



See Page 5 for Previews of Important Games

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

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VOL. 72, NO. 33 - \$1.00

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2025

HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

State TEA Releases 2yr Academic Ratings Goose Creek CISD, Crosby ISD, and Huffman ISD Districts get "C" Ratings

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

AUSTIN, TX – August 15, 2025 — In a significant move for transparency and accountability, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has officially released the 2025 A-F Accountability Ratings for public school systems and campuses statewide. This release also includes the previously postponed 2024 ratings, now public after legal barriers were resolved.

The unveiling of these ratings marks a return to clarity for Texas families, communities, and school leaders, after two years of lawsuits delayed their publication.

"Today marks a return to clarity and accountability. With the release of the 2025 A-F Ratings, we are reinforcing our commitment to transparency and to providing accurate, readily available information that helps every family understand how their school is doing," said Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath.

Goose Creek CISD scored a 78/C both in 2024-25 and 2023-24, down from their B rating in 2022-23 with a score of 80. That is also a downward trend from the 2021-22 What If rating of an 82. With 11 D ratings and one F out of the 34 campuses, those numbers prevented the

district from achieving the elusive B rating.

The new scores also show a mere 1 point improvement for Crosby ISD for 2024-25 with a 78/C. The last two school years were 77's leaving many to question whether the four-day schedule is not producing the change that was promised. The middle school continues to slide dropping to 72/C down one point from last year at 73 and down 2 points from the two previous years.

Huffman ISD showed slight improvement from the 2022-2023 score of a D at 68. The 2023-24 scores made a considerable improvement up to a 74/C, but this past year dropped

to a C at 71 narrowly avoiding another D. Three out of four campuses were rated with a D (Falcon Ridge 62, Huffman Elementary 60, and Huffman Middle School with a 68. The district continues without a superintendent in place and may reflect the scores.

In 2025, 1,208 districts and 9,084 campuses received ratings. Compared to the prior year, 24 percent of districts and 31 percent of campuses saw improvement in their letter grades. The majority of campuses maintained their previous ratings, while only 15 percent experienced a decline. Notably, 43 percent of

high-poverty campuses earned an A or B, demonstrating that student demographics do not determine educational outcomes.

The A-F Accountability System, established in 2017 by the 85th Texas Legislature through House Bill 22, aims to provide straightforward information about school performance in Student Achievement, School Progress, and Closing the Gaps. The system is designed to promote continuous improvement and ensure that every student has access to a high-quality education that prepares them for life after graduation.

These ratings are a vital resource for educators, parents, policymakers, and local communities, offering clear insights into school and district performance and guiding support to areas where it is needed most. The A-F system strikes a balance between rigor, fairness, and transparency, setting ambitious goals for postsecondary readiness while recognizing growth and achievement across Texas schools. To view the 2025 A-F Ratings for school systems and campuses, visit TXschools.gov.

Continued. See TEA REPORT CARD, Page 2

Pregnancy Resource Center East finds 'forever' home in Highlands



Members of the Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce celebrate the ribbon cutting with staff from the Pregnancy Resource Center East in Highlands earlier at 11 a.m. Kicking off a weekend of celebrations. (Photo by David Taylor)

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

After three decades of dedicated service in Baytown, the Pregnancy Resource Center East has finally found a permanent home for their ministry. The center, which began

its journey in a small storefront in Baytown in 1994, has moved to a spacious new location in Highlands. This move marks a significant milestone for the organization, which has been a beacon of hope and support for women in crisis. "We've been here 30-

plus years. We began officially in '93, but we began in a storefront, I think, around 1994. This will be our 31st year," said Gail Duhon, executive director for PRCE. The journey

Continued. See PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER EAST, Page 5

Crosby Chamber and CenterPoint partner for 58 Streetlights on FM2100

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

Crosby, Texas – The Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce has announced an exciting partnership with CenterPoint Energy to install 58 new streetlights along FM 2100, strategically placed from US 90 to South Diamondhead Boulevard. This initiative aims to improve safety, visibility, and quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors to the community.

According to chamber officials, the project will bring much-needed lighting to a busy stretch of roadway, helping reduce nighttime accidents, deter crime, and create a more inviting environment for evening travel and local commerce.

"This has been a dream and vision of mine for

many years," said Velma Ellison, chairman of the board of the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce. "I am so thankful that our chamber board has worked alongside me to make this happen. These 58 streetlights will greatly enhance safety and help our community shine—literally and figuratively."

CenterPoint Energy will handle the installation of the lights, while the chamber coordinated the project to ensure the needs of the community were met.

"The lights will be on wooden poles and won't interfere with turning trucks," Ellison said. They are spaced throughout the 2.8 mile route.

The installation is expected to begin within 90 days and be completed in 180 days. This partnership underscores the value of

public-private collaboration in improving local infrastructure and fostering community growth.

Ellison said businesses, organizations, and individuals are encouraged to participate in the Light Up Crosby project. Lights cost approximately \$10 per month, and payment should be made on an annual basis to reduce the need for paperwork and billing. To participate, scan the QR code or visit the chamber website at <https://crosbyhuffmancc.org> and click on the streetlights tab at the top of the page. There are several levels of sponsorship, and the funds can be paid online.

For more information about this project or how to sponsor the streetlights,

Continued. See CHCC PARTNERS WITH CENTERPOINT, Page 2

Comm. Ramsey Highlights Growth, Opportunity Coming to Pct. 3 Area

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

CROSBY – Pct. 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey paid a visit to the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce and gave members an update on what's coming.

"It's a pleasure to be here with you today. As business owners, you're truly fortunate to operate in unincorporated Harris County—there's no better place anywhere," Ramsey said. "For the past five years, I've had the privilege of serving as commissioner for more than half the county, thanks to the way district lines are drawn. In fact, I oversee nearly half of the county's unincorporated areas, which means I'm responsible for maintaining 6,800 miles of roads—an enormous task."

Ramsey emphasized the statutory obligation to maintain infrastructure, noting, "At the end of the day, it's the unincorporated parts of Harris County where growth is accelerating. In the next decade, we expect



Pct. 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey spoke at lunch and shared details of his work in the community with the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce members last Thursday.

18,000 new homes to be constructed east of Lake Houston. Whatever your business may be, take this into account for future planning. The growth is real, and it's coming."

Continued. See COMMISSIONER TOM RAMSEY, Page 5

New Texas Redistricting Maps Passed amid Filibuster Controversy

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

In a dramatic turn of events, Texas lawmakers have successfully passed a new congressional voting map favoring the Republican Party after a contentious session that saw the shutdown of a filibuster attempt by State Senator Carol Alvarado. The bill, which passed in the early hours of Saturday morning at 12:39, is now awaiting Governor Greg Abbott's signature.

The redistricting debate began around 10 a.m. on Friday and continued for nearly 15 hours before the bill was approved. Democratic senators argued that the proposal was racially biased and would significantly impact minority communities, particularly



Despite her Filibuster being shut down by Republicans during the vote on redistricting, Democratic State Senator Carol Alvarado gave her speech at the back of the senate following adjournment.

in the Houston area. Republicans, however, maintained that the new districts were drawn based solely on political considerations.

Before she could even begin her speech, Alvara-

do knew the rules of the Senate regarding filibusters. Senate filibuster rules mean a senator can't sit, eat, drink, or even leave to use the restroom. Senators can ask questions to try to end the filibuster. Alvarado was accused by Republicans of violating Senate rules by sending a fundraising campaign email publicizing her plans and asking for donations. The accusation led to the shutdown of her filibuster attempt.

Alvarado expressed her frustration, saying, "It hits kind of an all-time low in the Texas Senate. I wouldn't be surprised if maybe they try to come back and do away with the filibuster."

Continued. See NEW CONGRESSIONAL MAPS, Page 2

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TEA releases school ratings, marks progress for Goose Creek, Crosby and Huffman Districts,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Goose Creek CISD District Rating—C (78)		
Alamo Elem	Kindergarten - Grade 5	C
Ashbel Smith Elem	Early Education - Grade 5	D
Banuelos Elem	Kindergarten - Grade 5	C
Baytown JH	Grade 6 - Grade 8	D
Carver Elem	Kindergarten - Grade 5	D
Cedar Bayou JH	Grade 6 - Grade 8	D
Clark Elem	Kindergarten - Grade 5	B
Crockett Elem	Kindergarten - Grade 5	B
De Zavala Elem	Kindergarten - Grade 5	D
E F Green Junior School	Grade 6 - Grade 8	C
Excel Academy (Murworth)	Grade 9 - Grade 11	Not Rated
GCCISD Virtual Academy	Grade 3 - Grade 12	D
Gentry JH	Grade 6 - Grade 8	C
Goose Creek Memorial	Grade 9 - Grade 12	B
Harlem Elem	Kindergarten - Grade 5	D
High Point School	Grade 7 - Grade 12	Not Rated
Highlands Elem	Grade 1 - Grade 5	D
Highlands JH	Grade 6 - Grade 8	C
Hopper Primary	EE / K	D
Horace Mann JH	Grade 6 - Grade 8	D
Impact Early College HS	Grade 9 - Grade 12	A
James Bowie Elem	EE / K	B
Jessie Lee Pumphrey Elem	Early Education - Grade 5	D
Lamar Elem	Early Education - Grade 5	F
Lee HS	Grade 9 - Grade 12	B
Peter E Hyland Empower Academy	Grade 10 - Grade 12	A
Point Alternative Center	Grade 6 - Grade 12	Not Rated
San Jacinto Elem	Early Education - Grade 5	C
Sheila Liles Early Learning Academy	EE / PK	C
Stephen F Austin Elem	Kindergarten - Grade 5	C
Sterling HS	Grade 9 - Grade 12	B
Stuart Career Tech HS	Grade 9 - Grade 12	A
Travis Elem	Kindergarten - Grade 5	C
Victoria Walker Elem	Kindergarten - Grade 5	C

CROSBY ISD District Rating—C (78)		
Barrett Elem	Kindergarten - Grade 5	B
Crosby Crossroads Academy	Grade 10 - Grade 12	B
Crosby Elem	Grade 1 - Grade 5	B
Crosby HS	Grade 9 - Grade 12	B
Crosby Kindergarten Center	EE/ K	C
Crosby MS	Grade 6 - Grade 8	C
Drew Elem	Kindergarten - Grade 5	B
Highpoint School East (Crosby)	Grade 6 - Grade 11	Not Rated
Newport Elem	Grade 1 - Grade 5	B

Huffman ISD District Rating—C (71)		
Falcon Ridge Elem	Kindergarten - Grade 5	D
Hargrave HS	Grade 9 - Grade 12	B
Huffman Elem	Early Education - Grade 5	D
Huffman MS	Grade 6 - Grade 8	D

Crosby Chamber partners with CenterPoint Energy for streetlight installation,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

contact the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce at 281-328-6984 or drop by to visit them at 5317 First St. in Crosby. This initiative is a tes-

tament to the power of community collaboration and the positive impact it can have on local infrastructure and safety. The Crosby-Huffman Chamber

of Commerce and CenterPoint Energy are committed to making Crosby a safer and more vibrant place for everyone, Ellison said.

Texas Lawmakers approve new congressional map, court challenges likely,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Despite the controversy, the bill passed with 18 ayes and 11 nays. Governor Abbott praised the new map.

“The one big, beautiful map has passed the Senate and is on its way to my desk where it will be swiftly signed into law. I promised we would get this done and delivered on that promise.”

Democrats have vowed

to challenge the new map in court, arguing that it violates the Voting Rights Act by diminishing the voting power of people of color.

“Every time Texas has drawn new maps, the courts have found at least one congressional district violated the Voting Rights Act,” said one Democratic senator. “We are optimistic about our chances in

the courts.”

The new districts are expected to be in place for the upcoming midterm elections, potentially increasing the number of GOP-controlled congressional districts from 25 to 30. As the political battle continues, all eyes will be on the courtroom to see how this latest redistricting effort unfolds.

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CenterPoint Energy and the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce have partnered to install 58 streetlights between Hwy 90 and S Diamondhead Blvd. for the safety and security of our community

LIGHTING UP CROSBY

We are depending on the businesses and residents to sponsor the lighting project with an annual sponsorship of:

- 

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- 

Bright Sponsor:
@ \$300 / Yr
- 

Shining Sponsor:
@ \$120 / Yr



SCAN TO SIGN UP TODAY!

Show your support for the safety of local businesses and residents by supporting this project.
Brilliant Sponsor: Bi-Monthly Facebook ads / Website recognition / Event recognition
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Shining Sponsor: Quarterly Facebook ads

This project, a collaboration between CenterPoint Energy and the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce, will light a key corridor to deter crime, reduce accidents, and boost community well-being. By enhancing safety and creating a welcoming environment, it supports local economic growth and showcases the power of public-private partnerships in building a brighter future.

5317 First St. Crosby, TX 77532 | 281-328-6984 | crosbyhuffmancc.org

Scan the QR code to take you to the chamber's web page for more information.

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VOL. 30, NO. 33

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2025

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Dayton ISD launches "The Bronco Buzz" District Newsletter

Dayton ISD Community, We're excited to announce the launch of our new district newsletter, **The Bronco Buzz!** Each issue will keep you informed about important updates, upcoming events, and achievements happening across Dayton ISD.

Read the latest issue by Scanning the following QR code:



Mont Belvieu Activity Calendar

Anything but a Boat Race

Saturday, September 6, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. | City Park

Get ready for a race like no other! Join us for the exhilarating **Anything But A Boat Race**, where participants will defy convention and race in vessels that are anything but traditional boats. Leave your expectations at the shore and embrace the creativity and ingenuity of this one-of-a-kind, FREE event.

Boat Rules
Race Rules
Awards
Participants operating vessel must be 14 years +

Can be hand-made/constructed. Store bought floats or pre-fabricated* items will be permitted (see next line).

No boats, boat shells, surf boards, paddle boards, body boards, kayaks, submersibles, or other boat-like vessels. Be creative with your floating vessel.

Inner tubes & floats may be used, but cannot be the only component - must build around or add on to your float / tube.

Must be able to float
Must be human powered only, no motors

Participant / Vessel Operators must wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket while in the water

No team size restrictions
Register in advance and sign waiver (link below)

Must be able to launch vessel from grass by pond - there is no boat ramp to load in your items.

State TEA Releases 2yr Academic Ratings

Barbers Hill ISD receives "A" rating for District

By David Taylor
Managing Editor

AUSTIN, TX – August 15, 2025 — In a significant move for transparency and accountability, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has officially released the 2025 A-F Accountability Ratings for public school systems and campuses statewide. This release also includes the previously postponed 2024 ratings, now public after legal barriers were resolved.

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"Today marks a return to clarity and accountability. With the release of the 2025 A-F Ratings, we are reinforcing our commitment to transparency and to providing accurate,

readily available information that helps every family understand how their school is doing," said Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath.

Barbers Hill ISD slightly improved their A rating with a one-point increase in the 2024-25 score to at 93. The last three years have seen a one point increase in the scores from a 92 in the 2023-2024 school year, and a 91/A in the 2022-2023 school year.

In 2025, 1,208 districts and 9,084 campuses received ratings. Compared to the prior year, 24 percent of districts and 31 percent of campuses saw improvement in their letter grades. The majority of campuses maintained their previous ratings, while only 15 percent experienced a decline. Notably, 43 percent of high-poverty campuses earned an A or B, demon-

Barbers Hill ISD District Rating – A (93)

Alternative School	Grade 7 - Grade 12	Not Rated
Barbers Hill Elem North	Grade 1 - Grade 3	A
Barbers Hill Elem South	Grade 1 - Grade 3	A
Barbers Hill HS	Grade 9 - Grade 12	A
Barbers Hill Int North	Grade 4 - Grade 6	A
Barbers Hill Int South	Grade 4 - Grade 6	A
Barbers Hill MS North	Grade 7 - Grade 8	A
Barbers Hill MS South	Grade 7 - Grade 8	A
Early Childhood Center	EE / K	A

strating that student demographics do not determine educational outcomes.

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Gaps. The system is designed to promote continuous improvement and ensure that every student has access to a high-quality education that prepares them for life after graduation.

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and guiding support to areas where it is needed most. The A-F system strikes a balance between rigor, fairness, and transparency, setting ambitious goals for postsecondary readiness while recognizing growth and achievement across Texas schools.

To view the 2025 A-F Ratings for school systems and campuses, visit TXschools.gov.

Sarah Hartsfield Murder Trial to Begin September 29th in Chambers County

CHAMBERS COUNTY, Texas – Sarah Hartsfield, the Chambers County woman accused of killing her husband, Joseph Hartsfield, did not appear in court in person on Friday, but her case was discussed amongst attorneys and the judge.

Attorneys said that they are ready to move forward with the trial, but they are waiting for unspecified records that are still needed.

Witness subpoenas are expected to be sent out soon for the trial, with jury selection scheduled to start on Sept. 29. It's not clear yet how long jury selection could take, but

prosecutors said it usually only takes a day or less.

No decision has been made yet if Sarah will take the stand in her own trial, according to her defense attorney, Case Darwin. He said he is not worried about finding an impartial jury in Chambers County.

The courtroom in the main courthouse in Chambers County is reserved for three weeks as the trial venue, but it's not clear yet how long it will last.

Judge Chap B. Cain III has not yet made a decision about allowing cameras in the courtroom for the trial.

Sarah, 50, has been in jail since Feb. 2023 after



being indicted by a Chambers County grand jury for murder.

Joseph died at the hospital in Jan. 2023 due to complications of the toxic effects of insulin, according to the autopsy report.

Prosecutors allege that Hartsfield ignored a phone

app sending alerts about Joseph's dangerously low sugar level and waited at least an hour to call 911 after finding the diabetic unresponsive. Detectives found up to 10 insulin pens on his side of the bed.

Joseph's family said he was making plans to leave

Sarah in the weeks leading up to his death.

After her arrest for murder in Texas, Minnesota prosecutors reopened a 2018 shooting investigation in which Sarah's fiancé at the time was killed.

So far, prosecutors haven't provided an update on that case.

Prosecutors have filed a list of 19 extraneous offenses they intend to bring up at some point during the trial, including the Minnesota shooting, abuse of her children, and allegations of a murder plot involving one of her exes and the new wife of a different ex.

Digital Communications Academy Students Lead Game Day Production at Stallworth Stadium

By Kendall David, Executive Director of Community Engagement

Baytown, TX — Goose Creek CISD is proud to announce that students in the district's **Digital Communications Academy** are officially taking over the production and live game day footage on the brand-new Stallworth Stadium scoreboard.

The state-of-the-art scoreboard, attached to the new Stallworth Field House completed as part of the **2019 Bond Program**, was unveiled at a ribbon-cutting ceremony this summer. Now, Digital Communications Academy students are making it come alive with high-quality video, live coverage, performance introductions, and advertising from local businesses.

This week, the students successfully completed their **first trial run** during the **Goose Creek Memorial Patriots vs. Dayton Broncos scrimmage**, putting their training into action and



Kevin Billings, Director of Technology, assists Maria Tenorio, Alex Garcia, and Damian Murguia with new production at Stallworth Stadium. (Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman)



In the press box, DigiComm students are operating the production equipment. Amiyah Ollivierre, a DigiComm student, Kristin Jaso, an instructor at SCTHS Digital Communications Academy, and Malakyi Ellis, DigiComm student. (Photo by Carrie Pryor-Newman)

showcasing their ability to deliver professional-quality production for the community.

Led by academy teachers **Kristin Jaso** and **Ric Morris**, and under the

leadership of **Principal Shonna Prentice**, students are gaining **hands-on, brains-on learning** by designing, filming, and producing real-time game day content. Their work in-



Alondra Burgos Irizarry and Jasmin Padilla, students of the SCTHS DigiComm Academy, stand before the state-of-the-art scoreboard where their work will appear during the games. (Photos by Carrie Pryor-Newman)

cludes instant replays, performance introductions, and advertising for local businesses—bringing professional-level production to Stallworth Stadium.

"This is an amazing opportunity that our Digital Communications students are truly excited about," said **Principal Shonna Prentice**. "You can see the joy on their faces and hear the enthusiasm in their voices when they talk about it. Our students are developing confidence, creativity, and career-ready skills through this real-world experience."

The academy offers a robust pathway of courses and includes a **Dual Credit Program with Hous-**

ton Community College, where students can earn a *Certificate of Completion in Filmmaking - Film/Video Production Level 1*.

"Students are not just learning about digital communications—they're living it," said Randal O'Brien, GCCISD Superintendent. "This is the type of real-world, skills-based learning that builds confidence, creativity, and career readiness. It's a perfect example of how in GC-CISD, *We Grow Giants*."

Community members or business owners interested in advertising opportunities on the scoreboard can email kristin.jaso@gccisd.net for more information.

OPINION PAGE

OPINION By League of Women Voters of Texas

League of Women Voters Condemns Harmful Texas Gerrymandered Maps

LWV Condemns Harmful Texas Gerrymandered Maps

President Trump & Governor Abbott silencing voters through mid-cycle redistricting to hold onto power

WASHINGTON & AUSTIN — Today the League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of Texas issued the following statement in response to the Texas legislature passing new congressional maps:

"The Texas mid-cycle redistricting map is designed to rig elections and silence voters. This scheme was fueled by a directive from President Trump in a desperate attempt to cling to power. Governor Abbott and Texas Republicans are abusing the redistricting process to bow down to an unpopular president who has no shame in thwarting the Constitution for his own benefit.

"The League of Women Voters has consistently opposed partisan gerrymandering and mid-cycle redistricting because these tactics disenfranchise voters. And Texas, in particular, has a history of using gerrymandering to harm Black and brown communities. Texas Latino voters, whom Trump tokenized during his campaign, are already being terrorized by ICE raids and increased police profiling, and now the President's gerrymandering scheme will further dehumanize this community.

"Texans deserve fair maps drawn to reflect their communities — not partisan lines manipulated to entrench power. Together, the League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of Texas will not stand by while elected officials trample the Constitution and rewrite the rules to politically assault voters.

"The US Constitution and federal law establish that redistricting occurs once every ten years, following the Census. Handing the President a larger margin is not a legal or democratic justification for politicians to redraw maps mid-cycle. By defying this long-standing practice meant to create order and stability, Texas lawmakers are destabilizing elections, stripping communities of fair representation, and corroding the foundations of our democracy.

"Voters — not politicians — must choose their leaders. The League will continue to fight gerrymandering in Texas and any state that seeks to silence the voices of voters in our democracy. Texas should expect the League to continue fighting to stop this attack on democracy."

OPINION By HC Pct. 2 Commissioner ADRIAN GARCIA

Commissioner Garcia opposes Budget Cuts proposed by Judge Hidalgo

The County Judge proposes making cuts to core county services that Precinct 2 provides you.

The proposal would eliminate funding to:

- Fix and maintain roads
-- Prevent flooding through ditch maintenance
-- Operate and maintain parks, trails, and playgrounds
-- Keep community centers open
-- Provide summer camps for our children

However, no cuts and no new taxes are needed to maintain core county services.

For months, (I have) worked with county departments to find opportunities to balance the budget and increase efficiency without sacrificing the services Harris County residents depend on to stay safe and thrive.

Act now to save our parks, community centers, roads and ditches. The County Judge's proposal would shut down the Precinct 2 services and facilities you rely on. Email CommissionersCourt@hctx.net and let the court know how these cuts could impact you, your family, and your safety.

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



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

Special Session Ends; Democrats Make New Demands

With a quorum-breaking number of House Democrats still out of state, House Speaker Dustin Burrows, R-Lubbock, gavelled the first special session to an end Friday. Gov. Greg Abbott immediately called a second special session that has already convened.

House Democrats indicated they will likely return to Texas at some point during the second special session and would fight the proposed redistricting attempt with legal challenges against the Republican plan to add five GOP-heavy congressional districts, The Dallas Morning News reported.

"Texas House Democrats broke quorum and successfully mobilized the nation against Trump's assault on minority voting rights," said Texas House Democratic Caucus Chair Rep. Gene Wu of Houston. "Now, as Democrats across the nation join our fight to cause these maps to fail their political purpose, we're prepared to bring this battle back to Texas under the right conditions and to take this fight to the courts."

Democratic California Gov. Gavin Newsom has said voters in his state will be asked in a November election to counter the redistricting move in Texas by approving new Democratic congressional districts there.

Meanwhile, the Texas Senate has passed legislation on flood relief and disaster response, doing away with STAAR testing in favor of three tests annually, and other measures that would await approval in the House during the new special session.

COLLEGES, NONPROFITS URGE JUDGE TO REINSTATE DREAM ACT

As the fall semester gets underway, lawyers are again asking a district judge to allow them to contest a ruling that overturned the Texas Dream Act. That measure for 24 years has allowed eligible Texas residents who are non-citizens to pay in-state tuition rates, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

The federal government in June sued the state, arguing the 2001 Dream Act provides unfair benefits to non-U.S. citizens. When the state declined to fight the suit, state District Judge Reed O'Connor stopped the law from being enforced. That means non-citizens would have



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

to pay the considerably higher tuition rates charged to international students.

Multiple parties have sued seeking to join the suit after the state declined, but the judge has not ruled on that bid, leaving colleges and universities in limbo as tuition bills are sent out.

"They would have had a very hard time proving that a 25-year state law that has helped tens of thousands of students is somehow harming the U.S.," said David Donatti of the American Civil Liberties Union, which is seeking to join the suit. "Our arguments are very strong. To me, our right to intervene is extremely clear."

Texas has more than 57,000 students without legal documentation, second only to California, according to Inside Higher Ed. They would face tuition rates up to four times higher than in-state tuition if the ban on the Dream Act becomes permanent.

NO CELLPHONES IN SCHOOLS, OTHER NEW LAWS TO TAKE EFFECT

Students will no longer be able to access their cellphones or other electronic devices in public schools when a new law takes effect Sept. 1, according to The News. Texas school districts will have 90 days to adopt and enforce policies on how cellphones will be restricted or stored on their campuses.

The new law allows for an exception if the district provides electronic devices to students for instructional purposes.

Other new laws require displaying a poster or framed copy of the Ten Commandments in each classroom, allowing districts to adopt policies setting aside time for students and staff to pray or read a religious text, and a ban on school-sponsored LGBTQ clubs.

If approved by voters in November, homeowners should see lower property tax bills with the homestead exemption being raised from \$100,000 to \$140,000. Residents with disabilities or those 65 and older will see the exemption rise to \$200,000 if the proposed amendments pass.

IMMIGRANT DETENTION CAMP IN EL PASO OPENS

What will eventually be the largest immigrant detention facility in the U.S. opened in El Paso at Fort Bliss last weekend, according to The Texas Tribune. The facility initially is accepting up to 1,000 detainees. Over the next two years, its planned capacity will expand to 5,000.

"Upon completion, this will be the largest federal detention center in history for this critical mission — the deportation of illegal aliens," Pentagon press secretary Kingsley Wilson said during a briefing.

The tent camp, called Camp East Montana, was built by a private firm at a cost of \$232 million.

The camp's opening comes as the Trump administration seeks to arrest 3,000 migrants daily.

TEA RELEASES 2025 ACCOUNTABILITY RATINGS

The Texas Education Agency has released both the 2025 A-F accountability ratings and the delayed 2024 ratings for public school systems and campuses. The latter were delayed by legal challenges.

"Today marks a return to clarity and accountability. With the release of the 2025 A-F Ratings, we are reinforcing our commitment to transparency and to providing accurate, readily available information that helps every family understand how their school is doing," said Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath.

A total of 1,208 districts and 9,084 campuses were rated in 2025. Compared with 2024, 24% of districts and 31% of campuses improved their letter grade. A small portion — 15% — saw their grades decline while most maintained their previous rating.

To view the 2025 A-F Ratings for school systems and campuses across the state, go to Txschools.gov. The site features several different facets to allow people to better understand that accountability ratings data, including a map to search for schools by address and compare selected schools.

LATEST POLL SHOWS CORNYN WITH SLIGHT PRIMARY EDGE

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn leads his GOP challenger, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, by 1 percentage point, The Tribune reported.

The Emerson College poll used a sample of nearly 500 registered Texans who plan to vote in next March's Republican primary. It showed Cornyn with 30% of those who responded, while Paxton garnered 29%. Many of the Republican voters who were polled remain undecided — 37%.

Cornyn allies have already begun spending millions of dollars in advertising, while Paxton has opted to wait until closer to the primary. Both candidates are seeking Trump's endorsement, but he has not publicly weighed in so far.

THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

Just a Little Anxious



I've been trying to meditate a bit more.

I am a little anxious, and meditation calms me. It helps me not to fly off in six directions at once. "What have you forgotten to do?!" anxiety is always screaming at me, and since I've obviously forgotten it, I never have a good answer. Except meditation. Meditation is a good answer.

Meditation says, "Oh! Look at that. It's an anxious thought." Anxiety does not appreciate this, being relegated to a mere emotion, transitory and (let's face it) not terribly important. It can't really work itself into a full-blown panic with that kind of attitude.

So anxiety sulks off and—more often than not—joy takes root in its place.

That is the short answer as to why I've been marching off every week to the Episcopal church to sit in their chapel for an hour, looking at candles and stained-glass windows and the inside of my brain.

I tried another meditation group that meets on another night. This one involved some chanting of religious text and a bit of meditation and then something that I'm sure has another name but I call "very slow walking."

I honestly cannot think of anything less relaxing than walking much, much too slowly in a circle with other people who are also walking much too slowly, trying not to step on the heels of the person in front of me. It's kind of tortuous.

These folks were all good at it, however, except for one older man, who apparently thought we were moving too slowly even for very slow walking, and passed each of us (on the right) as we went around the circle. Having this human equivalent of a red convertible screaming up behind me, passing and then zooming on to pass the next person was even more nerve-wracking than just slow walking. I was waiting for a collision to occur at the next turn.

Afterward, we all chatted about what was on our minds, and I discovered these people were all very kind and terribly serious. I don't think I've ever been so serious in all my life. I felt rather shallow. They asked what was on my mind, and all I could think to say was that the room we were meeting in looked like a speakeasy, and they all laughed, and I realized that was the first time anyone had laughed in an hour and a half—which is a very long time to go without a laugh for me.

So I probably do not belong in the slow-walking group, as nice as they are. But I will keep going to the silent meditation. The door to the sanctuary is left open a little, and I love the cool air wafting into the chapel. It smells like every old church I've ever been in, and I could not possibly tell you what that smell is—but it is calming.

I know that I could do this in my own home, and I am determined to try. At home, I listen to guided meditations, but after a while, those start to make me anxious as well. I start to wonder who the person who made the recording was, and who they had in mind when they made it. I worry, because it sounds as if they think whoever is listening really does not have their act together. I feel the need to reassure them. I want to say, "Hey! I'm not doing that badly!"

Because I'm not, most of the time. I'm just a little anxious.

Till next time, Carrie

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

FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 1: #1 Texas visits #2 Ohio State to kickoff 2025 college season

Labor Day Weekend is upon us, which means the official start to the college and high school football seasons. And it should be one heck of a first week (there were a handful of games last weekend, but this weekend is recognized as the official start of the college season).

The holiday weekend begins with a bang as No. 1-ranked Texas visits No. 2-ranked Ohio State, the defending national champion, at 11 a.m. Saturday on FOX (Channel 26 locally). UT enters its 124th season ranked No. 1 for the first time in school history. They face a rebuilding, but reloaded Buckeyes team that will be looking to repeat as national champs.

The loser of this game will still be in the mix to earn a spot in the College Football Playoffs (CFP), which will once again feature a 12-team field for the second year in a row. The CFP title game will be played on Monday, Jan. 19 at Hardrock Stadium in Miami.

The Ohio State game will be the debut for UT's Arch Manning as the Longhorns starting quarterback. Manning, the grandson of former Ole Miss and NFL star Archie Manning and nephew of Peyton and Eli Manning, served as a backup to Quinn Ewers a year ago. Head coach Steve Sarkisian has brought the talented youngster from New Orleans along slowly and believes he's ready to be the man under center. The 6-foot-5, 220-pounder has a strong throwing arm and brings a running dimension to the position.

OSU head coach will debut a new QB as well as Alabama transfer Julian Sayin will make his first college start against the 'Horns, and one of the top defenses in the nation.

This should be an excellent way to start your college football viewing. Following the UT-OSU game, No. 8 Alabama and second-year head coach Kalen DeBoer travel to Tallahassee to take on Florida State. The Crimson Tide should be fired up for this one as new Seminole QB Thomas Castellanos trash talked 'Bama during the ACC media day. He may regret taking shots at a Crimson Tide team that will be looking to turn things around after a 9-4 finish in DeBoer's first year after replacing the legend Nick Saban. The 'Bama-FSU game will begin at 2:30 p.m. and will be televised on ABC (Channel 13 locally).

And for a night cap, No. 9 LSU visits No. 4 Clemson as LSU head coach Brian Kelly enters his fourth season in Baton Rouge looking to end a three-game opening season losing streak. It won't get any easier when his Tigers take on a loaded Dabo Swiney team that features quarterback Cade Klubnik, a Heisman Trophy candidate.

On Sunday, No. 6-ranked Notre Dame visits Miami at 6:30 p.m. on ABC. Last year, the Irish, under the direction of head coach Marcus Freeman (entering his fourth season) finished 14-2 and reached the CFP title game, where they lost to Ohio State. Miami finished 10-3 a year ago and has a new QB in Georgia transfer Carson Beck, who will replace Cam Ward, the No. 1 overall draft choice in the 2025 NFL draft.

The big weekend concludes on Monday night, when TCU visit North Carolina and its new head coach, Bill Belichick. The owner of six Super Bowls makes his debut as a college coach after decades in the NFL. It should be interesting to see how Belichick transitions from the pro game to the college game. The TCU-Carolina game will begin at 7 p.m. and will be televised on ESPN.

NCAA



Auburn at Baylor - The Baylor Bears (8-5 in '24) open their 2025 season on Friday night in Waco when they host the Auburn Tigers. Auburn finished 5-7 a year ago and heat could be on head coach Hugh Freeze, who has gone 11-14 in his first two years on the Plains. He faces a tough opener against a Bears team that returns a veteran QB in Sawyer Robinson (3,071 yards, 28 TDs) and a talented running back in Bryson Washington (1,028 yards, 12 TDs). Auburn has a new QB in Oklahoma transfer Jackson Arnold (1,421 yards, 12 TDs). Look for Baylor to make Freeze's seat even hotter when they hand the Tigers an opening-season loss. My pick, Baylor 31, Auburn 23

Texas at Ohio State - Nothing like starting the season with No. 1 facing No. 2 to start off the season. Manning (939 passing yards, 9 TDs/108 rushing yards, 4 TDs in nine games, two starts) will begin his UT career as a starter in one of the most hostile environments in the Horseshoe in Columbus. From all reports, Manning is capable of handling the home crowd. He's a mentally tough kid who comes from perhaps the first family of football. Look for Sark (who led UT to a 13-3 season and second straight trip to the CFP) to feature UT's strong running game to take pressure off of Manning in the opener. Texas has a solid one-two punch in Tre Wisner (1,064 yards, 5 TDs) and C.J. Baxter, who returns after missing all of the 2024 season after suffering a serious knee injury. As a freshman, Baxter rushed for 659 yards and scored 5 TDs). Manning has a young, but talented receiving corps to throw to, led by sophomore Ryan Wingo (29 receptions, 472 yards, 2 TDs). Ohio State will also be breaking in a new QB in Sayin, and he has perhaps the best wide receiver in the nation to throw to in sophomore Jeremiah Smith (76 receptions, 1,315 yards, 15 TDs). The 6-3, 223-pound Smith was held to just one catch for three yards in the Buckeyes CFP semifinal win over UT last January. Look for him to be much more productive come Saturday. While Texas has a lot of talent on offense, they are loaded on defense, led by pre-season All-American linebacker Anthony Hill Jr. (113 tackles, 5 sacks) and sophomore defensive end Collin Simmons (9 sacks as a true freshman). Look for those two, and a deep and veteran UT secondary to be the difference maker in this one as Texas earns a huge opening-season victory. My pick, Texas 24, Ohio State 20

Alabama at Florida State - The No. 8-ranked Crimson Tide face a tough road opener when they take on the Seminoles on Saturday afternoon. DeBoer finished 9-4 in his first year in Tuscaloosa (Saban finished 7-6 in his first year at 'Bama). There is still plenty of talent on hand, but the biggest question mark entering this season will be at the QB position, where DeBoer is giving the job to long-time reserve Ty Simpson (381 passing yards, 0 TDs) in 16 games over the last three years. Simpson will have one of the top wideouts in the country to throw in in sophomore Ryan Williams (48 receptions, 865 yards, 8 TDs). 'Bama suffered a tough blow in pre-season camp when starting running back Jam Miller went down with an upper body injury. The Crimson Tide will be looking for backups

Daniel Hall, Louisiana Lafayette transfer Dre Washington (478 yards, 5 TDs) and Richard Young to pick up the slack for Miller. FSU, 2-10 in '24 after finishing 13-1 in '23) will be led by Boston College transfer Thomas Castellanos (1,366 yards, 18 TDs in eight games), who wore out his welcome at BC with head coach Bill O'Brien. Look for the 'Bama defense to make Castellanos eat his words as the Crimson Tide pick up a nice season-opening road win. My pick, Alabama 27, Florida State 18

LSU at Clemson - A good one to cap off a big day of college football as No. 9-ranked LSU visits No. 4-ranked Clemson in prime time. This game will feature two of the best QBs in the country in LSU's Garrett Nussmeier (4,052 yards, 29 TDs) and Clemson's Klubnik (3,639 passing yards, 36 TDs/463 rushing yards, 7 TDs). This could turn into an offensive shootout as the Tigers also have a strong running game led by Caden Durham (753 yards, 6 TDs) and big-play wideout Aaron Anderson (61 receptions, 884 yards, 5 TDs). Clemson has a big-play wideout as well in Antonio Williams (75 receptions, 904 yards, 11 TDs). The Clemson defense might be the difference maker in this one, especially up front led by stars T.J.Parker and Peter Woods. My pick, Clemson 33, LSU 30

Notre Dame at Miami - No. 6 Notre Dame visits No. 10 Miami on Sunday evening in a rematch of a heated rivalry that dominated the 1980s. Marcus Freeman enters his fourth year at the helm of the Irish and has forged a 33-9 record in his first three years. He enters this season with a big question mark at QB. He will either go with veteran QB Tyler Buchner (1,033 passing yards, 6 TDs/483 rushing yards, 8 TDs in three years) or heralded freshman C.J. Carr (grandson of former Michigan head coach Lloyd Carr) to lead the offense. Either one will have a strong run game to turn to in Jeremiah Love (1,125 yards, 17 TDs) and Jadarian Price (746 yards, 7 TDs) to take the pressure off of them. Look for Freeman to pound those two at the Miami defense while either Bucher or Carr settle into the job. Miami, 10-3 a year ago, has a new QB in Georgia transfer Carson Beck (3,485 yards, 28 TDs). Beck is coming off a shoulder injury he sustained in the SEC title game against Texas. If he's good to go, he could like up Hard Rock Stadium, but the veteran ND defense might have something to say about that. My pick, Notre Dame 23, Miami 20

TCU at North Carolina - The Bill Belichick era begins at Chapel Hill on Labor Day night in prime time as the Tar Heels host Sonny Dykes TCU Horned Frogs of the Big 12. TCU finished 9-4 a year ago and is led by QB Josh Hoover (3,949 yards, 27 TDs) and running back Cam Cook (460 yards, 9 TDs). Belichick will go with South Alabama transfer Gio Lopez (2,559 passing yards, 18 TDs/463 rushing yards, 7 TDs) at QB, but has a veteran in Max Johnson (former starters at LSU, Texas A&M and Carolina) waiting in the wings should Lopez struggle. Belichick is one of the greatest coaches of all time and his experience and knowledge of the should help turn the Tar Heels into winners, starting with their season opener against TCU. My pick, North Carolina 27, TCU 24

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.100000 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 4.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.100000 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.097560 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.104287 per \$100
DE MINIMIS TAX RATE	\$0.125649 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2025 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 4 from the same properties in both the 2024 tax year and the 2025 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 4 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 4 exceeds the voter-approval rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 4.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 4, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 4.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Harris County Emergency Services District No. 4 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2025 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2025, AT 6:00 PM AT 12207 HUFFMAN OAKS LANE HUFFMAN, TEXAS 77336.

HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 4 SHALL TAKE ACTION ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2025, AT 6:00 PM, FOLLOWING THE HEARING TO BE HELD.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, Harris County Emergency Services District No. 4 is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 4 at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider tax increase as follows:

FOR the proposal:	Ray Jones	Shareen Redus
	Christy Graves	Robin May-Lutz
AGAINST the proposal:	None	
PRESENT and not voting:	None	
ABSENT:	Wyatt Watkins	

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

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

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 4 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 4 this year.

	2024	2025	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.100000	\$0.100000	increase of 0.000000 per \$100, or 0.00%
Average homestead taxable value	\$360,542	\$375,049	increase of 4.02%
Tax on average homestead	\$360.54	\$375.05	increase of 14.51, or 4.02%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$1,865,509	\$2,017,669	increase of 152,160, or 8.16%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for Harris County Emergency Services District No. 4 at 713-274-8000 or visit www.hctax.net for more information.

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Commissioner Tom Ramsey outlines growth, and water challenges ahead,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Groundwater and Water Supply Planning

The prospect of developing 18,000 homes raises concerns regarding water supply. During a meeting with the head of the Subsidence District, it was noted that there is currently no established plan for providing surface water to support future population growth. Both industrial and residential activities have drawn significant amounts of water from underground aquifers, which could increase subsidence if additional demand is placed on these sources by new residents. Areas such as Crosby and Huffman have not yet encountered significant subsidence issues, while regions like Katy are experiencing them.

Precinct 3 Projects

There is considerable discussion about the costs of using groundwater versus surface water, with groundwater being substantially less expensive per unit. Water remains an underpriced commodity in Harris County, where supply is abundant but management strategies may require review. The majority of the county's water is sourced from the Trinity River, which, along with the Neches River, experienced severe drought conditions in 1959. In response, the state legislature authorized the construction of 27 reservoirs in the 1960s, including Lake Livingston and Lake Conroe, but only one has been built since. Recent legislative efforts have allocated additional funding to address long-term water planning. Furthermore, after a series of major storms, Precinct 3 employees removed approximately one million cubic yards of debris, equivalent to the volume of NRG Stadium.

"Our role is to provide core services—cleaning ditches, paving roads, maintaining parks, and preparing for new development," Ramsey explained. Recent upgrades include improved lighting at Crosby Park for the soccer leagues and enhancements at Raleigh, Chambers, and other parks. For infrastructure, approximately \$80 million is being invested in asphalt reconstruction across Channelview, Crosby, Huffman, and Highlands, with some work already underway and Ramsey Road in its third phase. The intersection at Crosby-Dayton will be replaced with concrete for durability, and \$10–15 million is earmarked annually for neighborhood street repairs, including Reidland and Holy Road. Recognizing years of ne-



Commissioner Ramsey detailed the work projects going on in the Crosby-Huffman area to chamber members.

glected ditching, Commissioner Ramsey hired a contract crew now working from Highlands to Crosby, clearing up to 10,000 feet per day, while in-house teams address neighborhood ditches. He also noted plans for 5,000 to 7,000 new homes on Foley Road, with efforts underway to address future traffic demands in partnership with developers.

Community Centers

"Community centers are valuable resources for those who need a place to go, especially seniors like myself," Ramsey said. I often promote our trips: we have 20 buses and organize one-day outings within a two-hour radius, such as visiting the Blue Bell Creamery in Brenham for free ice cream, with no charge for the bus ride.

Commissioners Court Drama

Judge Lina Hidalgo has exhibited ongoing challenges in accepting certain outcomes, particularly following votes she does not win, as these instances tend to be referenced repeatedly. This situation has become noteworthy enough to address the procedural avenues available for removing an official from office. Contrary to misconceptions, the process does not involve gathering public signatures;

instead, it requires a formal petition by an individual, after which a district judge would preside over the matter. These procedures exist for valid reasons, and, under certain circumstances, removal could be justified regardless of political affiliation. In candid conversations, many members of the court—including, potentially, some Democratic colleagues, might share similar concerns, though they may not express them publicly.

"My perspective is informed by representing the 1.2 million residents of unincorporated Harris County and recognizing the impact of current approaches on community safety and well-being. For context, there were 550 homicides in Harris County last year, with 95 occurring in unincorporated areas. Statistically, individuals residing in Houston face a fivefold higher risk compared to those in unincorporated Harris County," Ramsey concluded. Residents prioritize safe neighborhoods, quality schools, and access to parks. "Currently, our area boasts 73 parks, and we remain open to land donations to further expand communal green spaces. Creating and maintaining such assets remains a central focus of our objectives," he told chamber members.

Pregnancy Resource Center East celebrates new 'Forever Home' in Highlands,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Members of the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce celebrate the ribbon cutting with staff from the Pregnancy Resource Center East in Highlands along with special guests and dignitaries. Photo by David Taylor

from a small, 952-square-foot storefront to a large, welcoming facility has been filled with challenges and triumphs.

"We clearly grew from there and the community needs us all the time. We made ourselves available and we've moved all over Baytown, about five different places, renting properties," she said.

The new location in Highlands is being called their 'forever home' with the purchase of the new facility on Main Street in Highlands.

"Highlands kind of threw its arms open for us and gave us this big, beautiful building and we are really happy and we're already seeing clients this first week. We're already overflowing," she said. "Our first classes took up all the classroom. It was mostly standing room only."

The center's mission has always been to provide a positive, encouraging message to women in need.

"We are a Christian, pro-life organization, and we want to give women good, positive, hopeful information that will help spur them on to a positive outcome," Duhon said.

The center offers a range of services, from pregnancy tests and ultrasounds to parenting classes and support groups.

"We help our clients in the community from the time they find out they might be pregnant all the way till the baby's first birthday. And now that we're here, we can extend our services for another year for our clients," she said.

The center's commitment to supporting women and their families is evident in their inclusive approach.

"We don't just embrace our women and their babies. Of course, we do. We love them. But we want the men to be a part of this process as well. We invite mothers, moms and dads. You know, we've had whole families involved," she added.

The new facility has already made a significant impact on the community.

"We're very excited that we are able to be a part of the legacy of this community of positivity. We're here to shine a light and help and lift up, not to discourage and throw down and push away," the executive director said.

She emphasized the center's staff and volunteers are dedicated to treating every client with respect and compassion.

"When the client comes in, you need to treat her like Jesus is walking through the door. That's Jesus in human skin. You need to treat her like he's right there with you," she said compassionately.

The center's services are available to women from all walks of life.

"We've seen the gamut, we've seen young, we've seen old, we've seen lower income, we've seen some that are in college and in their job, they're in the profession, but... crisis comes when it comes. You don't really have a choice, and we just need to be there

when they have that need," she said. The center operates primarily on donations and fundraising efforts.

"We do fundraisers right now. We just finished our baby bottle blessings, which is everyone takes a baby bottle home and fills it up with change or cash or checks or go online and use your credit card, whichever. We are also doing a fundraising golf tournament, which is coming up next month. It's our Tee Up For Life," Duhon shared. The center also receives support from local businesses, churches, and individuals who believe in their mission.

The new facility in Highlands is a testament to the center's resilience and dedication to serving the community. As they continue to grow and expand their services, the Pregnancy Resource Center East remains committed to providing hope and support to women and families in need.

"We want them to know because we're here, there's hope. We back that up with our Hope Boutique and all our Hope classes and we help our clients," she said.

Renovations continue at the new location as classes and assistance continue.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Friday, Aug. 29
Barbers Hill at New Caney at 7 p.m., at Randall Reed Stadium in New Caney
Baytown Lee at South Houston at 7 p.m., at Veterans Memorial Stadium in Pasadena
Channelview vs Pasadena Memorial at 7 p.m., at Ray Maddy Stadium
Dayton at Crosby (First Responders Night) at 7 p.m., at Cougar Stadium
Goose Creek Memorial vs. Baytown Sterling at 7 p.m., at Stallworth Stadium in Baytown
Huffman Hargrave at La Marque at 7 p.m., at Stingaree Stadium in Texas City

NEXT WEEK'S GAMES

Thursday, Sept. 4
SEP 4 Barbers Hill at Manvel at 6:30 p.m., at Freedom Field in Rosharon
SEP 4 Galena Park at Baytown Sterling at 7 p.m., at Stallworth Stadium in Baytown

Friday, Sept. 5
SEP 5 Crosby at Iowa Colony at 7 p.m., at Freedom Field in Rosharon
SEP 5 Dayton vs. Kingwood Park at 7 p.m., at Bronco Stadium
SEP 5 Goose Creek Memorial at Baytown Lee at 7 p.m., at Stallworth Stadium in Baytown
SEP 5 Huffman Hargrave vs Furr at 7:30 p.m., Falcon Stadium in Huffman

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters of Administration for Docket No. 527729; Estate of TAMELA ANN HINOJOSA Deceased; In Probate Court No. 2 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on AUGUST 11, 2025 to:

RICARDO HINOJOSA

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 AUGUST 19, 2025

by WESTON COTTEN
Attorney for the Estate

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Jenna Ortega, left and Thandiwe Newton stars in "Wednesday Season 2."

"Wednesday Season 2"

"Elio" (PG) — Pixar's latest film released earlier this summer in theaters, and although it didn't turn much of a profit, "Elio" received positive reviews and gives us a break from Pixar's parent company's constant remakes. Fifteen-year-old newcomer Yonas Kibreab plays the titular character, while notable names in the cast include Zoe Saldana ("Emilia Perez") and Jameela Jamil ("Star Trek: Prodigy"). The sci-fi adventure film follows orphan Elio, who doesn't seem to fit in with the world around him. He longs to be abducted by aliens after wandering into an exhibit on a Voyager 1 spacecraft, and after a brush with bullies, he finally gets his wish. Elio is welcomed into the Commu-

niverse, where aliens from different worlds can speak to each other, and his entire world opens up in a way that he never thought possible. Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Love Island USA: Season 7 Reunion" (TV-MA) — After a record-breaking season that catapulted the series to the No. 1 original streaming title during its finale (according to Nielsen), the recent "Love Island USA" cast joins hosts Andy Cohen and Ariana Madix to break down everything that went down this season. Of course, there are a few exceptions to who will be joining, like Ciera Ortega, who was kicked off the show after a video resurfaced of her saying a racial slur. But

this doesn't mean there won't be a large supply of drama coming our way in this reunion. Expect the self-pitiful Huda Mustafa, who's gathered a large social media following since her whiny antics in the villa, and the cutthroat runner-up Olandria Carthen to give us some of the juicy moments we've been missing! Premieres at 9 p.m. ET on Aug. 25. (Peacock) In Case You Missed It

"Wednesday: Season 2" (TV-14) — "Here We Woe Again," reads the first episode title of the follow-up season to the hit Netflix series "Wednesday," and it couldn't be a better teaser of what's to come. Split into two parts, with the second part premiering on Sept. 3, the second season picks up as Wednesday returns to Nevermore Academy as a celebrity after having saved the school. A new mystery awaits the reluctant Wednesday after private investigator Carl Bradbury is murdered by "crows." Stepping into bigger roles this season are Catherine Zeta-Jones as Morticia, who gets offered to run a fundraising committee for the school, and Wednesday's brother, Pugsley (Isaac Ordonez), who enrolls as a student at Nevermore. Special recurring guests this season include Steve Buscemi, Lady Gaga, Anthony Michael Hall, and Christopher Lloyd. Stream the first four episodes now! (Netflix)

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HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — George Clooney played the title role in "Jay Kelly," opposite Adam Sandler, prior to starring in his Broadway triumph — the stage adaptation of his film "Good Night, and Good Luck." Clooney didn't win a Tony Award but did receive a Golden Lion nomination from the Venice Film Festival for "Jay Kelly."

The film also stars Laura Dern, Stacey Keach, Riley Keough and Patrick Wilson. It will premiere at the festival on Aug. 28, then open in theaters here on Nov. 14 before dropping on Netflix on Dec. 5.

Clooney praised Sandler, stating that: "This film, more than any film Adam has done, shows what a beautiful, heartfelt, soulful actor he is. I kept telling the cast ... 'Don't talk to him like he's just some goofy comedian.' He's actually a really beautiful, wonderful actor."

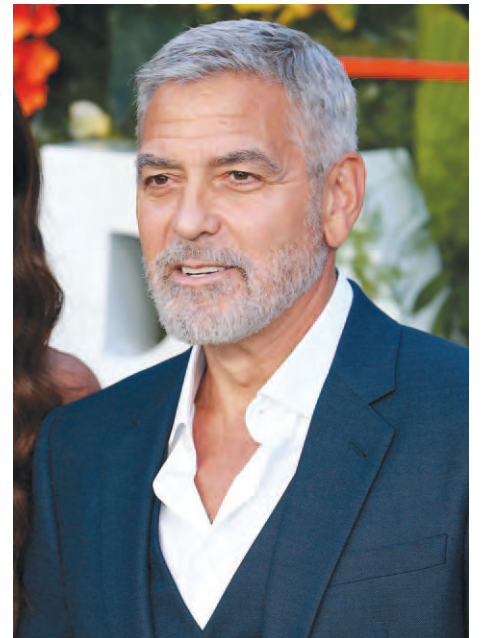
The new "Superman" movie needed to gross \$500 million to break even, and ticket sales started to drop off after \$597.3 million. In order to be deemed a triumph, it needed to gross \$700 million. This may be why DC Studios is considering spinning it off into a TV series instead of a big-screen sequel.

Meanwhile, "The Fantastic Four: First Steps" (which cost \$200 million and grossed \$471.7 million) also saw a big box-office dip, so its future is also dubious.

Mel Gibson's 2004 film "The Passion of the Christ" cost \$30 million and grossed \$612.1 million. Gibson wants lightning to strike again, this time with a two-part sequel. "The Resurrection of the Christ" will once again star Jim Caviezel as Jesus Christ. "Part 1" is set for a 2027 release.

Gibson last directed "Flight Risk," with Mark Wahlberg, which cost \$25 million and only grossed \$48.7 million.

Margot Robbie's romantic fantasy "A Big Bold Beautiful Journey," with Colin



George Clooney (Upcoming in "Jay Kelly")

Farrell, Kevin Kline, and Phoebe Waller-Bridge, opens on Sept. 19. In addition, the remake of the gothic psychological drama "Wuthering Heights," with Jacob Elordi as the Heathcliff to her Catherine Earnshaw, hits big screens on Feb. 13, 2026.

Now Robbie has aspirations of being a 50-foot woman in the remake of "Attack of the 50 Foot Woman," which starred Yvette Vickers in 1958. It did so well that it spawned a sequel called "Attack of the Giant Leeches" in 1959. But before you dismiss this as a joke, maybe you should know that director Tim Burton — who gave us "Batman," "Batman Returns," "Edward Scissorhands," "Sweeney Todd," and most recently "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" — will be directing this reimagining! If anyone can pull this off, it would be Robbie and Burton.

"The 50 Foot Woman" with Robbie would certainly get lots of attention, but if they want to ensure a smashing box-office hit, maybe they should "reimagine" it as "Attack of the 50 Foot Barbie!"

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ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU

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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. Tray is longer. 2. Leg is longer. 3. Mattress is thicker. 4. Flowers are reversed. 5. Door knob is missing. 6. Shirt collar is different.

August 25, 2025 Posting Date King Crossword

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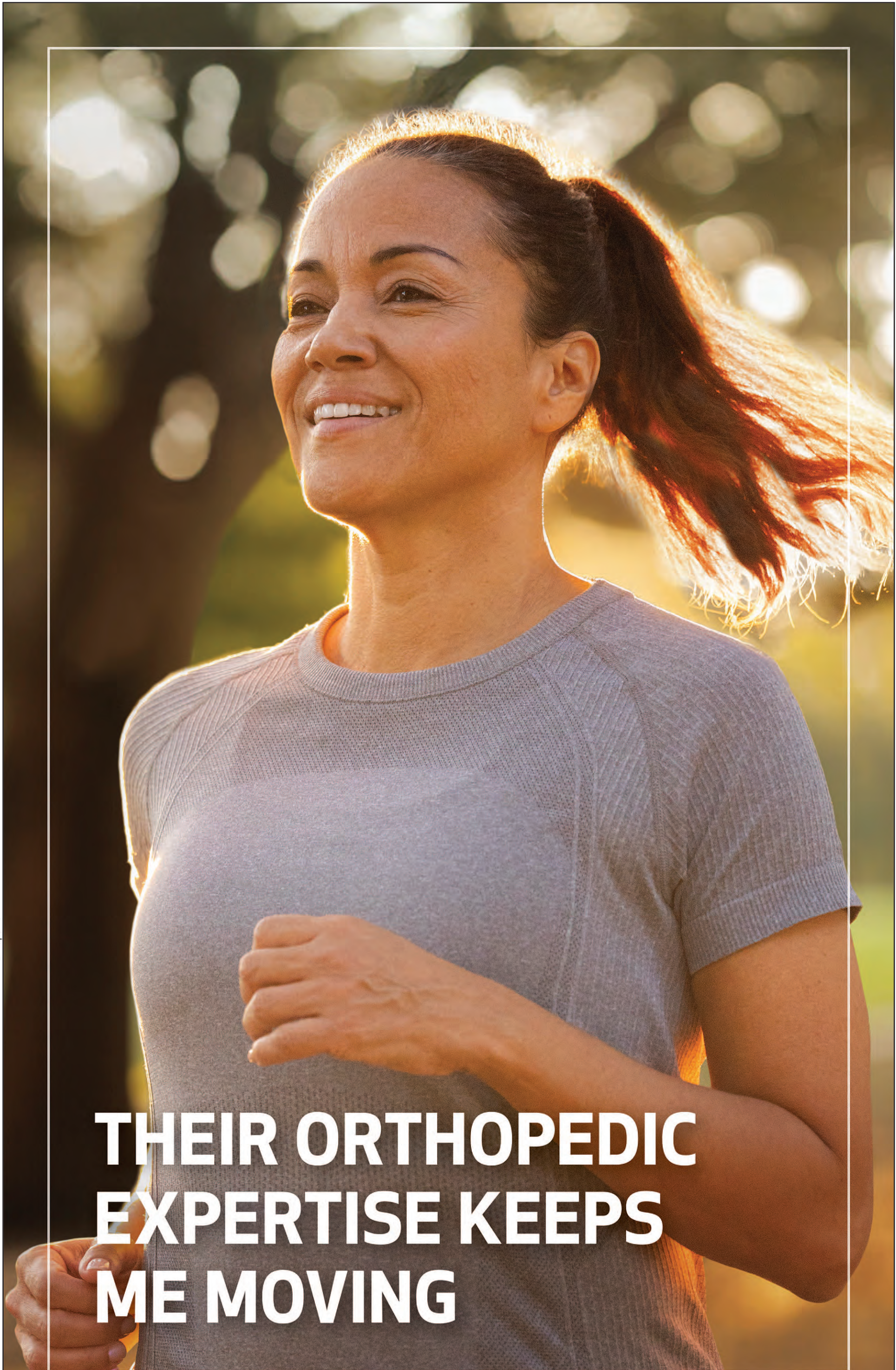
- 1 Poke
- 4 Sneaky chuckle
- 7 Niagara sight
- 12 Dos preceeder
- 13 X-ray's cousin
- 14 "— Gold" (Fonda film)
- 15 Rx writers
- 16 Salad dressing order
- 18 7, on older phones
- 19 Capital of South Korea
- 20 Salty waters
- 22 Soon-to-be grads
- 23 Desist
- 27 Drench
- 29 "Constant Craving" singer
- 31 Places in the heart
- 34 Indian yogurt dish
- 35 Wards off
- 37 However
- 38 Corridor
- 39 Expert
- 41 Foundered
- 45 "Peachy!"
- 47 Cravat
- 48 Tangential topic
- 52 Eggs
- 53 Zodiac ram
- 54 Khan title

DOWN

- 1 Checker moves
- 2 Tennis great
- 3 — nova
- 4 Med. plan options
- 5 Papa Hemingway
- 6 — -miss
- 7 Tank filler
- 8 Gore and Green
- 9 Floral neck- lace
- 10 Guided
- 11 Compass dir.
- 17 Corn cover
- 21 Marble cake pattern
- 23 Bed boards
- 24 — chi
- 25 Toronto's prov.
- 26 Links org.
- 28 Have lunch
- 30 Actress Joanne
- 31 Sound of relief
- 32 FDR project
- 33 Seminary subj.
- 36 Tools with teeth
- 37 Whale variety
- 40 Activist Chavez
- 42 Coral island
- 43 Skin care brand
- 44 "Endymion" poet
- 45 Spanish ayes
- 46 Pencil filler
- 48 Utter
- 49 Glass of public radio
- 50 Cacophony
- 51 Still, in verse

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Trivia Test Answers: 1. Suez Canal; 2. "Cinderella"; 3. A drake; 4. The Louvre in Paris, France; 5. The leaves; 6. 1960; 7. Portland, Oregon; 8. Durant; 9. Sirius; 10. 1,000

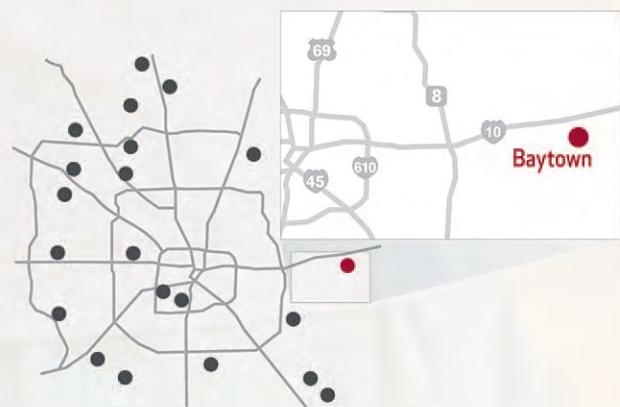


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