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IN THE STARS



National Night Out in Highlands October 1st

Join your neighbors to meet the First Responders in your community: Sheriff's Deputies, Constable Deputies, and Fire Department Personnel.

Tuesday, October 1st from 5pm - 7pm at the San Jacinto Community Center, 604 Highland Woods Dr. 77562. Info call 713-274-2860.

National Night Out in Crosby October 1st

Join your neighbors for an Open House at Crosby Fire Station #1, 2502 US HWY 90; and Fire Station #2, 123 S. Diamondhead Blvd.:

Tuesday, October 1st from 6pm - 8pm. Tour the fire station, fire trucks, and have Family fun.

Huffman Fall Festival & Harvest Market Sat. Sept. 28

The May Community Center hosts its annual Fall Festival and Harvest Market on Sept. 28, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Enjoy children's games, petting zoo facepainting, hay ride, community garage sale, pet adoptions and much more. For more information, call 713-274-2434.

County votes Tax Increase; \$2.67b Budget

By Tim Carlin

HARRIS COUNTY – Harris County raised property tax rates by 7 cents per \$100, and passed a \$2.67 billion budget, over District Attorney Kim Ogg's objections. Despite last minute pushback from District Attorney Kim Ogg and the panel's lone Republican, Harris County Commissioners Court passed its \$2.67 billion budget last Thursday with the increase.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey attempted, unsuccessfully, to add back \$6 million to the Harris County District Attorney's office's budget that was removed after the district attorney's office failed to comply with a requirement that departments propose spending plans

that include potential cuts equal to 5 percent of last year's budget.

Ogg and members of her top brass spoke before the court earlier Thursday, saying that without the \$6 million the office would need to layoff experienced employees.

Harris County Budget Director Daniel Ramos rebutted the claim, saying the district attorney's current budget would carry the office through the end of the year without issue.

To assuage Ogg's concerns, the court amended the budget by instructing the county's office of management and budget to work with the district attorney's office to ensure no layoffs take place between the start of the next fiscal year in October and the beginning of 2025 when a

new district attorney will take office.

Also in this year's budget is the start of a five-year plan to help offset any future structural deficits to the county's finances. Each year, the amount of deficit reductions will vary based on necessity, Ramos said.

This year the budget includes nearly \$26 million in deficit reductions.

Those reductions largely will come in the form of revenue enhancements, much of it in a direct transfer from the Harris County Toll Road Authority. The budget only includes \$1 million in cost-cutting measures to reduce the current deficit.

The budget office identified jail costs, indigent defense, natural disasters and health care costs as key factors his office had to

take into account when creating the fiscal 2025 spending plan.

Population growth in the county jail has caused \$85 million in additional spending, Ramos wrote. When the Texas Commission on Jail Standards began decreasing the Harris County Jail's bed capacity, more spending was needed to outsource inmates.

The county's indigent defense costs also have increased in recent years. Last year alone, Harris County spent more than \$100 million on court-appointed lawyers for people who cannot afford to pay for their own legal representation.

Three natural disasters – the May 2 flooding event, the May 16 Derecho and Hurricane Beryl – will require about \$50 million in

clean-up expenses. The county, however, is anticipating the Federal Emergency Management Agency to reimburse 70 percent of those costs.

The county also is budgeting for an increase in health care costs for its employees in the next fiscal year, anticipating a "substantial" rise in medical inflation.

Raising tax rates
In addition to the budget, Commissioners Court also approved the first overall property tax rate increase in six years.

The court formally increased the overall property tax rate to 60.4 cents per \$100 of assessed value, just more than 7 cents higher than the current

Continued. See COUNTY TAX INCREASE, Page 2

Crosby High School Expands with New Classrooms and Labs, Local Students and Volunteers Shine in Community Initiatives

Hello East Harris C. and Crosby ISD families,

Let's jump right into an update on the Crosby High School expansion. As you may know, the district is adding an academic wing and expanding the CTE (Career and Technical Education) center. The additions will increase classroom space inside CHS by 50%, adding 32 new classrooms and 8 new labs. Since I last shared an update, the new academic wing has moved several steps forward. Construction crews built the pier and beam foundation in August, poured the foundation on September 7th, and are now in the process of installing steel columns. It's exciting to see the new spac-



Paula Patterson
Crosby Superintendent

es come to life for future learning opportunities. In the expanded CTE center, students will have more room to pursue their dreams in the fields of carpentry and welding. The overall expansion project is expected to be completed in the fall of 2025, with an opening for the spring semester in the

2025-26 school year.

What a wonderful time we've been having inviting business partners into our schools. Three volunteers from LyondellBasell recently spent a morning at Crosby Elementary School. Noel, Art, and Tracy visited classrooms to help read and learn with students. They visited Ms. Guzman in the computer lab and spent recess with first-grade students from Ms. Berthelot's class. They also attended Accelerated Instruction sessions with fifth graders learning from Ms. Cuellar and Ms. McPhail, while third and fourth graders studied with Ms. Ellisor and Ms. Keltz. Ms. Cuellar taught figurative language, by showing students the differences between similes and metaphors. Ms. McPhail helped reinforce context clues with dice games. In her room, Ms. Ellisor shared stories of the American Revolution to assist stu

Continued. See CROSBY SUPERINTENDENT, Page 6



Crosby High School senior Kate Valt scores her 1500th career kill during the September 20th match against Kingwood Park.

Crosby ISD resumes weekly Food Distribution

CISD feeds thousands of families in East Harris County

CROSBY – Crosby ISD is once again partnering with the Houston Food Bank to provide free drive-thru grocery distribution every Thursday for community members in need in East Harris County. During the Mobile School Market in the 2023-24 school year, more than 4000 families were provided with much-needed food. This year, we hope to help even more.

The Mobile School Market is a student-run distri-

buton program, meaning Crosby High School and Crosby Middle School students register families, bag food, and place the groceries in vehicles. Crosby ISD Superintendent, Mrs. Paula Patterson, said, "The weekly mobile market allows our students a chance to serve their communities and exemplify one of the pillars of our Portrait of a Graduate. Being service-minded is a character trait we promote in our students from pre-K to the day our seniors walk across the graduation stage. We are so proud to offer this community service while showing the

pride our students take in helping others."

The free grocery distribution program will run most Thursdays, from 9am-Noon, during the 2024-25 school year. Families are asked to line up on the visitors' side of Cougar Stadium so they can be checked in before food is distributed. The Houston Food Bank does not share personal information with any third parties.

The first distribution is scheduled for September 19, 2024. You can find all the distribution

Continued. See CISD FOOD DISTRIBUTION, Page 5

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH HONOREE - (1st of a series) Celebrating Dr. Melissa Gonzalez

By Allan Jamail

Houston, TX. ~ September 15, 2024 is the beginning of the annual celebration for Hispanic Heritage Month to be observed from September 15th until October 15th.

What is Hispanic Heritage Month? According to the Hispanic Heritage Month official website, it is observed: "by celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America." For generations, Latinx have



Dr. Melissa N. Gonzalez, President of Lone Star College Kingwood. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

contributed to the food, music, business, science, and culture that we know as American, and the 30 days that make up Hispanic Heritage Month

each fall is just one opportunity to showcase these achievements.

My first 2024 Hispanic Heritage Month Honoree is Dr. Melissa N. Gonzalez, President of Lone Star College-Kingwood. I've known Melissa for going on twenty years, I first met her when she was engaged to her husband and now Harris County's Sheriff Ed Gonzalez. When I began my interview with her for this article I've learned a lot about her that I didn't know before.

Continued. See HISPANIC HERITAGE, Page 5

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Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Crosby Municipal Utility District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on October 15, 2024 at 4:00 PM at 103 West Wahl Street, 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 property owners.

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.

For the proposal: Steve Schreiber Diane Feland
 Wesley Zarsky Eddie Foster
 Donna Davenport

Against the proposal:

Present and not voting:

Absent:

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
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.370000/\$100 <small>Adopted</small>	\$0.310000/\$100 <small>Proposed</small>
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$-0.060000
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		-16.22%
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$210,859	\$219,477
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0	\$0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$210,859	\$219,477
Tax on average residence homestead	\$780.17	\$680.38
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted(+/-)		\$-99.79
and percentage of increase (+/-)		-12.79%

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.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Crosby Municipal Utility District Defined Area 1 (DA1) will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on October 15, 2024 at 4:00 PM at 103 West Wahl Street, 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 property owners. 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.

For the proposal: Steve Schreiber Diane Feland
 Wesley Zarsky Eddie Foster
 Donna Davenport

Against the proposal:

Present and not voting:

Absent:

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
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.860000/\$100 <small>Adopted</small>	\$0.860000/\$100 <small>Proposed</small>
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.000000
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		0.00%
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$305,448	\$293,121
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0	\$0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$305,448	\$293,121
Tax on average residence homestead	\$2,626.85	\$2,520.84
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted(+/-)		\$-106.01
and percentage of increase (+/-)		-4.04%

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

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Crosby Municipal Utility District Defined Area 2 (DA2) will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on October 15, 2024 at 4:00 PM at 103 West Wahl Street, 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 property owners.

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.

For the proposal: Steve Schreiber Diane Feland
 Wesley Zarsky Eddie Foster
 Donna Davenport

Against the proposal:

Present and not voting:

Absent:

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
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.860000/\$100 <small>Adopted</small>	\$0.860000/\$100 <small>Proposed</small>
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.000000
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		0.00%
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$0	\$0
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0	\$0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$0	\$0
Tax on average residence homestead	\$0	\$0
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted(+/-)		\$0
and percentage of increase (+/-)		0%

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.

* There were no residence homesteads on January 1, 2023 or January 1, 2024, therefore the tax that would have been imposed on a residential homestead is \$0.00

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

County Tax Increase; \$2.67b Budget passed,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

levy. For the owner of a \$274,000 home – the median home value in Harris County, according to the Harris Central Appraisal District – with the standard 20 percent homestead exemption, next year's tax bill will go up about \$162. A state-imposed tax cap requires local governments to get voter approval before raising tax revenues by more than 3.5 percent. That cap, however, does not apply during declared disasters, which this year include the May derecho and Hurricane Beryl. One part of the county's property tax rate, the Harris County Flood Control District levy, is contingent upon voter approval this November. Commissioners Court is asking voters to approve a flood control rate of 3.78 cents per \$100 of assessed value – a 1.5-cent increase – to help modernize the county's flood mitigation system. If approved, the increased tax rate would generate an additional \$100 million in revenue for the Flood Control District. That money would be used to improve flood mitigation and allow the county to operate on a 67-year rehabilitation and replacement schedule. The district currently operates on a 270-year rehab and replacement rate.

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While we appreciate every donation, in some cases, we find that we are unable to accept certain vehicles, watercraft, and/or recreational vehicles due to the prohibitive costs of acquisition. If you have any questions, please give us a call at (855) 833-2924.

Barbers Hill Press

Dayton

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Mont Belvieu Trash Collection Reminders



It's important to set out your trash the right way on collection day. Here are a few tips to ensure a smooth and efficient pick-up by our Solid Waste team.

Correct Placement

Always bag your household garbage before placing it in your city-provided cart. When taking it out to the curb, make sure the handle is facing your house and the arrows on the cart are pointing toward the street. Keep your cart at least three feet away from anything like trees, parked cars, fences, mailboxes, basketball hoops, poles, and power lines. Our garbage trucks can't pick up carts that are too close to these objects.

Items Not Accepted in Your Garbage Collection

Please remember that only household garbage is accepted in your cart. Items such as tree waste, junk waste, yard trimmings, and household hazardous waste must not be placed in your garbage cart. Additionally, certain items are strictly prohibited (and even dangerous!) to throw out with your household trash, including:

- Aerosol cans
- Ammonia
- Bleach
- Cleaners
- Computer equipment
- Construction/Remodeling debris
- Dead Animals
- Fertilizers
- Fluorescent Lights
- Herbicides
- Household Chemicals
- Mirrors
- Motor oil and other automotive fluids
- Non-alkaline Batteries
- Paint Thinners
- Paints
- Pesticides
- Photographic Chemicals
- Pool Chemicals
- Sheet Glass

Following these simple steps helps make sure your trash gets picked up without any issues. For more information, visit www.montbelvieu.net/trash. Thank you for doing your part, and remember, don't be trashy... keep your cans classy!

TDI Town Hall Hears Opposition as TWIA Moves Forward with Controversial 10% Rate Hike

TDI TOWN HALL HEARS OPPOSITION AS TWIA MOVES FORWARD WITH CONTROVERSIAL 10% RATE HIKE

On Monday, September 23rd, at 9 AM at Moody Gardens, the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) hosted a public town hall to hear from TWIA

policyholders regarding the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association's (TWIA) proposed 10% rate increase. Many attendees voiced their opposition to the rate hike for all windstorm policies.

At the August TWIA Board meeting, despite receiving public comments



Mayes Middleton
Texas State Senator

from over 1,000 policyholders opposing the rate increase, the Board of Directors voted to proceed with raising rates by 10%. A letter was sent by Senator Mayes to the Board of Directors expressing opposition to this decision.

TWIA, as the insurer of last resort for the Texas

Coast, has implemented this egregious 10% rate hike, which has significantly impacted our community and made it more difficult for hardworking Coastal Texans and small businesses to afford living and working on the Texas Gulf Coast.

Karrell Hargrave Crowned 2024-2025 PI Ambassador at West Chambers County Pilot Club Ceremony

At the West Chambers County Pilot Club's annual ceremony, Jan Jones, the club's 2023-2024 PI Ambassador, proudly crowned Karrell Hargrave as the 2024-2025 PI Ambassador. The room filled with applause as Hargrave accepted her new role, symbolizing her dedication to the club and its mission.

In another highlight of the evening, Teila Ortiz was re-initiated as a member of the club. Standing alongside Membership Chair Linda Polk and President Deana Fojt, Ortiz was welcomed back with open arms. The moment marked a renewal of her commitment to the Pilot Club's service and leadership in the community.



West Chambers County Pilot Club 2023-2024 PI Ambassador Jan Jones crowns the club's 2024-2025 PI Ambassador Karrell Hargrave.



L-R West Chambers County Pilot Club Membership Chair Linda Polk, re-initiated member Teila Ortiz, and President Deana Fojt.

San Jacinto College Foundation Receives \$1.5 Million Anonymous Grant to Support Promise Campaign

The San Jacinto College Foundation continues its journey to turn dreams into realities with the announcement of an anonymous \$1.5 million grant to support the Promise campaign. The campaign supports the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship which provides graduating high school seniors living in the College's taxing district with a no-debt pathway to a certificate or associate degree at San Jacinto College.

The grant is a two-part gift that will be used to further the Foundation's mission to remove financial barriers and foster



student access and success. An initial outright gift of \$500,000 was made upon grant approval, with the remaining \$1,000,000 to be provided contingent on the Foundation raising matching funds from additional private donors. The gift match will be given in two equal installments eligible to the Foundation by Oct. 31, 2025, and Jan. 31, 2026.

The Promise @ San Jac Scholarship is at the heart of San Jacinto College's commitment to equitably provide access to higher education for all students in the region. This anonymous gift moves the Foundation much closer to its fundraising goal of a \$30 million dollar endowment, which will fund the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship program in perpetuity for

future students. "Every student should have access to a quality education, and the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship is helping us remove the financial barriers that too often stand in the way of that goal," said Robert Cage, executive director of the San Jacinto College Foundation. "Thanks to generous and transformational donations such as this, we are seeing dreams become reality for high school seniors in our community. This grant will go a long way in supporting our students' futures, and we are deeply grateful."

The San Jacinto Col-

lege Foundation believes that supporting students today is an investment in the future of the community. Through initiatives like the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship, the Foundation is ensuring that students have the resources they need to succeed and contribute to a brighter tomorrow.

For more information about the San Jacinto College Foundation and the Promise @ San Jac Scholarship, or to learn how you can help brighten the future of San Jacinto College students, visit sanjac.edu/foundation.

Baby Formula Shipped to H-E-B and CVS in Texas Recalled

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Perrigo Company, plc is asking consumers in 12 states, including Texas, to check their baby formula before consuming due to high levels of Vitamin D above the maximum level permitted.

According to the company, the product was shipped to Texas, Florida, California, South Carolina, Virginia, Indiana, Tennessee, New Jersey, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Missouri. No other products or retailers are impacted by this recall.

Perrigo said three lots within one batch, or 16,500 cans, of store brand Premium Infant Formula with Iron Milk-Based Powder was recalled on August 8. They have said there have been no reports of adverse



events to date attributed to the elevated levels of Vitamin D.

In a report, the company said they initiated the voluntary recall in consultation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

While the product was shipped to CVS on February 6, 2024, and to H-E-B Grocery Company, LP on February 2, 2024, the product has a 'use by' date of 11NOV2025 so it could



still be on the shelves of homeowners.

"For the vast majority of infants, short-term consumption of the affected lot codes is unlikely to cause adverse health implications," the company statement read. "In a small subset of physiologically vulnerable infants (e.g., impaired renal function), there is the potential that consumption of the recalled product could result in health complications.

Parents and caregivers who may have purchased the product should look for the lot codes below with "use by" dates, which can be found on the bottom of the package and should contact their health care provider if they have any concerns."

Perrigo has already taken immediate action by notifying H-E-B Grocery Company, LP and CVS directly and asking them to examine their retail and warehouse inventory and isolate the product.

Here is the information listed on cans:

Product shipped to CVS beginning February 6, 2024, being recalled:

T11LMYC-USE BY 11NOV2025
(Material: 975261, UPC: 050428318034)

Product shipped to H-E-B Grocery Compa-

ny, LP beginning February 2, 2024, being recalled:

T11LMXC-USE BY 11NOV2025
T09LMXC-USE BY 09NOV2025
(Material: 788362, UPC: 041220164578)

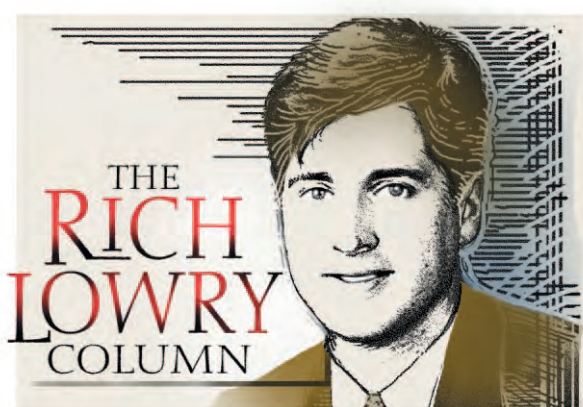
No other lot codes are impacted by this recall.

Perrigo said, "If infants experience any symptoms while using the product, report them to the FDA's MedWatch Adverse Event Reporting program online at www.fda.gov/med-watch/report.htm. Additionally, please contact your healthcare provider."

For additional questions or concerns regarding the recall or adverse events associated with these lot codes can be communicated to Perrigo Consumer Affairs at 1-800-538-9543, M-F from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. EST.

OPINION PAGE

OPINION



The real scandal in Springfield, Ohio

In what ranks as one of the most memorable debate moments in recent history, Donald Trump said that Haitian immigrants are eating people's pets in Springfield, Ohio.

No one has yet turned up evidence that this is true, although there is an audio recording of a man reporting that he witnessed four Haitian immigrants absconding with geese from a local pond.

Since everyone is always happy to see geese go someplace else, this call hasn't made much of an impression on the debate over Trump's comments, which, true to form, were the most incendiary thing he could say about Springfield.

Even if Tabby and Fido aren't on the menu in the small Ohio town, the fact remains that a place with a population of 60,000 has seen an influx of 15,000 to 20,000 Haitian immigrants since 2020, making the new arrivals a wildly disproportionate share of the population in short order.

Prior to this point, Springfield had nothing to do with Haiti, and looking at the map, a town located between Columbus and Dayton would be one of the least likely places to have anything to do with Haiti. It is very far from Little Haiti in Miami, and it had no pre-existing Haitian population or an infrastructure to provide services to Haitian Creole speakers.

No matter. Under the Biden administration's open-handed immigration policies, every place in the country has become subject to sudden, disruptive demographic change. We've seen it in big cities, where Democratic mayors have complained of the associated burdens, and now we are seeing it in a small city. To match in relative terms what's happened in Springfield, more than 2 million migrants would have had to arrive in New York City in the past several years.

Numbers matter. No one would care if there were 150 new Haitian migrants in Springfield since 2020, or 1,500. But 15,000 is a different proposition. Quantity, as they say, has a quality all of its own.

To be clear, Haitian immigrants (many permitted here legally under Biden policy) didn't begin showing up in Springfield hoping to filch unsuspecting domestic short hairs. Rather, they were looking for work in a city that was seeing something of an economic revival. That's all well and good, but people are more than cogs to be plugged into warehouses or manufacturing operations.

They come with families and with needs for housing, health care and education. They have pre-existing cultural predilections different from ours (Haiti and the United States are very different places), and if they don't speak the language, that makes everything even more difficult. Nor are resources unlimited. Health care facilities, schools and the housing stock have all been strained in Springfield.

The New York Times reports that consultations began to take three times as long at the local community health center. The head of the clinic told the paper: "We lost productivity. We had huge burnout of staff." It hired six Haitian Creole speakers, and annual spending on translation services increased from \$43,000 in 2020 to \$436,000.

The school district, according to the Times, has had to hire two dozen new English-as-a-second-language instructors and several interpreters.

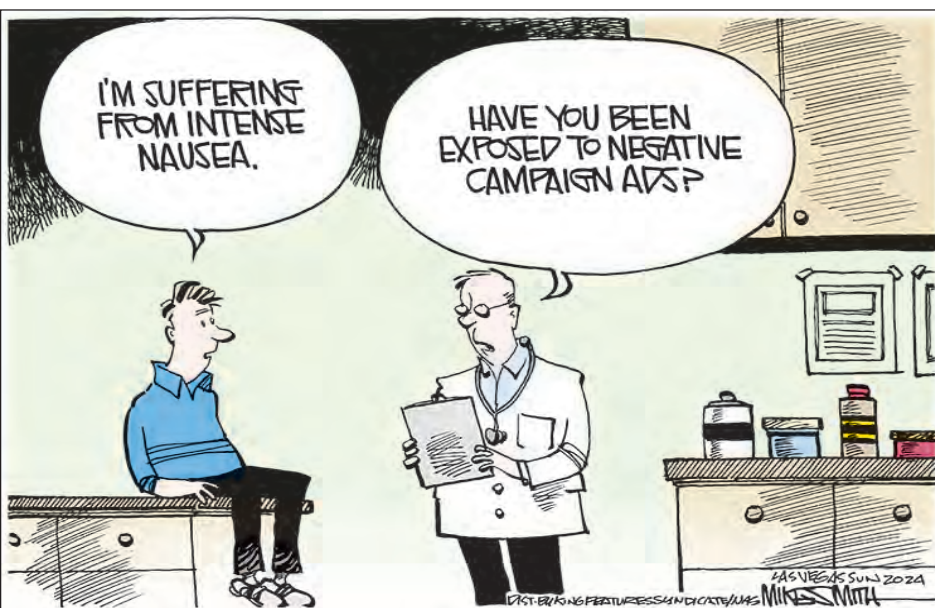
The city manager, Bryan Heck, wrote a letter to U.S. senators saying that the influx is "putting a significant strain on our resources and ability to provide ample housing for all of our residents." The Haitians also tend to be poor drivers. Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has pledged help from the state highway patrol.

News reports often dismiss the concerns of residents as ill-informed or xenophobic. Their complaints about the costs and disorder associated with the wave of immigration are legitimate, though, and the sense that the town has undergone a large-scale change that no one was consulted about is very real. Who signed up to become a laboratory for Biden's experiment in permitting Haitians to come to and stay in the United States?

The cats and dogs may be safe and sound, but all is not right in Springfield.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Border Patrol Faulted in Uvalde School Shooting

A 200-page report from the Department of Homeland Security faulted U.S. Border Patrol agents who rushed to the Uvalde school shooting in 2022, concluding they "failed to establish command and had inadequate training" in one of the deadliest classroom attacks.

The Dallas Morning News reported. A lone shooter killed 19 students and two teachers inside a classroom during a 70-minute standoff before a tactical team led by the Border Patrol went inside and killed him. "The failure of arriving law enforcement personnel to establish identifiable incident management or command and control protocols led to a disorganized response to the Robb Elementary School shooting," the report stated. "No law enforcement official ever clearly established command at the school during the incident, leading to delays, inaction, and potentially further loss of life." Two Uvalde school officers have been indicted for allegedly failing to act promptly and have pleaded not guilty. The victims' families have filed a \$500 million federal lawsuit against those who responded to the shooting.

VEHICLE INSPECTIONS END IN 2025

Texas car safety inspections will no longer be required in 2025, after HB 3297 passed the Legislature in 2023.

The Austin American-Statesman reported inspections end Jan. 1, though drivers living in and near major Texas cities will still be required to take their vehicles in for emission tests. Although actual inspection is ending, all noncommercial vehicles in Texas still will be charged a \$7.50 inspection fee when the vehicle is registered with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. Counties requiring emission tests to comply with federal clean-air requirements are Brazoria, Collin, Dallas, Denton, El Paso, Ellis, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Johnson, Kaufman, Montgomery, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, Travis and Williamson. Costs range from \$11.50 to \$35.50, depending on what tests are required. Diesel vehi-



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

cles and motorcycles are exempt from emissions testing.

DEER DISEASE THREATENS STATE'S BREEDING INDUSTRY

Texas deer breeders say their livelihoods are threatened by steps being taken by the state to limit chronic wasting disease, The Texas Tribune reported. The easily transmissible disease has been detected in Texas since 2012. As of August, 387 cases have been reported this year in 31 of the state's 254 counties. This includes cases in 34 captive breeding facilities. The disease gradually erodes a deer's neurological functions. It is not known to infect humans. "This disease is literally eating holes in the deer's brain," Kip Adams, a wildlife biologist with the National Deer Association, said. Breeders in areas where CWD has been reported can't sell or transport their deer outside the state-declared containment zone. Breeders have complained that having a facility inside a containment zone has hurt business. Breeders who have a deer with CWD are required to either euthanize their remaining deer herd or perform additional testing in order to segregate deer who test negative.

PUC SECURES REFUNDS, CREDITS

The Public Utility Commission has secured refunds and bill credits totaling \$502,982 for Texas electric, water and telecommunications customers for fiscal year 2024, which ended Aug. 31. Nearly 13,000 complaints were filed by consumers during the fiscal year. "Protecting consumers is the first commit-

ment listed in our agency's mission statement, and our staff works every day to make sure Texas utility consumers are treated fairly and receive high quality service," Chris Burch, with the PUC, said. The bulk of refunds and credits were for electric customers. Customers who believe they were unfairly charged can file a complaint at puc.texas.gov/consumer/complaint.

BITCOIN PLANT EXPANSION FACES BACKLASH IN NORTH TEXAS

A proposal to build a new 300-megawatt power plant next to two existing neighborhoods in Granbury drew about 150 angry residents to a public meeting hosted by the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality last week. Marathon Digital, a Florida-based cryptocurrency company, operates a 300-megawatt bitcoin mine on property owned by Constellation Energy, according to the San Antonio Express-News. Residents have complained about the constant noise coming from thousands of fans used to cool the banks of computers processing bitcoin transactions. Constellation hopes to erect eight new turbines powered by natural gas to generate additional electricity and has applied for air permits to release nearly 800,000 added tons of carbon dioxide each year.

Residents near the plant objected. "It's not right. Y'all moved in on top of us. We didn't move in on y'all," said Nick Browning, who lives about 800 feet from the property. Texas leads the nation in bitcoin mining, which is an electronic payment system that forgoes use of banks and credit card companies and requires vast amounts of computing power. TCEQ officials have not decided whether to grant a permit for a new plant. Constellation says the new plant would only operate about 40% of the year and "would be prohibited from directly serving industrial load," such as bitcoin. However, opponents say the new plant would allow existing plants to be used for more bitcoin mining than being done now.

TEXTING SCAMS TARGET TXTAG CUSTOMERS

Toll customers in Texas are being targeted by scammers claiming the customer has a balance due or past due, according to the Texas Department of Transportation. The agency is working to have fraudulent websites taken down. While TxTag does communicate with customers via email, text and phone, it does not send text messages concerning final payment reminders or past-due balances. Customers can report messages they believe to be fraudulent by calling 1-88-468-9824 or going online to TxTag.org. "TxTag takes customer account security and verification very seriously," the news release said. All customers are required to confirm their account information and verify their identity upon contacting TxTag.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Reputable Source



I have a problem with inspirational quotes.

"You are never too old to set a new goal or to dream another dream," is a quote attributed to C.S. Lewis. He didn't say it.

"It is never too late to be what you might have been" is something George Eliot is supposed to have said. She never said that, either.

I could keep on going, but it's a safe bet that, if you read it on Facebook and it is attributed to Mother Teresa, Einstein or Keanu Reeves, they almost certainly did not say it.

For the longest time, I'd hop on Facebook and debunk a quote and, while it was satisfying to let folks know that Einstein was much too busy making discoveries to say the things he supposedly had said, and Mother Teresa did not spend her time writing poetry, I don't think I made anyone any happier by pointing it out.

I thought it was important to set the record straight. But what I finally realized was that inspiration doesn't inspire us because it comes from a reputable source. The real reason the quotes incorrectly attributed to George Eliot and C.S. Lewis troubled me was because I worried they were incorrect in more ways than one.

George Eliot died at 61. C.S. Lewis was dead by 64. Maybe they didn't say it was never too late, or you were never too old because, in fact, it sometimes is too late, and maybe I am too old. This is the sort of thing I worry about, some of the time. I wonder if I might be showing up a little too late for some of my dreams.

I consider myself a very fortunate person. I've gotten to do so many interesting things in my life, and I spend every day doing things I genuinely enjoy. But sometimes, I look at the careers of people I admire, and I realize they didn't dither around as long as I did. They stuck with one thing from a very early age. While here I am, at 62, looking forward to a first novel that won't be published until I'm 63, and I wonder (because how could I not?) if I didn't get kind of a late jump on things.

Of course, none of us knows how much time we get. So many authors and artists I admire died very young. They made this huge splash, and their ripples are still being felt, but they didn't live long. I like to imagine that, since I eat a lot of broccoli and don't drink bourbon, I might squeeze out more than the expected number of years to write things and tell my stories. I like to think that the actuarial tables do not apply to me. But, of course, they do.

And, because they do, I will do what I can with whatever time I have left.

I'll do this because I believe with every fiber of my being that starting late is so much better than never starting at all. And I'll do it because knowing that life is short (no matter how long it is) provides my greatest incentive to make this time—now—matter.

And, honestly, I don't care how much or how little I am remembered after I die. I'd just as soon make room for new people to tell their stories when the time comes. My goal is to make meaning of life now. To be useful today. Maybe even offer a little inspiration—even if I am not the most reputable source.

Till next time, Carrie

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FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 4: District play starts up for High School teams: #2 Georgia visits #4 Alabama in early season showdown

In college action, all eyes will be on Tuscaloosa when No. 2-ranked Georgia visits No. 4-ranked Alabama in a key early-season contest in the SEC. Two weeks ago, the Bulldogs struggled at one-win Kentucky and escaped with a 12-12 victory, while the Crimson Tide rolled on the road at Wisconsin with a 42-10 drubbing of the Badgers. That was an impressive road win for first-year 'Bama head coach Kalen DeBoer and had to assuage some Crimson Tide fence sitters who have a wary eye toward the man who replaced the legendary Nick Saban. So, far, so good for DeBoer in Tuscaloosa. Saturday will be his first real test.

In other key games this weekend, No. 25-ranked Texas A&M takes on Arkansas at AT&T Stadium in Arlington. Two weeks ago, the Aggies snapped a 10-game SEC game road losing streak with an impressive 33-20 win in the Swamp against Florida. Backup QB Marcel Reed filled in nicely for the injured Conner Weigman (shoulder) and might be the man to take over A&M offense. He's more mobile than Weigman and is a competent passer.

In the Big 12, No. 13-ranked Kansas State hosts No. 14-ranked Oklahoma State, while No. 17-ranked Notre Dame hosts No. 19-ranked Louisville in an important game for both team's CFP prospects.

In the NFL, Week 4 starts with Thursday Night Football as the Cowboys look to get back on track against a woeful Giants team in The Meadowlands. Two weeks ago, the Saints thoroughly embarrassed Jerry Jones' team with a 44-19 thrashing of the Pokes in their home opener. New Orleans rushed for 242 yards as Alvin Kamara accounted for four TDs (3 rushing, 1 receiving). If Dallas doesn't fix its run defense, it could be a long season for the Cowboys and head coach Mike McCarthy.

The Texans, who won their first two games of the season, host Jacksonville (0-2 after their first two) in a key AFC South contest at NRG Stadium. Kansas City visits the Chargers in a key AFC West game. Sunday Night Football features Buffalo at disappointing Baltimore (another 0-2 team after two weeks) and we get another doubleheader for Monday Night Football with Seattle visiting Detroit in the nightcap. The early game will feature Tennessee at Miami.

Before we take a look at this weekend's games, let's review last week's record. Another 8-4 week brought the season record to 26-10, (72%).

NCAA

Texas A&M vs. Arkansas - These two will meet for the last time at Jerry World before this series reverts to a home-and-home series in 2025. Two weeks ago, Mike Elko's team looked strong on both sides of the football with its dominating win at Florida. If Weigman (225 yards, 2 TDs) is unable to go, Reed (249 yards, 3 TDs) will be a capable replacement. The Ags also have a strong running game led by Le'Veon Moss (264 yards, 3 TDs) and Amari Daniels (163 yards, 2 TDs). The Hogs won two of their first three games, with the lone loss being a 39-33 triple OT loss at Oklahoma State. Arkansas is led by dual threat QB Taylor Green (806 passing yards, 3 TDs/245 rushing yards, 4 TDs), running back Ja'Quinden Jackson (397 yards, 6 TDs) and wide receiver Andrew Armstrong (18 receptions, 301 yards). This will be the biggest test yet for the Aggie defense. I think they pass. My pick, Texas A&M 31, Arkansas 23

Oklahoma State at Kansas St. - A good one in the Big 12 as the offensive-minded Cowboys visit the defensive-minded Wildcats on Saturday. Both teams won their first three games and the Cowboys are loaded on offense behind QB Alan Bowman (989 yards, 9 TDs) running back Ollie Gordon (194 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receivers De'Zhaun Stribling (17 receptions, 295 yards, 2 TDs) and Brennan Presley (23 receptions, 172 yards, 3 TDs). That unit will be tested by a KSU defense that limited high-scoring Arizona to just seven points two weeks ago in a 31-7 Wildcat win. KSU has offensive weapons as well in QB Avery Johnson (490 passing yards, 6 TDs/157 rushing yards), running back DJ Gidden (324 yards, 1 TD), wide receiver Jayce Brown (9



KEENEY'S KORNER
By
MIKE KEENEY

receptions, 148 yards) and tight end Brayden Loftin (6 receptions, 86 yards, 2 TDs). KSU is tough and home, which OSU will discover come Saturday. My pick, Kansas State 34, Oklahoma State 31

Louisville at Notre Dame - The surprising Louisville Cardinals visit Notre Dame on Saturday in a game both teams desperately need to win to keep their CFP hopes alive, especially ND. Three weeks ago, the Irish were stunned at home by Northern Illinois, 16-14, but rebounded with a 66-7 pasting on the road against Purdue. QB Riley Leonard (433 passing yards, 2 TDs/179 rushing yards, 4 TDs) played his best game thus far in a ND jersey and he will need a similar performance against the 'Ville. The Irish will also count on big-play running back Jeramiyah Love (279 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver Beau Collins (12 receptions, 116 yards) to make plays against the Cardinals. Louisville has a high-scoring offense as evidenced by averaging 55 points in their first two games. They are led by former Oregon and Texas Tech QB Tyler Shough (581 yards, 6 TDs), running back Isaac Brown (161 yards, 1 TD) and wide receiver Ja'Corey Brooks (13 receptions, 172 yards, 1 TD). ND head coach Marcus Freeman knows his team can afford another loss and he will have them pumped for this one on Saturday. My pick, Notre Dame 36, Louisville 31

Georgia at Alabama - What a conference opener for both teams as the No. 2-ranked Bulldogs visit the No. 4-ranked Crimson Tide in prime time on Saturday night on ABC. Both teams had an extra week to prepare for this game and that's good news for the Georgia offense which struggled at Kentucky two weeks ago and escaped with a 13-12 win. The 'Dawgs still have one of the best QBs in the county in Carson Beck (680 yards, 7 TDs) and he will need help from running back Trevor Etienne (157 yards) and wide receivers Dominic Lovett (12 receptions, 155 yards, 1 TD) and Arian Smith (11 receptions, 142 yards, 1 TD). The Georgia defense is its usual solid self, allowing just 24 points in its first three games, but it will get its biggest test against a 'Bama offense that features perhaps the best dual threat QB in the country in Jalen Milroe (595 passing yards, 8 TDs/156 rushing yards, 6 TDs). The Tide have also have a couple capable backs in Jam Miller (265 yards, 3 TDs) and Justice Haynes (160 yards, 2 TDs) and big-play wideouts in true freshman Ryan Williams (10 receptions, 225 yards, 4 TDs) and Germie Bernard (8 receptions, 125 yards, 1 TD). This should be a tight game, but I'm going with the home crowd to carry the Tide to the finish line and give DeBoer his biggest win to date at Alabama. My pick, Alabama 26, Georgia 23

NFL

Dallas at New York Giants - Week 4 of the NFL season begins with Thursday Night Football with the Cowboys taking on the Giants in an NFC East battle. Two weeks ago, Dallas was dominated at home by the Saints enroute to a 44-19 shellacking. The lack of a running game has already become an issue for Dallas. After two games, their leading rusher is Rico Dowdle with a paltry 56 yards. That won't get it done in the NFL. Without a running threat, defenses can concentrate on pressuring QB Dak Prescott (472 yards, 2 TDs/2 interceptions) and doubling big-play wide receiver Ceedee Lamb (9 receptions, 151 yards, 2 TDs). The good thing for Dallas is that they are playing an awful Giants team led by underperforming QB Daniel Jones (364 yards, 2 TDs/2 picks). NY does have a star in the making in rookie wideout Malik Nabers (15 receptions, 193 yards, 1 TD). The Dallas defense should get enough pressure on Jones to force a turnover or two and carry the Cowboys to a win, and perhaps, make Giants head coach Brian Daboll the first head coach to lose his job this season.

My pick, Dallas 31, New York Giants 13

Jacksonville at Houston - The Jaguars, who dropped their first two games, visit the Texans, winners of their first two, on Sunday at NRG Stadium. Jaguars QB Trevor Lawrence (382 yards, 1 TD) and the offense have struggled early, but there's too much talent on that side of the ball to keep them down all season. The Houston defense needs to stop running back Travis Etienne (96 yards, 2 TDs) and set its sights on Lawrence. Houston won a tough, 19-13 game two weeks ago against the Bears on Sunday Night Football as the defense came up with seven sacks and two interceptions. Look for Texans QB C.J. Stroud (494 yards, 3 TDs) to continue feeding talented wideouts Nice Collins (14 receptions, 252 yards, 1 TD) and Stefan Diggs (10 receptions, 70 yards, 2 TDs). Running back Joe Mixon (184 yards, 1 TD) sustained an ankle injury against the Bears and if he can't go, backup Cam Akers will get the brunt of the carries. Look for another all around effort by the Texans as they continue to look like one of the best teams in the AFC. My pick, Houston 34, Jacksonville 23

Kansas City at Los Angeles Chargers - A key early-season contest in the AFC West has the defending Super Bowl champs visiting one of the NFL's early-season surprises in the Chargers. First-year LA head coach Jim Harbaugh led his team to two wins to start the season behind QB Justin Herbert (274 yards, 3 TDs), running back J.K. Dobbins (266 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receiver Quinton Johnson (8 receptions, 89 yards, 2 TDs). LA has also played well on defense allowing just 13 points in their first two games. That unit will get its first real test when Patrick Mahomes (442 yards, 3 TDs) and the Chiefs come to town. KC has lost starting running back Isiah Pacheco for a minimum of eight weeks with a fractured fibula, so look for Mahomes to get struggling tight end Travis Kelce (4 receptions, 39 yards) going. Wide receiver Rashee Rice (12 receptions, 178 yards, 1 TD) has become Mahomes go-to guy, but don't count Kelce out just yet. Look for the Chargers to pull off the upset this week at SoFi Stadium thanks to its defense. My pick, Los Angeles Chargers 23, Kansas City 20

Buffalo at Baltimore - The hot Bills visit the struggling Ravens on Sunday Night Football. Baltimore lost its first two games, one at KC and one at home to the Raiders, while the Bills rolled to wins over the Cardinals and Dolphins. Buffalo QB Josh Allen (371 passing yards, 3 TDs/41 rushing yards, 2 TDs) is off to a fast start, as is running back James Cook (149 yards, 3 total TD). Allen has found a new go-to receiver in Khalil Shakir (8 receptions, 100 yards, 1 TD). The Ravens still have dual threat QB Lamar Jackson (520 passing yards, 2 TDs/167 rushing yards) and a new runner in Derek Henry (130 yards, 2 TDs). Tight end Isaiah Lively (11 receptions, 137 yards, 1 TD) and wide receiver Zay Flowers (13 receptions, 125 yards, 1 TD) are helping out Jackson, but the defense must step up its game. Something tells me they will on Sunday night. My pick, Baltimore 26, Buffalo 22

Seattle at Detroit - The second game of the Monday Night doubleheader should be a good one as Seattle visits Detroit. Offense should be the name of the game in this one as Geno Smith (498 yards, 2 TDs), DK Metcalf (13 receptions, 158 yards, 1 TD) and Jaxson Smith-Njigba (14 receptions, 136 yards) trade blows with Jared Goff (524 yards, 1 TD), David Montgomery (126 yards, 2 TDs), Jahmyr Gibbs (124 yards), Jameon Williamson (10 receptions, 200 yards, 1 TD) and Amon-Ra St. Brown (14 receptions, 132 yards). The Lions were upset at home two weeks ago by Tampa Bay, I don't expect that to happen on Monday night. My pick, Detroit 33, Seattle 26



SCORES & SCHEDULES WEEK 4

LAST WEEK'S SCORES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
Baytown Sterling 56, Houston Chavez 0

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
Aldine, bye
Aldine Davis, bye
Aldine Eisenhower, bye
Aldine MacArthur, bye
Barbers Hill 49, Richmond Foster 7
C. E. King, bye
Channelview, bye
Crosby, bye
Goose Creek Memorial, bye
Huffman Hargrave, bye
Iowa Colony 63, Baytown Lee 14
North Shore, bye

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
Galena Park 20, Houston Sterling 18

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
C. E. King at Atascocita, 7 p.m., Turner Stadium in Humble
Crosby at Pasadena, 6:30 p.m., Veterans Memorial Stadium in Pasadena
Galveston Ball at Baytown Sterling, 6:30 p.m., Stallworth Stadium in Baytown
Humble at North Shore, 7 p.m., Galena Park ISD Stadium in Houston
Nimitz at Aldine MacArthur, 7 p.m., W. W. Thorne Stadium in Houston

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
Barbers Hill at Lufkin, 7 p.m., Abe Martin Stadium in Lufkin
Baytown Lee at Texas City, 7 p.m., Stingaree Stadium in Texas City
Eisenhower at Aldine Davis, 7 p.m., W. W. Thorne Stadium in Houston
Huffman Hargrave at Liberty, 7:30 p.m., Memorial Stadium in Liberty
Kingwood at Goose Creek Memorial, 7 p.m., Stallworth Stadium in Baytown
Milby at Galena Park, 7 p.m., Galena Park ISD Stadium (Homecoming) in Houston
Summer Creek at Channelview, 7 p.m., Ray Maddry Stadium in Channelview

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
Dekaney at Aldine, 6 p.m., Planet Ford Stadium in Spring

Crosby Food Distribution,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
dates for the 2024-25 school year here: www.crosbyisd.org/mobilemarket

If any media outlet would like to take video or photos of our weekly event, please reach out to Crosby ISD Director of Communications, Mr. Brett Birkinbine. ### Crosby ISD Crosby ISD serves the needs of more than 7000 children in the communities of Crosby and Barrett Station in East Harris County, Texas. Our mission is to produce literate, responsible citizens capable of learning and applying academic and social skills successfully in any life setting. For more information, visit crosbyisd.org

In Highlands and Crosby Everyone reads the STAR-COURIER. Your Hometown Newspaper.

Hispanic Heritage, Dr. Melissa Gonzalez

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Dr. Gonzalez said, "I am excited and humbled to be featured in this article, which highlights my work and contributions to education, especially during the meaningful celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. It's an honor to be recognized, and I'm truly grateful for it."

Gonzalez has earned a Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy) and she's been the President of Houston Community College-Kingwood since 2021. Dr. Gonzalez holds a bachelor's degree in business administration, an MBA and doctorate in international business management from the University of Texas-Pan American. She was formerly the President at Houston Community College-Southeast.

Prior to her position at HCC, Dr. Gonzalez was Vice Chancellor of Workforce and Economic Development at Lone Star College in Houston, Texas. She began her higher education career as an Associate Professor of Management at the University of Houston-Clear Lake and was also an adjunct professor at the University of Houston-Downtown.

As a child growing up in Alamo, Texas, in the Rio Grande Valley, Dr. Gonzalez faced a cycle of poverty too often encountered by Hispanic females. The cycle was broken, however, by her parents' decision to invest in her education. After graduating from P.S.J.A. High School (Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD), where she played a clarinet in the band and tennis she found herself on the path to success. "I want others to know how important education is and how it can change one's life as it did mine," Gonzalez said.

While in graduate school, she began her teaching career as a GED instructor for a TEA Region VI program targeting single mothers in the Rio Grande Valley. Her passion for helping others fulfill their dreams and to change their lives had and has become a personal journey and mission. "A student once told me, because of me, they did not give up on their dream of finishing their degree, that meant so much to me," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said, "College wasn't always easy, but overcoming challenges, both academically and personally, helped me become more resilient and adaptable. Those experiences prepared me to face the unpredictable nature of life and work with confidence. While in school the best advice I ever received was, *do not be embarrassed to ask for help.*"

While a professor, Dr. Gonzalez pursued basic and applied research in the areas of cross-cultural management, management education, maquiladoras in Mexico (foreign companies operating in Mexico) and Hispanic career paths. Her articles have been accepted for presentation and/or publication at over thirty regional, national and international conferences. She has presented in hundreds of academic and community events in the subject of international business management, higher education, women's career paths and topics related to the Hispanic community.

She has a morning ritual of exercising and de-

votional time. "It is important to start the day off right with spiritual and physical activities. I enjoy running, cycling, studying the Bible and listening to Tejano music. My favorite food to eat is seafood and I like cooking Mexican food," she said.

Her favorite professional sports team is the Astros, Rockets and she loves the Dallas Cowboys. Her favorite college sports team is the Houston Cougar's teams.

Two of Dr. Gonzalez goals are; one is she's started working on a book about the love letters her dad sent to her mom while he was serving in the U.S. Army. At the time, her mom was his fiancée, and the letters capture a unique and personal glimpse into her dad's experiences and the love they had for each other.

She said, "Another goal is to create more educational programs and opportunities for underserved communities. I want to help close the educational gap and provide more accessible pathways to higher education for students who face barriers."

In the community, Dr. Gonzalez serves on the Board of Directors of the Gulf Coast Workforce Board, Chair of the Greater East Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, Board member for Humble Area Assistance Ministries (HAAM), Advisory Council member for University of Houston-Downtown, College of Public Service, and University of Houston-Clear Lake, College of Education. She also serves on the board of HCA-Kingwood, Work Texas, and City of Houston-Mayor's Office of Adult Literacy.

Dr. Gonzalez has received numerous honors and recognitions for her service in education, some recent accomplishments include Woman of the Year in Education from Mujer Hispana 2024, 2024 Greater Houston Women Chamber of Commerce-Women in the Fast Lane of STEAM Honoree, 2023 Mission Northeast Community Leader, 2023 Family Time Women of Achievement, 2019 D'Mars Top 30 Women in Houston, one of Houston 50 Most Influential Women of 2017, Houston Women Magazine- 2017 Honoree for Education, Solo Mujeres and 2016 Women of Now Inductee.

The President of the Houston's Most Influential Women said, "We recognize deserving women who are successes in their professions and who possess a servant-spirit. Being selfless is something one cannot forget on the path to success. And we cannot forget that women, while they are achieving in their professional lives, also are wearing the important hats of being a wife, mother, caregiver, church member, and volunteer in their communities."

Dr. Gonzalez and her husband Edward, together have four beautiful daughters and two dogs.

She loves animals, they have two small ShihTzus doggies, and their names are Benji and Bellie. This next summer she's excited about her family going on their first cruise.

Crosby High School Expands, New Classrooms and labs sets for 2025,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dents in their comprehension of narrative non-fiction. We have some proud Cougar parents among the LyondellBasell crew. Noel is a proud mom of a CES second grader, and Art's daughter graduated from Crosby High School in 2020. We appreciate Lyondell-Basell and its employees for being such a big support of the students and staff members in our district. They did a great job on lunch duty, too!

The Cougars' Bistro at Crosby High School returned this month. We are so proud of the student-chefs who create the menus, order the ingredients, and cook the lunches. The goal is for each of the seniors enrolled in Culinary Arts classes to be ServSafe Manager certified by the end of the school year. This month, the head chefs were Noah Franco and Sean Harris. If you would like to order future meals, please visit the Crosby High School website and click on the Cougars' Bistro button at the top of the page. The Bistro will be open most Tuesdays and Wednesdays this school year. Meal orders include dine-in or to-go options.

One of our big initiatives this year is "write a little lot." We want our students to write short summaries of what they learn in order to better develop their problem solving and critical thinking skills. We're even seeing this initiative come to life in PE Class. Recently, Coach Whigham at Crosby Elementary School asked her 5th graders to run fast laps and then write about how

they felt during the 5-minute runs. Their writings are now proudly displayed on the wall. Kadence loved the race and wrote all about it: "It is fun running all the time, because you can get more exercise during running and you can also get a little more exercise in your legs." Well said, Kadence!

Our Technology Services team has been hosting parent engagement nights teaching important lessons. On August 29th, technicians shared best practices using our new communications platform, ParentSquare. Then, on September 12th, parents learned the basics of using Skyward Gradebook to check student grades and absences, etc. The technology team will host more parent education sessions soon. Upcoming topics include social media safety and Scholology.

Turning to athletics. Congratulations to Crosby High School senior, Kate Valt! She scored 1500 career kills in the match against Kingwood Park on September 20th. That is a huge milestone in a student-athlete's career. Job well done, Kate! We will be celebrating National Coaches Day on October 6th, and I am so thrilled to see five Crosby High School graduates coaching on the sidelines this football season. Craig Williams (Class of 2018), Jalen Harrison (Class of 2016), Michael "MJ" Mathis (Class of 2010), Brushund Terrell (Class of 2001), and Stephen LaSalle (Class of 2001) have all returned to teach and coach the next generation. Our students



Five Crosby High School alumni serve as football coaches at Crosby High School this year. From left to right: Craig Williams (Class of 2018); Jalen Harrison (Class of 2016); Michael MJ Mathis (Class of 2010); Brushund Terrell (Class of 2001); and Stephen LaSalle (Class of 2001). Superintendent Patterson during the October Board of Trustees meeting.

have a chance to see their future selves in these alumni each day.

Lastly, our Cougars are finding meaning and purpose in serving others. Our Mobile School Market weekly grocery distribution returned this month. Student-athletes from Crosby High School boys and girls basketball teams volunteered to hand out food to families in need from Crosby / Barrett Station and beyond. We celebrate our students for seizing on opportunities to exemplify being service-minded – one of the cornerstones of our Portrait of a Graduate. Helping families facing tough times is the epitome of being service-minded.

The student-run drive-through distribution at Cougar Stadium will continue most Thursdays during the school year. Anyone in need is welcome.

We are Committed to Excellence! Go Coogs!



The foundation has been poured and now steel columns are going up for the new academic wing at Crosby High School. The expansion will 32 classrooms and 8 labs to CHS. The project is expected to be completed in late fall of 2025.



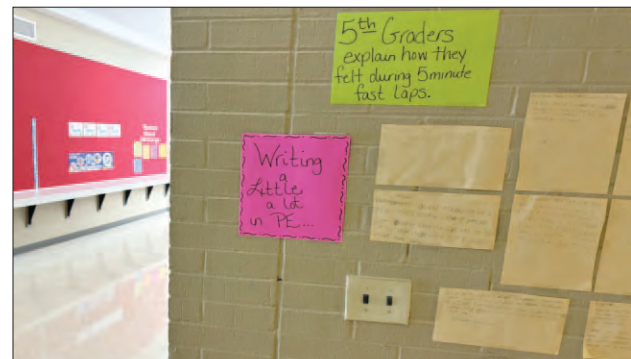
Business partner volunteers from LyondellBasell enjoyed their time volunteering at Crosby Elementary School. Noel Escalante assisted students in the CES computer lab.



The student-run restaurant, The Cougars' Bistro, reopened at Crosby High School this month. Senior Sean Harris and freshman Noah Franco served as head chefs this month.



LyondellBasell employees volunteered at Crosby Elementary School as part of Crosby ISD's "Business Partner of the Month" program. Tracy Rodriguez, Art Board, and Noel Escalante visited classrooms.



5th grade students at Crosby Elementary were asked to "write a little lot" about their recent five-minute fast laps. "Write a little lot" is a new initiative to assist student comprehension and boost critical thinking skills.

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34-2T

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LEGAL NOTICE **LEGAL NOTICE** **LEGAL NOTICE** **LEGAL NOTICE**

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code that **CROSBY BOAT, RV & MINI STORAGE**, located at 15118A FM 2100, Crosby Texas 77532, will hold an online sale from October 7th to October 14th until 10:00 o'clock a.m., at the following link <http://wbauctioncrosby.hibid.com/auction/current> to sell for cash only the contents of Unit H-23, Kyle Skelton in order to satisfy a Landlord's Lien. The property to be sold is Washer, Dryer, a push Lawnmower, Toys, Furniture and etc.....

37-2T

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Brad Pitt, left, and George Clooney star in "Wolfs."

"Wolfs"

"WOLFS" (R) — Following its premiere at the recent Venice International Film Festival...

other than Ryan Murphy (creator of "American Horror Story"). For his latest horror series...

series, the second season has just been released for viewers to binge. This season tells the true story of Lyle and Erik Menendez...

"WISE GUY: DAVID CHASE AND THE SOPRANOS" (TV-MA) — This two-part documentary series explores the making of the legendary HBO series...

"MONSTERS: THE LYLE AND ERIK MENENDEZ STORY" (TV-MA) — Speaking of Ryan Murphy and his "Monster" anthology...

HOLLYWOOD by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Amy Adams, who played Lois Lane in "Man of Steel" and Princess Giselle in "Enchanted"...

"I'm never going to be smart, happy or thin ever again," Adams says, in character, in the trailer. "Oh, and I'm pretty sure I'm turning into a dog!"



Amy Adams (Upcoming in "Nightbitch")

After being eclipsed by Margot Robbie in "Barbie" and Emily Blunt in "The Fall Guy"...

Here come remakes, sequels, and explicit film titles! Sony plans to remake the 1987 classic "La Bamba"...

"The Lord of the Rings" trilogy grossed \$2.988 billion, while the three "Hobbit" films grossed nearly \$2.938 billion...

Serkis has done voice and motion capture for "The Lord of the Rings" films, "King Kong" (2005), "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" (2014), and "Star Wars: The

Rise of Skywalker" (2019). He's also starred on screen as Alfred in "The Batman" (2022).

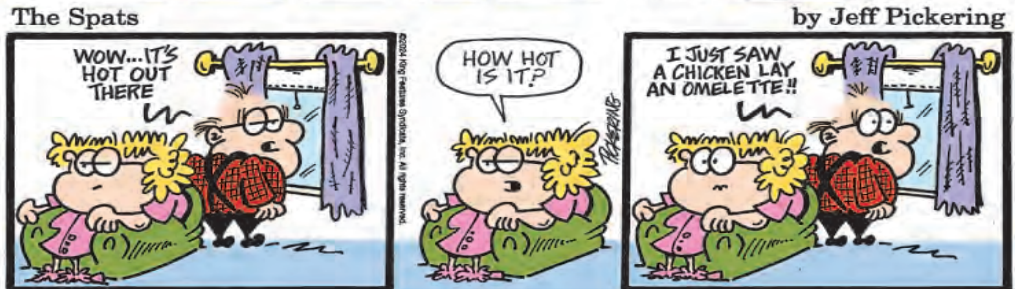
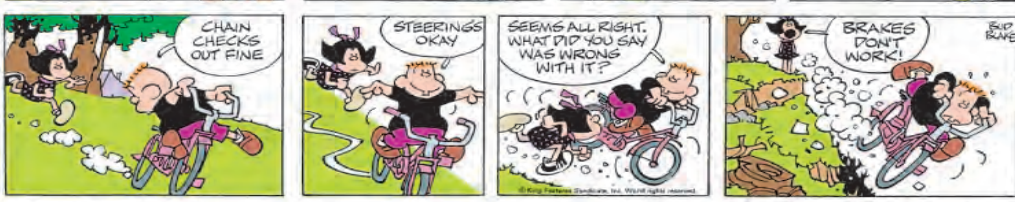
Danial Craig's new film "Queer" got a 9-minute standing ovation at the Venice Film Festival. After all, it's not everyday James Bond goes gay!

Director Luca Guadagnino ("Call Me by Your Name") earned the trust of his two stars, and Craig admitted, "We all know there's nothing intimate about filming a sex scene on a movie set ... so we just wanted to make it as touching, real and natural as we possibly could."

Craig and his actress wife, Rachel Weisz, were totally at ease with the love scenes. It's called acting, and he's one of our best!

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



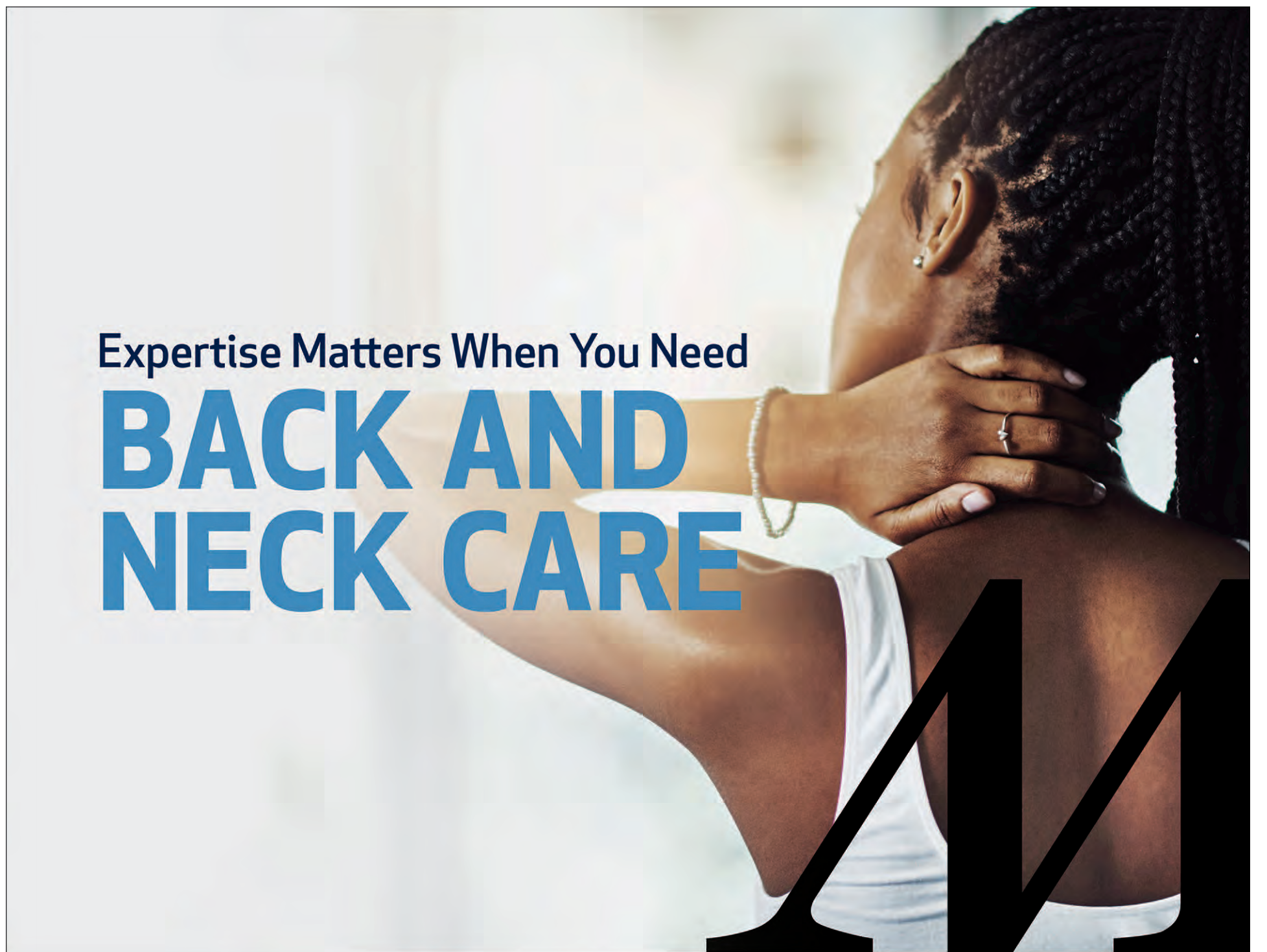
Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. Includes a 9x9 grid and difficulty level: Moderate.

HOCUS-FOCUS by Henry Boltinoff. Includes a 2x2 grid of panels and a list of differences.

September 23, 2024 Posting Date King Crossword. Includes a crossword grid and a list of clues.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez. Includes a list of 10 trivia questions and a weekly sudoku.

Answers for King Crossword and Trivia test. Includes solutions for the crossword and trivia questions.



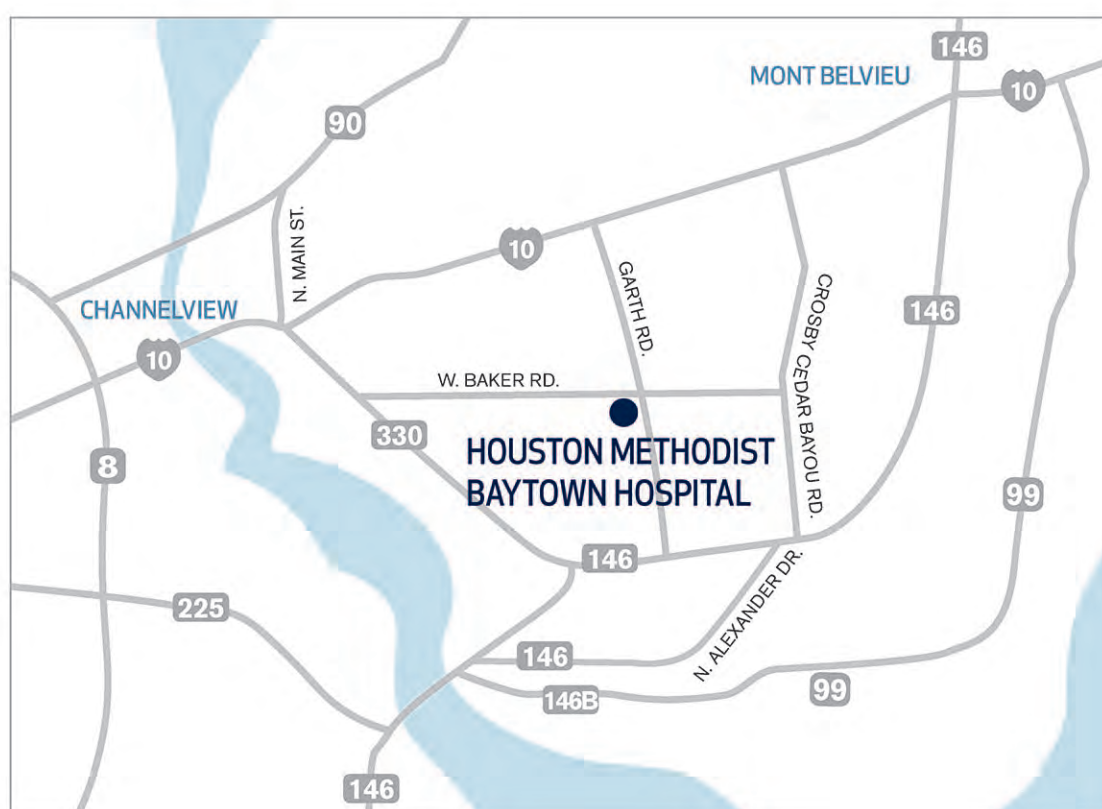
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