



Jeremy Morgan won the Closest To The Pin Award - More on Page 2

**HIGHLANDS** **CROSBY**

# Star Courier

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**IN THE STARS**

**Crosby Rodeo announces 2025 schedule**

Crosby Fair and Rodeo will kick off starting Friday May 30 and 31st with the Cook-off, and then Monday June 2nd - June 4th the Fair begins with youth exhibits each day/evening. On Thursday June 5th there will be an auction dinner for Buyers from 4-6 p.m. followed by the live auction at 6:00 p.m. Friday June 6th and Saturday the 7th we will have a CPRA Rodeo followed by live entertainment.

In 2024 alone, thanks to your support, Crosby Fair and Rodeo gave away \$47,500.00 in scholarships to our local youth.

You can purchase a membership badge at the CF&R office. Membership is \$60.00 per badge and gets you admission to both nights of Cook-Off & Rodeo as well as the annual Membership Feed. If you have any questions, please reach out to us through one of the contacts below.

Office 281.328.2113  
info@crosbyrodeo.com  
<https://www.crosbyrodeo.com/>

**Sales Tax Holiday April 26-28 for Emergency Supplies**

As severe weather season approaches, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar reminds Texans they can purchase certain items tax free during the state's sales tax holiday for emergency preparation supplies, which begins at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, April 26, and ends at midnight on Monday, April 28.

"While we can't know in advance when the next fire, flood, tornado or hurricane may occur, we can make sure our families, homes and businesses have the supplies they need to face these and

Continued. See SALES TAX HOLIDAY, Page 2

## New Crosby Lions Club Elects First Slate of Officers

Lions are "Knights of the Blind" for visually impaired

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

After months of discussion and recruiting, the Crosby Lions Club has organized and selected its first slate of officers and is already making plans.

At their last meeting on April 7, the group elected officers President Rene Stewart, Vice President David Taylor, Secretary Deanna Smith-Becker, Treasurer Lee Ann Lockwood, and Membership Chair Alicia Spear.

"We had a great meeting and listened as Roberto Cruz, the sponsor for the Crosby



High School Leo's Club, explained the rubrics and judging criteria for selecting the scholarship recipient," said Chuck Martin, former district governor who is overseeing the organization of the new club.

Also, at the meeting there was sponsoring

club leadership from Huffman and some of their LEO students. LEO's are the student organizations affiliated with the Lion's Club.

The membership discussed potential fundraising opportunities for distribution in the community. Member-

ship dues are paid for by individual club members.

At the next meeting, which is slated for 4:30 p.m. at Iguana Joes on Monday, April 21, 2025. The early time is to allow members to attend the community meeting at the Crosby Community Center regarding the cancer cluster designation of the area.

"The first order of business is to invite more friends and grow the club," Martin said. Also, he said at the next meeting, they will read over scholarship entries and select the recipient of the scholarship.

Membership is open to anyone in the public and dues are minimal.

Lions Clubs International is a global ser-

vice organization with over 1.4 million members in 49,000 clubs, serving communities in over 200 countries. The Lions Clubs is internationally known for their work with providing glasses for those who are in need. In 1925, Helen Keller addressed the Lions Club International Convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, and challenged Lions to become "knights of the blind." Since then, they have worked tirelessly to help those who are blind or visually impaired.

Lions are more than just eyeglasses, promoting community service and mentoring young people to get involved.

The public is invited to the next meeting.

### CROSBY SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

## Crosby ISD Celebrates Student Success, Inclusion, and Community Spirit This Spring

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families,

Happy springtime. I hope you are enjoying the warmer weather. I am so proud of our students and the Crosby ISD Special Education Department for hosting a wonderful day celebrating children of all skill levels at the 2025 Coleen Walker Relays on April 8. They transformed Cougar Stadium into a field of dreams for 305 students from Crosby ISD and Huffman ISD. Those student-athletes were mentored by nearly 500 student-volunteers. Of those 500 student-volunteers, 335 were Crosby

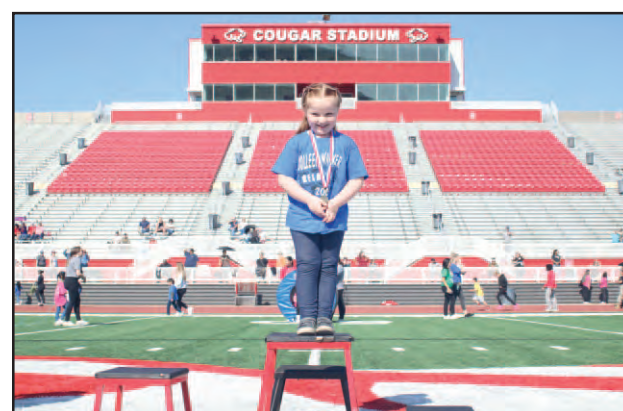


Dr. Paula Patterson  
Crosby Superintendent

High School students, demonstrating our "Portrait of a Graduate." They spent the day assisting younger students playing ball, dashing through obstacle courses, face painting, and so much more. It was a great day for the

kids to do things they may not otherwise get to do. The relays are named after late Crosby High School LifeSkills teacher, Ms. Coleen Walker. She helped coach future teachers, and she was an advocate for education for all. Her legacy played out in an amazing way this month. We also appreciate the community businesses who helped sponsor the event.

Congratulations to the Top 5% of the Crosby High School graduating Class of 2025. The Crosby Education Foundation hosted a luncheon for the 23 students who are the top-ranking graduates this



Crosby ISD hosted the 2025 Coleen Walker Relays at Cougar Stadium on April 8. More than 300 students had a chance to enjoy field day activities.

year. They will be honored at the annual "Distinguished Scholars" banquet in May. This year's Valedictorian is Trinity-Cook Thompson, and this year's

salutatorian is Meredith Randall. Congratulations to both of these outstanding students.

Continued. See CROSBY SUPERINTENDENT, Page 6

## Crosby HS Students Present Thank You Card at Crosby Lion's Club Meeting



Crosby High School LEO's Club Advisor presented a thank you card to teary-eyed Lee Ann Lockwood, director at Churches United In Caring, at the organizational meeting of the Crosby Lion's Club last Monday night. The students volunteer at the non-profit helping with numerous activities particularly at Christmas and Halloween.

## Harris County commends THEA for advocacy: Urges EPA to move faster



County Commissioner Tom Ramsey presents THEA president Jackie Medcalf with a Resolution commending the organization for its Environmental Advocacy to remove the toxic waste pits in the San Jacinto River. Also shown, left to right, Pam Bonta, Ramsey, Medcalf, Rachel Jordan, Victoria Matias.

HOUSTON - The Harris County Commissioners have unanimously passed a resolution pushing the EPA and State of Texas to address decades old environmental health threats along the San Jacinto River.

The resolution calls on the EPA to remove dioxin-laden waste material from the San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund Site. It also points out the need for better analysis by the state on the cancer rates in commu-

nities along the river. The commissioners recognized THEA's efforts to keep the focus on the health of area residents.

Continued. See COUNTY COMMENDS THEA, Page 6

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# Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce 33rd Annual Tees-N-Tails

## Held Thursday, April 17, 2025 at Stonebridge at Newport



Zane Hamilton won the Longest Drive Award at the annual Tees 'N Tails Golf Tournament at Stonebridge at Newport Golf Course. The tournament benefits the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce.



First Place winners at the annual Tees 'N Tails Golf Tournament at Stonebridge at Newport Golf Course included from left, AJ Capra, Jason troop, Butch Cormier, and Parker Capra.



Second Place winners at the annual Tees 'N Tails golf Tournament at Stonebridge at Newport Golf Course included from left, Paul McCutcheon, Bobby Brodeur, Ted McDonald, and Joseph Napoli (not pictured).



Third Place winners at the annual Tees 'N Tails Golf Tournament at Stonebridge at Newport Golf Course included from left, Marcus Brooks, Caleb Holder, Vincent Galyean, and Chris Kolaski (not pictured).

### County Commissioners commend THEA, urge EPA to act faster on removal,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In spearheading the resolution during the Commissioner's Court meeting on Thursday, April 10th, Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey called out International Paper and Waste Management, the companies responsible for the San Jacinto Superfund

Site, referring to them as the "irresponsible parties."

Prior to the vote, THEA CEO and Founder, Jackie Medcalf spoke on behalf of the resolution, saying "First, we need the EPA to get the waste pits out of the river and second, we need

the state to provide localized census tract data for the area, because how do we assist our communities, how do we know which areas are disproportionately impacted and which ones are not?"

### Sales Tax Holiday April 26 thru April 28,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

other emergencies," Hegar said. "Don't wait for disaster to strike. I'm encouraging Texans to take advantage of this tax holiday to save money while stocking up for emergency situations."

The Comptroller's office estimates shoppers will save about \$2.3 million in state and local sales taxes during the tax holiday, which was approved by the Texas Legislature in 2015.

There's no limit on the number of qualifying items you can purchase. These include:

- household batteries,
- fuel containers and flashlights priced less than \$75;
- hurricane shutters and

emergency ladders priced less than \$300; and

- portable generators priced less than \$3,000.

For purchases made online, note that delivery, shipping, handling and transportation charges are part of the sales price. If the emergency preparation supply being purchased is taxable, the delivery charge is also taxable. Consider these charges when determining whether an item can be purchased tax free during the holiday.

For example, if you purchase an emergency ladder online for \$299 with a \$10 delivery charge, the total sales price is \$309. Because

the total sales price of the emergency ladder is more than \$300, tax is due on the \$309 sales price.

Purchases that do not qualify include:

- batteries for automobiles, boats and other motorized vehicles;
- camping stoves and camping supplies;
- chainsaws;
- plywood;
- extension ladders and stepladders; and
- tents.

A complete list of emergency preparation supplies that may be purchased tax free can be found on the Comptroller's website.

### Fresh Start: Clear Your Arrest Record May 3

Worried a criminal record from your past might be holding you back? Trying to get connected to community resources but struggling to navigate the network of services? Need help with a civil legal matter but don't know where to go for guidance?

Mark your calendar for Fresh Start on **Saturday, May 3, 2025, from 10 a.m. to noon, at Harris County Jury Plaza, 1201 Congress St.** in downtown Houston. Pre-registration is required, starting April 14.

"Fresh Start directly helps individuals participating in the program, but its benefits ripple throughout our community," Harris County Criminal Courts at Law Presiding Judge Erika Ramirez said. "When we help people meet their basic needs and become productive citizens, it helps to reduce recidivism and make our communities safer."

Online pre-registration for criminal record screening and

sealing is required and starts at **noon on Monday, April 14**. Space is limited to 300 people, and slots fill quickly: [www.ccl.hctx.net/FreshStart.htm](http://www.ccl.hctx.net/FreshStart.htm).

In addition to record sealing, the May Fresh Start will feature:

**Know Your Rights Housing Workshop\* for Landlords and Tenants:** Learn about contracts, expectations, landlord and tenant rights, and the eviction process.

**South Texas College of Law Legal Clinics:** Apply to determine your eligibility for assistance with civil legal matters, including debt relief and estate planning.

**Consulate General of Mexico in Houston:** Access support for Mexican citizens in need of legal documents or legal services, including criminal, civil, immigration, labor, and administrative matters.

**Harris County Public Health ACCESS Harris County:** Register for

wraparound support and resource assistance related to education, food security, job placement, counseling, peer support, healthcare and insurance, housing, and transportation.

**Harris County Voter Registrar:** Register to vote.

Fresh Start is offered by Harris County Criminal Courts at Law and their community outreach arm, BAYOU City Community Court, in partnership with Harris County Public Defender's Office, Harris County Community Supervision and Corrections Department, Harris County State District Criminal Courts, Harris County Civil Courts at Law, Neighborhood Defender Service of Texas, Houston Apartment Association, and Harris County Constable Precinct One.

For more information about Fresh Start or to pre-register, go to [www.ccl.hctx.net/FreshStart.htm](http://www.ccl.hctx.net/FreshStart.htm).

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# Barbers Hill Press

## Dayton

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

VOL. 30, NO. 16

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THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

### ON THE HILL

#### Three Arrested after 182-kilogram Cocaine Seizure

BAYTOWN - Three people have been charged after authorities seized a large amount of cocaine over the weekend destined for the Houston area and northern states, announced U.S. Attorney Nicolas J. Ganjei.

Pablo Luis Fuentes-Rivas, 40, Baytown, Efren Pinales-Hernandez, 51, Weslaco, and Daniel Teniente-Marfileno, 39, an illegal alien residing in Houston, made their appearances in Houston and will be transferred to Brownsville for further criminal proceedings.

The charges allege that on the early morning hours of March 29, law enforcement observed the three men at a truck lot in Baytown offloading a large amount of narcotics from a semi-tractor trailer onto a vehicle.

As Teniente-Marfileno drove off with the cocaine bundles, law enforcement conducted a traffic stop and seized the cocaine, according to the charges. Authorities then immediately arrested Fuentes-Rivas and Pinales-Hernandez as they attempted to leave the truck lot.

The seized narcotics had total weight of 182.25 kilograms and an estimated street value of nearly \$2.3 million.

All are charged in a criminal complaint with possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance and conspiracy to do so. If convicted, each face up to life in prison as well as a possible \$10 million fine.

The case is part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) operation. OCDETF identifies, disrupts and dismantles drug trafficking organizations and other criminal networks that threaten the United States using a prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency approach that leverages the strengths of federal, state and local enforcement agencies. Additional information about the OCDETF Program can be found on the Department of Justice's OCDETF webpage.

The Drug Enforcement Administration, Immigration and Customs Enforcement - Homeland Security Investigations conducted the investigation with the assistance of Texas Department of Public Safety, Houston Police Department, Cameron County Sheriff's Office, and the Baytown Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorney Oscar Ponce is prosecuting the case.

Visit our New Website for Chambers County News:  
[www.BHDPRESS.com](http://www.BHDPRESS.com)

## Governor Abbott Appoints Three To Coastal Water Authority Board Of Directors

AUSTIN - Governor Abbott appointed Antonio Santana and Hannah Kaplan to the Coastal Water Authority Board of Directors for terms set to expire on April 1, 2027. Additionally, the Governor reappointed Mark Sjolander to the board for a term set to expire on April 1, 2026. The Authority is a conservation and reclamation district located within Harris, Chambers, and Liberty Counties, and has the power to transport and deliver water inside and outside



the authority, to acquire and construct all necessary properties and facilities necessary for such purposes.

**Antonio Santana** of Mont Belvieu is the senior director in information technology at

Xylem Inc. Santana received a Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems from the University of Phoenix and an Executive Master of Business Administration in Strategic Leadership from

the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

**Hannah Kaplan** of Houston founded Texas Sustainable Oysters in 2020 as one of the first oyster mariculture farms in Texas. She is the former chairperson for the Oyster Section of the Texas Aquaculture Association and a member of the Gulf Shellfish Farmers Association and Oyster South. Kaplan received a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from Rollins College.

John "Mark"

Sjolander of Dayton is the owner and president of Sjolander Resources and Development LLC. He is the Chairman of the Liberty County Central Appraisal District Board of Directors, a director of the Liberty County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, and member of the Trinity Valley CCA Board of Directors. Sjolander received a Bachelor of Arts from Stephen F. Austin State University.

These appointments are subject to Senate confirmation.

## Chambers Emergency Services Win 2024 Safety Achievement Award at TAC County Conference

CHAMBERS COUNTY - This past week, our dedicated emergency services personnel proudly represented us at the TAC County Management and Risk Conference. Not only did they soak up valuable insights, but they also brought home the prestigious Safety Achievement Award for 2024.

We're incredibly grateful for our outstanding team who continuously strives to keep our community safe



Pictured left to right:  
- Chief Ryan Holzapfel  
- Assistant HR Director Haley Smith  
- Field Ops Assistant Chief Quinten Adams  
- OEM/Safety Assistant Chief Jeffery Choate  
- Assistant Asset/Risk Manager Chris Daniels  
- HR Director Lauren Van Deventer

## Texas Senate Approves Bills to Permit Voluntary School Prayer and Mandate Ten Commandments in Classrooms

(AUSTIN) - Students and faculty at Texas public schools could conduct prayer and other religious activities under a bill given approval by the Senate on Tuesday. Galveston Senator Mayes Middleton said that his bill, SB 11, follows recent rulings from the US Supreme Court and would allow willing students and faculty to hold voluntary prayer, and Bible - or other religious text - study sessions. Middleton says his bill reaffirms the state's traditions and values. "We are a nation and a state built on 'In God We Trust,'" he said.

The body also gave tentative approval to a measure by Weatherford Senator Phil King, SB 10, which would require that the Ten Commandments are posted in every public school classroom. King says that these tenets form the bedrock for government and the legal system in the United States. "Few documents have had a larger impact on our moral code and our legal code and just our culture than the Ten Commandments," said King.

The issue of religion in



Galveston Senator Mayes Middleton's SB 11 would allow willing students and faculty to conduct periods of prayer at Texas public schools.

school has been contended under the First Amendment and has come before the nation's highest court multiple times. In 1962, the Supreme Court ruled in *Engle v. Vitale* that a mandated recitation of religious prayer in public school violated the establishment clause of the US Constitution. Justice Hugo Black, writing for the majority, found that a 22-word non-denominational prayer the New York Board of Regents required to be read at the start of each school day did not pass constitutional muster.

"When the power, prestige and financial support of government is placed behind a particu-

lar religious belief, the indirect coercive pressure upon religious minorities to conform to the prevailing officially approved religion is plain," he wrote.

In 1971, the Court established a procedure that future judges would use to determine whether a public policy violated the establishment clause. Called "the Lemon test", after *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, the case that established the procedure, it had a threefold standard: a statute must have a secular purpose, it must not either enhance or inhibit religion, and it must not result in "entanglement" between government and religion. In 1980, this test was ap-

plied by the Court to prohibit the display of the Ten Commandments in public schools in *Stone v. Graham*. This served as the law of the land until 2022.

The Court took up *Kennedy v. Bremerton School District* in 2022, involving the case of Joseph Kennedy, an assistant football coach who led a prayer following each game. Concerned that this might violate the establishment clause, the school board asked him to move the location or timing of his prayer. He refused, and was eventually placed on administrative leave.

The Court ruled in favor of Kennedy, effectively ending the Lemon test and replacing it with a standard of coercion. Justice Neil Gorsuch, writing for the majority, said that this case demonstrated an undue hostility towards religion that wasn't required under the First Amendment. "There is no indication in the record ... that anyone expressed any coercion concerns to the District about the quiet, post-game prayers that Mr. Kennedy asked to continue and that led to his sus-

pension," wrote Gorsuch.

What set this case apart from previous rulings, he went on, is that those cases involved broadcasting a prayer to a captive audience or requiring participation. This decision opened the door for legislation like SB 10 and SB 11, permitting non-coercive religious expression in public schools. "Because of that, we can today put the Ten Commandments back in our public school classrooms in Texas," said King. SB 10 must still face another, final vote Wednesday.

For SB 11, consent must be explicit. Faculty and students must submit consent forms affirming their desire to participate in these religious periods. The activities must take place out of the presence and hearing of those who have not signed consent forms. No one would be required to participate, and the period could not substitute for instructional time. Each school board would be responsible for voting on whether or not their district will participate in the program.



OPINION PAGE

COUNTY CLERK MATTERS By HC Clerk Teneshia Hudspeth

Early Voting for the May 3rd Joint Election begins April 22

HOUSTON, TX – Harris County Clerk Teneshia Hudspeth announced that early voting for the May 3 Joint Election starts April 22nd and emphasized this election's importance for the future of communities across the county.

"The May 3 ballot includes contests from various local political subdivisions, such as cities, colleges, school districts, and utility districts," said Clerk Hudspeth. "Voters will cast ballots in 46 districts, including single-member districts, with races and propositions specific to where voters are registered."

Harris County will operate over 20 early voting locations and more than 180 on Election Day. For a list of vote centers and their estimated wait times, visit www.HarmsVotes.com

- DATES AND HOURS: EARLY VOTING DATES: Tue., April 22-Sat., April 26 (7 am-7pm) Sun., April 27 (Noon - 7 pm) ELECTION DAY: Mon., April 28Tue April 29 (7 am-7pm) Sat., May 3, 2025 (7 am - 7pm)

- Acceptable forms of ID when voting in person: --Texas Driver's License issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) --Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS --Texas Personal Identification Card issued by DPS --Texas Handgun License issued by DPS --United States Military Identification Card containing the person's photograph --United States Citizenship Certificate containing the person's photograph --United States Passport (book or card)

Voters who do not have and cannot obtain one of the approved forms of photo ID may complete a Reasonable Impeding Declaration (RID) at a vote center and present another form of ID, such as a utility bill, bank statement, government check, or voter registration certificate.

"Early voting offers flexibility, shorter wait times, and peace of mind, allowing voters more control over their voting experience," added Clerk Hudspeth. "Please remember that electronic devices, including phones and cameras, are not allowed within 100 feet of the voting area at any time."

Additional election information is available at HarrisVotes.com. For news and updates on social media, follow @Harris Votes



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

Paxton, Cornyn Gear Up for Primary Battle

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton made it official last week, announcing he will challenge U.S. Sen. John Cornyn in next March's Republican primary. The fireworks already have begun, the Austin American-Statesman reported, with Cornyn calling his rival "a con man and a fraud."

Paxton, for his part, said he is running to "fight for President Trump's agenda and take a sledgehammer to the D.C. establishment." He accused Cornyn of being insufficiently loyal to Trump.

Paxton's decision to run for the Senate leaves the attorney general's seat open in 2026. Former U.S. Attorney John Bash, a lawyer for Elon Musk, has announced plans to run, The Dallas Morning News reported. He will almost certainly have company in the GOP primary. Longtime lobbyist and political consultant Bill Miller said the job's high profile makes it attractive to potential candidates.

"It's the most attractive job below being senator or governor. You have this enormous machinery to put yourself in almost every issue, state or federal," he said. "You can make news and be news almost at will."

The News named several possible GOP candidates, including state Sens. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, and Mayes Middleton, R-Galveston; state Rep. Mitch Little, R-Lewisville; and former Supreme Court Justice Eva Guzman, who ran for the job in 2022.



TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

VISAS REVOKED FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN STATE

At least 110 international students at Texas universities have had their visas revoked or their immigration status marked as terminated in a federal database, The Texas Tribune reported. As of last week, these universities confirmed the number of international students affected:

- University of North Texas: 27 University of Texas at Dallas: 19 University of Texas at Arlington: 27 Texas A&M University: 19 University of Texas Rio Grande Valley: 9 Texas Women's University: 4 Texas Tech University: 3

The University of Texas at Austin and the University of Houston said that some of its students had a change in their immigration status but declined to say how many.

On Wednesday, the Department of Homeland Security said it would begin screening the social media feeds of international students for "antisemitic" content. Pro-Palestine protests were held at several Texas campuses after Israel retaliated in Gaza after the Oct. 7, 2023, attack by Hamas.

MEASLES CASES SURPASS 500; OUTBREAK COULD LAST FOR MONTHS

The number of measles cas-

es in West Texas and the Panhandle has surpassed 500, the Texas Department of State Health Services reported. Health experts say the outbreak likely will continue to grow and could last for months.

Measles was declared eliminated in the U.S. in 2000, The News reported. The World Health Organization defines that as the "absence of endemic measles transmission" for at least 12 months. If the current measles outbreak lasts longer than a year, which seems likely, the U.S. would lose its elimination status.

"We are almost certainly going to lose that," Dr. Greg Poland, a vaccinologist, said. "In that sense from a public health view, we are going backwards. And that will hurt people."

HOUSE PASSES \$337.4 BILLION BUDGET

The Texas House on Friday overwhelmingly passed a \$337.4 billion budget that includes funding for school vouchers, teacher pay raises, and property tax cuts, The Dallas Morning News reported. The General Appropriations Act passed by a 118-26 margin after 14 hours of debate on the House floor.

"[The bill] stays well under all spending limits and grows less than population and inflation—ensuring we protect taxpayers while meeting the needs of a growing Texas," said House Appropriations Chairman Greg Bonnen, R-Friendswood.

Senate Bill 1 now goes into negotiation with the Texas Senate, which passed its version of the budget in March. House Speaker Dustin Burrows, R-Lubbock, said that chamber can now turn its attention to other priorities. Before passing the budget, only a handful of bills had made it out of the House, in contrast with the Senate, which has passed nearly 200 bills thus far.

"Now that we've established a strong fiscal framework, the House will soon act on key legislation—starting first with school finance and school choice—knowing exactly the resources we have in place to deliver real results for Texans," Burrows said.

The House budget bill contains \$6.5 billion to continue Operation Lone Star, Abbott's border security initiative, as well as \$3 billion to create a Dementia Prevention and Research Institute.

MARCH BROUGHT HIGHER TEMPS, LESS RAIN

Warmer-than-usual temperatures in March, combined with less rain for most of the state, meant 70% of the state was in drought by the end of last month. That's a rise of 21 percentage points since late February, according to hydrologist Dr. Mark Wentzel, with the Texas Water Development Board.

"In the next few months, drought conditions are expected to improve somewhat in South Texas but expand across the Panhandle and North Central Texas," Wentzel wrote.

He added he expected some easing of drought severity in South Texas, which was hit with torrential rain last month, and no drought areas in East Texas.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

A Very Good Dog



The note from Marci was in Spanish, so I translated it to make sure I understood.

"Sorry to bother you, but I wanted to see if you could help us share this photo of a dog to see if anyone could adopt her. Her owner just passed away, and she was thrown out onto the street."

The dog's name was Munecca, which means "doll" in Spanish. Marci attached a photo of a dog with very long ears lying on the ground. Marci added, "She's a very good dog."

"That poor dog!" my husband, Peter, said.

Marci was the foster mother of our cat, Felix. Marci takes in stray animals and tries to find homes for them. She cared for Felix for two months before we adopted him. But Marci was caring for 12 dogs already. She did not have room for Munecca.

Peter and I didn't know what we could do. We didn't know anyone who could take a dog. So we did what people do when they want to get the word out—we posted a short story about this sad little dog on Facebook.

Immediately, lots of people put hearts next to her photo and wished her well. People shared the post. People asked me to keep them updated. Peter told a man who contacted him that Marci was an honorable and trustworthy person—and that Marci said that Munecca was a very good dog.

"I hope Munecca finds a home," Peter said.

"I hope so, too," I told him. But, honestly, I was not hopeful. There are a lot of stray dogs in Mexico, and Munecca was no longer a puppy. We later learned that her owner was not an older person, as we assumed, but a young woman who died unexpectedly. The whole thing seemed terribly tragic.

The day after the post went up, I was taking my walk when my phone made a sound. I never pay attention to my phone when I'm walking. But this time I did.

I stepped into a little shop and saw a message from Marci.

"I wanted to tell you that Munecca has already been adopted, in case you'd like to let anyone know. Thank you very much for your help."

"Oh!" I said out loud. "That's wonderful!" The man Peter had been messaging had adopted Munecca. Marci sent a photo of Munecca getting a bath and a video of the man walking her with his other dog. Both tails were wagging.

The young woman behind the counter of the shop looked at me curiously. "I am so happy," I told her in Spanish. "I helped a dog to find a home. Her owner died, and she was on the street!"

"Oh!" the young woman replied in Spanish, "You mean Munecca?" She had seen the post on Facebook.

I was amazed. "Munecca is a famous dog!" I said. The girl laughed. She was happy this dog she had never met had found her new home. And so was I.

Social media is filled with a lot of hate and arguing and pointless posturing. I don't blame people who choose to ignore it entirely. But I don't think Facebook is a bad thing. Like most things, it all depends on how it is used. I reported that Munecca had found a home, and a whole lot of strangers were happy and relieved.

And I thought of what a funny world we live in—where there is so much hate and distrust, and where strangers can come together and find a home for a very good dog.

Till next time, Carrie

top ten CHRISTIAN COUNTRIES\* 1. United States 2. Russia 3. China 4. India 5. Japan 6. South Korea 7. France 8. United Kingdom 9. Brazil 10. Pakistan \*Largest Christian population Source: Pew Research Center

TEXAS VERSION OF DOGE HEADS TO ABBOTT'S DESK

If signed, the first bill headed to Gov. Greg Abbott's desk would create the "Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office," the Statesman reported. A supermajority of the House passed Senate Bill 14 last week, following its approval in the Senate in late March.

The measure is expected to save taxpayers \$25 million for five years by identifying rules that are "unnecessary, duplicative, expensive or prohibitive." It would also look for ways that state agencies could cut costs.

House sponsor state Rep. Giovanni Capriglione, R-Keller, noted the state of Texas has more than 274,000 rules and regulations.

HIGHLANDS CROSBY Star Courier USPS 244-500 Barbers Hill Dayton PRESS NORTH CHANNEL STAR Editor & Publisher: Gilbert Hoffman Associate Publisher: Mei-Ing Liu Hoffman Managing Editor: David Taylor Assignment Editor: Julieta Paita Website Editor: Kristan Hoffman Production Manager: Gerardo Hernandez



# HOUSTON'S ART CAR PARADE 2025

**Art Car Parade**  
Houston's largest free public event returns in April 2026!

Community groups, public and private schools, and professional organizations have become regular participants. Inspired by what they see, spectators create art cars of their own and often become future participants. And as the parade grows, attracting more and more participants, the complexity and quality of the entries increases.

One of Houston's most beloved annual events started as small gatherings of like-minded artists and individuals in the early 1980s - from the creation of Jackie Harris' "Fruitmobile" and the Ann Harithas curated exhibition "Collision" at Lawndale Art Center in 1984, to Rachel Hecker and Trish Herrera's New Music Parade and the Orange Show's "Road Show" in 1986 - all of which featured automobiles that had been transformed by artists into works of art. Then in 1988, the Orange Show Center for Visionary Art produced "Roadside Attractions: The Art Car Parade" with 40 art cars seen by 2,000 people.

Today, The Houston Art Car Parade is the largest celebration of its kind in the world, featuring over 250 entries and attracting 200,000-300,000 spectators as the mobile masterpieces created by artists, students, youth groups, families, organizations and anyone with a passion for creativity roll through downtown Houston every April. The Houston Art Car Parade represents the idea that there is an artist inside all of us, and in doing so offers the opportunity to showcase that inherent creativity on a large scale.

More information at [www.thehoustonartcarparade.com](http://www.thehoustonartcarparade.com).

38th Annual Houston Art Car Parade and Festival Rolls Back Into Town  
Houston's Most Colorful Tradition Rolls On  
By Marlene Rivera, Student Reporter ■ April 11, 2025

HOUSTON — The city's most unconventional and visually striking event returns as the 38th Annual Houston Art Car Parade and Festival, Presented by Team Gillman, takes over downtown this weekend, showcasing over 250 elaborately decorated vehicles in a dazzling display of creativity and community spirit.

Organized by the Orange Show Center for Visionary Art, the parade has become the largest event of its kind in the world, drawing thousands of attendees eager to experience an explosion of artistic ingenuity on wheels. Whether a first-time visitor or a longtime devotee, spectators can expect a one-of-a-kind event that merges art, engineering, and



performance.

### Festival Schedule and Key Events

The Houston Art Car Parade Weekend is more than just the parade itself. The festivities span multiple days, offering a variety of activities leading up to the grand event.

### A Moving Museum of Art

More than just a parade, the 38th Annual Houston Art Car Parade and Festival is a multi-

performance. Spectators will witness everything from classic cars transformed into intricate murals to massive mechanized sculptures rolling through the streets. The event includes live music, interactive installations, and some of the city's best street food.

### A Community Celebration

The parade attracts artists from across the country, creating a network of art car enthusiasts who collaborate

and share their passion for artistic transformation.

### The Evolution of a Houston Tradition

Originally a grassroots event, the Houston Art Car Parade has evolved into a defining cultural phenomenon. Groups such as the Houston Art Car Klub (HACK) and national art car networks have helped expand its reach.

One of the parade's most impactful initiatives is its

educational outreach program, which provides vehicles generously donated by Team Gillman to teachers in many school districts at different grade levels in and around Houston. These educators and their students work together to design and create art cars, fostering young talent while encouraging creativity and collaboration.

### A Reflection of Houston's Identity

The parade is an extension of

Houston itself—bold, inventive, and diverse. Many art cars reflect themes inspired by the city's aerospace industry, energy sector, and culinary scene. NASA-inspired designs, oil-themed creations, and even art cars dedicated to Houston's famous Tex-Mex cuisine all make appearances.

Some vehicles incorporate moving parts, pyrotechnics, or elaborate lighting, further blending Houston's spirit of technological innovation with artistic vision.

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**GENERAC**



# Crosby Superintendent: From special olympics to academic honors, fine arts achievements, and athletic signings,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing young women. I am looking forward to hearing from both Trinity and Meredith during their speeches at the Class of 2025 Commencement Ceremony on Friday, May 30 at Cougar Stadium.

District leaders from around Crosby ISD are working as helping hands during STAAR testing season. At Crosby Middle School, students have received math reviews from Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Jewel Whitfield; Executive Director of Operations, Mr. Lemond Mitchell; Director of Student Services, Ms. Katrina White; and Educational Technologist, Ms. Devon Bradley. In addition, CMS has hosted boot camps and science reviews with members of the Curriculum and Instruction team. We want our test takers to remember to sleep well, eat well, and bring their devices fully charged on testing days.

Fine things are happening in the Crosby High School Fine Arts program. The Crosby High School Varsity Band has been selected to perform at the UIL State Wind Ensemble Festival at the University of Texas-Austin in May. The band also scored all Division 1 ratings at the UIL Contest Evaluation earlier this month. Theatre Arts students took home a big trophy for their entry in the Houston Art Car Parade. They created a moving homage to SpongeBob SquarePants and won the top prize in

the Performing Category. Very creative!

Eight Crosby High School student-athletes cemented their collegiate careers during National Signing Day events this month. They are all receiving scholarships to continue their academic and athletic pursuits. Congratulations to the following students: Olivia Darbonne (soccer, Texas A&M-Texas); Audrey Harlien (soccer, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor); Abby Ellis (track, University of Texas-Dallas); Ty Lovas (track, University of Louisiana-Monroe); Jakob O'Daniel (baseball, San Jacinto College); Noah Holder (baseball, Arlington Baptist University); Augustus "Gus" Saenz (rodeo, Sul Ross State University); and Alasia Pierre (rodeo, Northeast Texas Community College). We are extremely proud seeing dozens of CHS students commit to college athletic careers this year.

Finally, good luck to Crosby Elementary School first grade teacher, Ms. Tracy LeBlanc. She's about to reach another life goal! She's riding in this year's Texas MS 150, biking more than 150 miles from Houston to La Grange to College Station to benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. She's been riding her bike 100 miles each weekend in preparation. Wow!

We are Committed to Excellence! Go Coogs!



Crosby High School senior, Gus Saenz, was one of eight students this month to sign with a college to continue their academic and athletic careers. Gus earned a rodeo scholarship to attend Sul Ross State University.



Crosby Elementary School first grade teacher, Ms. Tracy LeBlanc, is riding in her first-ever Texas MS150. She has been practicing each weekend, preparing for the 150-mile bike ride from Houston to College Station on April 26 and 27. Ms. LeBlanc is raising money for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.



Students enjoyed playing with a parachute during the Coleen Walker Relays at Cougar Stadium. There were dozens of field activities for students to enjoy.



More than 330 Crosby High School students volunteered to mentor younger students during the Coleen Walker Relays. The relays are named after late Crosby High School LifeSkills teacher, Ms. Coleen Walker. She championed education for all.

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Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 530779; Estate of EDWARD ARWID SURREY, JR., Deceased; In Probate Court No. 3 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on NOVEMBER 20, 2024 to:

**SUSAN INEZ SURREY A/K/A SUSAN INEZ SURREY POSKUS**

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 APRIL 16, 2025

*Weston Cotten*  
by WESTON COTTEN  
Attorney for the Estate

### LEGAL NOTICE

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 531256; Estate of ANNA LOUISE OLDENBORG, Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on MARCH 3, 2025 to:

**PATRICIA LOUISE DUDA**

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 APRIL 16, 2025

*Weston Cotten*  
by WESTON COTTEN  
Attorney for the Estate

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Tom Hardy stars in "Havoc."

### "Havoc"

**"Black Bag" (R)** — Out now to rent, this spy thriller film stars Cate Blanchett ("Borderlands") and Michael Fassbender ("The Killer") as two suave and sexy British intelligence officers who are also married to each other. For his latest mission, George (Fassbender) is given a week to figure out where a breach leaked from within their organization, but his wife, Kathryn (Blanchett), is one of five suspects in the case. Torn between his duty to his work and his marriage, George must be cautious and resourceful when solving this case, but the price is steep. Will he lose his career or his wife? Naomie Harris ("Moonlight"), Rege-Jean Page ("Bridgerton"), and Pierce Brosnan ("Mobleland") co-star. (Apple TV+)

**"Havoc" (R)** — If anyone should lead a new

gritty crime drama full of gory action, a misunderstood antihero, and potent one-liners, it's Mr. Tom Hardy ("Venom: The Last Dance," "The Bikeriders," "Peaky Blinders"). He stars as Walker, a detective in a city with a brutal criminal underworld and lots of corruption. When a politician's son gets caught in the middle of a drug deal gone awry, Walker plans to rescue him. But with so many people — both criminals and not — hot on his tail, Walker is at the precipice of unraveling something much bigger than he knows. Look out for familiar faces like Timothy Olyphant ("Justified: City Primeval") and Forest Whitaker ("Big George Foreman") in this film premiering April 25. (Netflix)

**"Azrael" (R)** — If you like your horror movies with a religious or cultish touch, look no further

than this film led by scream queen Samara Weaving ("Borderline"). Taking place years after the Rapture, the only people still surviving on Earth must spend their days outrunning "the Burned Ones," who are demons that feast on humans. Azrael (Weaving) and her boyfriend, Kenan, are powering through with a cult in the forest, but when the cultists soon decide to turn on them, a traumatic battle for survival begins against demons and non-demons alike. Although this film went under the radar after its release, it should still satisfy you if you're looking for a good spook. Premieres April 25. (Hulu)

**In Case You Missed It "The Holdovers" (R)** — "Downsizing" director Alexander Payne spearheaded this comedy-drama that received recognition during last year's award season, specifically for Paul Giamatti ("Downton Abbey") and Da'Vine Joy Randolph's ("Only Murders in the Building") palpable performances. Taking place in 1970, the film spans the lonely days of a Christmas break at a boarding school, where teacher Paul Hunham (Giamatti) is required to chaperone a group of students who can't go home for the holidays. Of these students, a cynical boy named Angus (Dominic Sessa) gives Paul an incredibly hard time, but the impact he leaves on Paul after just a few weeks can make anyone's eyes water. If films like "Dead Poets Society" tickle your fancy, this one's right up your alley! (Peacock)

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**Q: What is Josh Holloway from "Lost" doing these days? I haven't seen him in anything since the show ended.** — D.I.

A: While Sawyer on "Lost" is probably Josh Holloway's most memorable role, he's far from retired. CBS had high hopes that "Intelligence," his first series after "Lost" ended, would be a surefire fit, but it was canceled after one season. He followed it with the sci-fi drama "Colony" on the USA Network, which was a modest hit with three seasons' worth of episodes. But he wouldn't have another hit until "Yellowstone," where he'd play a hedge-fund manager in season three.

Holloway currently has two upcoming projects. First up is the series "Duster" from "Lost" creator J.J. Abrams and LaToya Morgan ("Shameless"), where he plays a "gutsy getaway driver for a growing crime syndicate." Set in the 1970s, it co-stars Rachel Hilson ("This Is Us") and premieres on Max on May 15.

He'll follow this with the film "Flint," which is based on the classic Western novel by Louis L'Amour that is set in the 1860s. Holloway has long been trying to bring the late author's famed book to the big screen, and it looks like it's finally happening.

**Q: I saw that singer Jelly Roll has lost a lot of weight and is planning on running a marathon. How has he accomplished his goal?** — S.T.

A: Born Jason Bradley DeFord, Jelly Roll was given his nickname by his mother as a kid, but he actually prefers his friends to just call him "Jelly." He's overcome a troubled time in his life where he was addicted to drugs and served time in prison. He's now clean and living a healthy lifestyle, and he boasts an almost 200-pound weight loss. He hopes to lose another 100 pounds so that he can join his wife in a skydiving adventure next year. He's also training for a half-marathon.

He hasn't publicly attributed his weight loss to surgery or GLP-1 medications like Ozempic, but he does have a personal chef and a nutrition coach. The charismatic singer is currently serving as "American Idol's" first Artist in



Josh Holloway as Roarke Morris in "Yellowstone"

Residence, where his infectious enthusiasm is put to great use by mentoring young talent.

**Q: How is the new daytime soap "Beyond the Gates" doing with its ratings? Do you think this could pave the way for more soaps in the future?** — K.W.

A: "Beyond the Gates" is CBS's first new daytime drama to debut in 25 years, and it's done surprisingly well. The newbie is neck-and-neck with its time-slot competitor, ABC's "General Hospital," in the ratings race since it premiered, but it is far from achieving the numbers that CBS's "The Young and the Restless" achieves week after week.

Most importantly, "BTG" draws a significantly bigger audience than "The Talk," which was the daytime talk show that it replaced. As for whether there will be more afternoon stories developed by television networks in the future, we'll just have to wait and see!

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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## ENTERTAINMENT

### Amber Waves



### Weekly SUDOKU

7	5	3	9		4			1
				1				
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	9	8	7			1	4	
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Eyes are different. 2. Hair is longer. 3. Lipset is different. 4. Door is not as wide. 5. Name on door is lower. 6. The is thinner. 7. The is thinner. 8. The is thinner. 9. The is thinner. 10. The is thinner.

### April 21, 2025 Posting Date King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
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52					53			54			
55					56			57			

**ACROSS**

- Persian Gulf emirate
- Little lie
- Chances, for short
- Winner's gesture
- "All bets — off"
- Haw preceder
- Thesaurus compiler
- Bach's "Coffee —"
- Deserves
- Legal document
- Salonga of "Miss Saigon"
- Commotion
- Deli array
- Arsenal supply
- Serious
- Wear down
- "Othello" character
- Indian instruments
- Mea —
- Coin aperture
- Be buoyant
- out a living
- Glacial
- Hoops great Monroe
- Ornamental beetle
- Cheery refrain
- Arcade pioneer
- Revue segment
- London's Big —
- Butler's love
- four (small cake)
- Plane assignments
- Chirps
- Perfect
- Science room
- Brit. record label
- "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" role
- Baseball's Tommie
- Office leader?
- Element
- 401(k) relatives
- "Open sesame" speaker
- Sinbad's bird
- Pigs' digs
- Praline nuts
- Greek cheeses
- Coniferous tree
- Emulate
- Douglass
- Obliterate
- Serb or Croat
- Heaps
- "Shark Tank" network
- Emeritus, briefly
- Hot temper

**DOWN**

- TiVo, for example
- Mil. morale booster
- "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" role
- Baseball's Tommie
- Office leader?
- Element
- 401(k) relatives
- 30 Snip

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### Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES: Which animated movie was the first to be nominated for a Best Picture Academy Award?
- GEOGRAPHY: Interior and exterior film shots of Alnwick Castle in England are featured in the first two movies of which film series?
- TELEVISION: What was the last name of the family in the sitcom "Married ... With Children"?
- LITERATURE: For which category is the Caldecott Medal awarded?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Also known as a double eagle, what is the golf term for scoring three under par on a hole?
- ANATOMY: What is the protein that carries oxygen in the blood?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was the first to name a woman as a Cabinet member?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby toad called?
- FOOD & DRINK: Which fast-food chain's secret ingredient is 11 herbs and spices?
- ASTRONOMY: How many moons does Mars have?

**King Crossword**

Solution time: 26 mins

Answers

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