.

Families enjoyed spending time at the patch with storytime all while selecting the perfect pumpkins to decorate their homes for the festive season. The



pumpkin patch sale became a tradition, not only for church but for the entire town, bringing joy and sense of community to all who visited



ProDental Celebrates Chamber Membership With Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

BAYTOWN - ProDental celebrated their Baytown Chamber of Commerce membership with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Chamber of Commerce staff and Ambassadors joined Dr. and Mrs. Tabrizi and their friendly staff for refreshments, fellowship and a tour of their office after the ceremony.

ProDental offers the highest quality dental services available today. Their mission is to maintain an optimal level of oral health and create the most attractive smiles for everyone. Dr. Tabrizi, Dr. Gisselle and staff offer an extensive selection of dental services includ-

ing: general dentistry, cosmetic dentistry, pediatric dentistry, implants, veneers, Invisalign/Orthodontics, Endodontic therapy, tooth extractions, IV Sedation, TMJ-TMD and more.

ProDental has been in Baytown for several years. Previously located on Garth Road, they moved to their current location during the Pandemic. Their new office has been beautifully renovated. ProDental is located at 5304 Decker Drive. You can reach them via phone at 281-838-8888, website www.prodental.com or follow them on Facebook.



Pictured left to right: Jackland McDowell, Vivian Salazar, Christy McGee, Sage LaMarque, Holly Carraway, Mike Nebgen, Christine Tabrizi, Dr. Tabrizi, Dr. Gisselle, Jeff Walters, Erika Alfaro, Marissa Ehrlich, John McKee, Karla Oprshok
Not pictured: Blythe Adam and Kimberly Bergeron

 OPINION PAGE 

 **OPINION**
By **BILL KING**



Ballot Measures

In the upcoming elections, voters will be asked to decide on a number of ballot measures. The specific referendums on the ballot will depend on where you live.

Texas Constitutional Amendments

As many of you know, we have a completely dysfunctional state constitutional system, where voters are asked with regularity to amend the State Constitution. In this election, there are seventeen (17) amendments that have been proposed by the Texas Legislature. To get on the ballot, each of these measures were approved by at least a two-thirds vote of both houses.

For the most part, the proposed constitutional amendments seem pretty innocuous to me. Some, like Proposition No. 3, which would prohibit a wealth tax in Texas, are purely political posturing. Others, like Proposition No. 4, which increases the homestead exemption for school districts to \$100,000 and reimburses school districts for the revenue they will lose as a result, are important.

My friend and former UT professor, Mark Miller, follows state constitutional propositions very closely and has written this summary of those on the current ballot. I will probably not follow his lead on Proposition No. 7, which establishes a fund to finance electric grid improvements, but his analysis of the amendments is thorough and objective; I highly recommend it.

Harris Health Bond Referendum

Harris County residents will be asked to approve a \$2.5 billion bond issue. The funds will primarily be spent on rebuilding the LBJ hospital complex on the North Loop 610 between Lockwood and Homestead and on making improvements to Ben Taub Hospital in the Texas Medical Center. One of the big selling points is that a new Level 1 trauma center will be included in the new LBJ complex, which most experts agree is long overdue for a city of our size.

I think it is noteworthy that the leadership of every major healthcare system in the region has endorsed the bond proposal. I have spoken to several of the CEOs personally and they are adamant in their support. They cite the new trauma center but also point to the growing number of uninsured residents in the County.

Several critics of the proposal have raised a number of legitimate concerns, such as the fact that the LBJ site is surrounded by property in the 100-year flood plain. Also, some question whether building a new facility in a part of the county where there has been little growth is the right location. Proponents respond that location is an area where there are high levels of uninsured residents and the buildings will be protected from any flooding risk.

If I were designing the plan, there are probably some tweaks I would make to it. But I think this is one of those issues where we cannot let perfect be the enemy of good and I will vote in favor of the bond. I would encourage those with concerns about the plan to support it but to stay engaged after the election as the detailed planning and implementation proceed.

City of Houston Propositions

Proposition A asks voters to amend the City charter to provide that any three Council members can require that an item appear on the Council agenda. Currently, the mayor has the sole power to decide what items Council will consider.

Some of you may recall that I said in my mayoral campaigns that I thought the City's strong-mayor form of government went too far and that we needed to re-balance power between the mayor and Council. This was one of the reforms I proposed. Therefore, I would strongly urge everyone vote for Proposition A.

Proposition B is a proposal that would ban the City from participating in the Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC) unless it gets representation on HGAC's board in proportion to its population. For those of you not familiar with HGAC, it is a regional council of local governments charged with, among other things, allocating transportation funding the in Houston region. While I can understand the objection of Houstonians that they should get proportional representation, this proposition is a little like someone threatening to shoot themselves if they don't get their way. I can assure you that none of the other entities at HGAC will spend one minute mourning the loss of the City of Houston's participation.

Apparently, the belief behind the backers of this proposition is that it would allow the City to form its own "Metropolitan Planning Organization" (MPO), which would then apply for federal funds directly without going through HGAC. The fly in this ointment is that under the current law, the Governor would have to approve the City setting up its own MPO. There is exactly a zero chance Abbott would do that. So, the most likely outcome would be that the City would simply not be represented at all in the decision-making process of how transportation funds are allocated in our region.

The bad news is that the polling currently shows the proposition is likely to pass. The good news is that because the courts have made it nearly impossible for citizens to enforce city charter provisions, the next mayor and Council will likely just ignore the amendment as the previous mayors and Councils have ignored other citizen-initiated referendums, e.g., the limitation on increasing water and sewage rates.

There are a number of other bond elections and city elections in the area. For those living in Harris County, you can view what will be included on your ballot at Harris Votes.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5906 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.



 **THE POSTSCRIPT**
By **Carrie Classon**

Celebrating Halloween

I have always loved Halloween, and I love it now more than ever.

I love to get in costume and have fun with other people in costume. People seem freer when they are dressed in different clothes. They seem to have a little more fun. I like the challenge of making or putting together elaborate costumes but, as the years passed, I've done less and less of it. Costume parties seem to be less common, and I don't spend time in bars, so the opportunity to celebrate the holiday has diminished.

Then I started going to Mexico, and all that changed.

Halloween is celebrated there, but it is a more somber affair, with beautiful "ofrendas" dedicated to the dead in homes, in the parks and in the cemeteries. It is a tradition that brings the dead closer to the living through remembrances and photos and collections of the things and the people the dead loved, all gathered together in their honor.

And then there is a party.

After Halloween, the Day of the Dead is celebrated, followed by All Souls Day, and each has its own significance, and its own traditions, which vary from one community to another. But what is, in the U.S., a short evening's activity celebrated primarily by children is a much bigger deal, a celebration that goes on for most of the week, involving people of all ages. The celebrations mix a reverence for the dead and a joy for life in a way I find breathtaking.

So my husband, Peter, and I will be celebrating Halloween this year. Peter, it should be noted, is not as big on the whole "getting into costume thing" as I am.

"What will I wear?" he asks, with obvious skepticism.

He worries he will look silly. He is sure he will be uncomfortable. But I have gotten Peter a costume (a fabulous costume, if I say so myself), and he says he is going to wear it. He knows it is important to me and he genuinely enjoys the celebration and so, this year, he will be a part of it—even if that might not be his first choice.

But, because we will be celebrating in Mexico, I want to observe the other part of the holiday as well.

Last week, we celebrated my mother's birthday with my parents and sister and my father's only sister, Joanne, and her husband. We got to talking about my father's mother. Joanne was telling the story we all knew about how my grandma wore elegant purple suede boots in her late 80s and thought—because of her cataracts—they were brown. No one thought a thing of it, because my grandma was always a stylish dresser, and we thought those purple boots were snazzy. But when my grandma found out, she took Joanne to task.

"Why didn't you tell me I was wearing purple boots?" she demanded.

My grandma wore a bright fuchsia raincoat to her husband's funeral. I honestly don't think any of us were to blame.

But it is a wonderful story, a great remembrance of my grandma, who lived to be 100 years old and gave us so many good memories. I love the idea of a day—or the better part of a week—set aside to tell stories like that and to keep the memory of my grandma, and so many others we have loved so much, alive.

And then we do will exactly what my grandma would have liked best. We will get all dressed up and have a big party.

Till next time,
Carrie

 **STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**
By **Gary Borders**



Abbott, House Deadlocked Over School Choice, Teacher Pay

Gov. Gregg Abbott and the Texas House are at loggerheads over which will come first – vouchers for parents to pay for private school tuition, or funneling more money to public schools, The Dallas Morning News reported.

The House wants money for teacher bonuses and a revamp of public-school accountability passed at the same time as Abbott's proposed education savings accounts, often referred to as ESAs. The governor insists the House first pass a voucher program. A version of his voucher program has already passed the Senate. The Legislature can't consider increased school funding or teacher bonuses unless Abbott adds it to the special session agenda.

This third special session ends by Nov. 7, though Abbott has indicated he would call another one if this one ends without a decision on vouchers.

"I think there is still significant opposition to any school finance bill that includes an ESA," Rep. Drew Darby, R-San Angelo, told the Texas Tribune. "I'm comfortable we have enough like-minded rural Republicans, and urban Republicans, to stand against that in numbers sufficient to defeat it."

Abbott has dismissed the House's compromise proposal, House Bill 1, which would create a limited voucher program while increasing spending on public education, calling it "insufficient."

HOUSE PASSES THREE BORDER SECURITY BILLS

The House passed a trio of bills that increase border wall funding, increase the penalty for smuggling migrants, and allow state and local police to arrest migrants living illegally in the state, The News reported. The votes came last week after a lengthy heated discussion among Democratic and Republican lawmakers.

The anti-smuggling bill has already passed the Senate and now heads to Abbott's desk, while the other two bills are going to the Senate.

Rep. Victoria Neave Criado, D-Dallas, who chairs the Mexican American Legislative Caucus, said the plan would undercut the U.S. Constitution so that the state



could "flex its muscle with the power that it does not have," according to The News.

Democrats unsuccessfully tried to change the bill by filing nearly four dozen amendments. Rep. Cody Harris, R-Palestine, filed a successful motion to limit amendments, which led to a confrontation between him and Rep. Armando Walle, D-Houston.

"This is an emotional issue," Walle said in a statement late Wednesday evening. "This affects my family and puts so many families like mine at risk."

PAXTON SUES OVER RAZOR WIRE BEING CUT

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is suing the Biden administration, claiming Border Patrol agents are illegally destroying state property by cutting through concertina wire placed by the state on the banks of the Rio Grande to deter illegal immigration.

The state has spent \$11 million in the past three years placing 70,000 rolls of the wire along the Texas-Mexico border, according to the Texas Tribune.

"By cutting Texas's concertina wire, the federal government has not only illegally destroyed property owned by the State of Texas; it has also disrupted the State's border deterrence efforts, leaving gaps in Texas's border barriers and damaging Texas's ability to effectively deter illegal entry into Texas," the attorney general's office said in a statement.

The Department of Homeland Security, under which the Border Patrol operates, said it doesn't respond to

pending litigation.

In Eagle Pass earlier this year, a state trooper claimed the concertina wire has injured people, including a woman who had a miscarriage while entangled in the wire, the Tribune reported.

HIGH COURT TO HEAR CASE OF JUDGE'S REFUSAL TO MARRY GAY COUPLES

The Texas Supreme Court last week heard oral arguments in a case to decide whether a Waco justice of the peace can legally refuse to perform same-sex wedding ceremonies, kut.org reported. McLennan County Justice of the Peace Dianne Hensley has refused to perform those ceremonies, saying it violates her Christian beliefs and is protected under the state's religious freedom laws.

The State Commission on Judicial Conduct in 2019 issued a warning to Hensley for her refusal. Lower courts have dismissed her claims against the commission.

Initially, Hensley declined to officiate any wedding ceremonies after the landmark U.S. Supreme Court in 2015. She began performing weddings again the following year, but only for straight couples.

NEW AREA CODE FOR HOUSTON AREA APPROVED

The greater Houston area has another area code after the Public Utility Commission of Texas approved a proposal to add 621 to the four existing area codes – 281, 346, 713 and 832. The area was expected to run out of new phone numbers using the existing area codes by 2025.

The new code is expected to meet demand for new numbers for another nine years. Houston's first area code, 713, was created in 1947 as one of the original four codes assigned to Texas.

RECORD \$345 MILLION APPROVED FOR PEDESTRIAN, BIKE PROJECTS

The Texas Transportation Commission has approved more than \$345 million for new sidewalks, bikeways and other types of mobility infrastructure for 83 projects across the states.

"This is a major investment in communities across the state that will help make it safer and easier to get around on foot or a bike," Texas Transportation Commissioner Robert "Robbie" Vaughn said.

The state has seen pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities rise nearly 30% over the past five years. Two dozen of the projects will go in areas with a high pedestrian crash record.

EARLY VOTING ENDS FRIDAY; ELECTION TUESDAY

Early voting for the Nov. 7 general election ends on Friday. Voters will decide the fate of 14 proposed state constitutional amendments, including items dealing with property tax cuts and increasing pay for retired teachers. In addition, municipal and school board races are being held across the state, as well as school, city, and county bond elections.

Contact your county's election office to see what is on the ballot where you are registered.

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

Star  Courier

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Barbers Hill  Dayton PRESS

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Bobby Cannavale, Bokeem Woodbine and Bill Burr star in "Old Dads."

"Old Dads"

"OLD DADS" (R) — In this comedy film out now, stand-up comedian and actor Bill Burr ("The Mandalorian") decides to take a seat in the director's chair for the first time. Burr, Bobby Cannavale ("The Watcher") and Bokeem Woodbine ("Ray") play a trio of out-of-touch Gen Xers struggling to find their place in the modern world after selling their vintage sports jersey business. Watching as their prized business gets gutted from the inside out and revamped by a younger boss, the three men are at a loss on how to find their way in a world that they barely recognize. Burr tied in many common grievances about political correctness that are often voiced by his generation, which might incite a laugh here and there, but doesn't necessarily make for great comedy. (Netflix)

"FELLOW TRAVEL-

"BOOK CLUB: THE NEXT CHAPTER" (PG-13) — The sequel to the 2018 rom-com "Book Club," starring Diane Keaton, Jane Fonda, Candice Bergen and Mary Steenburgen, premieres Oct. 31 on streaming after bombing at the box office this May. Having continued their book club virtually through COVID-19, the four ladies reunite in-person after the worst of the pandemic and decide to take a trip to Italy in celebration of Vivian's (Fonda) engagement. Of course, nothing goes as planned once their trip begins, but they use the current book that they're reading — Paolo Coelho's "The Alchemist" — as motivation for continuing their haphazard, yet surprisingly delightful adventure. Andy Garcia, Don Johnson and Craig T. Nelson also co-star. (Prime Video)

"NOCEBO" (NR) — As the Halloween season ends, so does the Halloween horror movie event. This year's event featured a handful of lesser-known movies, but it didn't mean that the horror was in short supply. This Filipino-Irish psychological thriller is no different. Eva Green ("Dark Shadows") plays children's fashion designer Christine, who viewers meet just as she develops a strange illness from a tick. Shortly thereafter, a woman named Diane (Chai Fonacier) appears at Christine's house to be her caretaker. While her unorthodox black magic practices turn off Christine and her family, Diane continues to miraculously treat Christine, but her appearing at Christine's house is far from a miracle — or a coincidence. Out now. (Hulu)

"ERS" (TV-MA) — Matt Bomer ("American Horror Story") and Jonathan Bailey ("Bridgerton") take on this steamy seven-episode miniseries that stretches from the 1950 Lavender Scare in the U.S. to the 1980 AIDS crisis. Bomer plays Hawkins Fuller, while Bailey portrays Tim Laughlin; the pair are political staffers who begin a forbidden and volatile relationship that starts in Washington, D.C. With Hawkins being a more serious and stoic man, the idealistic Tim divulges a different side to him, amid the fact that their political careers could be disintegrated in seconds if their affair was to be discovered. Allison Williams ("Get Out") and Jelani Alladin ("Tick, Tick ... Boom!") also star in this political thriller series. The first episode is out now, with subsequent episodes releasing every Sunday. (Paramount+)

HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

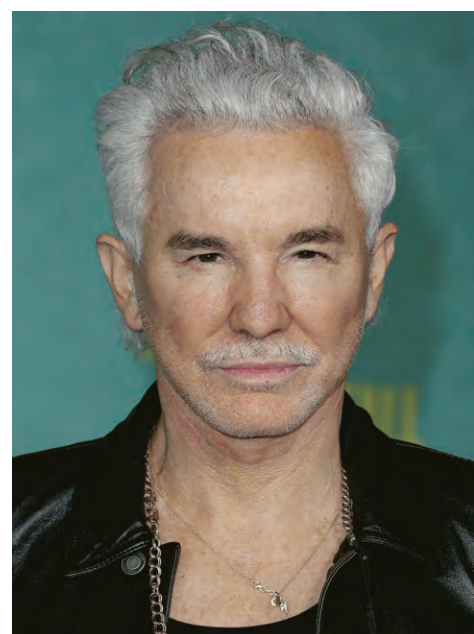
HOLLYWOOD — "Australia" director Baz Luhrmann, who scored big with "Elvis" (\$85 million cost, \$288.7 million gross), must have been stuck on what to do next. Instead of moving forward, he went backward, reimagining his 2008 epic "Australia" (\$130 million cost, \$211.3 million gross) as a limited six-part series called "Faraway Downs." Luhrmann must have planned back in 2008 to revisit "Australia," having filmed three different endings at that time. It will once again feature Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman in their original roles and drops on Nov. 26 on Hulu.

The ever-busy Kidman has "Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom" coming up on Dec. 20; the Netflix rom-com "A Family Affair" with Zac Efron and Kathy Bates; and "Holland, Michigan," with Gael Garcia Bernal and Emmy winner Matthew Macfayden (for "Criminal Justice" and "Succession"). Meanwhile, Jackman is once again playing "Wolverine" in "Deadpool 3," due May 3.

Ellen Burstyn, Oscar winner for "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore" (1974), turns 91 on Dec. 7, but admitted that she's been busier than ever lately. When asked why the roles are piling up, she told the Hollywood Reporter: "Everybody else who could play those parts has already died." Everyone also wondered why she chose to do "The Exorcist: Believer." What made her override her previous stance to do it? It created quite a stir in Hollywood when she finally agreed to do this particular sequel of "The Exorcist."

Burstyn admitted, "This time, they offered me a whole bunch of money, and I still said no. And then they surprised me, and they came back and said, 'We doubled the offer.' I said, 'OK, let me think about this.' ... The next thought that came to mind was, 'I feel like the devil is asking my price.' And the next thought that came to mind was, 'My price is a scholarship program for talented students at our master's degree program at Pace University. That's my price.' So I then went back and upped their up and ended up getting what I want."

Her bargaining chip was that she's "the only actress still standing who could



Director Baz Luhrmann ("Australia" and "Elvis")

play the great-grandmother!" So far, "The Exorcist: Believer" has grossed \$107.6 million with a \$30 million budget, but will she sign up for the two other sequels they're planning?

Another recent film of Burstyn's — "Mother, Couch," with Ewan McGregor, Lara Flynn Boyle and F. Murray Abraham — premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival on Sept. 9.

Jessica Lange, who has two Oscars, five Golden Globes, three Emmys and one Tony, says she is considering retiring from acting because "creativity is secondary now to corporate profits" in filmmaking. But Lange is still set to star opposite Ed Harris in an upcoming film adaptation of Eugene O'Neill's "Long Day's Journey Into Night." It's too bad that she's letting corporate greed extinguish her talent. Who could forget her stunning performance in "Feud: Bette and Joan"? Her character, Joan Crawford, was never concerned with any of that and famously said, "I think the most important thing a woman can have — next to talent, of course — is her hairdresser!"

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ENTERTAINMENT

October 30, 2023 Posting Date

King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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- ACROSS**
- 1 Netting
 - 5 Composer Porter
 - 9 "I'm not impressed"
 - 12 Dog food brand
 - 13 Send forth
 - 14 Chopper
 - 15 "Arrivederci!"
 - 16 Marathon fraction
 - 17 Blemish
 - 18 Difficult
 - 19 JFK info
 - 20 Gentle soul
 - 21 Victory
 - 23 Greek X
 - 25 Quick run
 - 28 Cry of distress
 - 32 Exact moment
 - 33 Broadcast again
 - 34 Rouse
 - 36 Caviar provider
 - 37 "Xanadu" band
 - 38 "— Blue?"
 - 39 Family fight
 - 42 Zodiac animal
 - 44 Frost
 - 48 Hostel
 - 49 Future tulip
 - 50 Tex. neighbor
 - 51 Scribble (down)
- DOWN**
- 1 Jet speed measure
 - 2 Director Kazan
 - 3 Practice pugilism
 - 4 Bamboozled
 - 5 Solidify
 - 6 Skip
 - 7 Fragrant flowers
 - 8 Summer on the Seine
 - 9 Crib cry
 - 10 Physical
 - 11 Basil or thyme
 - 20 Bread and butter, so to speak
 - 22 Chip giant
 - 24 Seraglio
 - 25 Resort
 - 26 "Wham!"
 - 27 Estuary
 - 29 — de cologne
 - 30 "Top Gun" target
 - 31 Historic time
 - 35 "Take your time"
 - 36 Panda's diet
 - 39 South Pacific nation
 - 40 Eve's grandson
 - 41 "Do — others ..."
 - 43 Sax range
 - 45 Gumbo veggie
 - 46 Friend
 - 47 Beams
 - 49 Some coll. degrees

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

GERALD, HONEY, COME AND EAT. GRANDMA MADE YOU A NICE HEALTHY DINNER.
 WE NEED TO FILL YOU UP WITH SOME HEALTHY GREENS.
 DON'T BOTHER, I'M NOT HUNGRY. I ATE A BUNCH OF OLD HALLOWEEN CANDY.
 WOW, NOW I KNOW WHERE MOM GETS THAT LOOK.

TIGER

by Bud Blake

YOU'RE WEARING HIM OUT, PUNKINHEAD!
 STRIPES, TIREZ LET HIM REST!
 NAW, HE LOVES IT!
 EUP BLAKE

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

THE WEATHER OUT THERE IS CRAZY.
 IT'S RAINING CATS AND DOGS...
 ...AND IT'S HAILING TAXIS!!

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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9					5		1	

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!

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIKOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- SCIENCE: What was Joseph Lister's main contribution to science?
- HISTORY: Which pro football team won the very first Super Bowl?
- MUSIC: What is the title of the Rolling Stones' 2023 album?
- MOVIES: Who played the monster in Mel Brooks' "Young Frankenstein"?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: How much of the popular vote did Abraham Lincoln receive when he was elected president in 1860?
- GEOGRAPHY: In which country is the ancient city of Petra located?
- AD SLOGANS: What product was advertised by a man who kept saying, "I can't believe I ate the whole thing"?
- FOOD & DRINK: What is often called the national dish of Canada?
- LANGUAGE: What does an oologist study?
- TELEVISION: What does SVU stand for in "Law & Order: SVU"?

Answers

1. Antiseptic surgery; 2. Green Bay Packers; 3. "Hackney Diamonds"; 4. Peter Boyle; 5. Less than 40%; 6. Jordan; 7. Alka-Seltzer; 8. Poutine; 9. Eggs; 10. Special Victims Unit.

FOOTBALL SCORES & SCHEDULES

LAST WEEK'S SCORES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

- Aldine Eisenhower 55, Aldine 7
- Aldine MacArthur 42, Spring Dekaney 7
- Channelview 58, Pasadena 10
- Fort Bend Marshall 48, Galena Park 6
- New Caney Porter 31, Baytown Lee 17

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

- Aldine Nimitz 44, Spring 24
- Barbers Hill 52, Port Arthur Memorial 23
- Baytown Sterling 43, Goose Creek Memorial 13
- Fort Bend Willowridge 56, Dayton 22
- North Shore 61, Atascocita 35
- Porter 31, Baytown Lee 24
- Spring Westfield 78, Aldine Davis 21
- Vidor 49, Huffman Hargrave 28

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

- La Porte 43, Crosby 27
- Summer Creek 33, C. E. King 12

THIS WEEK'S GAMES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

- Aldine at Westfield, 7 p.m., Leonard George Stadium in Spring
- Dayton at Fort Bend Marshall, 7 p.m., Kenneth Hall Stadium in Missouri City
- Eisenhower at Spring, 7 p.m., Planet Ford Stadium in Spring
- North Shore at Kingwood, 7 p.m., Turner Stadium in Humble

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

- Barbers Hill at Porter, 7 p.m., Randall Reed Stadium in New Caney
- Baytown Lee at Baytown Sterling, 7 p.m., Stallworth Stadium in Baytown
- Galena Park at Port Neches-Groves, 7 p.m., Indian Stadium in Port Neches
- Goose Creek Memorial at Crosby, 7 p.m., Cougar Stadium in Crosby
- Little Cypress-Mauriceville at Huffman Hargrave, 7:30 p.m., Falcon Stadium in Huffman
- MacArthur at Davis, 7 p.m., Leonard George Stadium in Spring
- Nimitz at Dekaney, 7 p.m., Planet Ford Stadium in Spring
- West Brook at C. E. King, 7 p.m., Panther Stadium in Houston

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

- Channelview at Pasadena Memorial, 2 p.m., Memorial Stadium in Pasadena

★ SPORTS PAGE ★

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 10

Aggies look to end road woes at Ole Miss: Cowboys, Eagles meet in key NFC East contest in Philly

It's been another tough year for Texas A&M Aggie fans. Another season that started with so much optimism has once again devolved into disappointment and head coach Jimbo Fisher's coaching future could be in doubt in College Station.

There are a couple of things going in Fisher's favor. One, it would cost A&M \$77 million to buyout his contract and he has recruited well over the last two seasons bringing in a load of young talent. Those youngsters should only get better with time. But Fisher was hired to contend with Alabama and LSU in the SEC West. The Aggies have not come close to winning their division, let alone the entire conference in his six years on the job.

A&M has had trouble winning on the road. This year, they have lost at Miami, Alabama and at Tennessee and this Saturday they face a dangerous Mississippi Rebels team in Oxford.

The Aggies have been decimated by some key injuries this year, most notably starting quarterback Conner Weigman. Backup Max Johnson has filled in well, but he's no Weigman.

Perhaps Fisher can rally the troops this weekend and pick up a much-needed road victory.

Other key games on the college landscape have No. 15-ranked LSU visiting No. 9-ranked Alabama in a key SEC West contest. A win by Nick Saban's team could pretty much wrap up the SEC West, while a win by Brian Kelly's team will tie things up in the division. Both teams had an extra week to prepare for this one.

No. 14-ranked Notre Dame visits a disappointing Clemson team that has already lost three games. Like Fisher, Dabo Swiney's seat could also be



getting hot. A team that was expected to contend for the ACC title and perhaps a spot in the College Football Playoffs (CFP) is now playing for a mid-range bowl game. The folks at Clemson expect more.

A win on the road for Marcus Freeman's team could get them into the CFP conversation. ND has played a tough schedule and owns wins over USC, and Duke.

In the NFL, the spotlight will be on the NFC East when the Cowboys visit the Eagles in a key division contest. The Texans host Tampa Bay looking for their second home win, while Tennessee and Pittsburgh kick off Week 9 on Thursday Night Football. Two weeks ago, the Steelers improved to 4-2 with a big road win over the Rams, while the Titans had the week off. Miami and Kansas City meet in Germany and Sunday Night Football has a good one as the Bills visit the Bengals in a rematch of last year's divisional playoff game which was won by the Bengals in Buffalo.

Before we take a look at this weekend's schedule, let's review last week's record. Another 10-2 week upped the season record to 54-32 (63%).

Now, onto this weekend's games.

NCAA

Texas A&M at Mississippi: The Aggies travel to Oxford, MS to

take on the explosive Rebels. A&M has had trouble winning in Oxford and it won't be any easier this time around when the Aggies take on an explosive Ole Miss offense. The Rebs has a solid dual-threat QB in Jaxon Dart (1,840 passing yards, 13 TDs/346 rushing yards, 6 TDs) and one of the best running backs in the nation in Quinshon Judkins (567 yards, 7 TDs). They have two big-play wide receivers in Jordan Watkins (36 receptions, 536 yards, 2 TDs) and Tre Harris (21 receptions, 469 yards, 6 TDs). The A&M defense had better come ready to play. It would help if Johnson (898 yards, 8 TDs) and the rest of the offense come through on Saturday. The Ags will need a big day from running backs Le'Veon Moss (387 yards, 3 TDs) and Amari Daniels (287 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receivers Aina Smith (27 receptions, 451 yards) and Evan Stewart (31 receptions, 451 yards, 4 TDs). I'm going out on a limb here and saying Fisher's team earns its biggest win of the season on Saturday. My pick, Texas A&M 31, Mississippi 27

Notre Dame at Clemson: This is a dangerous one for the Irish. They are playing in a hostile environment against a team that is going to be trying to save its season come Saturday. The Irish have a balanced offense led by QB Sam Hartman (1,838 yards, 18 TDs), running back Audric Esteime (787 yards, 9 TDs), wide receiver Chris Tyree (16 receptions, 355

yards, 3 TDs) and tight end Mitchell Evans (24 receptions, 356 yards, 1 TD). Clemson is led by QB Cade Klubnik (1,684 yards, 13 TDs), running back Will Shipley (494 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver Tyler Brown (28 receptions, 389 yards, 2 TDs). Look for the ND defense to be the difference maker in this one as it forces a key turnover or two from Klubnik. My pick, Notre Dame 30, Clemson 23

LSU at Alabama: A good one in the SEC West pits the Tigers against the Crimson Tide. LSU already has one conference loss and can't afford another, but they are taking on a 'Bama team that seems to be hitting its stride. Two weeks ago, the Crimson Tide trailed Tennessee 20-7 at the half and outscored them 27-0 in the second half on the way to a 34-20 victory. QB Jalin Milroe (1,617 yards, 12 TDs) is taking what defenses will give him and he needs to do a good job of managing the offense when he faces a very fast and quick Tiger defense. Running back Jase McClellan (569 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receiver Jermaine Burton (23 receptions, 508 yards, 5 TDs) both need big games on Saturday. LSU will lean on dual-threat QB Jayden Daniels (2,574 passing yards, 25 TDs/521 rushing yards, 5 TDs), running back Logan Diggs (611 yards, 6 TDs) and big-play wideouts Malik Nabors (56 receptions, 981 yards, 9 TDs) and Brian Thomas (42 receptions, 732 yards, 11 TDs). This will be a tough test for the Alabama defense, but with two weeks to get ready for this one, I'm sure Saban will have something special for the Tigers come Saturday. My pick, Alabama 32, LSU 26

NFL

Tennessee at Pittsburgh: Week 9 begins with Thursday Night Football as the Titans visit the Steelers. The Steelers won four of their first six games thanks to a conservative offense and a tough defense. The Titans have had a rough start to the season. QB Ryan Tanehill (1,128 yards, 2 TDs) needs to step up his game.

The Titans will once again rely on Derrick Henry (425 yards, 3 TDs). He should find it tough going against a Pittsburgh defense that has 19 sacks, led by T.J. Watt with eight. The offense isn't explosive, but QB Kenny Pickett (1,257 yards, 5 TDs) takes what defenses are willing to give him. Look for running back Najee Harris (300 yards, 1 TD) and wideout George Pickens (27 receptions, 500 yards, 2 TDs) to get it going against the Titans. My pick, Pittsburgh 26, Tennessee 14

Miami vs. Kansas City: The good people of Frankfurt, Germany will get a treat when they get to host the Dolphins and the Chiefs on Sunday in what should be an offensive shootout. Two weeks ago, Tua Tagovailoa (2,092 yards, 15 TDs) and the Dolphins lost at Philly, 31-17, while the Chiefs won their sixth straight game with a 31-17 home win over the Chargers. Miami will need big games from running back Raheem Mostert (474 yards, 11 total TDs) and wide receiver Tyreek Hill (53 receptions, 902 yards, 7 TDs). Hill will be facing his former team this weekend, which should be plenty of motivation for the speedy wide receiver. Look for Patrick Mahomes (2,017 yards, 15 TDs), running back Isiah Pacheco (419 yards, 3 TDs) and tight end Travis Kelce (48 receptions, 525 yards, 4 TDs) to have big days against a suspect Miami defense. My pick, Kansas City 34, Miami 30

Tampa Bay at Houston: The Texans return home for the first time since Oct. 15 when they host the Bucs. Look for C.J. Stroud (1,660 yards, 9 TDs) and wide receivers Nico Collins (29 receptions, 547 yards, 3 TDs) and Tank Dell (19 receptions, 324 yards, 2 TDs) to make plays early to set up running back Dameon Pierce to wear down the Bucs defense in the second half. Look for the Houston defense to get after turnover-prone Baker Mayfield as the Texans continue their winning ways and should be considered legitimate playoff contenders. My pick, Houston 23, Tampa Bay 16

Dallas at Philadelphia: The Cowboys visit the City of Brotherly Love to take on an Eagles team that will be looking to make some separation between themselves and Dallas in the NFC East race. Dallas must get a solid game from QB Dak Prescott (1,333 yards, 6 TDs) or it could be a long day for the Pokes. The offensive line will have its hands full against a Philly defense that recorded 24 sacks in their first six games. Dallas needs to get the running game going with Tony Pollard (370 yards, 2 TDs) and some big plays downfield from wideout CeeDee Lamb (34 receptions, 475 yards, 1 TD). The Dallas defense, which had 16 sacks in its first six games, will have its hands full with dual-threat QB Jalen Hurts (1,821 passing yards, 9 TDs/274 rushing yards, 6 TDs), running back D'Andre Swift (514 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receivers A.J. Brown (52 receptions, 809 yards, 3 TDs) and Devonta Smith (32 receptions, 383 yards, 2 TDs). Dallas will once again struggle at Philly. My pick, Philadelphia 26, Dallas 23

Buffalo at Cincinnati: A good one for the Sunday Night Football crew has the Bills visiting the Bengals looking to avenge last year's 27-10 home playoff loss. The Bills have been so-so this year, winning four of their first seven games. Two weeks ago, they lost to a then one-win New England team, 29-25. QB Josh Allen (1,841 yards, 15 TDs/148 rushing yards, 1 TD) needs to make more plays to Stefon Diggs (55 receptions, 678 yards, 6 TDs) and should be able to do so against an average Cincinnati defense. After losing two of their first three games, the Bengals won two straight heading into their bye week. QB Joe Burrow (1,230 yards, 7 TDs) appears to be finding his groove. He'll need running back Joe Mixon (366 yards, 1 TD) and wide receivers Ja'Marr Chase (50 receptions, 556 yards, 3 TDs) and Tyler Boyd (30 receptions, 203 yards, 1 TD) to have big days against a beat up Buffalo defense. My pick, Cincinnati 26, Buffalo 21

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4 Bond issues on Ballot,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The legislature just provided an additional \$26 per student in funding for safety and security, but the district, based on security audits, requires \$299 per student to meet new state mandates. The bond will cover items not funded by the state.

A new Academic and Operational Training Center will provide food service, maintenance, custodial, police department, and transportation needs. The additional training space will allow for professional development, curriculum planning, and operational education space.

District-wide technology needs such as replacing aging equipment and software, devices, apps, and the internet. It will also address infrastructure devices such as security cameras, door controllers, classroom phones, and teacher/student devices. The funds will also replace aging projectors, interactive displays, and document cameras.

The bond funds will also be used to purchase six new buses with seat belts, air conditioning, and equipped with cameras as part of the replacement cycle.

TAX RATE: The previous tax rate was \$1.14, but with the passage of the bond, the rate will decrease to \$1.07, a unique opportunity for taxpayers. With the recent state compression savings and \$100,000 homestead exemption, homeowners in Huffman ISD would still see an annual savings of minus-\$762.68 or minus-\$63.56 per month on a \$200,000 home compared to 2022.

SENIORS: Ages 65 and older will see \$0 tax impact over their current frozen dollar amount.

For more information, visit <https://www.huffmanisd.net/about-us/about-our-district/2023bond>.

ENTITY: Crosby ISD
BOND AMOUNT: Proposition A requests \$85 million

BOND PROPOSAL: Prop A requests \$85 million to build a new elementary school, Phase 1 of Middle School #2, and district-wide maintenance and renovations.

The two new schools will help address the growth of 10,000 new homes yielding approximately 5,000 additional students by the school year 2033-2034.

The new middle school will only build out Phase 1 for a student capacity of 600 with the expansion to 1,200 possible for later. The design will include basic amenities like a gymnasium, administration, classrooms, library, athletics, cafeteria, food service, and some specialized CTE spaces. The project would begin in the 1st quarter of 2024 with a completion date in the 3rd quarter of 2026 and cost approximately \$55.2 million and includes land acquisition.

The new elementary would have a capacity of 750 and construction would begin in the 1st quarter of 2024 with a completion date in the 2nd quarter of 2026. The project would cost \$52.5 million and includes land acquisition.

Some of the district-wide maintenance and renovations include roof replacements or refurbishments, rest room renovations, and updates to heating and cooling systems, some of which are more than two decades old.

Additional funds from the remaining 2017 bond includes a \$43.9 million high school addition already underway with both bonds accomplishing the district's current needs.

TAX RATE: The new tax rate passed by the board on Oct. 16, 2023, is

\$1.2375. Of that amount, \$0.7575 is for Maintenance & Operations and the Interest & Sinking is \$0.48, not changed from the previous year. With compression applied, the tax rate reduction of \$0.1854 decreases last year's rate of \$1.4229 to \$1.2375.

SENIORS: Ages 65 and older will see \$0 tax impact over their current frozen dollar amount.

For more information, visit www.crosbyisd.org/BOND2023.

ENTITY: Crosby Municipal Utility District
BOND AMOUNT: \$20,000,000

BOND PROPOSAL: This bond is proposed by the district to help with ongoing repairs and the installation of new water, sewer, and drainage facilities to serve district customers. This includes the addition of new taps for new developments coming onboard. The new updates also assist in keeping the district in compliance with current state law.

TAX RATE: This is a no tax rate increase bond for the district.

SENIORS: Ages 65 and older will see \$0 tax impact over their current frozen dollar amount.

For more information, visit <https://www.crosbymud.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Crosby-MUD-Election-Flyer.pdf>.

ENTITY: Goose Creek Consolidated School District

BOND AMOUNT: \$386,310,000

BOND PROPOSAL: The bond has three separate proposals A, B, and C.

Proposition A has the largest price tag at \$342,310,000, most of it devoted to the replacement of Sterling High School (\$285,000,000) due to damaged structural foundation in the main building. It also replaces Winnie Brown Gym, the natatorium, and vocational building.

Safety and Security across the district would include upgrades to access controls at exterior doors, cameras, intrusion alarms, sensor at exterior doors, and intercom systems. It also includes expanding gunshot detection systems, add vape detection systems, and silent panic alert technology. It also includes adding bullet-resistant film, replace police vehicles, telephone hardware across the district, security cameras in the district and upgrade campus fencing at a cost of \$24,000,000.

Approximately \$15 million will be used to upgrade and renovate mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, make roof repairs and replacements, replace and repair building foundation systems and site deficiencies, and repair and replace interior finishes.

The transportation department would receive \$6.2 million to replace 35 buses, provide equipment,

specialized tooling, and technology refresh.

Lee High School would also receive \$6.2 million for a relocation and redesign of the tennis courts, fencing to fully enclose the campus for safety, green space for extracurricular activities, and the closing of Carnegie Street and redesign of the east side of the property to include traffic lanes for students, parents, and buses.

The athletic department will use \$5.4 million for upgrades in high school strength and conditioning, gym and field bleacher upgrades, high school and JS gym scoreboard upgrades, JS field scoreboard upgrades, HS baseball/softball batting cage renovations, track resurfacing at the high schools, high school and JS tennis court resurfacing, and women's weight rooms facility upgrades at the high schools.

Lastly, \$510k would be used for the demolition of San Jacinto Elementary.

Proposition B at \$24 million would provide for renovations to Stallworth Stadium that include replacing existing ramps to meet ADA compliance, repair stadium structure, walls, and floors, replace existing press box, and the renovation of the concourse, including concession stands, fine arts locker rooms, and restrooms.

Proposition C would provide \$20 million for network hardware refresh including network switches, distribution switches, and core networking equipment, refreshes at the elementary and junior schools for tablets, computers, and other devices.

TAX RATE: Yes, if the 2023 bond passes, the Interest and Sinking rate will increase 8 cents to \$0.405, bringing the total overall tax rate with maintenance and operations included to \$1.1625. For a home of \$100,000, that would mean an additional \$6.67 per month or \$80.04 per year.

SENIORS: No. If a homeowner receives the Age-65 Freeze on his or her homestead, the school taxes are frozen and cannot be raised above the frozen level unless significant improvements beyond normal repairs or maintenance are made to the home. Examples of a "significant improvement" would be adding a garage, building a game room, or adding a swimming pool to your property.

In 2019, Texas Legislators passed a new law as part of HB 3 that requires all bond propositions for any school district to have the phrase "THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE" on all ballot language for bond propositions. Due to this requirement, all voters will see this statement on the official ballot language, even if the tax dollar amount is frozen and will not exceed the tax ceiling.

Proposed Constitutional Amendments
NOVEMBER 2023 UNIFORM ELECTION

01 RIGHT TO FARM
Establishing the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management. 


02 CHILDCARE FACILITIES
Allowing local governments to exempt childcare facilities from property taxes. 


03 PERSONAL WEALTH TAX
Prohibiting the imposition of an individual wealth or net worth tax on individuals or families. 


04 HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION
Increasing the homestead tax exemption by a school district to \$100,000 and increasing state funding for public education. 


05 TEXAS UNIVERSITY FUND
Renaming the National Research University Fund as the Texas University Fund and allowing certain state universities eligibility to receive money from the fund. 


06 TEXAS WATER FUND
Creating the Texas Water Fund to assist in financing water projects in this state. 


07 TEXAS ENERGY FUND
Creating the Texas Energy Fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities. 

08 BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE FUND
Creating the Texas Broadband Infrastructure Fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects. 

09 RETIRED EDUCATORS
Providing a cost-of-living adjustment to eligible annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas. 

10 MEDICAL PRODUCTS
Allowing the legislature to exempt from property taxes equipment or inventory held by manufacturers of medical or biomedical products. 

11 EL PASO PARK BONDS
Authorizing the Legislature to permit El Paso to develop and finance parks and other purely recreational facilities with taxes. 

12 GALVESTON COUNTY TREASURER
Abolishing the office of the county treasurer in Galveston County. 

13 JUDGE RETIREMENT AGE
Increasing the mandatory retirement age for state judges and justices from 75 to 79 and the minimum retirement age to 75 years, up from 70. 

14 CENTENNIAL PARKS CONSERVATION FUND
Providing for the creation of the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks. 



Ana Hernandez
State Representative • District 143

Record Breaking turnout in Early Voting,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ballots. Only voters who live within the City of Houston's legal boundaries are eligible to vote in the Houston Mayoral, Controller, and City Council races.

"More than 700 election workers are stationed at the 68 Voting Centers across Harris County during the early voting period, and more than 6,000 will be working at the 701 Voting Centers on Election Day, November 7," added Clerk Hudspeth. "It takes a lot of people to run an election, and I am grateful for each and every one of them."

Voters are encouraged to take advantage of Early Voting, which continues through Friday, November 3. To review

and or print a sample ballot, click here. Enter the name, address, or Voter Unique Identifier (VUID) on your voter registration certificate to view all the contests and candidates. Sample ballots are unique to an individual's address.

The following forms of photo ID are acceptable when voting in person:

—Texas Driver's License issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)

—Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS

—Texas Personal Identification Card issued by DPS

—Texas Handgun License issued by DPS

—United States Military Identification Card

containing the person's photograph

—United States Citizenship Certificate containing the person's photograph

—United States Passport (book or card)

Voters who do not possess and cannot obtain one of these forms of photo ID may fill out a Reasonable Impediment Declaration (RID) at a Vote Center and present another form of ID, such as a utility bill, bank statement, government check, or voter registration certificate.

Additional election information is available at www.HarrisVotes.com. For news and updates, follow us on social media at @HarrisVotes and @HarrisCoTxClerk.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Vote "YES" on Crosby School Bond

Dear Star-Courier Editor:

I'm writing for those who have yet to vote for the upcoming election on Nov. 7th. This letter directly addresses the local vote for the Crosby ISD Bond. As a retired teacher with CISD, education never ceases to be a concern. I currently substitute with the district, so I am still involved with Crosby ISD.

Anyone who lives in Crosby cannot ignore the influx of new housing into the Crosby-Barrett community. With that housing is an influx of young families with children! To even think the present facilities of Crosby ISD could comfortably meet the needs of these students in the immediate future is pure ignorance. The present

elementary schools will not be able to accommodate the new families.

If one thinks that portable classrooms are the answer, think again. The quality and comfort of these buildings is always questionable. Quite often the A/C or heating is challenging, but the major thought that comes to my mind is the safety issue. Portable classrooms are a security issue for child safety! All classrooms should be in one building for best protection. Ensuring the safety of a free-standing portable classroom would be a challenge for any district. Your YES vote can prevent that being an issue!

CISD Bond Proposition A will be used to fund the building of two schools, a much-needed elementary

school and a sixth-grade campus, which would be eventually converted to a second middle school. Additional funds would maintain the other campuses with roof and HVAC repair. By law, the bond will state it is a property tax increase, but your tax bill will NOT increase. After past challenges, Crosby ISD is in very strong shape financially. The present school board and administration are fiscally responsible, but also wisely preparing Crosby Independent School District for the influx of families in our immediate future. Your helping hand is needed.

Vote YES for CISD Bond Proposition A.

Ellen Beck
Crosby, TX 77532

UNIFORM ELECTION VOTING SCHEDULE

MONDAY, OCT. 23 - SATURDAY, OCT. 28	7:00 AM - 7:00 PM
SUNDAY, OCT. 29	12:00 PM - 7:00 PM
MONDAY, OCT. 30 - FRIDAY, NOV. 3	7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

ELECTION DAY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM



FOR ELECTION DAY POLLING LOCATIONS OR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: HARRISVOTES.COM

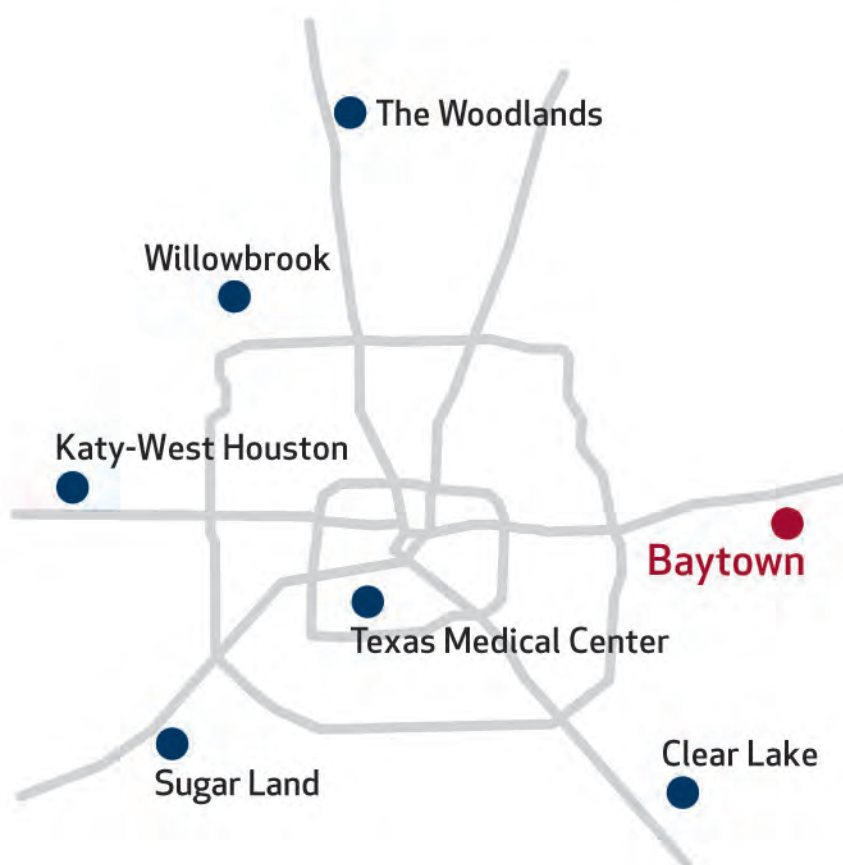




THERE'S A BETTER APPROACH TO CANCER CARE in Baytown

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.

That's the difference between practicing medicine and leading it.



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