



See Page 7 for Your Chance to Win 4 Free Tickets to the TRF. Value \$160.

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

# Star Courier

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024

P.O. DRAWER 446, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

**IN THE STARS**

## Harris County Vote Count proceeds slowly

New Technology, New Vote Counting Center promises quicker, accurate results

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

By the time this paper arrives, the election counting will either be clearly done and a winner named, or there will be legal challenges much like the 2000 election that was stalled in court pitting former President George Bush, Jr. and Al Gore. While the country waited, a recount was underway and ultimately the count was set aside and the Supreme Court intervened with a decision handing the presidency to George Bush, Jr.

Thankfully, computer technology has delivered the country from the possibility of 'hanging chad'



Harris County Elections Department has a new Vote Counting Center, located in a huge vacant warehouse near Bush Intercontinental Airport. Harris County Clerk Teneshia Hudspeth is in charge of the count, and she said she has 12,000 workers who will help on election night to expedite the tabulation. Hudspeth said the new facility will be a permanent home for the Election process, giving continuity and security to the process.

which was a reference to the punch cards used in the battle ground state of Florida during the Bush/Gore election.

The hanging chad on

the post cards slowed the recount in Florida. Election officials were left scrambling to decide whether or not a hanging chad was a punch for

Bush or Gore. It was a nightmarish headache for counters and led the news virtually every night.

A full month later, by a narrow 5-4 decision, the

Supreme Court intervened allowing Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris's vote certification to stand, giving Bush Florida's 25 electoral votes and ultimately the presidency. The win was with a narrow 271 votes. Many point to that decision and close election as the beginning of the extremely divided country.

Since then, technology allows for both paper and electronic ballots making it easier to read and to check.

Another change since then was the eradication of straight-ticket voting. The practice simplified

Continued. See HC VOTE COUNTY CONTINUES, Page 7

**Highlands/  
Lynchburg Chamber  
Lunch Nov. 14**

Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner. Bring \$15 of canned goods, and you eat free. Or pay at door. Enjoy.

RSVP to [highlandslynchburgchamber@outlook.com](mailto:highlandslynchburgchamber@outlook.com).

**Crosby/Huffman  
Chamber Lunch  
Nov. 21**

November Luncheon Thursday November 21 from 11:30am. At May Community Center, 2100 Wolf Rd., Huffman.

Speaker: Lara Umberger  
Tickets on the website: [crosbyhuffmanccl.org](http://crosbyhuffmanccl.org).

**Dog Show at  
Crosby  
Fairgrounds  
Nov. 8,9,10**

CROSBY – The Cypress Creek Kennel Club will present a three day Dog Show event on Friday through Sunday, November 8, 9, and 10 at the Crosby Fairgrounds, 14900 FM 2100 in Crosby 77532.

The Kennel Club welcomes spectators, and emphasizes there is no charge for admission.

You are invited to come watch and meet beautiful purebred dogs. You can talk to exhibitors, handlers and breeders, and learn what dog shows are all about.

For more information, you can contact the club, at [cypresscreekkennelclub@gmail.com](mailto:cypresscreekkennelclub@gmail.com). See also the ad on Page 7.

## Crosby's High's Big Red Machine Ranks Among Top 4 Military Marching Bands in Texas

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families,

Congratulations to the Crosby High School Band for being recognized as one of the top 4 high school military marching bands in Texas. On October 30, The Big Red Machine traveled to Waco to perform in the UIL state championships at Baylor University. The band competed against 11 other 5A/6A bands in the preliminary round, before being named one of the five finalists. The band's evening performance blew me away and led to a standing ovation inside McLane Stadium. Before the finals, I told the band that everyone at home was



Paula Patterson  
Crosby Superintendent

rooting for them. The band did not disappoint. Their final routine was sharper, crisper, and one of the best we've ever seen. They earned 4th place – one of the highest achievements ever for the Crosby High

School Band. Kudos to the student-musicians, their parents, band directors, Mr. Kevin Knight and Mr. Zachary Sanchez, and everyone who pitched in to take our band program to a new level. Your hard work paid off!

November is National Gratitude Month, and we are extremely thankful for the brave men and women from Crosby / Barrett Station who have served in the armed forces. On Monday, November 11, Crosby ISD students – from our kindergarten Cougars to our graduating seniors – will put on a patriotic program in honor of Veterans Day. Harris County is home to



Barrett Elementary School first grader, Camila Castillo, is the first Crosby ISD student to reach her goal in the district's "Pages for Pizza" reading incentive program. All first and second graders in the district can earn free pizza by reading 360 pages (first grade goal) or 720 pages (second grade goal).

Continued. See CROSBY SUPERINTENDENT, Page 2

## Texas Renaissance Festival now Enjoying its 50th Season

Nation's largest Renaissance festival debuts new attractions for 50th anniversary jubilee

TODD MISSION, Texas – The Texas Renaissance Festival (TRF) marks its 50th anniversary with an extraordinary celebration of magic, merriment and new attractions.

Located just one hour north of Houston, the nation's largest and most acclaimed Renaissance themed event spans eight uniquely themed weekends from Oct. 12 through Dec. 1, including Thanksgiving Friday.

Continued. See TEXAS RENFAIR, Page 7



## Arkema hosts two more settlement meetings

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

CROSBY – Arkema settlement administrators will be back in Crosby this week to meet with constituents who did not register during their September meetings to have their property evaluated for the clean-up program as part of a \$24million settlement of a class-action lawsuit.

"We were trying to get 400 properties to work on originally and we haven't met that goal. We'd like to host a couple more town hall meetings to reach that number," said settlement administrator Ed Gentle III.

A postcard was sent by the settlement adjudicators inviting residents af-

ected by the incident to a Town Hall meeting on Nov. 6 and 7, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the David H. McNerney American Legion Post 658 VFW, 14890 FM 2100 in Crosby.

Ed Gentle, settlement administrator, will describe the property testing and clean-up program and help residents with their paperwork to register their property for the program.

Town Hall dates are Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. again from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and a last one from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. A second set of meetings will be Thursday, November 7, 2024, at the exact same time as Wednesday.

Gentle had compelling reasons to come to the

meeting and get properties cleaned up.

"Dioxins can be blown by the wind so even if your property will be cleaned up, it's important to make sure your neighbor knows as well," he said.

Gentle estimated the affected area spans three counties—Harris, Liberty, Chambers—and possibly affected as many as 10,000 households.

Gentle, who has been the settlement administrator in numerous previous cases around the country estimated that the diminution of property values after such an event could be as much as 9 percent.

"Off each \$100,000,

Continued. See ARKEMA MEETINGS, Page 5

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281.422.3611  
\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Monthly payment would be \$146.39 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.

# Crosby Band Wows Crowd with Stellar Performance, Reaches New Heights at State Championships,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the largest population of veterans in Texas, and the celebration at Cougar Stadium is one of the largest ceremonies by a school district in our region. We invite veterans, their families, and all community members to attend our ceremony at 7pm on November 11. We ask that veterans arrive by 6:30pm so we can ensure you will be recognized by name and your branch of service.

On November 1, crews completed the final concrete pour for the second floor of the new Crosby High School academic wing. The entire CHS expansion project remains on track for an opening in the fall of 2025. So far, crews have used 2300 cubic yards of cement, 90 tons of rebar, and 360 tons of steel for the project that will increase classroom and lab space by 50% at CHS. There are two components to the expansion. The new academic wing and an expansion of the CTE (Career and Technical Education) Center to build additional welding and carpentry labs. If you would like to keep up with the project's progress, we have created a construction blog on our website: [www.crosbyisd.org/crosbyhighschool-expansion](http://www.crosbyisd.org/crosbyhighschool-expansion).

Let's give a shoutout to the Crosby High School student-athletes who made this year's District 18-5A Academic All District Tennis Team: Manuel Cavazos (senior); Ella Jones (sophomore); Damian Alonso (sophomore); Jorge Arauz, Jr. (senior); Patricio Salazar (senior); and Maya Fuentes Logan (junior). These students are skilled on the tennis courts as they are in the classroom.

We were so excited to celebrate the first student



The Crosby High School Band is among the top 4 high school military marching bands in the state of Texas. The Big Red Machine finished in 4th place in the UIL State Championships on October 30 in Waco. The photograph shows the band along with directors, Mr. Kevin Knight and Mr. Zachary Sanchez, and Superintendent Patterson on the field after The Big Red Machine was awarded their UIL trophy.



On November 1, crews completed the final concrete pour for the second floor of the new academic wing at Crosby High School. The CHS expansion project, including the new academic wing and expanded welding and carpentry labs, will increase classroom space inside the high school by 50%. The project is expected to be completed in the fall of 2025. It is funded by bond monies approved by voters in 2017.



Crosby Middle School student Peyton Givans won big at the Harris County Fair and Rodeo. She won top honors for both her Maine Anjou steer named "TikTok" (pictured here) and her Red Angus steer named "Redbull." Peyton was also named Champion Junior Showman.

to reach their reading goal and earn a free pizza from Marco's Pizza in Crosby. Camila Castillo is a first grader at Barrett Elementary School. She read her heart out and reached her goal of reading 360 pages in the district's "Pages for Pizza" reading incentive program. All of our first and second graders are eligible to earn a free pizza this school year!

On the agriculture front, we want to say congratulations to Crosby Middle School 6th grade student Peyton Givans. She had some big wins at the Harris County Fair and Rodeo against some of the best cattle in the county! Peyton and her 1,117-pound Maine Anjou steer named "TikTok" won Grand Champion Exotic Steer as well as Overall Supreme

Grand Champion Haired Prospect Steer. Peyton also won Reserve Champion British Steer and Champion Junior Showman honors with her 1,035-pound Red Angus steer named "Red-Bull." Way to go, Peyton!

Set reminders in your phones for the following important dates coming up in Crosby ISD:

•Thanksgiving Break will run from Monday, No-

ember 25, through Friday, November 29.

•Friday, December 20 is an early release day. Crosby High School and Crosby Middle School students will be dismissed at 11:20am, while students in elementary schools and at Crosby Kindergarten Center will be dismissed at 12:10pm.

•Winter Break runs from Monday, December

23, through Friday, January 3, 2025. Monday, January 6, 2025, is a staff development day. Students will return to class on Tuesday, January 7.

I can't believe we are already talking about the holidays, but here we are! May this month be full of blessings for all of our Crosby ISD families.

We are Committed to Excellence! Go Coogs!

## The Harris County Vote Counting Process Explained

Harris County historically has been one of the last — if not the last — counties to turn its final vote tally into the state on Election Night. And in the last several years, it has seemed to have gotten worse.

In 2021, the county did not finish counting Election Day votes until 8:30 the next morning. Voter turnout for that Nov. 2 election was 9.2 percent, and a majority of ballots were cast during early voting.

Election administration experts blame the lengthy wait times on Texas' Election Code, county officials following vote-counting best practices, and Harris County's sheer size.

The combination creates a lengthy tallying process that can take county employees well into the morning after Election Day to complete.

Harris County elections are run through County Clerk Teneshia Hudspeth's office, but election policies — governing everything from the types of IDs voters must bring to the polls; the type of machines voters use to cast their ballots; and how and when vote counting is conducted — are set at the state level.

### The process

Once polls close on Election Day, each of the county's 700 voting centers must be properly closed down, with necessary scanners and ballot boxes loaded up to be transported to Harris County's vote counting headquarters.

Election judges also must fill out paperwork that includes such information as the number of voters who checked into the polling location and how many ballots were scanned throughout the day.

This process, which former Harris County Elections Administrator Clifford Tatum said can take about an hour, can be further slowed if voters still are waiting in line to vote at 7

p.m., the time when polls officially close.

This year, de Leon said, Harris County will employ six "relay stations" across the county. Once election judges finish closing down their voting centers, they will transport voting equipment to an assigned relay station where a first count will take place.

Relay stations are more common in larger voting jurisdictions like Harris County, said Tammy Patrick, chief executive officer for programs at the Election Center, a national nonprofit providing training, certification and support to election administrators and voter registration officials.

At these relay stations, de Leon said, one of the two identical memory cards inside each ballot scanning machine will be used to count votes and transmit those tabulations back to the county's vote counting headquarters.

The relay stations are subject to the same guidelines as the county's vote-counting headquarters, according to Texas' central counting station handbook. That means before any actual counting can take place, a laundry list of verifications and equipment certifications must take place.

According to a video produced in 2022 by the former Harris County Election Administrator's office, that process includes checking the paperwork filled out by each election judge, matching up serial numbers on different pieces of equipment submitted from each polling location, and securing paper ballots to be stored in case a hand count or election audit is required.

Each of the machines used to scan the paper ballots undergoes these counting verification steps.

### New counting headquarters

After the relay station, voting equipment is taken to Harris County's vote-counting headquarters. This year, Harris

County's counting center will move from NRG Stadium to a location on Morales Road, near George Bush Intercontinental Airport. There, a second vote count is conducted.

The secondary count, de Leon said, is required to verify the results of the first, and help election workers determine whether there are any discrepancies, or immediate recounts needed.

It is unclear, he said, if this new double counting process necessitated by the use of relay stations will impact the time it takes to fully release unofficial results.

After the votes from each machine are counted, they are reviewed and verified by representatives from both major political parties before they can be uploaded to the county's unofficial vote count website.

Along with counting in-person ballots, election workers also must process and count the mail ballots received on Election Day, which generally involves multiple steps and verification procedures, Morrell said.

From sorting out envelopes, to matching received ballots to the voters who submitted them, to simply opening and placing ballots inside counting machines, Morrell said, it is easy for time to quickly add up throughout this process.

Taking into account the requirements election workers must follow combined with the fact that Election Day involves thousands of machines from 700 polling locations across more than 1700 square miles, Director of the Bipartisan Policy Center Elections Project Rachel Orey said Harris County is actually doing pretty well.

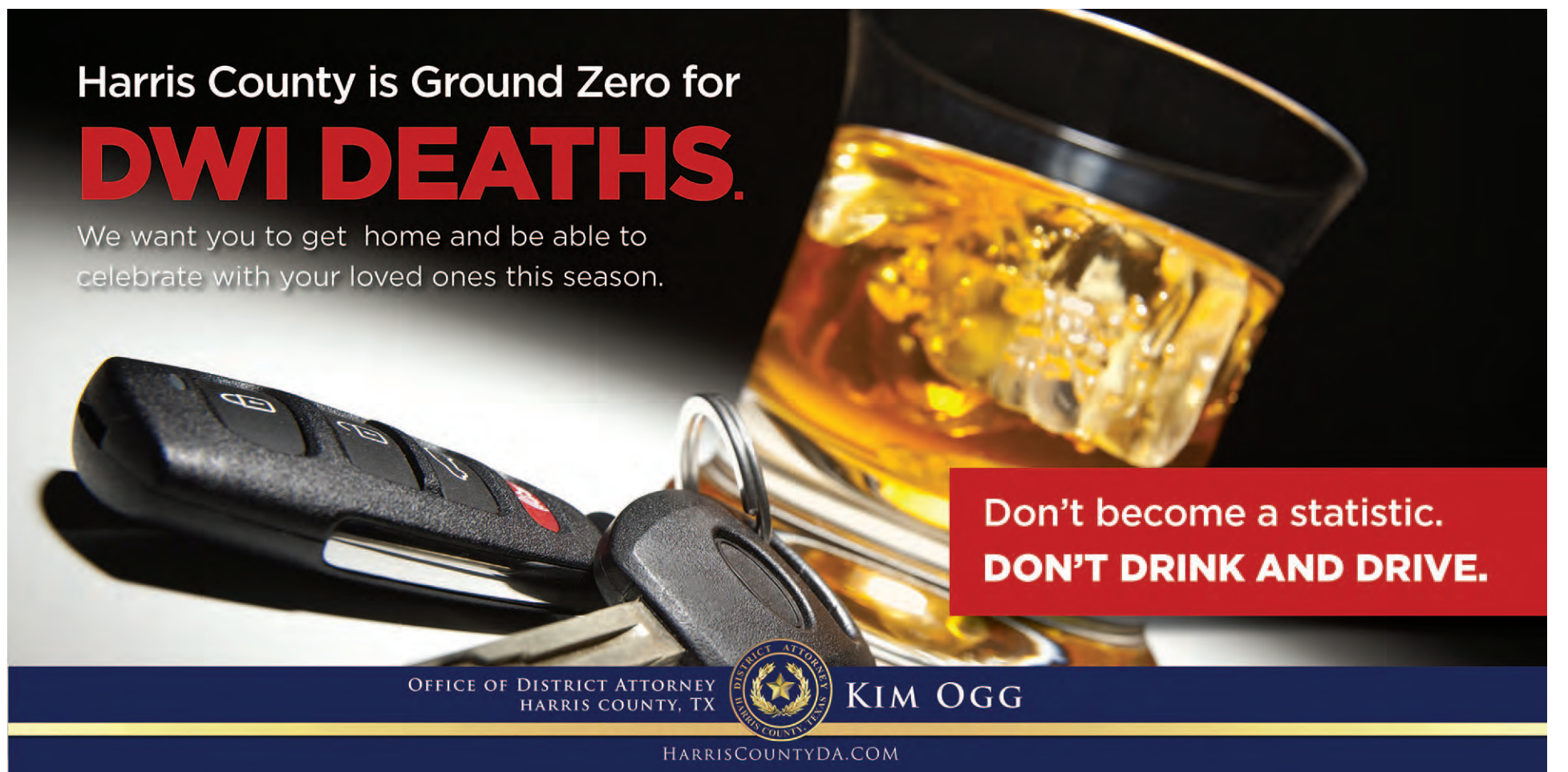
"I don't want to characterize them as if they're behind the curve because I think in many ways their policies are actually pretty good," Orey said. "Some of the barriers with regard to just being a very large county with more than 2.5 million voters, these are some challenges that are just insurmountable."

--Tim Carlin, Houston Landing, edited.

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

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# Barbers Hill Press

## Dayton

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

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

### ON THE HILL

#### The Hilltop at Eagle Pointe - Active Senior Adult Center



**There's never a dull moment at The Hilltop!**

With its comprehensive range of activities, including a large selection of group exercise classes, trips, billiards, a game room, lounge and coffee bar, outings, special events, and a designated area for quilting, The Hilltop provides a welcoming and engaging environment where seniors can thrive physically, mentally and socially. It is a place where new friendships are forged and the joy of active living is celebrated.

The Hilltop at Eagle Pointe, a center for active senior adults ages 55+ living in Mont Belvieu, is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. It is closed on Sunday and on major U.S. holidays.

#### Activities

The Hilltop at Eagle Pointe offers a full schedule of activities: group exercise classes, arts & crafts classes, a full gym, a game room (2 pool tables, dartboard, and wallboard), a library and reading lounge (with Scrabble!), coffee bar, area for quilting and sewing, and a lot more. A monthly activity calendar is always available at our facility or you may ask for a calendar to be emailed for more information. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call The Hilltop at Eagle Pointe, at 281-385-6285.

#### Memberships

**Resident** (Ages 55+ who reside within Mont Belvieu city limits): \$25 per year  
Please call 281-385-6285, or come by Hilltop to renew expired memberships or join the Hilltop family!

#### Location

12430 Eagle Pointe Dr.  
Mont Belvieu, TX 77523

#### Jones Public Library

#### Memorials:

##### In Memory of:

Harbour, Clint Alfred:  
The 48 Laws of Power given by The Don Peoples Family

Hester, Alex Daniel:  
Heartstopper, Bah-Koo given by A Friend

Lewis, Lester (Bubba):  
The 24th Hour, Three Inch Teeth, Judgement

Prey given by Theo Smith

Mifflin, Milton: Why a Son Needs a Dad, Dad & Daughter Forever Bond,

Grandpa Fix-It, How to Babysit a Grandpa given by Angie & Paul Doskocil

Sullivan, Nelli: Just in Case You Ever Wonder, Countries of the World given by David & LeeAnn Douglas

## Mont Belvieu's Market at the Park

The City of Mont Belvieu's Monthly Market at the Park takes place at City Park on the first (1st) Saturday of every month from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Enjoy the annual holiday tradition and feel the Christmas Spirit with a winterland local farmers, artisans, small businesses offering unique gifts. Bounce Houses and photo-ops for kids, a bunny hill snow play area, whimsical foam play area, and more.

The mission of the Mont Belvieu Market at the Park is to support our community by providing our residents and visitors with vendors that bring quality, fresh, locally-produced agricultural products, and delicious homemade foods to the market. The market also features merchants who

sell unique custom crafts, apparel, jewelry, and more. Come out and support local small businesses and enjoy wonderful fresh food.

#### MARKET VENDORS:

Farm/Local Fresh Food and Goods  
A & J Farm  
Quail eggs, jams  
Angie's Garden  
Teas & herbs  
Bill's Local Honey  
Honey and other honey products  
J&M's Organic Ranch  
Grass fed & finished beef and fresh eggs  
Palley's Pecans  
Pecans  
Oak Bridge Mushroom Farm  
Gourmet mushrooms & products  
Beemers BBQ  
BBQ sauce & seasonings  
Casa Grace



Dustin Schubert, Park & Recreation Director

Mini bundlettes, baked goods and coffee  
Chick-fil-A Chambers Town Center  
Ready-to-eat chicken  
Delizie By Liz Dessert Creations  
Strawberry & Chocolate Specialties  
Freezology by Lexi  
Freeze dried candy  
Gourmet Cupboard  
Spices, dips, and soup mixes  
Indian Cuisine Foods

Jeanne Hines' Apple Butter  
Homemade fruit butters  
Kary's Sweets  
Cheesecake, cornbread  
Lily's Life Juice  
Juice Cleanse Juices  
Little Fox Acres  
Fresh Drinks & Food Trucks  
Aguas Frescas  
Mexican lemonades  
Fresh Press Lemonade  
Fresh, handmade lemonade when you order  
Gelu Italian Ice  
Sister's Sweets and Treats  
Food carts (pancake bar, popsicles, elote)  
PET FRIENDLY  
The Great 8 Dog Treats  
Human-grade dog treats  
Simply Pawsitive Pet Boutique  
Pet treats & accessories

and MUCH MORE  
VENDOR INFORMATION

While our market is currently at capacity, we're actively maintaining a waiting list for select product categories. We're continuously seeking to expand our offerings and provide a diverse range of goods to our community. If you specialize in homegrown foods or create unique, handmade items, we encourage you to submit an application. Your passion and craftsmanship could be the perfect addition to our market.

**We're currently prioritizing the growth of our selection of organic goods, fresh produce, and locally sourced farm products.**

## Ikea Warehouses in Massive Baytown Industrial Park sold to Atlanta-based Company

BAYTOWN-Two Ikea-occupied warehouses in Baytown have a new owner. Atlanta-based real estate investment company MDH Partners acquired Cedar Port Ikea, a two-building, 996,482-square-foot industrial distribution center at 4762 and 4830 Borusan Road in the massive TGS Cedar Port Industrial Park near the Port of Houston.

Houston-based Clay Development & Construction built the warehouses and leased them to Swedish furniture giant Ikea in 2016. The buildings feature 32-foot clear heights, large 190-foot truck courts, ESFR sprinkler systems, trailer parking and future rail capability.

Canada-based Pure Industrial Real Estate Trust had reached a deal to buy the buildings in early 2017 for \$63.5 million, the Houston Business Journal reported at



Aerial View of Ikea's warehouse in the Cedar Port Industrial Park

the time. Clay confirmed the deal closed in 2017, though there is no mention of Pure ever acquiring the property in the Chambers County Appraisal District records for either address. Chicago-based Link Logistics took ownership of the buildings in fall 2021.

According to the appraisal district, Trent Agnew, Charlie Strauss and Lance Young with JLL represented the seller in the sale to MDH

Partners, though JLL declined to name its client. Link Logistics was the most recent owner of the property, per Chambers County records. Clay had originally acquired about 80 acres from TGS Cedar Port Partners LP in 2015 and had initially planned to build three 500,000-square-foot warehouses on the property. In 2018, the company sold about 28 acres to Stream Realty Partners, according to county records. Stream

then developed Portside Logistics Center, a 1 million-square-foot, two-building distribution center, on the site.

That project is 75% leased with a recent 432,316-square-foot lease by Gulf Coast Crating. Its neighbors across the street include Borusan Mannesmann Pipe and Walmart.

The properties are located just south of the Grand Parkway, with fast access to Interstate

10, Highway 225, Highway 146 and Port Houston's Barbour's Cut and Bayport container terminals.

"The Port of Houston continues to be a powerful catalyst for the region's industrial real estate market," Agnew said in a press release announcing the Ikea warehouse sale. "We're seeing continued demand from both new entrants and expanding companies across diverse sectors, all aiming to leverage the area's operational efficiency, abundant capacity, skilled workforce and cost advantages."

JLL did not make anyone available for additional questions on the transaction.

The 15,000-acre TGS Cedar Port is the largest master-planned, rail- and barge-served industrial park in the United States and fifth-largest industrial park in the world, according to its website.

## Post Office raises Stamp Prices

Stamp prices will rise in a fortnight as the United States Postal Service is set to increase prices across its services.

The price of first-class Forever stamps will increase from 68 cents to 73 cents on July 14, an over 7% increase. Prices for all services will rise over 7.5%.

The price hikes are part of the USPS 10-year "Delivering for America" plan intended to stabilize the Postal Service financially. Forever stamps were 55 cents when the plan was introduced in 2021.

First class mail accounted for over 30% of postal revenue in 2023 and the plan is expected to generate \$44 billion in additional revenue by 2031.



#### USPS changes prices on more than stamps

The additional-ounce price for single-piece letters will rise to 28 cents from 24 cents.

Post office box rental fees will not change and the cost of postal insurance would decrease by 10%.

The price of international postcards and international 1-ounce letters will increase by 10 cents each, from \$1.55 to \$1.65.

## Junior Golf Clinic at Eagle Pointe Golf Course

Join us for fun and skill-building at Eagle Pointe's Junior Golf Clinics, designed for young golfers of all skill levels! Learn the fundamentals of the game in a supportive and engaging environment.

Date: November 9, 2024  
Time: 9:30 AM-11:30 AM  
Location: Eagle Pointe Golf Course  
Address:  
12440 Eagle Pointe Dr  
Mont Belvieu, TX 77523  
Contact: (281) 385-6666

#### Clinic Details

**Cost:** \$20 per session **Duration:** 45-minute clinics **Class Size:** Max 5 students per class

How to Register  
Stop by the Pro Shop or call (281) 385-6666 to reserve a spot.

#### Upcoming Dates & Times

**November 9th:** 9:30 AM | 10:30 AM  
**November 23rd:** 9:30 AM | 10:30 AM  
**December 7th:** 9:30 AM | 10:30 AM

OPINION PAGE



Help shape the future of Precinct 2



Commissioner Adrian Garcia is dedicated to making Precinct 2 the best place to live, work, and play for everyone.

Ready to get involved? Join us for a community meeting. The next one is November 18 at 6:00 PM to discuss the construction of the public sanitary sewer lines in Westfield Estates.

We invite you to attend this public meeting to learn more and talk about construction requirements for connecting to the sanitary sewer line and what to expect.

Revive2Thrive: More Affordable Housing



This month we joined the Harris County Housing & Community Development (HCD) to mark the beginning of two new affordable housing developments in Precinct 2.

Second, we celebrated the groundbreaking of the Meadowbrook Plaza Project with HCD. This will create 220 new multi-family housing affordable units.

Support for survivors of domestic violence

For Domestic Violence Awareness Month this October, we are spotlighting the impact of the Domestic Violence Assistance Fund (DVA) in Harris County.

We are also putting a spotlight on client advocate, Wendy Arias, from Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA).

Maintaining our infrastructure: Flood Control District Proposition A is on the Ballot

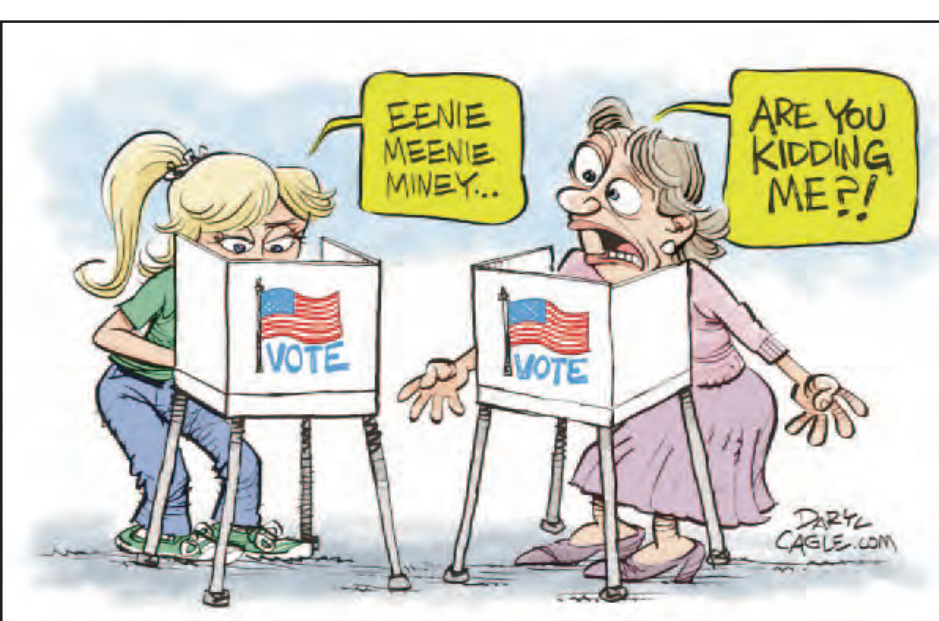


This year, Harris County Commissioners Court unanimously approved the adoption of a tax rate that is higher than the current Voter Approval Rate (VAR).

If approved by voters, Flood Control District Proposition A would increase the Flood Control District's dedicated ad valorem tax rate by 1.581 cents per \$100 – an average of about \$60 a year for the average homeowner in Harris County.

The Harris County Flood Control District hosted in-person and virtual public meetings throughout October.

You can find FAQs on Proposition by visiting www.hcfcd.org/PropA



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

Early Voting Ends on Friday

Texans who wish to vote early in the Nov. 5 general election have until closing time Friday, Nov. 1 to do so.

"Texas has more than 18 million registered voters, and we want to make sure every eligible vote counts. All voting systems in Texas are designed to give voters an opportunity to review their selections before casting their ballot."

Voting officials have taken steps to ensure ballots remain secret. Earlier this year, a conservative news site published what it claimed was a copy of then-GOP chair Matt Rinaldi's ballot, using public records released by election administrators.

The Houston Chronicle reported that Nelson and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton subsequently issued emergency guidelines to election officials to exercise caution about what type of information they release to the public.

LAWMAKERS, PAXTON SPAR OVER INMATE EXECUTION

A bipartisan group of 84 Texas legislators earlier this month subpoenaed a man on Death Row in an effort to stop his execution for the death of his 2-year-old daughter.



dence of Robert Roberson's guilt, The Dallas Morning News reported.

The unique attempt came among increasing concern that Roberson was convicted of "shaken baby syndrome," which is now widely discredited by science experts.

The case is now being reviewed by the Texas Supreme Court, which is considering the question of whether a legislative subpoena outweighs the executive branch's authority to conduct an execution.

Lawmakers heard from a number of experts, as well as the lead investigator and a juror.

Paxton "issued a stunningly misleading statement designed to quash a bipartisan group of lawmakers in their truth-seeking mission, which has riveted the world," Roberson's attorney, Gretchen Sween, said in a statement.

The House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee has held two hearings on Roberson's case. Roberson, who has been diagnosed with autism, did not testify after the attorney general's office said he could only do so by teleconference.

OPERATION LONE STAR COSTS REACH \$11 BILLION

In a little more than three-and-a-half years, Gov. Greg Abbott's Operation Lone Star has spent \$11 billion to make border crossings more difficult and to apprehend suspected undocumented migrants.

border with Mexico. Since then, more than 100 miles of razor wire have been strung and 45 miles of state-built border wall is up, as well as a 1,000-foot buoy barrier on the Rio Grande.

Abbott is seeking another \$2.9 billion during the upcoming legislative session for Operation Lone Star.

"Texas will not back down in our fight to secure the border from illegal immigration, dangerous criminals, and deadly drugs," he wrote in a September social media post.

OIL PATCH TRAFFIC DEATHS SPOTLIGHTED BY TXDOT

Traffic deaths in the state's five main energy sections accounted for nearly 25% of the state's total traffic fatalities last year, according to the Texas Department of Transportation.

"Our state's energy sector is vital to many communities throughout the state and the Texas economy, but oil and gas production activity can also bring challenges to our transportation system," the news release said.

Drivers in those regions are urged to give large trucks plenty of space, drive at a safe speed, and avoid trucks' blind spots.

TxDOT continues to push to end the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways. The last deathless day on state roads was Nov. 7, 2000.

TEXANS URGED NOT TO MOVE FIREWOOD TO PREVENT SPREAD OF DISEASES, PESTS

It isn't exactly fireplace weather just yet, but with November knocking on the door, Texans looking to stock up their firewood supply are urged to be cautious when collecting, transporting and buying firewood.

"Many devastating, tree-killing pests present in Texas forests live and breed inside firewood," said Demian Gomez of the forest service.

Gomez said the best rule of thumb is to burn firewood near where it is bought or picked up. Moving it can easily introduce insects and diseases, since the pests do not travel extreme distances naturally.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Little Luxuries



I am quick to criticize other people's luxuries.

"Buying a latte every day?" I say. "What a waste!"

But, of course, I have Peter making me coffee, and I can have it exactly the way I like it.

I think sailboats and horses are crazy expensive, but campers and RVs make sense—because that's what I grew up with.

"Economics don't count when you are talking about campers!" my father has repeatedly told me.

"This is the last one we will buy," he tells me, in a voice that makes it sound as if he means it.

My husband, Peter, started flying business class when he turned 70. He said it was his gift to himself when he went on Social Security.

I am not yet 70, so I don't know that I deserve this special treatment, but I confess I've gotten used to being able to go into the club between flights and getting a free cup of coffee exactly the way I like it.

I cannot believe how much people spend on new clothes, and I buy all my clothes used. But I don't want to tell you how many dresses I own—and I can't, because I have no idea.

But just when I say I need to stop buying dresses, I see a sleeveless burgundy dress with a swathe of velvet down the front and an asymmetrical hemline for less than \$30.

And every week, I buy flowers for my desk. I could buy quite a few lattes with what I spend on the fresh flowers that sit on my desk.

I know I am unfair to the people who need to go sailing and ride horses. I am unfair to the people whose day only starts out right when they have a pleasant professional prepare them a latte.

I know there are people who would say having a closet full of dresses (however beautiful and deeply discounted) is ridiculous and buying fresh flowers is wasteful.

We all need a few luxuries, big or small, to make us feel we are treating ourselves well. I am going to try to enjoy my little luxuries without too much guilt—and allow everyone else to enjoy theirs.

Till next time, Carrie

Advertisement for Star Courier newspaper, including contact information and subscription rates.

**FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 10:**

**Texans host hot Lions on SNF: Eagles hope to extend Cowboys' miserable season**

The Texans turnaround season in 2023 has been rewarded with a number of prime time games and DeMeco Ryan's team that won 11 games and a playoff game a year ago will be featured on Sunday Night Football this week when perhaps the hottest team in the NFL comes calling in the Detroit Lions.

The Texans will have their hands full against a Lions team that entered their Nov. 3 game at Green Bay averaging an eye-opening 43 points per game. The Houston defense will have its hands full against a Lions offense that is led by quarterback Jared Goff. Goff has a number of weapons to choose from to make plays on the ground in running backs Jahmyr Gibbs and David Montgomery and a plethora of big-play wide receivers led by Amon-Ra St. Brown and tight end Sam LaPorta. Detroit entered their NFC North showdown with the Packers with a 6-1 record. Head coach Dan Campbell has built a solid team that reached the NFC title game a year ago and this year, Detroit is thinking of taking the next step and earning the franchise's first trip to the Super Bowl.

They will face a tough test on Sunday against a Texans team that is tough to beat at home. Two weeks ago, the Houston defense came up with the big plays to help the Texans hold off the Colts, 23-20 and improve to 6-2 on the season. The win was Houston's third AFC South victory and it appears the locals have taken control of the division. Now it's time to see how they fare against one of the Big Boys of the NFL.

This weekend's schedule features a number of good matchups in the NFL, but not so much on the college schedule.

While the Texans host the Lions on Sunday night, the reeling Dallas Cowboys host arch rival Philadelphia at 3:25 at AT&T Stadium. Two weeks ago, the Eagles picked up a huge road win with a 37-17 thumping of the Bengals in Cincinnati, while the Cowboys lost at San Francisco on Sunday Night Football, 30-24. At least Dak Prescott and the offense put up some points after struggling all season long to do so. Dallas fell to 3-4 with the SF loss and had another tough road game at Atlanta last week. There's a very good chance Dallas enters this must-win game with a 3-5 record. If that doesn't get owner Jerry Jones's attention, nothing will.

Week 10 begins with Thursday Night Football as the Bengals visit the Ravens in an AFC North contest. The Bengals have been one of the biggest disappointments this year. They entered the season with Super Bowl aspirations, but their loss to Philly left them with a 3-5 record heading into their game against Las Vegas last week. Two weeks ago, the Ravens saw their five-game winning streak come to an end with an unexplainable 29-24 loss at Cleveland.

Other top games in the NFL this weekend have the Bills visiting the Colts in a must-win game for Indy and its playoff chances. Pittsburgh visits the Commanders and electrifying rookie QB Jayden Daniels. Daniels shocked the NFL two weeks ago with his Hail Mary TD to Noah Brown with no time on the clock to pull victory from defeat against a stunned Chicago team. Daniels will get tested by one of the best defenses in the league. Let's see how the rook does.

Denver and KC go at it in a key AFC West battle in Kansas City as the much-improved Broncos will see how they match up against the defending Super Bowl champions. Head coach Sean Payton has done an amazing job of turning Denver into a playoff contender in just two years and with a rookie QB in Bo Nix. It will be interesting to see how Nix fares against the game's best QB in Patrick Mahomes.

On the college front, No. 2-ranked Georgia has a tough road test at No. 19-ranked Ole Miss, while No. 14 Alabama visits No. 16-ranked LSU. The winner of this game remains alive in the hunt for a College Football Playoff berth, while the loser can start making plans for a Citrus Bowl or some other Florida bowl game during the holiday season.

This will be the final weekend of the District 14-6A season and there is still much to be decided. It appears Westfield will win another league title, which means there are three other playoff spots up for grabs. Heading into Week 6, Westfield led the district with a 5-0 record, followed by Davis at 4-1, and Dekaney, Nimitz and Spring all



with 3-2 record. A lot will be decided in these final two weeks. The final week of the league season will have Davis taking on MacArthur on Thursday at Thorne Stadium, while Nimitz and Dekaney play in a huge game on Thursday at Planet Ford Stadium in Spring. Westfield plays at Eisenhower on Friday, while Aldine plays at Spring.

Before we take a look at this week's schedule, let's review last week's record. A 9-3 rebound week upped the season record to 64-32 (66%). Now, onto this weekend's game.

**NCAA**

**Georgia at Mississippi** – Kirby Smart's No. 2-ranked Bulldogs hit the road for Oxford to take on Lane Kiffin's No. 19-ranked Rebels in what should be a good road test for the 'Dawgs. Georgia's 30-15 dominating win on Oct. 19 at Texas let the rest of the college football world know that the Dogs are serious national title contenders and a win at Ole Miss will only enhance their resume. QB Carson Beck (1,993 yards, 15 TDs) will look to carve up a suspect Rebel defense. He has a consistent runner in Trevor Etienne (422 yards, 7 TDs) and a big-play wideout in Arian Smith (29 receptions, 444 yards, 3 TDs). But the key to this Georgia team (once again) is its stifling defense. Georgia allows just 16 points per game and it will get a good test from Ole Miss QB Jaxson Dart (2,695 passing yards, 15 TDs/207 rushing yards, 3 TDs), solid running back Henry Parrish Jr. (656 yards, 10 TDs) and big-play wideout Tre Harris (59 receptions, 987 yards, 6 TDs). Look for Smart to have his 'Dawgs focused for this one. My pick, Georgia 31, Mississippi 16

**Alabama at LSU** – This is a game for survival for both teams' CFP chances, so look for a tight, competitive game in Baton Rouge in what could be a prime time contest on ABC on Saturday night. Two weeks ago, the Crimson Tide rolled past Missouri 34-0 as the defense played its best game of the season and the offense was efficient behind QB Jalen Milroe (1,937 passing yards, 13 TDs/380 rushing yards, 12 TDs), running back Jam Miller (450 yards, 7 TDs) and big-play freshman wide receiver Ryan Williams (35 receptions, 702 yards (20.1 yards per catch), 7 TDs). While the Tide was rolling over Missouri, LSU had a second-half meltdown against the Aggies in College Station as they saw a 17-7 halftime lead devolve into a 38-23 loss. The Tigers will need a big game from QB Garrett Nussmeier (2,657 yards, 20 TDs), running back Caden Durham (397 yards, 6 TDs) and wide receivers Kyren Lacy (41 receptions, 618 yards, 6 TDs) and Aaron Anderson (36 receptions, 614 yards, 4 TDs). This will be an important game for first-year Alabama head coach Kalen DeBoer. He already has two losses on the season and a third would not sit well with Tide fans. Look for the 'Bama defense to be the difference maker late in this one. My pick, Alabama 26, LSU 23

**NFL**

**Cincinnati at Baltimore** – Week 10 of the NFL season kicks off with Thursday Night Football when the Bengals visit the Ravens in an AFC North battle. The Bengals have been one of the more disappointing (along with Dallas) teams in the NFL this season. Bengal fans thought their team was a Super Bowl contender entering the season, but after their 37-17 loss at home to Philadelphia two weeks ago, they were left with a 3-5 record. The Bengals need a big game from QB Joe Burrow (1,993 yards, 15 TDs) and wideout Ja'Marr Chase (48 receptions, 674 yards, 7 TDs), but that might not be enough to slow down the Ravens. Baltimore saw its five-game winning streak end two weeks ago with a 29-24 loss at Cleveland, so look for QB Lamar Jackson (2,099 passing yards, 17 TDs/501 rushing yards, 2 TDs), running back Derrick Henry (946 yards, 11 total TDs) and wideout Zay Flowers (41 receptions, 527 yards, 1 TD) to

put on a show in prime time on Thursday. My pick, Baltimore 33, Cincinnati 20

**Buffalo at Indianapolis** – This is an important game for the Colts playoff chances, but not so much for the Bills who have taken control of the AFC East. Two weeks ago, Indy fell to 5-3 and two games behind the Texans in the AFC South with their 23-20 loss at Houston, while the Bills dominated Seattle, 31-10 on the road. Look for another big day from Bills QB Josh Allen (1,766 passing yards, 14 TDs/204 rushing yards, 3 TDs), running back James Cook (452 yards, 7 TDs) and wide receiver Khalil Shakir (36 receptions, 421 yards, 2 TDs). Indy will need a big game from mistake prone QB Anthony Richardson (955 passing yards, 4 TDs/242 rushing yards, 1 TD) and running back Jonathan Taylor (454 yards, 3 TDs). Look for another big road win for the Bill. My pick, Buffalo 31, Indianapolis 23

**Pittsburgh at Washington** – Can the Commanders magical season continue? We shall see after they take on one of the league's top defenses on Sunday in the nation's capital. Rookie sensation QB Jayden Daniels (1,736 passing yards, 7 TDs/424 rushing yards, 4 TDs) pulled off a miracle win two weeks ago with a Hail Mary pass to Noah Brown with no time left on the clock. This week he takes on a Steeler defense that has 19 sacks in eight games and has one of the top pass rushers in the game in defensive end T.J. Watt (6.5 sacks). Daniels will need a big game from running back Brian Robinson (461 yards, 6 TDs) to slow down Watt and the Steeler rush. The Commanders defense will get a big test when it takes on Russell Wilson (542 yards, 3 TDs in two starts), running back Najee Harris (592 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receiver George Pickens (35 receptions, 548 yards, 1 TD). Look for the Steeler defense to slow down Daniels as Pittsburgh picks up a big road win. My pick, Pittsburgh 23, Washington 18

**Denver at Kansas City** – The surprising Denver Broncos head to Kansas City to take on the Chiefs in a key AFC West game for both teams. Two weeks ago, Sean Payton's team improved to 5-3 on the season with a 28-14 win over Carolina. Rookie QB Bo Nix (1,530 passing yards, 8 TDs/259 rushing yards, 4 TDs) has proven he's capable of playing at the next level. He's received help from running back Javonte Williams (345 yards, 2 TDs) and a defense that has a penchant for creating turnovers. The Broncos will see how far they have come when they take on the defending SB champs at home. Two weeks ago, KC improved to 7-0 on the season and should be 8-0 (they hosted a beat up Tampa Bay team last Monday) when Denver comes calling on Sunday. QB Patrick Mahomes (1,651 yards, 8 TDs) has a new receiver in DeAndre Hopkins and tight end Travis Kelce (35 receptions, 335 yards, 1 TD) is starting to look like his old big-play self. Add in running back Kareem Hunt (308 yards, 4 TDs) and rookie wideout Xavier Worthy (19 receptions, 235 yards, 3 total TDs) and the Chiefs still look like the team to beat, which Denver will discover come Sunday. My pick, Kansas City 33, Denver 18

**Philadelphia at Dallas** – This could turn into a long day for Dallas fans as the potent Eagles offense looks to stick one more nail in the Cowboys coffin. Two weeks ago, Philly strolled to a 37-17 win at Cincinnati at QB Jalen Hurts (1,544 passing yards, 8 TDs/255 rushing yards, 7 TDs) scored three times on the ground and threw a TD pass. Hurts has a load of weapons on offense led by running back Saquon Barkley (766 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receivers A.J. Brown (21 receptions, 408 yards, 3 TDs) and DeVonta Smith (31 receptions, 386 yards, 3 TDs). The Dallas defense better hope Micah Parsons is back for this one, because if he isn't, the Eagles might be able to call their score. Dallas did put up 24 points two weeks ago, but the defense gave up 30 in a loss at San Francisco. Dak Prescott (1,845 yards, 8 TDs/9 interceptions) and wideout CeeDee Lamb (45 receptions, 876 yards,

**Crosby History Meeting Nov. 16, "Czechs of Crosby" & Bake Off Contest**

CZECHS OF CROSBY Crosby Historical Society will hold a public meeting on the "Czechs of Crosby" on Saturday, November 16, 2024 from 2 PM - 4 PM at the Crosby Brethren Church, 5216 First St., Crosby, Texas.

Featured guest speaker will be Johana Dickerson from the Czech Center Museum Houston to discuss the evolution of what is now Czech Republic. Randy Kubin will present early Czech settlers and how they found their way to Crosby and Eastgate. Rev. Larry Koslovsky will bring information on the Crosby Brethren Church history.

We invite you to come and share your Czech heritage stories and bring photos and artifacts to display. Arrive 30 minutes early to work on your display. We invited everyone to show off their kolache baking skills.

Feel free to bring your kolache to share with the audience even if you don't enter the contest.

**Information for the Kolache BAKE-OFF Contest**

At our Crosby Historical Society Public Meeting on - "The History of Czechs In the Crosby Area", we are having a Kolache Bake-off CONTEST. To participate bring a minimum of 2 dozen fruit kolache or more and come early to the meeting for judging between 12:30 PM and 1:00 PM. Winners will be announced during our meeting starting at 2 PM with top kolache winner announced.

— Bring your kolache on disposable serving plates / pans with your printed name

on a sheet of paper. — Bring a paper copy of the recipe you used. — Use any filling you think will help you win. You can enter up to 2 different fillings for judging. —Judging will be on the texture of the dough, presentation, filling and popsika (crumb topping).

Extra kolache will be served to our guests at the meeting.

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**Arkema Settlement Meetings,**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that's an additional \$9,000 we can put back in your pocket and we are able to provide you with a letter you can show a potential buyer that you're clean," he said.

"Your health is also spared because dioxins can cause cancer."

Anyone can come to any day or time of the town hall meetings that was affected by the event within a 7-mile radius. Most homes within that area have been notified by post card or letter.

The settlement administrator will offer a brief presentation on the program at the beginning of each meeting, and staff will be available to help complete claim forms for your house/property.

On Wednesday night,

November 6, 2024. At 6:30 p.m., they will host a party at the David H. McNerney American Legion Post 658 VFW. Even if you have already completed the claim form, they encourage everyone affected by the Arkema event to join them for some food and refreshment and an opportunity to discuss the program and answer questions.

If you cannot make it to a meeting or the party, please visit [crosbyharveysettlement.com](http://crosbyharveysettlement.com) for updates regarding the program.

Three companies have applied to do the work and will enter a bid process shortly after the town hall meetings.

The cleanup will involve soil testing, about two to

three drill holes, compare the results and the dirtiest ones will get cleaned first.

"I think there will also be money left to test the interior of homes as well. When we test the interior, we wet wipe sample spots in the home. We'll go to the most contaminated homes first and continue till we run out of money," he said.

Gentle said occasionally homes and properties affected by an event such as the Harvey event at Arkema can develop a reputation.

"You don't want that hanging over your head when it comes time to sell your property. If we're able to remediate, that will help in the long run with the sell of your home and property," he said.

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**SCORES & SCHEDULES WEEK 10**

**LAST WEEK'S SCORES THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31**  
Galena Park 21, Houston Westbury 14  
Humble 35, Goose Creek Memorial 7  
Spring 28, Aldine Nimitz 20

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1**  
Barbers Hill, bye  
Baytown Lee 55, Rosenberg Lamar Consolidated 13  
Galena Park North Shore 42, Sheldon C. E. King 14

Humble Atascocita 55, Channelview 0  
Little Cypress-Mauriceville 43, Huffman Hargrave 40  
Spring Dekaney 50, Aldine MacArthur 7  
Spring Westfield 24, Aldine Davis 10

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2**  
Aldine Eisenhower 14, Aldine 0  
Crosby 49, New Caney Porter 26  
Port Arthur Memorial 41, Baytown Sterling 0

**THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7**  
Goose Creek Memorial at Atascocita, 7 p.m., Turner Stadium in Humble  
Aldine MacArthur at Aldine Davis, 7 p.m., W. W. Thorne Stadium in Houston

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8**  
Aldine at Spring, 7 p.m.,

Randall Reed Stadium in Spring  
Angleton at Crosby, 7 p.m., Cougar Stadium, 7 p.m.  
Baytown Lee at Fort Bend Marshall, 7 p.m., Ken Hall Stadium in Missouri City  
Baytown Sterling at Beaumont United, 7:30 p.m., Memorial Stadium Channelview at C. E. King, 7 p.m., Sheldon ISD Panther Stadium in Houston  
Huffman Hargrave at Bridge City, 7:30 p.m., Larry Ward Stadium in Bridge City  
North Shore at Summer Creek, 7 p.m., Turner Stadium in Humble  
Spring Westfield at Aldine Eisenhower, 7 p.m., W. W. Thorne Stadium in Houston  
West Brook at Barbers Hill, 7 p.m., Eagle Stadium in Mont Belvieu

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9**  
Galena Park vs Houston  
Austin, 12 p.m., Barnett Stadium in Houston

4 TDs) will need to bring their "A" game if they hope to pull off the upset. I don't see that happening as Jerry Jones will have more to explain after this one. My pick, Philadelphia 34, Dallas 20

**Detroit at Houston** – The Texans will have their hands full when the high-flying Lions come calling on Sunday Night Football at NRG Stadium. The Lions offense is clicking behind QB Jared Goff (1,695 yards, 13

TDs), running back Jahmyr Gibbs (591 yards, 7 total TDs), and David Montgomery (415 yards, 7 TDs) and wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown (41 receptions, 408 yards, 5 TDs). The defense is playing solid as well, which means Texans QB C.J. Stroud (1,948 yards, 11 TDs) will have his work cut out for him, especially if wide receiver Stefon Diggs (47

receptions, 496 yards, 3 TDs) is out with a knee injury he sustained two weeks ago against the Colts. Houston will need a big night from running back Joe Mixon (503 yards, 6 total TDs) to burn clock and keep Goff and Co. off of the field. I just think the Lions are playing better than any team in the NFL at the moment, and that includes KC. My pick, Detroit 31, Houston 26

# VETERANS DAY NOVEMBER 11, 2024

## PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT AND WORLD WAR II VETERAN "BUCK" SLOAN RETURNS TO FRANCE IN JUNE 2024 FOR THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

**Buck Sloan's trip to Normandy**  
**TRIP FOR THE 80TH REUNION OF THE D-DAY INVASION**  
By Buck Sloan

About two years ago, my little friend who lives in Belgium got my friend who lives here, and I, tickets to go to Belgium for a reunion. While we were there, the whole town got together and did a reenactment for me. It was very impressive. He took me to the cemetery where they took the flag down and I helped them fold it then they presented it to me. I was so honored. The first thing we got to do is to go to the Eiffle Tower in Paris.

This year, he got more tickets for My wife and I to go to Normandy where we went to a school and all the kids clapped all the time we entered. They still remember that we helped liberate them during the war. They have forgotten all about the war over here. I have lived to be 100 years old and I give thanks to God for watching over me and keeping me safe.

We went to an encampment that was also reenacting the war and they clapped while we walked into the camp and they did not know we were coming.

We were acquainted with a fellow that owns a truck like I drove before they took it away and gave me a B.A.R to carry all the rest of the war until I got wounded in the battle of the bulge. Now they are making another fundraiser to get us back over for The Battle of The Bulge reunion in December.

I am doing lots of WWII programs here in the states and over seas.

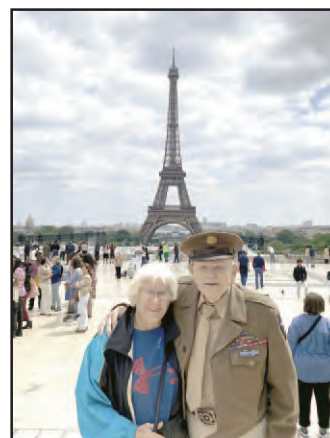
Thanks,  
Buck, Chester Pike Sloan



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### LEGAL NOTICE

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 358436; Estate of JOHN C. (CLOYD) JOHNSON Deceased; In Probate Court No. 4 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on OCTOBER 28, 2024 to:

#### MICHAEL WAYNE JOHNSON

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

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

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this OCTOBER 31, 2024

*Weston Cotten*

by WESTON COTTEN  
Attorney for the Estate

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# Texas Renaissance Festival now Enjoying its 50th Season

Established in 1974, this time-tripping extravaganza welcomes more than half a million visitors annually to its 70-acre campus. Attracting generations of festival goers for its delectable food, world-class entertainment and immersive experiences, the festival features 21 stages and 400-plus artisanal shops, with more than 200 acres of camping facilities.

New and noteworthy acts for the 2024 season include The Accidental Acrobats, a high-energy street-style stunt show; Carnival of Sound, featuring global carnival traditions and dances; Noranflk, serving up enchanting Nordic folk music with traditional instrumentals; and The Romani Roses, performing joyous folk dances for RenFest crowds.

This season also features the return of Merlin the Magician, Bill Palmer's legendary magic show last seen at RenFest in 2000; the Pyrojuggler, Thomas Wood's uproarious fire-eating/juggling act; and the Golden Anniversary Celebration, a once-in-a-lifetime variety show with current and past performers.

For its milestone 50th anniversary, TRF collaborated with Houston's Saint Arnold Brewing Company – the oldest craft brewery in Texas – for King's Fest Ale, a malty English ale available only on the festival grounds. Karbach Brewing Co. has conjured up the limited edition Dunkels & Dragons – a sessionable dark lager – especially for the festival. Mainstays Texas Mead Works will pour the hearty Mead Of the Lake exclusively for thirsty Rennies, and Gulf Coast wine purveyors Haak Winery will offer up Fenrir's Fury red wine and Freyr's Bounty white wine only at the grounds in Todd Mission.

This year's eight uniquely themed weekends at the Texas Renaissance Festival include:

- Oktoberfest (Oct. 12-13)
- 1001 Dreams (Oct. 19-20)
- All Hallows Eve (Oct. 26-27)
- Pirate Adventure (Nov. 2-3)
- Heroes & Villains (Nov. 9-10)
- Barbarian Invasion (Nov. 16-17)
- Highland Fling (Nov. 23-24)
- Celtic Christmas (Nov. 29-Dec. 1)

Tickets and additional information are available at [texrenfest.com](http://texrenfest.com).

**ABOUT TEXAS RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL**  
The Texas Renaissance Festival is the nation's largest and most acclaimed Renaissance themed event. Established in 1974, the event attracts more than half a million visitors annually to its 70-acre recreation of a 16th-century European village one hour north of Houston. The festival is a celebration of food, fun and artisan markets ensconced in immersive Renaissance era magic. The 50th anniversary season takes place over eight themed weekends from Oct. 12 through Dec. 1, 2024, including Thanksgiving Friday. For more information, visit [texrenfest.com](http://texrenfest.com).

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**WIN  
FREE TICKETS to  
Texas Renaissance Festival**

Send us a Photo of You, reading the  
**STAR-COURIER**  
(Be sure the front page shows.)  
We are holding a drawing for 4 FREE TICKETS  
to the TEXAS RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL



TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE FOR ALL  
WEEKENDS

Submit this information to enter the drawing:

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City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Submit by email with photo to [grafikstar@aol.com](mailto:grafikstar@aol.com)  
SUBMITTED PHOTOS MAY BE PUBLISHED. ONE ENTRY PER HOUSEHOLD.  
MULTIPLE ENTRIES WILL DISQUALIFY ALL OF THEM.

## It's a Fact... Kids Love Dogs



Come watch and meet beautiful purebred dogs  
at the Cypress Creek Kennel Club Dog Show!

**November 8, 9 & 10, 2024**  
Spectators welcome...there is no charge!

Talk to exhibitors, handlers and breeders  
Learn what dog shows are all about!

**Saturday Lunch break**  
Pros will teach kids how to show their dog.  
Sign up at the club table

**Sunday Lunch break**  
25 youngsters ages 5 – 9  
will get to show a registered dog to an  
AKC Licensed judge. Sign up at the club table

Don't have a Pure Breed dog...  
we will find one!

**Crosby Fairgrounds**  
14900 FM 2100 Crosby, TX  
for more information contact  
[Cypresscreekkennelclub@gmail.com](mailto:Cypresscreekkennelclub@gmail.com)

## HC Vote Count Underway,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

voting for either Democrats or Republicans who could simply hit the straight-ticket button and cast a vote for every Republican or Democrat on the ballot.

The Texas legislature eradicated the practice after Democrats swept Republicans in 2018, a large percentage of them voting a straight-ticket and handing the Harris County judgeship to 27-year-old unknown and inexperienced Lina

Hidalgo. The 2018 election gave Democrats control of the county in almost every position, including judgeships.

In the next legislative session, the Republican-led legislature abolished the practice for good.

While 'chads' and 'straight-ticket' voting are long gone, there are other challenges that have many of the states loaded with lawyers at the ready in the event some discrepancy is discovered.

Even last week, a Supreme Court ruling in a Virginia case brought mixed results with a win for both Republicans and Democrats.

The last Harris County election was also fraught with challenges and accusations that ballot paper was not available at many of the polls. Harris County Clerk Teneshia Hudspeth has said there is plenty at every voting center.

### JOIN US NOV 9TH

Please come out and show your support to Barry Garland as we rally together to help him with medical costs! Starts at 11am & goes all day.

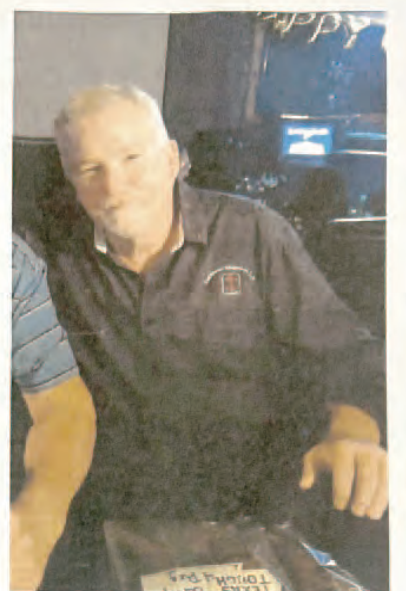
BBQ PLATES \$15

Live auction @ 2pm

Silent auction

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ALL DAY!

Keith McCoy & The CEO band



### Raffle Tickets

50/50 Tickets \$5 ea

Astros Quilt \$20 ea

Liquor Wagon \$20 ea

Lottery Hat 6 for \$20

Contact info:  
Keith McCoy: 281-451-9911  
Brittany: 281-457-6713 or  
832-580-9789  
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